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Port and coastal towers of Arbatax

Patrimonio culturale
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■ The nuraghe of S'Ortali 'e su Monte

In *San Salvatore*, not far from the sea and beaches of Orrì, you have the archaeological area of *S'Ortali 'e su Monte*. This is a real monumental complex formed by *domus de janas*, *menhirs*, one nuraghe and two tombs of giants, extending over about 8000 m² on a granite hill dominating the nearly coastal plain.

The nuraghe (fig. 1), with one tower and surrounded by an outer wall with three towers, stands 36 metres above sea level, in the higher part of the hill and is dated to the Middle Bronze Age (1500-1400 B.C.). In the outer wall, to the East, South and South-West, there were three entrances.



Fig. 1 - The nuraghe of *S'ortali 'e su Monte* (photo by Unicity S.p.A)

The central tower, only partly preserved for a height of 4.26 metres, has a South facing entrance and reuses a broken *menhir* belonging to the pre-nuragic period as a beam (figs. 2-3).



Fig. 2 - Nuraghe of *S'ortali 'e su Monte*: detail of the entrance with *menhir* used as a beam (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).



Fig. 3 - Il nuraghe di *S'ortali 'e su Monteviso* da nord (foto di Unicity S.p.A.).

The tower entrance leads to a corridor with the remains of stairs leading to the terrace still visible on the left side. From this short passage you can enter the circular chamber, originally *tholos* vaulted, with three large niches dug into the thick wall (fig. 4). Recent archaeological digs performed in the chamber showed that the monument was also used in subsequent late Punic and Roman periods; in the Early Middle Ages, when no longer lived in, it was used for burials¹.

¹ Several people were buried in the niches and corridor.

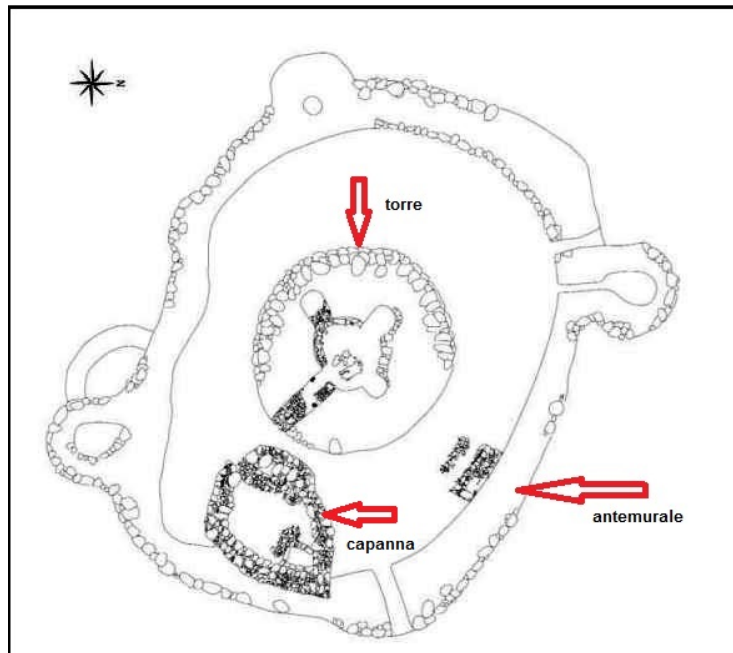


Fig. 4 - Plan of the nuraghe *S'Ortali 'e su Monte*: showing the towered outer wall and the huts built inside the outer wall (from Fadda 2012, fig. 43, p. 33, reworked by M. G. Arru).

During the archaeological survey carried out in the tower, they found a deposit of 19 bronze axes with raised edges.

The inhabitants of the village built near the nuraghe were farmers and used the fertile surrounding plain to cultivate cereals, as can be seen by the presence of 12 brick silos, built in the northern part of the complex, between the end of the Bronze Age and the Early Iron Age (about 1200-900 B.C.). This was a real barn where the cereals were stored for the needs of the community and for external trade.





Fig. 5 - One of the silos built next to the nuraghe of *S'Ortali 'e su Monte* (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).



■ Credits

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La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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