

La Contessa de Dolèda



The Countess of Dolèda is present in many tales of the Ladin population of the Dolomites, but it is here that one of the most powerful local traditions tied to this mysterious figure can be found. Legend narrates that a rich noblewoman who had escaped from the war with her three children and her servants found shelter in Val di Fassa. She had a castle built on the top of a vein of gold on Col de Dolèda, above the little village of Alba di Canazei. Furthermore, she had caves carved out into stables for her horses and they say that the rings, fixed into the rock to keep the animals tied up, were still visible up until a few decades ago. They say that every Sunday the Lady travelled on her carriage pulled by white horses and was followed by a procession of villagers, pipers and drummers. She was so respected that even the priest started celebrating mass only when the Countess and her following had reached the church. To this day no archaeological findings of the castle have ever been found, in spite of the long time spent searching, but tradition wants these remains to have been used to build the bell tower of Alba's church.