


DISCOVERING PALAZZO TAVERNA



The complex story of this palazzo is intimately linked to the site, namely Monte Giordano. Monte Giordano is a small artificial hill said to consist in the fragments of the amphorae which were delivered to a small port on the Tiber (precisely as occurred with the larger and more famous Monte Testaccio). In the thirteenth century, the hill became a refuge, when Giovanni di Concione built a tower on it to defend his family from the violence and disorders which reigned supreme on the streets of Rome at the time.

During the fourteenth century, the building passed into the hands of the nephew of Pope Nicholas III, Giordano Orsini. Giordano left his name to this small hill. The building then passed into the hands of the house of Gabrielli and then the house of Taverna di Milano (the latter are still the proprietors). Over the centuries, the building expanded greatly, to make up a complex comprised of the five palazzos which had been built here over a period of about four hundred years, between the fifteenth and nineteenth centuries. Palazzo Taverna provided Paolo Sorrentino with at least two sets - the museum, the museo dei Colonna di Reggio, located in one of the grand apartments on the piano nobile; and the fountain in the courtyard at the building's entrance, where Jep Gambardella's guests look for the "saint" who has disappeared. The seventeenth century fountain receives its water from the Acqua Paola aqueduct. The aqueduct was extended to the palazzo by the architect, Antonio Casoni, who, at the time, worked for the house of Orsini.

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