



Project for the promotion of local tourism carried out by GAL Langhe Roero Leader
with EC, state and regional contributions within
the EC initiative Leader Plus 2000 - 2006



GAL Langhe Roero Leader s.r.l.

The Guide

iniziativa comunitaria Leader Plus, Gruppo di Azione Locale Langhe Roero Leader - iniziativa comunitaria Leader Plus, Gruppo di Azione Locale Langhe Roero Leader



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**Ente Turismo
Alba Bra Langhe Roero**



Strada Romantica delle Langhe e del Roero

Project for the promotion of local tourism carried out by GAL Langhe Roero Leader with EC, state and regional contributions within the EC initiative Leader Plus 2000 – 2006

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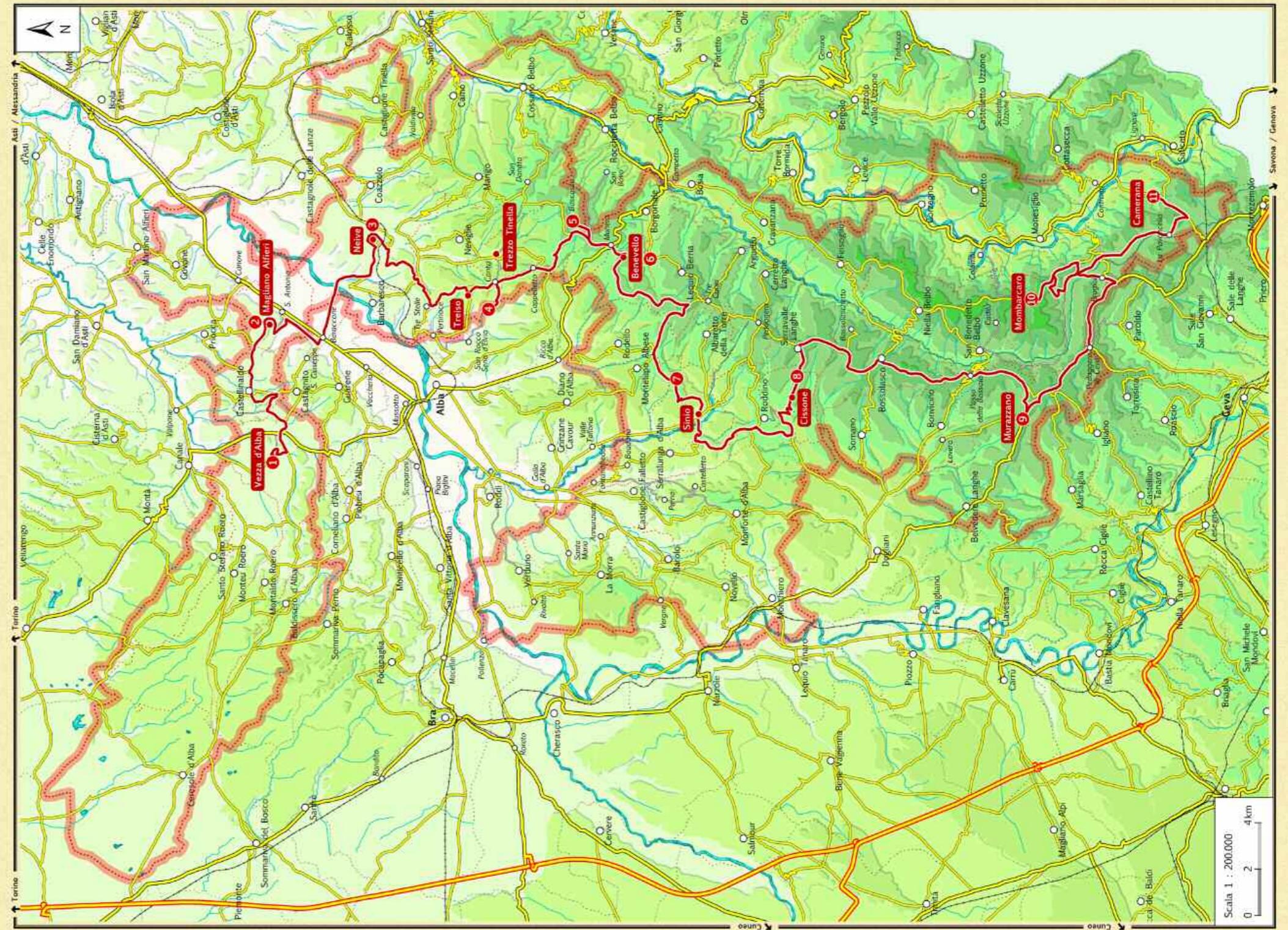
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Strada Romantica delle Langhe e del Roero





Strada Romantica delle Langhe e del Roero

Visiting the Langhe and Roero Regions is like opening a door to a fascinating land with a thousand aspects, each one the keeper of a memory, a piece of history or a shared tradition. We want to accompany tourists along the Strada Romantica of the Langhe and Roero, suggesting an overall view of routes to take and places to visit during their stay.

Our attachment to this land is ancient and unbreakable. The landscape itself, the profile of our hills, is part of our culture and everyday life, we could do nothing else than begin our story here. We would like for visitors to enjoy the same sensations that we, the inhabitants of the Langhe and Roero, feel when we go along the streets that gently wind over hillsides until reaching the summit: from there our views and hearts open upon our world, from there we would like to begin our tale.

