

PIZZIGHETTONE 1449 THE CASTLE INTRIGUE

Pizzighettone – October 28th and 30th, 2011

What: Middle Ages and Renaissance history.

Where: Pizzighettone (Cremona, Italy).

How: historical tell and guided tour.

When: October 28th, Friday, and 30th, 2011, Sunday, hours 20:30.

Info: mobile (+39) 349 2203693, e-mail davide@tansini.it, Facebook *Pizzighettone 1449: the castle intrigue*, Web www.tansini.it (www.tansini.it/en/1449.html).

In the **nights of October 28th, Friday, and 30th, 2011, Sunday**, the ***Pizzighettone 1449: the castle intrigue*** [***Pizzighettone 1449: intrigo al castello***] undertaking will be proposed to the public, organized in **Pizzighettone** (Cremona, Italy) by the “**Gruppo Volontari Mura**” (GVM) association. It will be a special opportunity both to know an **event of history** of Pizzighettone and of Lombardy, and to appreciate the **historic-architectonic heritage** which the little town in the country of Cremona offers, laid down with its ancient fortifications on the sides of the Adda River.



Suggestive locations will be background and integral part of the event: the coast **borgo's walls**, lit up with the blaze of **torches and lanterns**. Really evoking location which will allow **Daide Tansini** – historian and studios of fortified architecture, associated of the “**Istituto Italiano dei Castelli**” and of the “**Istituto per la Storia dell’Arte Lombarda**” – to tell a fact happened in **1449**: the **conquest of the garrison** of Pizzighettone by the *condottiero* **Francis Sforza Visconti**.

In the XV Century Pizzighettone was considered a strategic place, fortified centre on the two sides of the Adda River, in a position to control the transits among Cremona, Crema, Lodi, Pavia and Piacenza. There were a bridge upon the river, a *rocchetta* by the present district of Gera, town walls and a **castle**, which was placed on the East side of the Adda and which was run by a **castellan**.

During the tell the event of Pizzighettone will interlace with those of the skilful and ambitious *sforzesco condottiero*, who in 1441 married **Bianca Mary Visconti**, Duke of Milan Philip Mary’s legitimated daughter: a marriage which availed him the County of Cremona, the privilege to append the Viscontean surname beside his own and an effective placing for the succession to the father-in-law, without next-of-kins.

Basing himself on own **personal researches**, **Tansini** will describe the scenery of the **contests** among the various Italian powers which at *Quattrocento’s* half tried to share the Viscontean dominions out after the death of Duke Philip Mary, happened in 1447: the Golden Ambrosian Republic in Milan, Saint Mark’s Serenissima Republic in Venice, Louis of Savoy in Piedmont, the Florentine Republic in Florence.

The **night setting** will be particularly suitable to evoke the interlace of **wars, intrigues, negotiations**,





alliances and **overthrowings** again, which are the involving plot of this event. Event in which **Anthony Crivelli** played a relevant part, castellan of Pizzighettone before in service of Philip Mary Visconti and then of the Ambrosian Republic: in suspicion and suspicious of the régime of Milan, the castellan succeeded to catch Francis

Sforza Visconti's aims and to be drawn on his side, handing him the place of Pizzighettone over with a coup-de-main on August 28th, 1449.

But the tell won't confine itself to chronicle: instead, it will give rise to know **social, economical and cultural aspects** between late Middle Ages and Renaissance, of which the period of the *sforzescas* conquest of Pizzighettone became in some ways 'watershed'. Besides art, beliefs, customs, cooking and curiosities, there will be **political events**, with their inevitable sequel of hopes and disappointments; **most 'in the public eye' personalities** of the time, real VIP between Middle Ages and Renaissance; **most felt and debated issues**, such as **taxes** – always topical issue – and **fears about an uncertain future**. Hard not to retrace also in present every-day life **points of connection** with this only in appearance far past.

Just in this the most significant value of the undertaking *Pizzighettone 1449: the castle intrigue* stands: besides being a suggestive night tour by torches and lanterns-light, it will be a lively opportunity to personally **know and come back into history**.

Useful information

The undertaking *Pizzighettone 1449: the castle intrigue* will take place in Pizzighettone (Cremona, Italy) on **October 28th, Friday**, and **30th, 2011, Saturday**, starting at **20:30** from the **GVM Information Office** in **Piazza d'Armi (town walls side)**. Duration: about 90/100 minutes. The itinerary will develop in part **inside covered rooms** lit up with torches and lanterns. The manifestation will take place **also in case of bad weather**. Contribution: 2,⁵⁰ € (down to 14-years-old boys gratis). **Booking is required** (gratis and not fixing). Telling will be in **Italian language**.

How to reach Pizzighettone.

- **Car. A1** Milan-Naples (“Autostrada del Sole”) **Piacenza Nord** or **Casalpusterlengo** exits; **A21** Turin-Brescia (“Autostrada dei Vini”) **Cremona** exit; **SS9** Rimini-Milan (“Via Emilia”) **Fombio/Codogno** or **Casalpusterlengo** exits; **SS415** Milan-Cremona (“Paullese”) **Cappella Cantone/Pizzighettone** exit; **SPexSS234** Pavia-Cremona (“Codognese”) **Pizzighettone** exit; **SPexSS591** Bergamo-Codogno (“Cremasca”) **Montodine/Pizzighettone** exit; **SP84** Genivolta-Pizzighettone **Pizzighettone** exit. Parking-places (within 250 m): Piazza d’Armi, Via Guglielmo Marconi, Piazza Crema, Via Porta Soccorso, Largo Vittoria.
- **Train. Milan-Cremona-Mantua** line, **Ponte d’Adda** station. Distance: about 400 m. From 21:43 departures only to Cremona.

The *Pizzighettone 1449: the castle intrigue* [*Pizzighettone 1449: intrigo al castello*] undertaking is organized by the **GVM** and led by **Davide Tansini**. It illustrates the personal researches of **Tansini** himself in historical ambit, by form of theme tell. Mentioned dates, hours and places can undergo cancellations and/or variations without neither necessity nor responsibility of forewarning by the **GVM**.

For more information about *Pizzighettone 1449: the castle intrigue*: mobile (+39) **349 2203693**, e-mail **davide@tansini.it**, Facebook *Pizzighettone 1449: the castle intrigue*, Web **www.tansini.it** (**www.tansini.it/en/1449.html**).

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