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CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

Ref. 2151 – CASTELLO DI MONTALTO DORA

THE STUNNING CASTLE OF MONTALTO DORA FOR SALE IN PIEDMONT

Montalto Dora – Turin – Piedmont

www.romolini.co.uk/en/2151



Interiors
2,525 sqm

Bedrooms
11+

Bathrooms
13+

Origin
12th – 13th century

Land
6.6 ha

Other buildings
Medieval chapel, secondary keep, *cascina*

On top of Monte Crovero above the Lakes of Ivrea, in the heart of Canavese, the Castle of Montalto Dora dominated the surrounding valleys with its imposing silhouette. The building (over 2,000 sqm) revolves around a beautiful paved courtyard, ideal for events and ceremonies, and includes 11 bedrooms, 13 bathrooms and a beautiful 15th-century chapel. The land around (6.6 ha) is home to a secondary keep and a *cascina*, both to be restored.

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SUMMARY OF THE PROPERTY

REFERENCE #: 2151 – CASTELLO DI MONTALTO DORA

TYPE: medieval castle

CONDITIONS: restored

LOCATION: hilly, very panoramic (405 m asl)

ACCESS: excellent

INTERIORS: 2,525 square meters (27,169 square feet)

TOTAL ROOMS: 50

BEDROOMS: 11+

BATHROOMS: 13+

MAIN FEATURES: stone walls, Guelph crenellation, round towers, wall walk, paved courtyard, frescoed chapel, dungeons, vaulted ceilings, wooden beams, coffered ceilings, flagstone roofs, original monumental fireplaces, cocciopesto, stone and wooden floors

LAND: 6.6 hectares (16.3 acres)

GARDEN: no, but possible around the ramparts

ANNEXES: keep, Cascina

ELECTRICITY: already connected

WATER SUPPLY: private well

TELEPHONE: already connected

ADSL: possible

GAS: LPG

HEATING SYSTEM: to be connected

CLOSEST CITIES AND TOWNS

Montalto Dora (2km; 5'), Borgofranco d'Ivrea (4km; 5'), Ivrea (6km; 10'), Pavone Canavese (11km; 20'), Biella (30km; 40'), Turin (59km; 1h 10'), Vercelli (64km; 55'), Aosta (66km; 1h), Novara (85km; 1h 30'), Courmayeur (99km; 1h 20'), Pinerolo (101km; 1h 20'), Milan (128km; 1h 50'), Asti (130km; 1h 40')

CLOSEST AIRPORTS

Torino Pertini (59km; 50'), Milano Malpensa (122km; 1h 20'), Milano Linate (145km; 1h 55'), Cuneo Levaldigi (151km; 2h), Genova Colombo (182km; 2h)



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CASTELLO DI MONTALTO DORA

On top of **Monte Crovero** above the **Lakes of Ivrea**, in the heart of **Canavese**, the **Castle of Montalto Dora** dominated the surrounding valleys with its imposing silhouette. The building (over 2,000 sqm) revolves around a beautiful paved courtyard, ideal for events and ceremonies, and includes 11 bedrooms, 13 bathrooms and a beautiful **15th-century chapel**. The land around (6.6 ha) is home to a secondary **keep** and a **cascina**, both to be restored.

The town of Montalto Dora is just 2 km from the Castle and offers all the necessary services. Other historic cities of **northern Italy** and renowned ski locations can all be reached in less than two hours (Ivrea, Pavone Canavese, Turin, Aosta, Courmayeur, Pinerolo, Milan...).

The castle is embedded in a breathtaking context: the Canavese is indeed a *unicum* when considering its environmental and geological peculiarities, since it bears the traces of ancient glaciations in the form of the famous **Serra d'Ivrea** and the five lakes (including Sirio, Nero and Pistono where one can swim). Because of these unique features, the area has been listed as a **site of community importance** by the EU.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDINGS

The **castle** (2,030 sqm – 21,843 sqft, 9 bedrooms and 11 bathrooms) is laid on several misaligned floors that follow the irregularity of the rocky spur and revolve around a central paved courtyard (400 sqm – 4,304 sqft).

The lower floor is made up of the old dungeons, nowadays converted into cellars and storage rooms and covered with beautiful wooden ceilings: in these underground rooms one can easily see the rocks the castle is attached to.

