

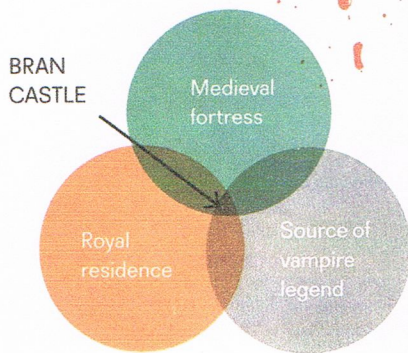
## ICONS

The story behind the most famous landmarks around the network

Happy Halloween, folks!

# Bran Castle

### NOW AND VENN



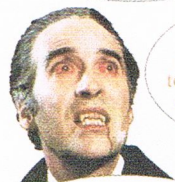
### TALKING DEAD

Separating myth from fact

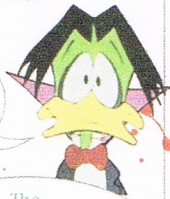
Bran was allegedly the inspiration for the castle in Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, but he never actually visited



The name 'Dracula' was one of the titles given to local ruler Prince Vlad III, commonly known as Vlad the Impaler



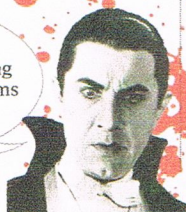
Yet, Vlad III Dracula never lived in Bran Castle. He did have a taste for blood, mind you, impaling tens of thousands



The vampire legend actually originates from the Romanian myth of the *strigoi* - troubled souls that rise from the grave



It also might have first applied to people suffering from porphyria - symptoms include sun sensitivity and red teeth



**THE FACTS**

LOCATION **TRANSYLVANIA, ROMANIA**

AGE **636 (APPROX)**

ALSO KNOWN AS **DRACULA'S CASTLE**

VISITOR NUMBERS **450,000 PER YEAR**

COST OF ENTRY **€6 (ADULT)**

DID YOU KNOW?

**A NETWORK OF TUNNELS RUNS UNDER THE CASTLE**

### COUNT DOWN

**\$135 million**

Estimated value

**190km**

from Bucharest

**eleven**

Dracula tour groups

**100,000**

Victims killed by Vlad

**60**

Timbered rooms

**1,400**

Steps to reach it

### GAG REFLEX

Why would a vampire need cold medicine?

For their coffin

### FANGS FOR THE MEMORIES

We chart the history of the castle

**1377** Building commences under Hungarian King Louis the Great. Completed 11 years later and turned into a custom office

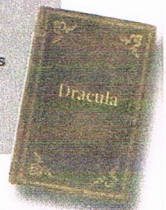
**1459** Vlad the Impaler marched his army through Bran - the closest he ever got to the castle, contrary to popular belief



**1938** Queen Marie died, and her heart was placed in a silver box - now in the National Museum

**1920** Transylvania became part of Romania, and the castle given to Queen Marie as a summer residence

**1897** Bram Stoker's gothic horror novel *Dracula* published



**1956** Transformed: The castle was made into a museum by the communist authorities

**2006** Restored: It came back to the descendants of the Habsburg monarchy

**2013** Today it's the number one tourist attraction in Romania

