

Arco del Cavaliere (Arch of the Knight)

Along the road that once connected Erice to Custonaci, in the former “trazzèra” (a straight road cutting through fields thought for the passage of cattle) belonging to the Knight of Labour Mr. Rizzuto, also known as “via del Cavaliere”, near an old drinking trough, it is possible to find the ruins (nowadays seriously damaged) of a chapel. The chapel’s purpose was to host the painting of the Virgin Mary of Custonaci (XVI century) during transport from Custonaci to Erice and back, as documented from 1568 to 1936. Originally it had a square plan and a structure open on every side by a great arch. The roofing, in the shape of a small dome, was supported by four sturdy pillars, a fifteenth-sixteenth century re-elaboration of the square shrines with cupolas derived from Arab-Norman pavillions. Here, the worshippers stopped over, freshened up and ate bread and cheese during the “transports”. The local residents offered food to the bearers of the sacred image, who had endured some hard work.

Location: Via Cavaliere, 91019 Valderice TP