



Episode

1 ITALY



(Magical and adventurous intro music)

Hello everyone, welcome to the “Podcastle”: a fantastic journey into the history of castles, fascinating architectural structures rich in history and legends.

We have a passion for these incredible constructions, and we want to tell you everything we have learned.

Let's start with real castles, those from a long time ago. Do you know how and why they were born?

After the fall of the Roman Empire, Europe had become a dangerous place, so the historical phenomenon called “castellation” occurred: the richest and most powerful people began to build fortified houses to protect themselves.

They were large circular structures of wood and stone built on mounds of earth called “motte” around which a moat was dug.

Inside it was very cold and there was no heating!

For these reasons, coloured tapestries were hung on the walls, the rooms and corridors were lit by candles, furs were placed on the chairs to keep warm and in the most important rooms, such as the



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bedrooms of the sovereigns and the throne room, enormous fireplaces were built.

(Pickaxe and hammer sound effects)

Around the year 1000, stone castles arose: the ones we know best today!

They were enormous, with towers so high that they seemed to reach the sky and mighty and imposing stone walls, rounded so that cannonballs would bounce off them and do as little damage as possible. From the loopholes, small, narrow and long openings in the walls, men-at-arms attacked attackers while remaining protected by the battlements.

(trumpet)

Many people lived inside them: the lord, the ladies, the servants, the musician, the men-at-arms, the squires, the castellan, the priest and the farmers, the artisans and the breeders who sought refuge within the walls offering their labour in exchange.

(Sound effects of a medieval banquet)

But do you know what? We also like to imagine dream castles! Close your eyes and let's try to imagine one together...

To start with, our castle wouldn't be made of gray stone, but of shiny tiles, as if they were made of rainbows! Imagine the colours!

The towers would be shiny rockets, ready to take off on an adventure! We could fly away in an instant, if there was danger!

Imagine that the rocket towers could be used to go and explore distant planets, or to have speed races between rockets. It would be like having a personal spaceship! On the roof we could place a giant telescope to look at the stars and discover new planets!

(rockets)

Big slides could take us back into the rooms of the big castle:

- In the secret rooms to play hide and seek and spies!
- In the throne room for great challenges with video games, billiards and ping pong!
- In the prisons where a big cinema screen and lots of popcorn await us to watch our favourite movies!

(Children playing)

What about gardens? They would be full of magical flowers, candy trees, and butterflies with wafer wings! There would also be a chocolate moat, what do you think?



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In the center of the garden, there would be a magic well, which would grant all wishes! We could use it to make kind wishes, like healing sick people, or making pollution disappear from the world. Or, we could wish for lots of friends to play with!

We would organize costume parties with dragons and princesses, knight tournaments with rubber swords, and treasure hunts with secret maps!

We would invite all our friends and have a blast!

(light background)

But that's not all! To please parents and teachers, our castle could also be a place to learn and do lots of crazy things:

- An interactive museum: where you can touch armor, wooden swords and kings and queens' clothes!
- Workshops: to learn how to shoot with a bow, write with a quill pen and make colourful tapestries!
- A nature research centre: a botanical garden with magical plants, an observatory for the stars and trips to the woods to discover animals!

What a fantastic adventure it would be to live in a castle like this! It would not only be a beautiful place to see, but also a place where lots of fun things would happen!

The dream castle would be a place where everyone, from 0 to 100 years old and over, would be happy, where kindness and imagination would be at home. It would be a place of adventures, laughter and friendship, a place where dreams come true!

And with this, dear listeners, our journey today through the ancient walls and fascinating stories of castles concludes.

But our exploration does not end here! In the next episode, we will go even deeper into the indissoluble bond between castles and the territory that surrounds them. We will analyze how their strategic position influenced the economy, politics and culture of the regions in which they arose.

And not only that! We will take a leap beyond the borders, exploring the castles of other cultures of the world. We will discover how different civilizations have interpreted and built these extraordinary architectural works.

So, do not miss the next appointment with history and architecture! We are waiting for you for another adventure within the walls of castles, here, on our "podcast". See you soon!"