

Castiglione del Lago

Founded by Etruscans from Chiusi, Castiglione del Lago was under attack from neighbouring towns throughout its early history on account of its position on a promontory on the western shore of Lake Trasimeno, the largest lake in Umbria and the fourth largest in Italy. Its castle was destroyed and reconstructed several times after battles between Perugia and nearby Tuscan towns, and was redesigned as a crenellated defensive fortress - the 'Castello del Leone' - by architect-monk Elia da Cortona on the orders of Frederick II of Swabia. In spite of seeing so much action, the town was never defeated. It was given as a marquisate by Pope Julius III to the Della Corgna family, who built Castiglione's splendid ducal palace, designed by Galeazzo Alessi and decorated by Salvio Savini. Castiglione del Lago is still surrounded by its medieval walls and access is provided by three entry gates.