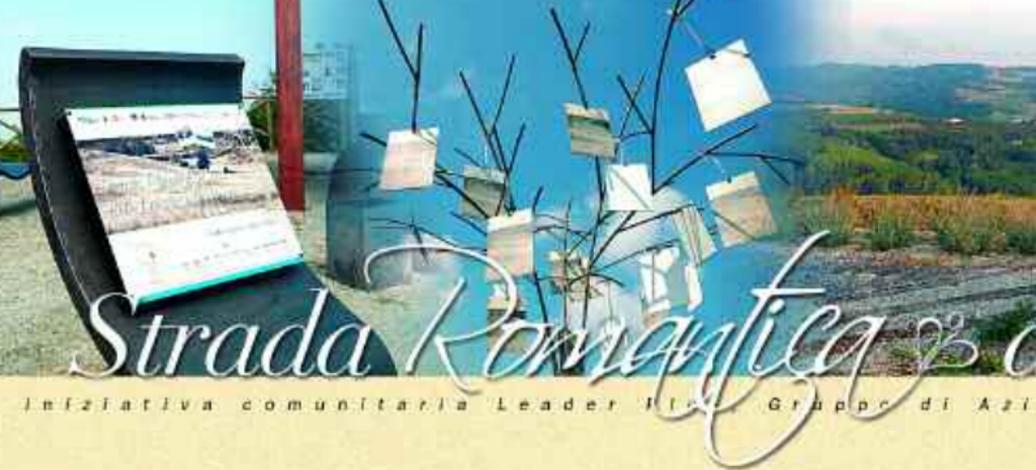
We'll follow the suggestions of eleven stories, eleven chapters of our history and the life of our people: images and words laid down with care on the paths that unite the stopping points of the Strada Romantica of the Langhe and Roero. Each of these contains a glimpse of the territory and to each one we have entrusted the task of preserving a memory: the orchards and the rugged Cliffs of the Roero region, the geometry of the vineyards on the Langa hills, the hazel groves and the woods of the High Langa that tell of the sweet fruits of this land; the castles and towers that watch from each rise recall the feudal past, the farmhouse courtyards that retain the memory of the vigils and farming traditions, the sunny squares that echo with the sound of games and traditional festivals.

Following the Strada Romantica of the Langhe and Roero means entering, little by little, into the life of this territory. Together we'll follow the sinuous procession of the hills, long roads that contend with the vineyards for the sun, we'll engage ourselves with moving views, places ready to reveal a new aspect around every curve. Here the hero of our story is the landscape, fascinating narrator of history and silent keeper of memories.

Let's calmly browse the pages of this territory, listening to the sound of every word and following the rhythm of each sentence. Images and emotions that seem like dreams will arise before us. But let's keep our eyes and hearts open wide so as not to run the risk of losing any of the magic.

Ente Turismo Alba Bra Langhe Roero
President
Aldo Sartore

GAL Langhe Roero Leader
President
Giorgio Manfredi



Introduction to the Strada Romantica of the Langhe and Roero Regions

The Langhe and Roero are a mosaic of infinite landscapes, impossible to encompass in a single glance. They are better to discover one piece at a time, following a course that allows us, little by little, to reconstruct a whole universe.

The Strada Romantica of the Langhe and Roero – created by GAL Langhe Roero Leader within the framework of the EC Initiative Leader Plus – strives to just this kind of approach: to describe a unique, yet diverse landscape, through aspects that, by tradition or suggestion know how to evoke the spirit of the whole. At the centre of the scene are eleven stopping points which reveal the extraordinary natural and human landscape. The plot of histories and memories is set through eleven themes - exploring the relationship between man and his land to local popular traditions, up to the most recent history- and the territory is interpreted through them, giving recognition to a priceless heritage.

The Strada Romantica of the Langhe and Roero was conceived to offer tourists an original travel experience, but with respect for the rhythms and spirit of the territory: this can be noticed by the structures at the panoramic points along the trail, created to allow visitors to fully enjoy the landscape that hosts them. On top of the hills or in the shade of the ancient towers, visitors will find hints and suggestions waiting for them for following their path: the “quinte informative,” information panels placed to provide details on the surrounding tourist attractions and the “cippi panoramici,” a series of display boards, recalling the sinuous form of the surrounding hills, that suggest an interpretation of the territory following the assigned theme of each stopping point, offering an original



VEZZA D'ALBA

Truffle, food and taste



MAGLIANO ALFIERI

Langhe and Roero castles



NEIVE

A multitude of wines and vineyards



TREISO

Fenoglio's Hills of the Resistance



TREZZO TINELLA

On the road between Alps and hills



elle Langhe e del Roero

one Locale Langhe Roero Leader - iniziativa comuni

way for tourists to get to know the territory at depth, nearly becoming filled by the stories and suggestions.

Places of rest and observation, the eleven panoramic points invite visitors to give a bit of time to themselves, like the solitary reading of a book or a chat with friends: here then the discreet presence of the



talking tree, one of the most poetic aspects of the installations, which confides the story of the territory to its leaves through literary passages, and the "romantic bench" for tourists to rest on, designed for sitting comfortably in pairs, made with metal treated in an annealing process and worked with a grommet procedure to infuse lightness into the handmade item.