On the ground floor, all around the paved courtyard, are many halls, a dining room with kitchen, bathrooms and an office. The latter was probably the original guard post, since it is located right next to the main portcullis of the castle.

At an intermediate level, a mezzanine floor above the kitchen and inside the quadrangular tower, is home to two bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms (both easily accessed from the courtyard via a stone staircase).

On the first floor (*piano nobile*) are a huge reception room with fireplace, another living room with fireplace, three bedrooms with en-suite bathroom (one again the quadrangular tower) and two ample libraries with a connected reading room.

The tower has a further level on top which houses a beautiful bedroom with en-suite bathroom: from here one has a breathtaking view over the surrounding landscape.

In a corner of the main courtyard, right next to the portcullis, is the **medieval chapel** (90 sqm – 968 sqft) with frescoes dating back to the 15th century and a bell tower.

In another corner of the castle, accessed via a side courtyard, is the **keeper's apartment** (75 sqm – 807 sqft) laid over two floors and made up of living room with kitchen and bathroom on the lower floor and two bedrooms with bathroom on the upper floor.

A secondary **keep** (220 sqm – 2,367 sqft) is located a short distance from the main castle and is made up of several rooms currently used as storages and depots. This building, also revolving around a central courtyard, was probably used in the past as a guesthouse for noblemen visiting the lord.

In a defiladed position below the castle is an **old cascina** (110 sqm – 1,184 sqft) to be restored and laid over two floors currently exploited as storage rooms. Being located along the slope, both floors of the building can be accessed directly from outside.



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HISTORY, STATE AND FINISHES

The castle is built on top of **monte Crovero**, where there was already some sort of settlement in the Roman age. Between the 10th and the 11th century the castle was built and around 1000 AD it was made up of a fortified tower with a wall enclosing a few houses and a chapel dedicated to saints Ephesius, Mark and Eusebius. In 1141 the castle was listed as a possession of the **Bishops of Ivrea**.

The importance of the fortress during the Middle Ages was due to its positioning along the **Via Francigena** and the road connecting Ivrea and Valle d'Aosta.

In 1344 the building was inherited by the **Savoy family** who exploited its excellent position to expand its rule over the area. They also carried out a series of renovations and expansions which led the castle (more or less) to its current shape.

At the beginning of the 15th century the property was conceded in use to the **De Jordano family** who kept expanding the castle by buildings the chapel we can see today.

In 1641 the fortress endured a heavy siege and, after its surrender, the interiors of the building were emptied and devastated by the conquerors led by the marquis D'Harcourt.

The castle passed then in the hands of several local families until it was inherited by count Severing Casana, who was the first to undertake the renovation of the building. For the project, he enlisted the services of two of the most influent architect of his time, **Carlo Nigra** and **Alfredo de Andrade** (who also supervised the restoration of the castles of Pavone Canavese, Saluzzo, Verrès and Fénis).

Subsequently abandoned for many years, the castle was mostly ruined when in the 1960s a new renovations was undertaken by the new owners: over twenty years, they managed to restore the majority of the castle to a usable and good-looking state.

Nowadays, the castle presents itself as a quadrangular building (roughly 180 m in perimeter) with four circular towers at its corners. The quadrangular keep granted a 360-degree view over the Lakes of Ivrea and ensured control over the valley. The internal halls of the fortress have been fully restored to preserve the original look of the castle as reconstructed by De Andrade. In recent years, a careful maintenance allowed preserving the castle in excellent shape. These works have preserved the original plaster and the **cocciopesto**, stone and wooden floors of the castle. The upper levels of the building, in particular, still boasts their manorial features such as smooth wooden floors, decorated wooden beams, coffered ceilings, etched stone fireplaces, period furniture and a series of little details that without a doubt increase the charm of the castle.

From the quadrangular tower one can also exit onto the wall walk running around the whole castle. First restored by De Andrade, the walk has preserved its 14th-century shape with the machicolations used in the Middle Ages to throw rocks, arrows and boiling water on the enemies at the base of the ramparts, and offers at the same time a stunning view on the surrounding landscape. The circular tower can also be entered from the wall walk and a staircase then leads to the roofs.

