



## ITINERARY

# 3

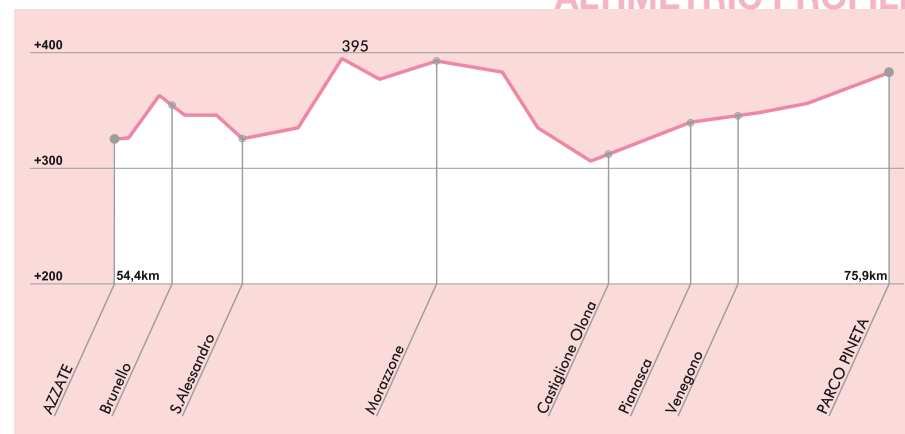


### NATURE AND CULTURE AS YOU CROSS THE VALLE DELL'OLONA



<b>LENGTH OF THE ROUTE:</b>	21,5 Km
<b>DEPARTURE - ARRIVAL:</b>	<b>Azzate</b>
<b>ARRIVAL - DEPARTURE:</b>	<b>Parco Pineta (Castelnuovo Bozzente)</b>
<b>THE CONDITIONS OF THE TRACK:</b>	the track, which in part is on paths and part on the road, is mixed as there are cyclists, walkers and cars to be taken into account for. There are some parts where particular attention is needed. The use of a mountain bike is recommended.
<b>ROUTE TIME:</b>	2,30 hours
<b>COURSE DIFFICULTY:</b>	some easy ones, but there are difficult tracks:
<b>Moderate:</b>	near the main road on the border with Castronno and Morazzone. The area of Altopiano della Pagliata in the town of Morazzone The historical centre of Castiglione Olona.
<b>Difficult:</b>	The historical centre of Azzate. The area of Vignoli-Serre and Cascina Favorita in the town of Azzate
<b>LINKS WITH OTHER ITINERARIES:</b>	By bicycle : a link with Itinerary 2 "By bicycle along the banks of the lake of Varese." And with Itinerary 4 " From the pine tree park, to the city of Como".

## ALTIMETRIC PROFILE



## INFORMATION REGARDING ACCESSIBILITY

### DEPARTURE/ARRIVAL: AZZATE

**By car:** Take motorway A8, and the exit for Varese. Otherwise there is the SS341 to Gallarate/Magenta.

**By train:** FNM and FFS line.

**By bus:** Links with the main cities ( in particular Milan and Como).

**Coordination for the start of the route:** take the main road SP36 and it is near the Cascina Maccana in the district of Azzate.

### ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE: PARCO PINETA (Castelnuovo Bozzente)

**By car:** Take motorway A8 and the exit for Varese. Continue along the SS342 in the direction of Como.

**By train:** FNM station of Venegono Superiore ( about 5km).

**By bus:** The main bus routes of Tradate-Castiglione Olona, Tradate-Olgiate Comasco, Saronno-Rescaldina-Gorla Minore-Tradate, Como-Varese.

**Coordination for the start of the route:** the office of the Parco Pineta in Castelnuovo Bozzente



The route leaves from the main road SP36 near the Cascina Maccana in the town of Azzate, going towards the district of Brunello, then to continue in the direction of Castronno and from there towards Morazzone. The itinerary crosses the valley of the river Olona, which countryside is distinguished by a high wide plain, characterised by swamps and the presence of some villages of noteworthy historical-artistic importance. Among these, the most interesting, and the one with the most interesting is the **Village of Castiglione Olona**, which you can reach by leaving the town of Morazzone behind you. A centre of high historical-architectural value, the original village of Castiglione rises on the summit of a fluvial terrace of the river Olona, between two

hills, the Collina della Collegiata (to the north) and the Colle del Monteruzzo (to the south). The fulcrum of the town planning is the today piazza Garibaldi, from where unwinds the axis of via Cardinal Branda, which climbs up to the Collegiate Church and the Baptistery. The history of Castiglione was however linked to Castelseprio, both because of military and feudal relations. Destroyed by the Torriani in 1271, the stronghold was dismantled in 1287 by Ottone Visconti ( following the destruction of the fort of Castelseprio), and the historic centre was almost completely restructured between 1421 and 1441 under the orders of Branda Castiglioni (1350-1443). He was the papal envoy, bishop of Piacenza and then Cardinal. The bishop gave the work to

important artists of the time, some of whom coming from Florence. In this way, Castiglione Olona became one of the ideal Renaissance cities, despite the fact that its compact building substantially recalls medieval design. From Castiglione Olona, before continuing in the direction of Castelnovo Bozzente, it is possible to make a detour to get to the district of Gornate Olona, where there is the ancient medieval monument of the **Monastero di Torba**, owned , by FAI, which is in the

middle of the countryside. The tower, which was the first of the buildings, was originally built for defence reasons. It dates back to the Gothes period (5th-6th century) and preserves interesting frescoes from the 18th century, which came about when it was transformed into a chapel. Shreds of frescoes, and some tombs, came to light also in the **Church of Santa Maria** (11th century), in simple poor architecture, which is very different from the refined Romanesque apse. Not far from