From one stopping point to the next, escorted by some of the most fascinating views in the world, you will come into contact with the jewels of this land: its flourishing wine production, truffles and hazelnuts, as well as its secular traditions, the small gems of rural architecture that adorn villages and slopes, witnesses to the feudal age made of castles and towers, and magnificent residences that look down from the most striking peaks. La Strada Romantica of the Langhe and Roero is a physical and emotional journey: over one hundred kilometres of roads and paths set in a landscape of irresistible charm, infinite emotion to be experienced and just as many suggestions to savour to be able to read and interpret the spirit of a territory.



BENEVELLO

The Langhe Woods



SINIO

Stories of the Langhe: the theatre of the hills



CISSONE

The Langhe people and land



MURAZZANO

Langhe traditions



MOMBARCARO

The sea



CAMERANA

Hundreds of orchids and other flowers



stop 1:
Municipality of Vezza d'Alba
(353 m a.s.l.)

Steep hills, deep gorges and cliffs: these are the famous Rocche of the Roero region, on the left side of the Tanaro River.

Vezza d'Alba was built here more than one thousand years ago; the ruins of the castle that belonged to the Roero family until the 17th Century are a vestige of its feudal age.

In Vezza we suggest you visit the nice Baroque Church of San Bernardino and two other interesting churches: the Parish church of San Martino and the Shrine of the Madonna dei Boschi, which is located between the hamlets of Valle Sanche and Valle Maggiore.

The Naturalistic Museum of the Roero houses reconstructions of typical natural environments of the region.



Truffle searcher with his dog. (Ass. per il Centro Naz. Studi Tartufo)

the theme of the stop

Truffles, food and tastes

Langhe and Roero became famous all over the world for their most precious product: the truffle. It has become a part of the collective imagery, also thanks to figures such as Gioacchino Rossini (for him it was "the Mozart of mushrooms"), Alfred Hitchcock (who was attracted by the mystery surrounding the truffles, so much so as to want to make a film about them) and Marilyn Monroe (who wrote to Giacomo Morra, the "king of truffles", that she had «never tasted anything more exciting»).



VEZZA D'ALBA
 Truffle, food and taste



MAGLIANO ALFIERI
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...from Vezza d'Alba to Magliano Alfieri - (11km)

Your journey on the Strada Romantica begins from the rock that dominates the village of Vezza d'Alba: the view from the panoramic terrace extends for 360° over hills and villages, woods and vineyards of the Roero region. You can reach it by walking along a path for a short distance. Then you continue downhill and turn to the left into via Mazzini and via Marconi, go through piazza San Bernardo and leave by via Cuneo. After a few hairpin bends, follow the SP152 crossing Borgonuovo. Once you reach the chapel dedicated to San Carlo Borromeo, turn left in the direction of Canale/Torino as far as the roundabout crossing the SR29 in Borbore. You go straight on along the SP50 towards Castellinaldo. After 200 metres you turn left, following the road signs to Castellinaldo and Magliano Alfieri.



[We suggest you make a detour of only a few kilometres from the route of the Strada Romantica. From the crossroads, you cross the hamlet of Madernassa, where the homonymous, famous Madernassa pears are cultivated, and reach the village of Guarene, with its beautiful castle and panoramic terraces over the towers of Alba.]

Two kilometres further on, in the area of Castellinaldo, you reach a crossroads: take the left road which climbs uphill through the vineyards and go on through Variglie road. On your left side, you pass the country church of San Salvario. Turn downhill to the right and reach the panoramic terrace of Piazza Castello: you pass below an arch of the castle and go downhill on the right, passing the town hall and the "Casa Rossa" of the 18th Century. Then, you turn left into via Roma, which is linked to the SP176. Go straight on towards Magliano Alfieri, where you can enjoy a fantastic view over Castellinaldo, and go uphill towards the opposite hill.

At the following crossroads, you turn right into the SP177 towards Magliano. You can reach the castle by following via Asilo Alfieri. You can walk in the limited traffic area passing the massive castle in the direction of the Church of Sant'Andrea.

The stopping point of the Strada Romantica is on the panoramic terrace of the church courtyard. From here you can admire the Tanaro valley. On the opposite side you can see the first hills of the Langhe and, on the right side, the town of Alba.





stop 2:
Municipality of Magliano Alfieri
(328 m a.s.l.)

Magliano Alfieri stands for the history of the Roero region: from the ancient Roman age to the feudal time, when the territory was dominated by a few aristocratic families. Here is the “kingdom” of the Alfieri family, who commissioned the construction of the imposing castle between 1660 and 1680 that dominates the town centre, and which was the residence of one of the most important Italian poets, the young Vittorio Alfieri. The castle, where you can also find the noble chapel of the Santo Crocefisso, is the property of the town hall. The castle houses the “Museo d’Arti e Tradizioni Popolari”, an interesting ethnographic museum with a characteristic section dedicated to plaster ceilings, which were carried out with a particular building technique which was widespread in farmhouses in the areas of Roero, Asti and Ovada.



Castle (Municipal Archives, Magliano Alfieri)

the theme of the stop

Langa and Roero castles

An ancient castle dominates every village of the Langhe and Roero region: the feudal age still survives thanks to many buildings which create a fairy-tale atmosphere. The fortresses on the hilltops tell the visitors the history of this land through the names of their families, such as Falletti, Roero and Alfieri, and the legends tied to them, as in the case of the Volta Castle of Barolo and the Prunetto Castle, which became the subject of mysterious stories and superstition.