The chapel inside the courtyard bears traces of numerous 15th century frescoes. The southern façade shows a representation of *St. Cristoforo*, attributed to **Giacomino da Ivrea**, and the *Madonna del latte con bambino* (the virgin Mary with the baby). The interior is made up of a single nave and features frescoes with scenes from the lives of Saints: on the left is *St. Marguerite praying with the Dragon*, at the center *St. Liberata with St. Gervasio and Protasio* and on the right *St. Lucy*. The monument has huge potential since inside the building is a decorative set of frescoes that are currently being studied.



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EXTERIORS

The castle revolves around a beautiful 400-sqm **paved courtyard** that could be aptly used as a location for events, conferences, weddings and reenactment.

All around the castle are **6.6 hectares** of land, covered in meadows, arable fields and woodland. A very distinctive feature of the property is the access road winding up the mountain, starting from a convenient parking area located just below the castle itself. From here the road goes up the slope and reaches the main portcullis of the castle, entering the courtyard.

USE AND POTENTIAL USES

The castle, thanks to its excellent preservation, is the perfect background for events, weddings, conferences and business meetings. In the past, the castle has also been used as a shooting location for movies, among which the 2006 TV series *The Black Arrow*, an Italian production inspired by Robert L. Stevenson's novel).

Another possible alternative is converting the castle into a luxury boutique hotel, perhaps converting some of the huge halls on the ground floor into a restaurant and/or breakfast room while keeping the bedrooms upstairs.

FLOOR PLANS



Scan the QR code to download the complete floor plans of the property

MAP



Scan the QR code to download the complete map of the property



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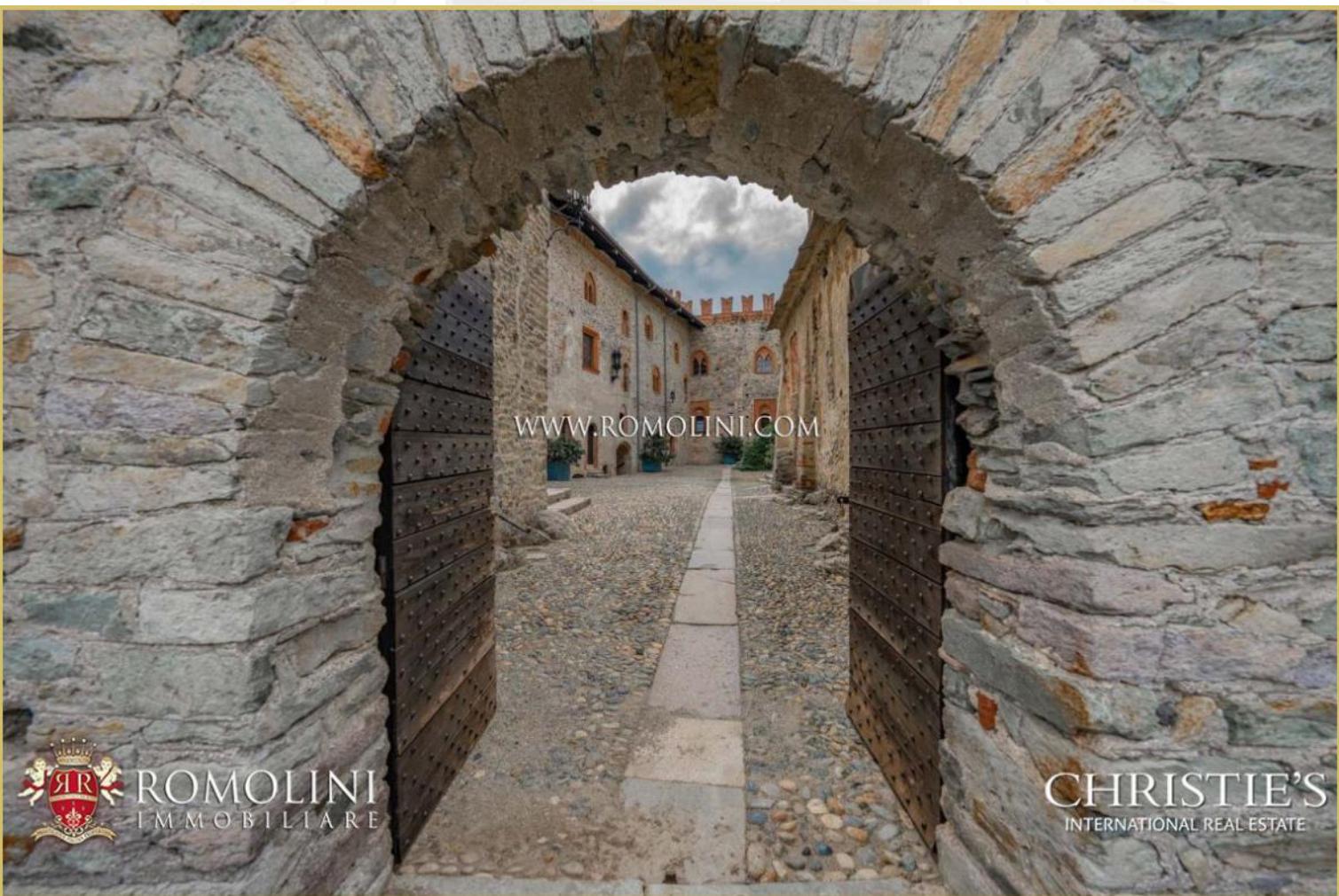


