

AJUTAMICRISTO PALACE

The Palace takes its name after Guglielmo Ajutamicristo, baron of Misilmeri and Calatafimi, who had it built for his family between 1495 and 1501.

This baron, banker of Pisan origin, had grown wealthy over a few decades trading in Sicilian cheese and cereals. Tired of his arab castle in Misilmeri, he had long wanted to build a “Domus Magna”, which would really reflect his wealth and would serve as an ornament for the city itself.

The opportunity arose when the distinguished architect Matteo Carnilivari arrived in Palermo (he had already been the designer of Abatelli Palace, today Sicilian Regional Art Gallery), he was entrusted with the building of the Palace on the road to Termini Gate (Porta Termini).

Unfortunately, because of the expense, the initially grandiose plans had to be modified and the Palace was only partially built.

At that time the historic palace was the favourite place of abode for many notable figures. In 1500, it hosted Queen Giovanna, the wife of King Don Ferrante of Naples; in 1535 the Emperor Charles V stayed there, as Palermo's Royal Palace was not considered sufficiently grand; In 1544 the king of Tunisia, Muley Hassan, stayed there, shortly before being blinded by his son Ajaja; in 1576 Don Juan of Austria, King Philip's brother was hosted there. Don Juan had been victorious at the battle of Lepanto where admiral Marcantonio Calafati had served at the head of the Pisan Fleet. In 1558 Margherita Ajutamicristo rented the Palazzo to Francesco Moncada, first prince of Paternò, for an annual sum of 390 ounces. Soon afterwards he was to become the owner.

In the 19th century the Moncada family sold the ownership of the palace to Baron Calafati di Canalotti and the Tasca d'Almerita family; the Calafati house still holds to this day its share of property, while the other half was purchased by the local authority Regione Siciliana.

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For more information visit the site of the Palace

ADDRESS / Address: Via Garibaldi, 31

- Palace Wing - Superintendence BBCC Palermo

Side entrance - Tel 091 707 14 25

schedules / timetable: Tuesday and Saturday (tue / sat) 09:00 am / 06.30pm
- Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri) 9:00 pm
am/01:30. First Sunday of the month 09.00am am / 01.00pm. The first
Sunday of the month 09:00 am / 1:00 pm