VEZZA D'ALBA
 Truffle, food and taste



MAGLIANO ALFIERI
 Langa and Roero castles



NEIVE
 A multitude of wines and vineyards



TREISO
 Fenoglio's Hills of the Resistance



TREZZO TINELLA
 On the road between Alps and hills



...from Magliano Alfieri to Neive - (11km)

Leave the Church of Sant' Andrea (the stopping point in Magliano Alfieri) and the Alfieri Castle behind you.

Leaving the small car park, turn to the right through via Troia, and turn right again into the SP152.

Once you are outside the village, you go along a winding road extending through the vineyards, you pass a hairpin bend and then you leave the main road and turn to the right just before the Chapel dedicated to Santa Maria delle Nevi, which is made of red bricks. Here you will also find the "Parco della Rimembranza, a war memorial of the two world wars, and the orthodox Chapel dedicated to Sant' Anastasia and the Reconciliation, which was built with Russian wood.

Along the downhill road you will pass a small cemetery. At the first crossroads, turn to the left and go downhill towards the valley. Just before the new cemetery, you turn left and continue as far as the hamlet of Moisa. When you are in the hamlet, turn first left along a small torrent, then you turn to the right, reaching this way the "Sentiero del Roero S3". Walk along this path for about 1.5 Km, then you turn left at the first crossroads and reach the roundabout in Baraccone. Continue in the direction of Neive, crossing the whole industrial area. Go straight on along the road, crossing the Tanaro River, which divides the Langhe region from the Roero region. On the orographic right side of the river, the landscape is characterised by a row of gullies, which belong to the marl group of Sant' Agata, which was formed about 65 thousand years ago during a geological phenomenon called "the capture of the river Tanaro". After reaching the area of Neive, you follow the road signs to the historic centre (Neive capoluogo) and turn left just after a hairpin bend. You take the ring road; the village is on your right. When you are halfway up the hill, about 200 mt before the sports facilities, you will find the stopping point of the Strada Romantica. Here you can admire, from the left to the right, respectively, the Barbaresco Tower and the Roero castles of Guarene, Magliano Alfieri and Govone. You can continue just a few metres



further along the main road, and you will find a wooden staircase through which you can gain access to the old town of Neive, which has been proclaimed "one of the most beautiful Italian villages" thanks to its beautiful historic buildings.



stop 3:
Municipality of Neive
(309 m a.s.l.)

It is easy to understand why Neive belongs to the route of the “Most beautiful Italian villages”, you just need to have a look at its medieval old town with its typical houses with red roofs overlooking the narrow lanes. You will also find other ancient testimonies: the Clock Tower, which is the last vestige of the old castle, the Baroque Archconfraternity of San Michele with its precious wooden portal, Cotto’s House with beautiful ceilings and fireplaces of the 18th Century. Outside the village, along the Tinella torrent on the way to Mango, in the countryside you will also find a marvellous Romanesque bell tower, which belongs to the fascinating Church of Santa Maria del Piano.



Red vineyards with tree (Franco Giaccone)

the theme of the stop

A multitude of wines and vineyards

This land seems to be a present for man in order to enjoy good wine: the hills offer their slopes to the sun, and a tradition made up of hard work and enthusiasm has made the region of Langhe and Roero one of the most important centres of wine-growing worldwide. Enjoy this land with the intense aromas of its wines, such as Barolo, Barbaresco, Dolcetto, Nebbiolo, Arneis and Moscato, and admire the changing colours of its vineyards in the different seasons.



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...from Neive to Treiso - (9km)

The route of the Strada Romantica continues by going left from the Neive stopping point and onto the uphill road that brings you to the Historical Centre. Here, at a



stop sign in Piazza Vittorio Veneto, continue straight ahead in Via Circonvallazione. On the left the first viewpoint opens up over the Langa of Moscato, while the historic centre of Neive is perched on the right.

At the other end of the village, at the height of the little church of San Rocco, you enter an avenue of plane-trees on the left. At the end, turn left and at the roundabout keep to the right in the direction of Treiso/Barbaresco/Tre Stelle. Along the road, reaching the hamlet of Slizza, the Tanaro Valley extends to the right, dominated by the first buttresses of the Roero. Meanwhile, turning your gaze behind, you can admire the village of Neive.

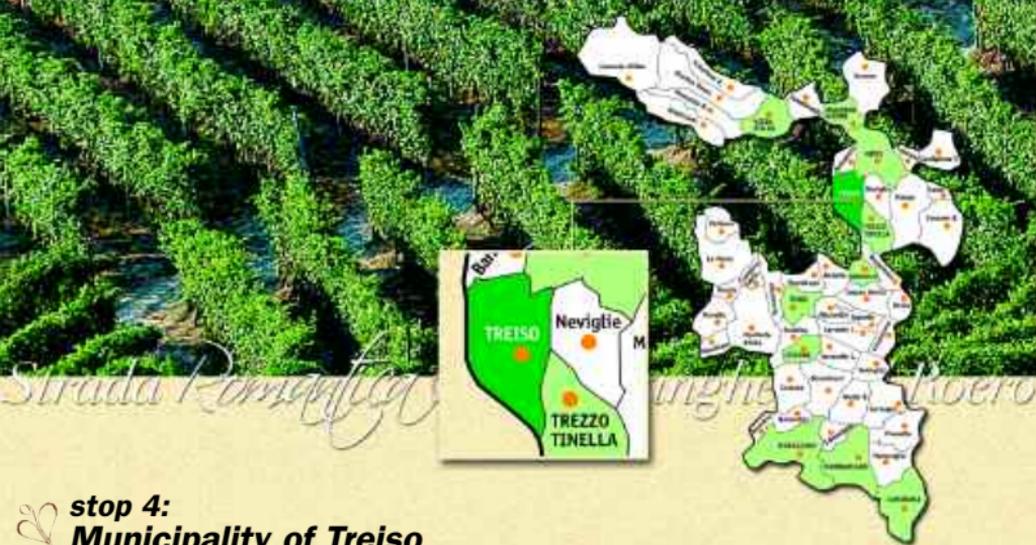
The road winds over ridges and dips near the hamlet of Gavello, where the view opens onto the Tinella Valley. At the next junction for Barbaresco continue in the direction of Alba/Treiso.