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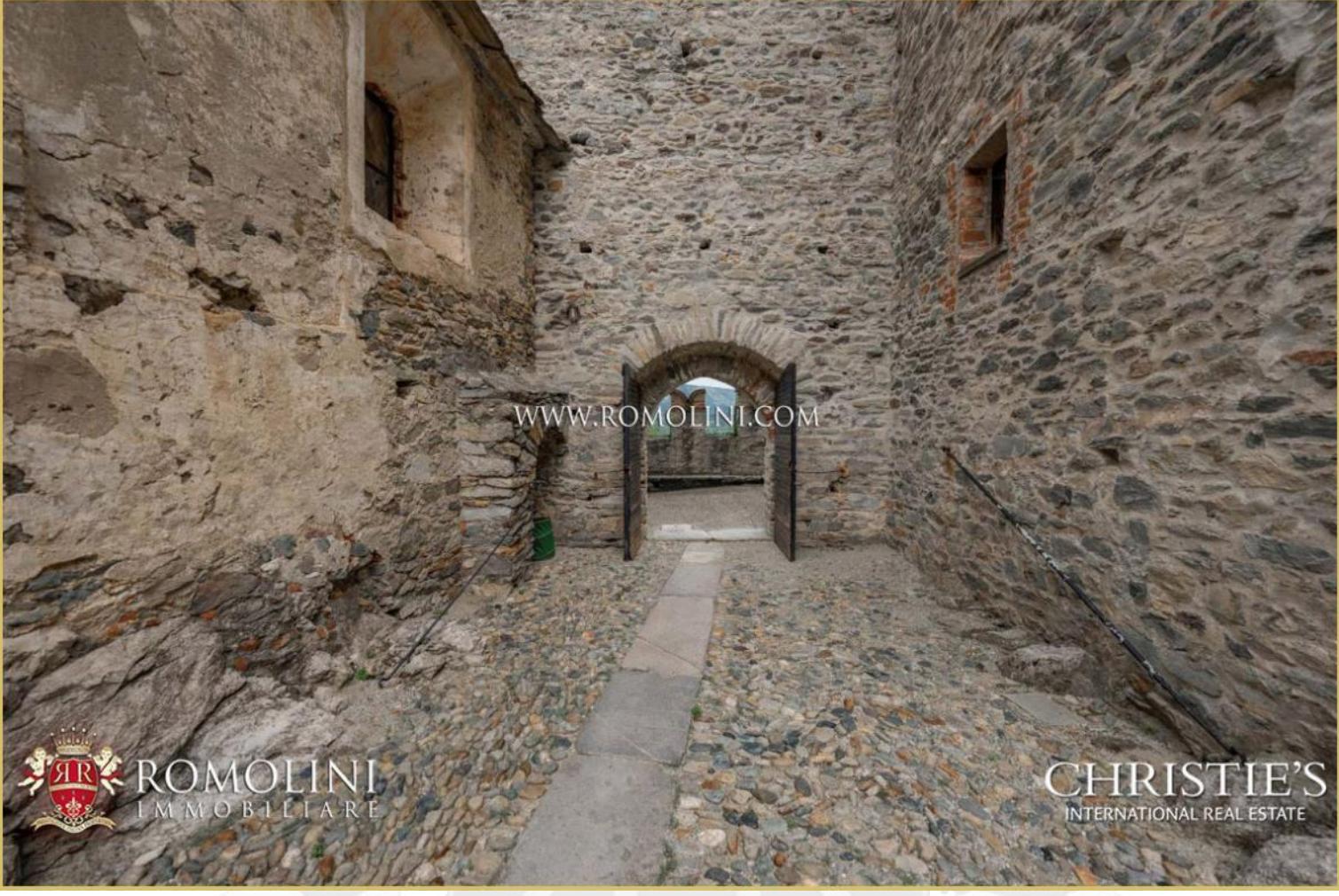


