

= Italian ironclad Conte Verde =

Conte Verde was the third of three Principe di Carignano class ironclads built for the Italian Regia Marina (Royal Navy) , though she differed in several respects from her sisters . Unlike the other two members of her class , she did not receive complete iron armor , instead relying on partial plating at her bow and stern . She was laid down in February 1863 , she was launched in July 1867 , and she was completed in December 1871 . Conte Verde was a broadside ironclad armed with a battery of four 8 inch (200 mm) guns and eighteen 164 millimeter (6 1/2 in) guns . Her career was limited , owing to the emergence of more modern ironclads and a severe reduction in the Italian naval budget following their defeat at the Battle of Lissa in 1866 . She was discarded in 1880 and sold to ship breakers to help pay for new ironclads then under construction .

= = Design = =

Conte Verde was 73 1/2 meters (242 ft) long between perpendiculars ; she had a beam of 15 1/2 m (50 ft) and an average draft of 6 1/2 m (21 ft) . She displaced 3 ,514 metric tons (3 ,459 long tons ; 3 ,874 short tons) normally and up to 3 ,866 t (3 ,805 long tons ; 4 ,262 short tons) at full load . She had a crew of 572 . Her propulsion system consisted of one single expansion steam engine that drove a single screw propeller , with steam supplied by six coal fired , cylindrical fire tube boilers . Her engine produced a top speed of 10 1/2 knots (18 1/2 km / h ; 11 1/2 mph) from 1 ,968 indicated horsepower (1 ,468 kW) , making her the fastest member of her class . She could steam for about 1 ,200 nautical miles (2 ,200 km ; 1 ,400 mi) at a speed of 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) . To supplement her steam engine , the ship was barque rigged .

Conte Verde was a broadside ironclad , and she was armed with a main battery of four 72 pounder 8 in (200 mm) guns and eighteen 164 mm (6 1/2 in) rifled muzzle loading guns . The ship was equipped with a spur shaped ram at the bow . Unlike her two sisters , Conte Verde did not have complete iron armor on her sides . She instead had wrought iron armor that covered only parts of her bow and stern . The rest of the ship received traditional timber armor .

= = Service history = =

The keel for Conte Verde was laid down at the San Rocco shipyard in Livorno on 2 February 1863 . She was launched on 29 July 1867 , and was completed in December 1871 . The ship did not have a long or particularly active career ; rapidly surpassed first by central battery and then turret ships , the first generation of ironclads with traditional broadside quickly became obsolete . In addition , the Italian government lost confidence in the fleet after its defeat in 1866 at the Battle of Lissa and drastically reduced the naval budget . The cuts were so severe that the fleet had great difficulty in mobilizing its ironclad squadron to attack the port of Civitavecchia in September 1870 , as part of the wars of Italian unification . Instead , the ships were laid up and the sailors conscripted to man them were sent home .

As a result , Conte Verde was not used in any significant way in her nine years in service . The ship was stricken from the naval register in 1880 , but was not actually broken up for scrap until 1898 . The Navy discarded both of her sisters , along with the ironclad Re di Portogallo between 1875 and 1880 to remove the cost of maintaining them from the naval budget , as part of an effort to reduce the financial impact of the new Caio Duilio and Italia classes then under construction .