[Here, with a brief circular deviation of about 4 km, you can continue with the visit of Barbaresco. Leaving the car under the sundial in front of the Tourist Office, with the Enoteca Regionale del Barbaresco to your back, follow the central avenue on foot to reach the renowned tower.]

The Strada Romantica continues instead going beyond Tre Stelle: at the second crossroads turn left, still in the direction of Treiso, which you reach after having passed the hamlets of Giacosa and Casotto. At the roundabout continue to the right towards the centre, descending towards the beautiful Baroque Church of the 1750. In the square, which offers diverse panoramic viewpoints and hosts various taverns, make a U-turn near the town hall, going back up in via Savona in front of the Parish church. Once back on the ridge take a right. At the hamlet of Giacone, the first signs of land erosion appear on the left to anticipate the “Rocche dei Sette Fratelli,” (The Rocks of

the Seven Brothers) a few hundred meters ahead on the right. In the hamlet of Canta, after the Chapel dedicated to the Partisans, descend to the right towards the hamlets of Meruzzano/Ginotti/Montersino. The entrance to the “Rocche dei Sette Fratelli” stopping point is at the third bend on the right, beyond the last houses, before Cascina Reiso.





**stop 4:
Municipality of Treiso
(410 m a.s.l.)**

Treiso (from the Latin Terzius) was probably the site of the third mile stone of the Roman road “Magistra Langarum”. It led from Alba Pompeia to the French Provence and some fragments still remain among these hills, birthplace of Publio Elvio Pertinace who became emperor in 193 A.D. (now the name of a hamlet of Treiso). Besides the classical Baroque style Parish Church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin of the Assumption, around the town stand numerous rustic chapels and commemorative pillars, among them the War memorial in remembrance of the heroes of the Resistance. In autumn in the hills of Treiso, Neive and Barbaresco the Nebbiolo grapes are harvested, from which the renowned Barbaresco wine is made.



Fenoglio plays bowls (Ugo Carrato)

the theme of the stop

Fenoglio’s Hills of the Resistance

The legend tells of seven blasphemous brothers that, struck by divine fury, fell into the profound gorge of the Rocche dei Sette Fratelli.

But these hills have seen pages of history written under their gazes related to the Italian Resistance during the Second World War. Histories of simple men and women, told in the yearning prose of Beppe Fenoglio, partisan, witness and narrator of a universal suffering, who stopped here to observe the Alba valley, calling Treiso “a village for living in peace”.



VEZZA D'ALBA
Truffle, food and taste



MAGLIANO ALFIERI
Langa and Roero castles



NEIVE
A multitude of wines and vineyards



TREISO
Fenoglio's hills of the Resistance



TREZZO TINELLA
On the road between Alps and hills



...from Treiso to Trezzo Tinella - (7km)



After Admiring the “Rocche dei Sette Fratelli” from the Treiso stopping point, go back up until reaching the hamlet of Canta, rejoin the SP230 and turn right: you overlook a panorama of the Langa immortalized by a famous photo taken by Alba photographer Piero Masera, with the Dolcetto vineyards irregularly cut by the road that leads to the farmhouses of Meruzzano. Continue, passing the junction for the village of Trezzo Tinella, staying on the main road in the direction of Manera. Then turn left at the roundabout of Borneto, following for Manera/Mango. The landscape suddenly changes: towards the north-west the vineyards begin to leave space for hazelnut plants, the prevalent crop of the Alta Langa.

At the roundabout, go straight towards Bossolasco/Manera. From this junction though, it's also possible, with a deviation to the left towards Mango, to reach a public area equipped for a Tourist stop, with a panoramic viewpoint and a monument dedicated to the “Donna di Langa”

(The Langa Woman). Continue towards the hamlet of Manera crossing the places mentioned in “La Malora”, the masterpiece by Beppe Fenoglio set in the nearby the hamlet of Pavaglione. About 200 metres from the downhill, take a left, going onto a semi paved road towards the hamlet of Boscasso. After another 300 metres, leave the car in the parking area provided by the municipality and continue on foot.

The brief dirt path leads to the Bric Boscasso: in this way you reach the stopping point of the Strada Romantica, on the divide of the Cherasco and Belbo valleys, immersed among rows of grapevines. We are on a strip of land of the municipality of Trezzo Tinella, wedged between the Municipalities of Castino, Benevello and Borgomale.

