

# **Famiglia Cervini - The other Marcello and the Cervinis**

## **The residences and lordship of an important family**

On May 15, 1645, another Marcello Cervini, born in Montepulciano to Antonio and Anna Strozzi, was elected bishop of Sovana. On September 23, 1652, he was transferred to the diocese of Montepulciano. He died on February 8, 1663, in Vivo d'Orca, in the building constructed on a Camaldolese monastery, which had been ceded to his family in 1538 by the Farnese. The villa, bordered by the Vivo stream and arranged over eight floors, has a central layout, two wings of different heights, and adjacent buildings. The reconstruction (with further interventions in the 17th and 18th centuries) is attributed to Antonio da Sangallo the Younger, the probable architect of the Cervini palace in Montepulciano, built starting from 1545. The travertine facade features a central body and two protruding wings, creating a kind of external courtyard: a rare architectural motif with a grand scenic effect. The earliest records of the Cervini family (likely of French origin, based in Florence) date back to the end of the 13th century and refer to Riccardo Antonio, Marcello II's father, located between Montepulciano and Siena. In 1543, Pope Paul III transferred the assets of the hermitage of Vivo d'Orcia to Marcello. As pope, Marcello confirmed the assets to his family, which Grand Duke Cosimo I de' Medici bestowed as a lordship upon Alessandro, the pope's brother, in 1559, confirmed to successors with the title of count from 1701. Alessandro and an Antonio served as standard-bearers of Montepulciano in 1542 and 1615, respectively, when the family moved to Siena (in 1623, Francesco Maria Cervini was elected senator).

### **Bibliografia**

La villa di Marcello Cervini al Vivo d'Orcia, in «Quaderni dell'Istituto di Storia dell'Architettura», n.s., 43, 2004 (2006), pp. 51-74;