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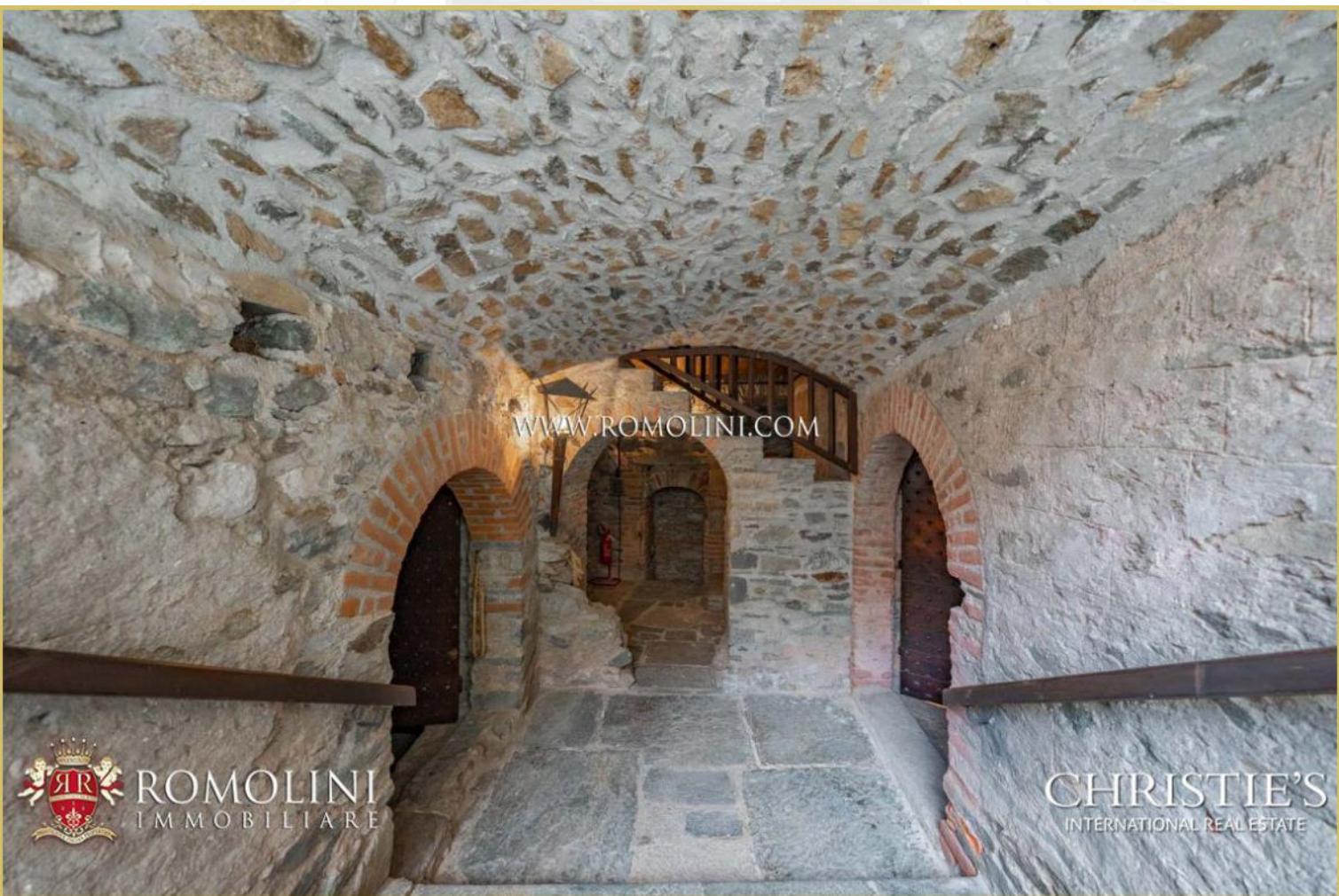