“The banquet of Herod” Baptistery



The village of Castiglione Olona





Torba and Castiglione Olona is the important archaeological site of Castelseprio, an ancient Roman, military, stronghold, destroyed by the order of the archbishop of Milan Ottone Visconti, who was victorious over the Torrioni family, to whom Castelseprio was marshalled in 1287. The remains of habitations and ecclesiastical buildings are conserved there and among these, the Basilica di San Giovanni and the Church of San Paolo on a central layout, are the best preserved in so much since their destruction was only partial. Outside, in the woods, can be found the little desecrated

**Church of Santa Maria Foris Portas** – that can be dated somewhere between the 6th and 9th century. It contains one of the most important series of frescoes of early Medieval Europe. Returning to Castiglione Olona the route can be picked up again crossing the town of Venegono Superiore and Inferiore, from where you enter the areas that have the Parco della Pineta in Appiano Gentile and Tradate. Continuing in the direction of Como you reach the town of Castelnuovo Bozzente, where the park office is sited and where the itinerary ends.



The Church of Santa Maria Foris Portas

## THEMATIC ROUTES

### ENVIRONMENT AND ART IN THE VALLE DELL'OLONA

The route goes from Azzate to Castelnuovo Bozzente, crossing Valle dell'Olona in a transversal line. It is an area that is extremely varied from the naturalistic-environmental point of view and it is rich in historical-artistic evidence.

For those who love nature and sport, in particular the Parco Pineta offers as much as it is possible find, in the didactic field and there

are courses for trekking and mountain biking. For art lovers and those who like to eat well, the area is characterised by the presence of a historic village of rare quality, Castiglione Olona and farm houses can be found for tasting the local products.

In particular we recommend that you visit:



Ruins and views at Parco Pineta



## BORGIO DI CASTIGLIONE OLONA

the original village is at the summit of the fluvial terrace of the river Olona, between two hills, the hill of the Collegiata (to the north) and the hill of Monteruzzo (to the south). It is believed that its origins go back to Roman times (after the discovery of some remains) but its strategic role is affirmed in the early Medieval Age, with its control of the river Olona and the passage of people that crossed the bridge. The destiny of the village of Castiglione was however linked to Castelseprio, both because of military and feudal encumbrances. Destroyed by the Torriani in 1271, the stronghold was dismantled in 1287 by Ottone Visconti (following the destruction of the fort of Castelseprio) and the historical town centre was reconstructed nearly completely

between 1421 and 1441, under the orders of Branda Castiglioni (1350-1443). He was the papal viceroy and an important diplomat and then became Bishop and lately Cardinal of Piacenza. He gave the reconstruction work to important artists of the time such as Masolino da Panicale, a key figure in the transition from International Gothic to Renaissance, who also left two of his most celebrated series of frescoes in the Collegiate and in the Baptistery. Other important artists were Lorenzo Vecchietta and Paolo Schiavo who brought to Castiglione Olona the innovation of Tuscan art. In this way, the town can be considered one of the 'Ideal cities' of the Renaissance period, even though the compact building substantially recalls



Castiglione Olona – the Collegiata Church

medieval design. Even though Lombardy is rich in evidence of historical walled cities, then Castiglione Olona is unique, because it has maintained its original village character and the quality of its monuments. Absolutely original and without the same level of comparison in the area, is the presence of the Chiesa di Villa, which has a very clear Brunelleschian stamp.

**Accessibility from the cycle route:**  
the track crosses the town of Castiglione Olona.

**Information:**  
**Tourist Information Office of Castiglione Olona,**  
via Branda, 13 tel. [0331858048](tel:0331858048)  
or c/o **Museo Branda**  
tel. [0331858301](tel:0331858301) - [www.castiglioneolona.it](http://www.castiglioneolona.it)

## PARCO PINETA

it was created in 1983 and it develops over an area of 4.860 hectares. It includes the districts of Appiano Gentile, Bergazzo with Figliaro, Binago, Carbonate, Castelnuovo Bozzente, Limido Comasco, Locate Varesino, Lurago Marinone; Mozzate, Oltrona S.Mamette, Tradate, Vedano Olona, Venegono Inferiore, Vengono Superiore and Veniano.

