

“Su ‘Antaru Vetzù”

Located in the southern part of Mamoiada, next to the old quarter of *Su’Astru*, the old stone fountain (*Su ‘Antaru Vetzù*) appears to date back to the second half of the 19th century, although a Roman origin cannot be entirely ruled out. Despite its peripheral location, it was slowly incorporated into the town.

The fountain consists of a wall facing north-west on which two granite basins are mounted: the water is stored in a tank underground. The small building houses the control room. In the days before modern appliances, the large basin facing south doubled up as a wash tub on laundry days, providing an essential public service while serving as a meeting place for women.

Little is known about the history of the fountain: there appears to be no record of its construction or of the changes it has undergone over the centuries. However, there is no doubt that this fountain was once one of many fountains in the village. Since ancient times, the area of Mamoiada has been known for its abundance of water. In fact, water - the source of all life - was regarded as sacred; *Perda Pintà*, an engraved monolith that was discovered nearby and that was most certainly associated with the ancient cult of water, is clear proof of that.

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