From here, on a clear day, the entire Alpine ridge is visible, running from Marguareis (peak of the Maritime Alps), to the unmistakable Monviso, from the Gran Paradiso to the pyramid of Cervino to the Monte Rosa massif. [Continuing on foot from the stopping point for about 500 metres along the path on the ridge, you arrive at the Cascina Langa (now restored by private owners as a commercial and tourist structure), a noted place cited by Fenoglio in his re-

counts; continue from here for about 200 metres and you arrive at the monument “Donna di Langa” at the panoramic viewpoint in the hamlet of Pian-sarin.]





stop 5:
Municipality of Trezzo Tinella
(341 m a.s.l.)

On the border between the Langhe and Monferrato, Trezzo Tinella, a tiny village set among the woods, is guardian of one of the most spectacular views in the entire territory. From Boscasso you have the impression of being on top of the world, where the scenic amphitheatre of the mountain chain that runs between Valle d'Aosta and Liguria is balanced by the images of infinite small villages that appear on the plateau. Here the Langa woman and her role in the history of these villages are honoured with a monument, located in Piansarìn, which is much loved by the inhabitants of the Langhe.

Points of interest in the village are the Parish of Sant'Antonio Abate, a typical Piemontese neoclassic construction with barrel vault, and the Chapel of Sant'Anna ai Fiori.



Group with cart (Municipal Archives of Benevello)

the theme of the stop

*On the road between
 Alps and hills*

Rural traditions and commercial needs gave rise to figures that became legendary: they crossed these hills for decades, going from farmhouse to farmhouse and bringing goods and news from other towns.

The cadreghe (carpenters who made chairs) and the cartunè (carters) increased trade and legends: the art of storytelling was very important for the evening entertainment, and the farmhouses turned into improvised theatres after sunset, where people acted and invented their life.



VEZZA D'ALBA
 Truffle, food and taste



MAGLIANO ALFIERI
 Langhe and Roero castles



NEIVE
 A multitude of wines and vineyards



TREISO
 Fenoglio's Hills of the Resistance



TREZZO TINELLA
 On the road between Alps and hills



towards the next stop

...from Trezzo Tinella to Benevello - (2,5km)



Travelling once again by car, from the car park at Cascina Bossasso, descend until reaching the provincial road and take a left. Towards the hamlet of Manera on the left, there is a highly regarded naturalistic area which extends up the two sides of the Rio delle Grazie valley:

Continue along the Provincial road and pass the chapel of Monte Marino, whose picnic area is often lively with traditional festivals organized by the local Municipal Tourist Board. From here you can see the Bric del Ferro.

At the crossroads go down to the village of Manera and go straight in the direction of Benevello/Bossolasco/Murazzano, crossing the SR29.

Here the divide runs along the orographic basin between Belbo (on the left) and Cherasca (on the right). It's easy to distinguish the side which is oriented in the direction of the slope, by the gentler slope, with North-Western exposure, which hosts sowable fields, farm houses and other crops, from the side oriented in the opposite direction, with steeper slopes, South-Eastern exposure and covered in wild growing vegetation forming a forest of pine and oak.

This zone was hit strongly by landslides during the great flood of 1994. At the crossroads, turn left to enter the residential area of Benevello, from via Roma, flanking the sferisterion where they still play "balon" (a sort of handball), an ancient traditional sport of the Langa people and the Ligurian hinterland masterfully described by the pens of Pavese, Fenoglio and Arpino. Leave the car in the parking area and go up on foot to the centre, in the direction of the town hall/ medieval castle/Church of San Pietro in Vincoli, reaching the stopping point on the left.

The informative display boards are located in via della Chiesa and via delle Scuole, in front of the parish church.



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| BENEVELLO | SINIO | CISSONE | MURAZZANO | MOMBARCARO | CAMERANA |
| The Langa Woods | Stories of the Langa: the theatre of the hills | The Langa people and land | Langa traditions | The sea | Hundreds of orchids and other flowers |



stop 6:
Municipality of Benevello
(671 m a.s.l.)

With Benevello we enter the territory of the Alta Langa, natural lookout point over the surrounding area: from here the gaze sweeps over the Alba plains and the soft profile of the Bassa Langa, until reaching the imposing chain of the Maritime Alps. The historic centre of Benevello has its nucleus in the square, where the castle stands, probably erected around 1100 for surveillance over the road that leads from the Langhe to Alba.

Still today it is the fulcrum of the entire historical centre, along with the Parish church dedicated to San Pietro in Vincoli, which houses the large fresco depicting the Langa, a recent work by a painter from Lequio Berria, Luigi Carbone.



Wood (Lorenzo Murialdo)

the theme of the stop

The Langa woods

Going up towards the highest hills of the Alta Langa the panorama reveals a covering of luxuriant woods, precious and untouched; the people of the Langa have strong ties with them, that has become indispensable by an ingenious, but simple lifestyle, that has become indissoluble thanks to the respect that they have for nature and its gifts. The relationship is by now a familiar one, wood as a life companion: it was cradle, toy, work, greasy pole (an ancient game), and it was close to them in final farewell.



VEZZA D'ALBA
 Truffle, food and taste



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 Langa and Roero castles



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TREZZO TINELLA
 On the road between Alps and hills



...from Benevello to Sinio - (10,5km)

From piazza Castello, in the historic centre of Benevello, go down again to the left to via della Chiesa, piazza Belvedere and viale Langhe, until reaching the crossroads of the hamlet of Grimalda, where you turn left.



The road passes beside the sanctuary of the Madonna della Langa: in proximity, there is the possibility of a detour to the right reaching the village of Montrucchi, along a road from which you can admire the sequence of the hilltops.

