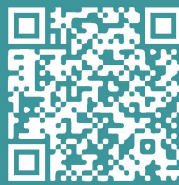


Forte di Exilles



(1818-1829)

870 metres above sea level

Among the most ancient monuments of the Susa Valley and considered one of the most important defensive systems in Piedmont, the Forte di Exilles has its roots in a partially unknown antiquity, with the first documents that attest to its existence dating back to the seventh century. Demolished by the French in 1796 and rebuilt at the wishes of Vittorio Emanuele I between 1818 and 1829, the Forte di Exilles was disarmed in 1915 with the displacement of its armament on the eastern front of the First World War, thus losing all military function from 1945.

Set in a valley that has always been a passageway for people and businesses, the structure can also be reached through the Via Francigena, descending from Salbertrand along the Sentiero dei Franchi and the hamlet of Sapè, or climbing up from the characteristic village of Chiomonte and immersing yourself in the evocative terraces of Avanà, the recently rediscovered and enhanced native wine.

Finally, among the many legends that still today shroud the Forte di Exilles in mystery, the most famous is undoubtedly connected to the famous Iron Mask, a historically controversial figure to which even Voltaire refers. According to legend the prisoner, whose identity is still debated between half-brother or illegitimate son of King Louis XIV, would have stayed in this Fort between 1681 and 1687.