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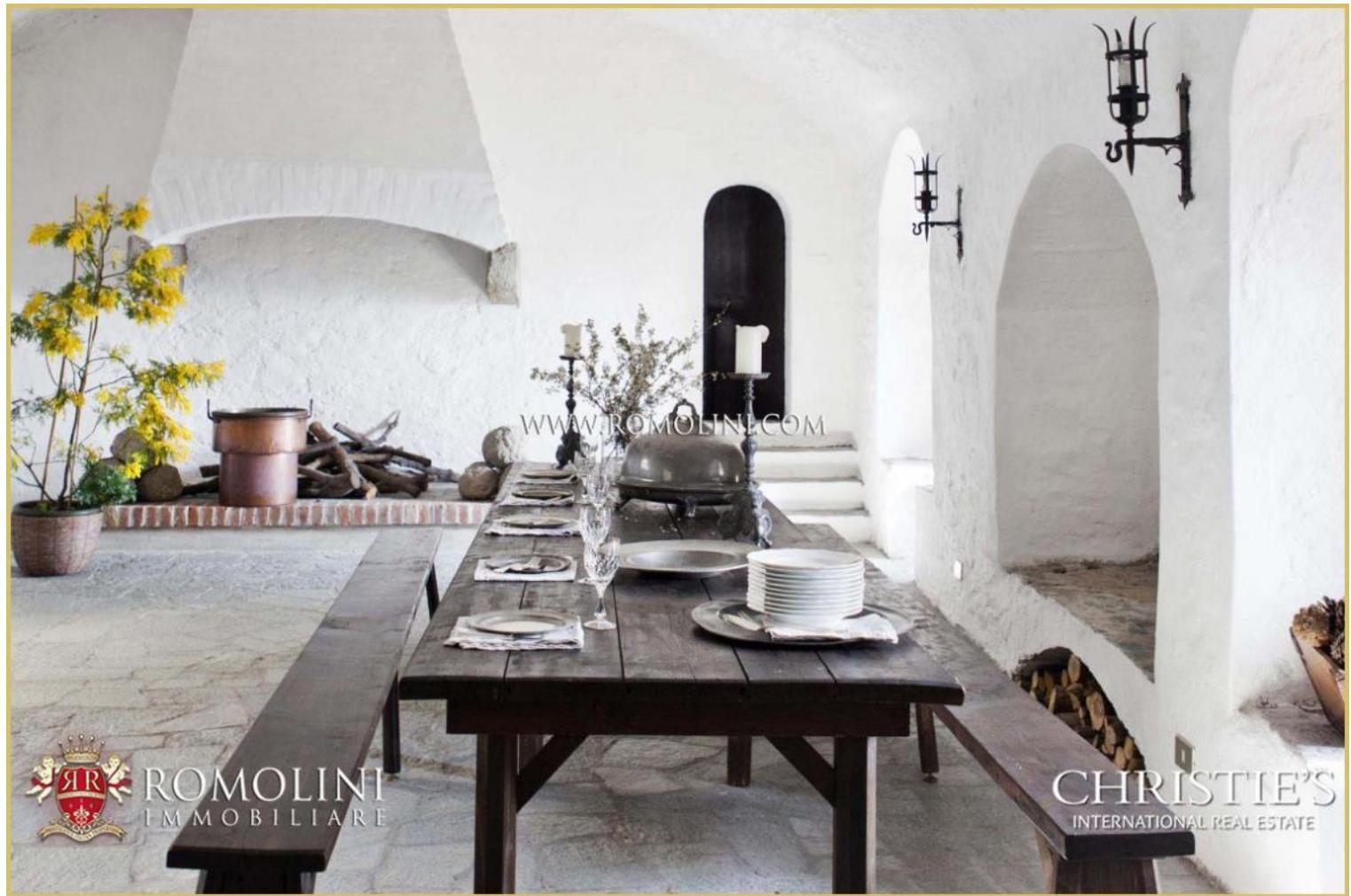