La Strada Romantica continues just to the right of the ridge with a view over Montelupo Albese, Rodello and Diano d'Alba.

Between woods and hazel groves, you leave the area of the production of dolcetto wine to enter Lequio Berria (on the left), in the zone of the Piedmontese "tonda gentile Igp" hazelnuts.

Reaching the crossroads, keep to the right towards Alba/Rodello, along the SP32. You enter the territory of Rodello, after passing the hamlet of Valgaia on the left, you see the "Fossa dei Quiri", a deep gorge where the landscape is wild, composed mainly by woods with some hazel groves here and there.

At the roundabout continue going straight in the direction of Alba/Gallo Grinzane/Diano/Montelupo.

Just after passing the sign of the municipality of Montelupo Albese, follow the street that ascends to the left, for about 1.5 kilometres, leaving the village centre below and to the right. At the first crossroads go straight, staying at that elevation. Take a left, merging onto Strada Ballerina (which gets its name from the farmhouse of the same name, just below). Follow until the end of the wooded area, entering the territory of the municipality of Sinio: the stopping point is found on the left, 50 metres from the paved road.



In one single look, starting from the right, it's possible to take in the villages of Montelupo, Diano d'Alba, Grinzane, Roddi, Verduno, La Morra, Castiglione Falletto, Serralunga, Perno di Monforte, Novello, Roddino, Serravalle and Albaretto della Torre, with numerous castles and fortifications among the vineyards.



stop 7:
Municipality of Sinio
 (357 m a.s.l.)

Sinio was built in the land of Dolcetto and Barolo between hills and vineyards that offer harmony and quiet.

The ancient village, of medieval origins, has a concentric urban conformation divided into four parts which is not common in the Langhe, in which three internal parallel streets are the essential vertical routes, linked transversally by a single street and the square, in which the Church of San Frontiniano stands.

The village is dominated by the castle, built on the ruins of a previous manner, destroyed by the Sforza in 1431, it was rebuilt on the wishes of the Del Carretto family, in front of which stands the Chapel of San Sebastiano.

The deconsecrated Church of the Madonna Annunziata of the 17th Century is host to the Town Theatre of Sinio.



Lit candle (Valter Salvano)

the theme of the stop

*Stories of the Langa:
 the theatre of the hills*

Thanks to the company "Nostro Teatro di Sinio" ancient history and traditions tied to an agricultural past are relived: in particular, every 14 August, in occasion of the "Notte delle masche" (night of the witches) the "legends of the masche" are enacted; they were sorcerers responsible for witchcraft and terrible happenings that populate the stories of the old and the nightmares of children, in satisfaction of the atavistic need of every culture for frightening and feared figures and, to tie the community together and shape popular rules and wisdom.



VEZZA D'ALBA
 Truffle, food and taste



MAGLIANO ALFIERI
 Langhe and Roero castles



NEIVE
 A multitude of wines and vineyards



TREISO
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TREZZO TINELLA
 On the road between Alps and hills



...from Sinio to Cissone - (16km)

La Strada Romantica resumes turning left onto Strada Ballerina from the stopping point and continuing for about 2 km as far as the village of Sinio; pass between the castle and the Parish church, crossing piazza Marconi, and descending to the left in via Cavour.

Leave the village, passing in front of the cemetery and turning left in the direction of Valle Talloria, then immediately turning left again towards Bossolasco/Albaretto Torre/Roddino and a hundred metres ahead on the right, follow for Serralunga via Valdicroce. After crossing the Talloria stream the road climbs up to the Langa of Serralunga.

Reaching the peak, at the crossing of a dirt road, you can enjoy a splendid view of the castle and village of Serralunga. A bit further, looking to the left, there's a spectacular view of Sinio and its medieval village layout. You can compare two structures characteristic to medieval villages: that of Serralunga, in which the castle is at the centre of a series of concentric circles of residences that served as protective buttresses in case of a siege; that of Sinio, in which the castle, near the parish church, was built in the place considered most safe and pleasant with the houses sloping down towards the valley on the same side.

Follow the SP125 to the left in the direction of Roddino, among the Nebbiolo vineyards for Barolo wine. After the church Madonna della Neve, turn again to the left at the crossroads for Bossolasco/Serravalle/Roddino on the SP57. Just after the sign that indicates the beginning of the village of Roddino, turn right into the SP359 towards Cissone/Dogliani, following the steep descent for about 2 km. From here, on the right, the view encompasses the Langa del Barolo, with Monforte in the front and Novello in the background. At the end of the descent you arrive at the valley floor in Riavolo which, as a local saying goes, "together with the Rea river takes Dogliani to the devil", to emphasize the torrential character of this waterway; turn left, in the direction of Serravalle/Cissone.

Then go up again for about 4 km until the village limits of Cissone, observing on the right the alluvial plain that goes towards Cuneo. Reaching the village,

a panoramic view of the Langa del Barolo and the Alpine arc from the balcony where the war memorial stands. After visiting the village, continue on SP187: the stopping point is located on the left at the exit of the village, after the public weigh station. Leave the car and go up the conifer hillock on foot.



BENEVELLO
The Langa Woods



SINIO
Stories of the Langa, the theatre of the hills



CISSONE
The Langa people and land



MURAZZANO
Langa traditions



MOMBARCARO
The sea



CAMERANA
Hundreds of orchids and other flowers



stop 8:
Municipality of Cissonne
(661 m a.s.l.)

