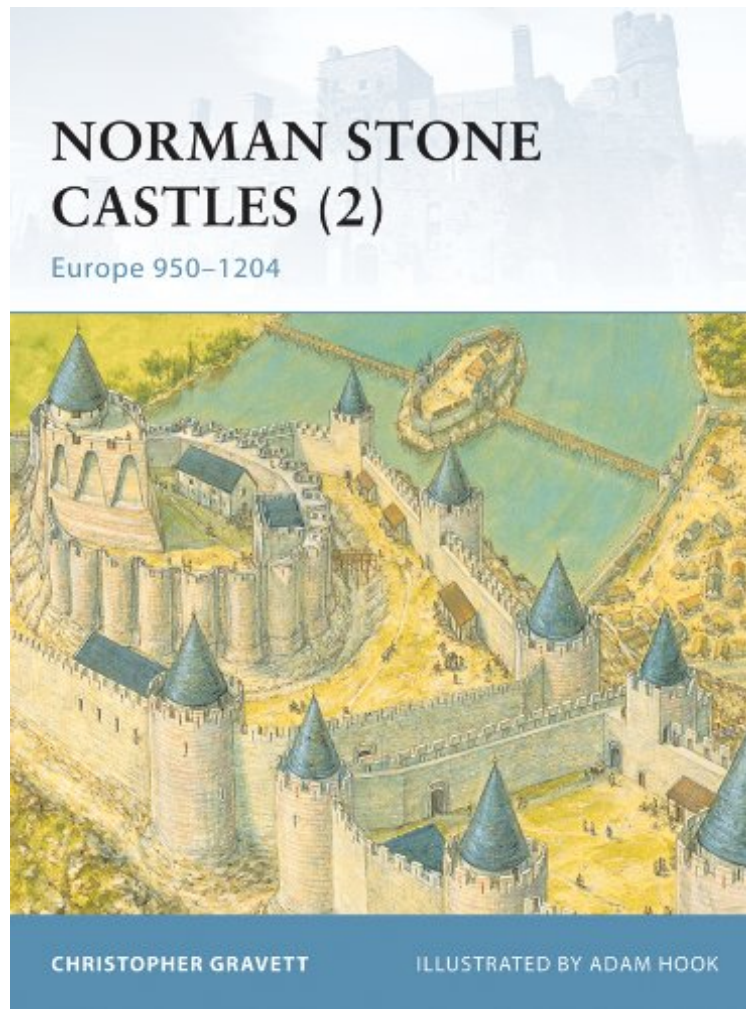


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Norman Stone Castles (2): Europe 950–1204 (Fortress)

Christopher Gravett

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Christopher Gravett : Norman Stone Castles (2): Europe 950–1204 (Fortress) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Norman Stone Castles (2): Europe 950–1204 (Fortress):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Marking their territory in stone...By HMS WarspiteThe Normans who conquered England in 1066 were also masters of the Dukedom of Normandy in France, and in time would also control Sicily and parts of Italy. In all their lands, the Normans quickly became proficient at the building of castles, borrowing techniques from the natives and improving on them. Norman Stone Castles (2) is a very readable Osprey Fortress Series entry, and a follow-up to an early book on Norman castles in England.Although many of the European castles built by the Normans have not survived the centuries, author Christopher Gravett and illustrator Adam Hook find plenty of examples from the period 950 to 1204. The book offers a quick introduction and chronology before getting into the details of those examples. Chateau-Galliard, built on a piece of key terrain, gets an extensive look, as

does Falaise. The narrative is wrapped around a short history of the Normans in continental Europe, and includes chapters on the defense of the castles and life within their walls. The text is enhanced by a very nice collection of photographs, maps and illustrations. Well recommended to those with an interest in the Normans and their castles. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By oldwolfgood book 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great single volume introduction to a fascinating subject. By Andy McKinney The Osprey Fortress boulnes are justly famed for their all around excellence. "Norman Stone Castles 2" is outstanding in this grand company. This is not simply a book of pretty pictures, although the drawings by artist Adam Hook are wonderful, colorful and exquisitely detailed. Besides Mr. Hook's drawings we have the gift of many photos of castles as they exist today, ruins in other words. In a recent to the Osprey books innovation, many of the photos are in full color. That adds a lot to the reader's enjoyment and understanding. Author Christopher Gravett ends the book with thumbnail descriptions of literally dozens of castles in Normandy, Sicily and Southern Italy. In each brief entry he gives the location and current status of that particular castle. Mr. Gravett knows his castles. For a time in his career he served as the senior curator at the Tower of London. Gravett covers the subject in great detail, much more detail than we have any reason to expect in a 64 page book. He covers things that we might expect such as life in a castle and a castle at war. Not expected are details like the cost of castles to the people who built them. This book is well worth the small cost for any of us with an interest in the subject.

Following the creation of the Duchy of Normandy, the Normans were soon introduced to the castle and they built them in large numbers. In the mid-11th century, other Norman adventurers began carving out dominions for themselves in Southern Italy: some crossed to Sicily in 1061 and by 1091 had conquered the whole island. As in Normandy, they were keen to assimilate new ideas, including architectural styles, resulting in some striking buildings. This title, a companion to *Fortress 13: Norman Stone Castles (1) The British Isles 1066-1216*, provides a detailed guide to the castles built in Normandy, Southern Italy and Sicily, covering defensive principles, daily life, the events of siege warfare, and the fate of the castles.

About the Author Chris Gravett is a former Senior Curator at the Royal Armouries, Tower of London, and a recognised authority on the arms, armour and warfare of the medieval world. He has worked as an advisor for numerous TV and film productions, and has written many books for Osprey, including *Warrior 1: Norman Night 950-1204 AD*. He currently works as a curator at Woburn Abbey, Bedfordshire.