



UNIONE EUROPEA



REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTONOMA DE SARDIGNA  
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

# Necropolis of Sant'Andrea Priu

Patrimonio culturale  
**SARDEGNA** Virtual Archaeology



## ■ The village of Rebeccu

The legend of the king of Rebeccu's daughter and her curse "*Rebeccu, Rebecchei da 'e trinta domos non movei*" ("That Rebeccu will never reach thirty houses") is one of the stories told in the area.

The curse was hurled by Donoria, daughter of King Beccu, before leaving the town, after she was forced into exile because she was considered to be a witch. After Donoria's departure, a decline began and the town's population left due to the rapid spreading of malaria.

Rebeccu, a hamlet in the municipality of Bonorva, stands 425 metres above sea level, and dominates the S. Lucia plain. In the Roman era, this site stood along the road that connected Cagliari to Olbia (*Caralis-Olbia*). During the Middle Ages it was the lead town of the Costaval Curadoria, in the Giudicato of Torres.



**Fig. 1** - Aerial view of the small village of Rebeccu (by Sardegnaoportale).



**Fig. 2** - The village church (photo M.G. Arru).

The centre of the town was originally made up of four small centres located at the churches of San Lorenzo and Sant'Andria, at Sa Contissa (or Sas Presones), around the church of Santa Maria, at Cantaru 'Addes and by the current one at the church of Santa Giulia.

In the 13th century, Rebeccu was taken over by the Malaspina family in the 13th century and was involved by the latter, after 1325, in the rebellion against the Aragon dynasty, and suffered serious damage from the war. During the second war between Mariano IV and Peter IV, it was occupied by giudicato who kept it until the fall of Arborea. It later moved on to different Aragonese families.

From the fifteenth century, Rebeccu began its decline due to plague and famine.



**Fig. 3** - Houses in Rebeccu (photo M.G. Arru).

Relations with the last lords, the Amat family of Villarios, were so difficult that the inhabitants of Rebeccu took part in rebellions against the lords in 1795 and destroyed the offices of the baronial administration.





**Fig. 4** - The narrow roads in the town (photo M.G. Arru).

From 1821 to 1848, the village was annexed to the province of Alghero and then, after the provinces were abolished, became a part of the territorial administrative division of Sassari. Finally, in 1859, it once again became a part of the reorganised province of Sassari. With its population reduced to just over 100 inhabitants, and having lost its autonomy, it became a hamlet of the municipality of Bonorva in 1928.

Rebeccu is now almost uninhabited, in spite of that the small houses looking onto the narrow, winding roads dug out of the rock keep the charm of the old town unchanged.

## ■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Maria Grazia Arru and Dr. Emanuela Atzeni

## ■ Bibliography

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## La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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