**Accessibility:**  
The track crosses the park territory reaching the park office at Castelnuovo Bozzente

**Information:**  
for information regarding guided tours and educative environmental programmes, contact the park office  
**sede del Parco** in  
via Manzoni, 11 - Castelnuovo Bozzente (CO)  
tel. [031988430](tel:031988430) - fax. [031988284](tel:031988284)  
e-mail: [parcopineta@libero.it](mailto:parcopineta@libero.it)



The vegetation of the Park



## BIKE SALES AND REPAIR

**Ambrosini Pier Luigi cicli E Motocicli**  
piazza Madonnina in prato, 1 - Varese  
tel. [0332240109](tel:0332240109)

**A ruota libera di Valerio Torello**  
via Cesare Battisti, 17 - Varese  
tel. [0332280094](tel:0332280094)

**Emmedue Bike Point Snc di Campiotti Marco e Manganiello Michele**  
vendita Distribuzione Biciclette.  
via Leopoldo Gasparotto, 66 - Varese  
tel. [0332239500](tel:0332239500)

**Pavarin (s.n.c.)**  
riparazione Costruzione Cicli  
via Amerigo Vespucci, 19 - Varese  
tel. [0332329160](tel:0332329160)

**Masnaghetti Claudio cicli Corsa**  
via Monte Grappa, 45/A - Tradate  
tel. [03311841670](tel:03311841670)

**Uslenghi**  
via Bernacchi, 154 - Tradate  
tel. [0331841240](tel:0331841240)

**Tuttociclo di Colombo Filippo**  
articoli Sportivi Assistenza  
via Olona, 31 - Induno Olona  
tel. [0332202151](tel:0332202151)

**Olona Accessori**  
via Monsignor Galli, 5/7 - Castiglione Olona  
tel. [0331859186](tel:0331859186)

## OTHER SPORTING ACTIVITIES

For who wants to spend a day in the countryside while doing sport:

**The district Castiglione Olona**      **HORSERIDING:**      **Az. Agr. Razza Ticino di Moglia Andrea**  
tel. [0331793059](tel:0331793059)

**The district Venegono Inferiore**      **FLYING:**      **Aero Club di Varese**  
tel. [0331864128](tel:0331864128)

## SOME PROPOSALS FOR TOURIST TREKKING

**Olona e Gornate Olona:** Itinerary 15 (CTS): Torba - Castiglione Olona - Stribiana - Castelseprio - Gornate Olona - Torba (Itinerary for the cycle tourist in the Province of Varese, CTS and the Province of Varese).

**Venegono Superiore e Inferiore:** Itinerary 9 (CTS): Tradate-Venegono-Binago-Bivio for Appiano-Appiano-Tradate (Itinerari for the cycle

tourist in the province of Varese, CTS and the Province of Varese).

For those who love nature, mountain biking and trekking, we must point out that Parco Pineta offers excellent paths and the possibility for excursions of every level and degree of difficulty. So, we would like to refer you to the map which is relative to the park and that can be acquired at the office from the Town Hall of Castelnuovo Bozzente.

## TYPICAL REFRESHMENT

For information about the complete list of restaurants along the route, consult the site [www.vareselandoftourism.it](http://www.vareselandoftourism.it) or ask at the Tourist Information Offices (listed in Ricettività) for the guide "A tavola in Provincia di Varese, guida ai ristoranti, pizzerie e trattorie".

## ACCOMMODATION

LOCALITY	TYPOLOGY	STRUCTURE	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Azzate	hotels	Locanda dei Mai Intees ★★★★★	via Nobile C. Riva, 2	<a href="tel:0332457223">0332457223</a>
Brunello	hotels	Verbano 2000 Meublè ★★★	via Gallaratese, 2	<a href="tel:0332870056">0332870056</a>
Castronno	B&B	All' Ombra dei Tigli	viale Rimembranze, 3	<a href="tel:0332892447">0332892447</a>
	B&B	Della Gazza	via Roma, 14	<a href="tel:0332892527">0332892527</a>
	B&B	Villa Monte Rosa	via Rossini, 4	<a href="tel:0332893426">0332893426</a>
Castiglione Olona	B&B	San Nicola	via Papa Celestino, 26	<a href="tel:0331858988">0331858988</a>
Vedano Olona	hotels	Al Peschereccio ★★	via San Pancrazio, 15	<a href="tel:0332400173">0332400173</a>
Venegono Superiore	hotels	Monte Rosso ★	via Paolo Busti, 23	<a href="tel:0331857081">0331857081</a>

## TOURIST INFORMATION

For further information consult our web site <http://www.vareselandoftourism.it/> or ask for the "Guida all'ospitalità in Provincia di Varese" which can be found at the following:

**Tourist Information Office of Varese**

via C. Carobbio, 2 - Varese - tel. [0332283604](tel:0332283604), e-mail: [info@varesottoturismo.com](mailto:info@varesottoturismo.com)

**Tourist Information Office of Castiglione Olona**

via Branda, 13 - tel. [0331858048](tel:0331858048) - or c/o Museo Branda - tel. [0331858301](tel:0331858301) - [www.castiglioneolona.it](http://www.castiglioneolona.it)