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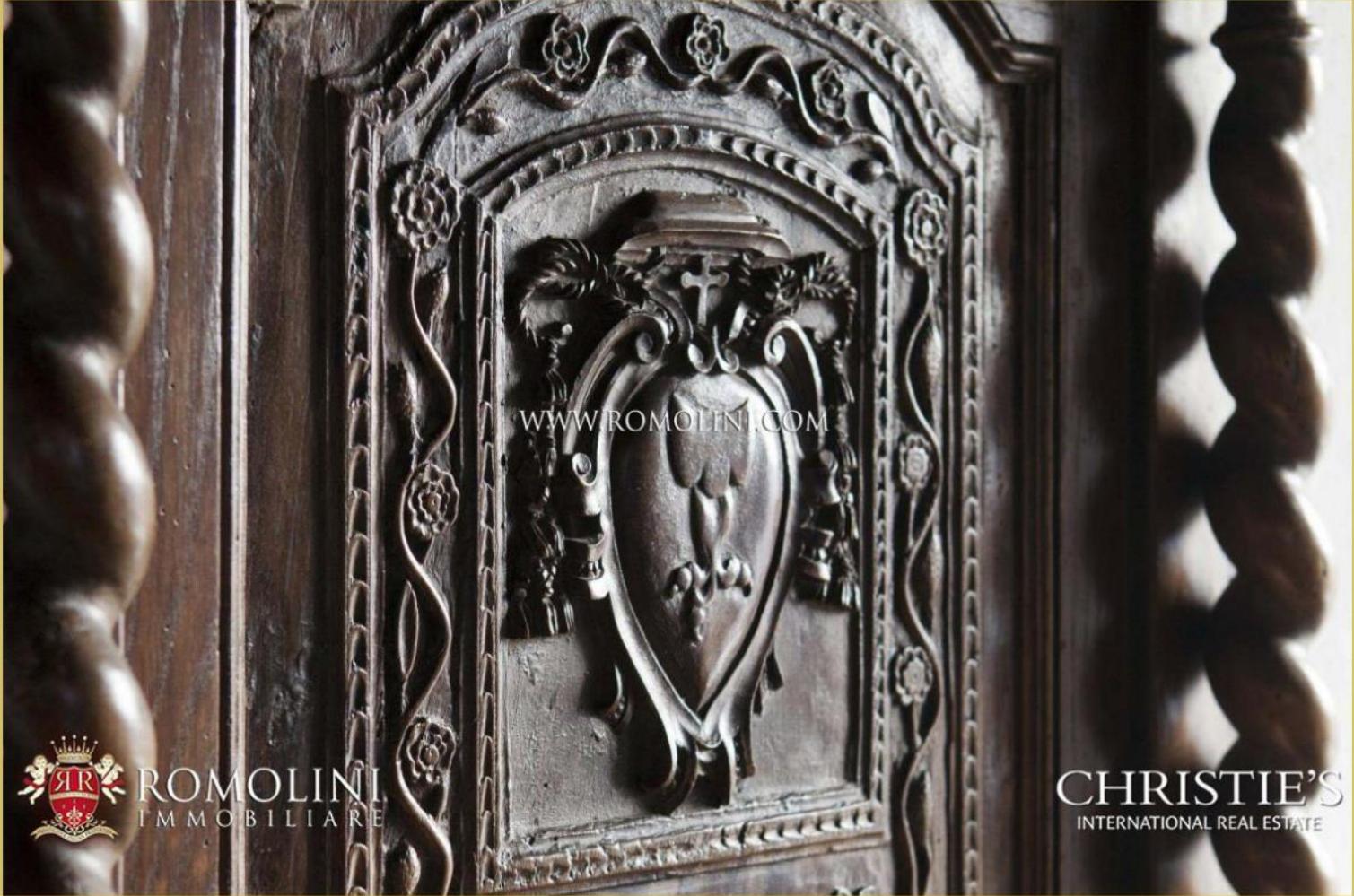
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