

The dedication to the Holy Bishop of Hildesheim, who died in 1038, is typical of medieval buildings of worship located on Alpine or pre-Alpine mountain passes, or near important highways, like the "*strata novariensis*", which headed into the "Corsia grande di Porta Novara" - Novara Gate Street - in Borgomanero. Over the centuries the church, which was already mentioned in the Speciano Inventory of 1590 as "*oratorium campestre devotionis S.Gottardi*", underwent several updating spells, resulting in various changes: rebuilding in 1628, opening of the new community sepulchres in 1780, and, in 1889, of atrium and belfry. In the interior, remarkable is the Lourdes Grotto, achieved at the end of the 19th century. The church is the seat of the Holy Virgin of Carmine Brotherhood, established there back in 1836.

The monumental Statue of the Immaculate was erected in the borough square in 1721. It was realized on commission of the Rev. Marquis Gabriel Francesco Saverio d'Este, who, in September 1720, had written to the Podestà - the Lord Mayor - of Borgomanero that "the present calamities urge our zeal to do all we can for these subjects of ours, and, driven by such impulses, the thought has occurred to us to put under the Ever-Immaculate Blessed Virgin's special care both us and these subjects of ours by erecting, as an act of homage, a statue in the middle of this square, which will serve as a sacred ornament to the Borough and as a sainted reason for such fervent devotion".

The Parish Church, dedicated to Saint Christina of Bolsena, dates back to the 15th century. In the 1500's, when the building was widened, it still depended on Borgomanero until the end of the century, when Bishop Carlo Bescapè intervened. In the interior, at the beginning of the 17th century, Antonio d'Enrico - Tanzio da Varallo - achieved the Rosary Altar Screen, unfortunately stolen in the 1970's. At the beginning of the 17th century the Oblates' College rose beside the Church. At present, the important Ethnographic Museum of Peasant Civilization is located nearby.

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*The wines of the Novara hills, already celebrated by Pliny the Elder in his *Naturalis Historia*, are among the best in Piedmont and they represent the synthesis of the oldest winemaking tradition of the region. Boca, Fara and Sizzano are D.O.C. wines that can be laid down for aging; they include the prestigious Ghemme D.O.C.G. they are all full-bodied wines from the traditional vineyards of the hills: Nebbiolo, Vespolina*

*and Uva Rara. The wine list can satisfy the most demanding palate, and*

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the apse, Christ Pantocrator and Evangelists, the Apostles and surviving parts of the Cycle of the Months; on the first span the Madonna and Child and Two Saints. On the second span "The Last Supper" and some stories of the Passion with the renowned host of armed figures.

The 16th - century "noble house outside the Borgomanero Gate on the way to Arona" was the ancient property of the prominent Rossignolis and Torniellis, and in 1782 was yielded to the Bonolas, who came from Vacciago and Corconio, and whose last descendant in Borgomanero was Giulio Bonola, Lawyer, (1865-1939), who bequeathed it to his nephew the Honourable Mr Achille Marazza (1794+1967). This illustrious politician bequeathed it to the Town of Borgomanero in his will of 26th August 1966.

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Quoted in a 1204 parchment as Herald Bridge, the *pons ultra Burgummaynerium super Aconia* is mentioned in the Novara Bylaws as one of the Borough's three bridges, previously built in wood on the *strata novariensis* towards the "Riviera d'Orta". Maybe pre-existent to the building of the Borgo franco, it was rebuilt in stone on the occasion of the Agogna flood of 1590 and of the hydraulic works on the stream undertaken by the community at the beginning of the 17th century. It was also called "the mill bridge" - Ponte del molino - in ancient documents.

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*and Uva Rara. The wine list can satisfy the most demanding palate, and concludes with the large young range of D.O.C. Colline Novaresi. These are the best white and red wines that can be enjoyed with starters or main courses, depending on the use of fish or meat. The gastronomy of the area allows for rediscovering long-lost traditions whose past goes back to the world of the farmers. Rice is the most traditional crop of the Novara area, and paniscia is its most famous risotto, consisting of vegetables, lard, salami and wine. Other typical special-*