The village of Cissonne dominates the small wild, wooded valley, hollowed out by the Riavolo torrent. The surrounding woods are crossed by many paths where you can enjoy relaxing walks.

The Roman origin of the village seems to be confirmed by the discovery of a funerary stone now kept in the Town Hall.

The village square is situated among the Brotherhood church of the Disciplinati (with an original Baroque altar), the Town Hall and the Parish Church, and is dominated by the Church dedicated to Santa Lucia. Its massive façade almost clashes with the church's cosy interior, rich in ancient works by hand of peasant devotion.



Group of people while husking (Municipal Archives of Benevello)

the theme of the stop

The Langa people and land

An anchovy which hung from the kitchen beams and against which polenta slices were rubbed to be given some flavouring: this is a significant image of the past life in the country, which is often mentioned by the elders when they tell the young generations about the past. It was hard work to till the land of Langhe and Roero: the ancestors' toil made it fruitful and generous thanks to their precious knowledge throughout the seasons, the rhythms of the land and each job, from the ploughing to the sowing, from the harvesting to the threshing. These memories still shape the personality of the local people.



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 Truffle, food and taste



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...from Cissone to Murazzano - (16km)

From the stopping point in the village of Cissone, you continue on the SP187 in the direction of Serravalle Langhe, passing the land chapel of San Sebastiano.



On the right, you can admire the classic mosaic landscape of the most authentic Langa: in a small piece of land you can see cereals (maize, corn, etc.), hazelnut-trees, meadows, woods and some vineyards; this was the typical autarkic structure of the ancient farmhouses.

Then you reach the village of Serravalle Langhe: you turn to the right into the SP32 towards Murazzano/Bossolasco.

Pass the "Blue Fountain" on your left side in the hamlet of Lodole, and after one kilometre you reach the village of Bossolasco, where you find the Sentiero della Resistenza (Path of the Resistance), which is dedicated to the memory of the partisans' deeds in 1944-45; you can see some monuments on the Bric delle Forche (which has been recently renamed "Colle della Resistenza"), which is located just outside the village. When you reach the roundabout before entering the town, follow the road signs to Murazzano/Ceva/Savona, along the Rea Valley on your right side. We also suggest a short visit to Bossolasco, which is called "the Jewel of the Langhe" and the "Village of the Roses".

Beyond the village, you will pass the Church of San Rocco, with a panoramic view over the Higher Langa: on your left you have the Belbo Valley; with the villages of Niella Belbo and San Benedetto Belbo.

You will then reach a roundabout near the Passo della Bossola (770 mt a.s.l.), go then uphill towards Murazzano in the direction of Savona/Ceva. Cross a region rich in woods until you reach the hamlet of Rea Soprana, where you find Fenoglio's path in a beautiful panoramic position.

After about one kilometre, turn to the right at the crossroads, following the road signs to Murazzano centro/Dogliani (downhill road); the Bric del Sermenton is on your left; turn right once again at the roundabout before the village. When you reach the ancient covered market, take the street on

your right: after a short walk uphill, you reach a car park where you can park your car and continue on foot.

We suggest you reach the tower park, which is the symbol of the town and where you find the stopping point of the Strada Romantica.





stop 9:
Municipality of Murazzano
(739 m a.s.l.)

Murazzano is full of elegant and refined buildings, and is called “Piedmont’s shield and key” because of its strategic position. Its tower is thirty-three metres high; it is perfectly square and built with stones of highest quality; it is the best well-kept tower among the many watchtowers which were built on the Higher Langa hills as the Saracens often plundered this region.

The Shrine of the Madonna di Hal with the Buzignano Gate, which marked the boundary of the old town, and the Church of San Lorenzo are worth seeing; we suggest you also visit the beautiful Tovegni Palace, which was built in an eclectic style and shows two majestic Art Nouveau dormer windows, and the Wind Mill, which was first built as a watchtower and then turned into a mill for corn.



Playing cards (Bruno Muiraldo)

the theme of the stop

Langa traditions

Farm work was never-ending, it required continuous dedication and care in order to keep the pace with the changing of the seasons. Feasts and spare time in the Langa were regulated by religion: the Sunday Mass, the pilgrimages and the patron festivals; marriages were organized with the help of the traditional figure of the bacialé (matchmaker). Gambling and betting were among the most appreciated recreational activities, together with card playing in the taverns and along the streets, and the “balon” (handball) in the square. This sport has become a part of the local culture of Langhe and Roero, since it also mirrors the most salient features of this folk: so stubborn and so sweet in their love for traditions at the same time.



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...from Murazzano to Mombarcaro - (18km)

Start from the car park in piazza Cerrina, turn in the counterclockwise direction around the park of the tower (the stopping point of Murazzano).



Cross the square Umberto I and go downhill to the right into via Roma, passing the San Rocco church. After a short walk uphill, you will reach the ring road: at the roundabout turn left towards Savona/Montezemolo. Pass the hamlet of Pedaggera and turn left into the SP661.

At the crossroads that crosses the SP54, turn left towards Mombarcaro. Go downhill crossing the hamlet of Bragioli. At the end of the descent, after the bridge and before going uphill on the opposite hillside, turn left into the Belbo valley. Follow the road which crosses the valley, here the landscape is dotted with enclosing walls and farmhouses which are made of the typical stones of the Langa. From here you can also enjoy a spectacular view over the hill of Mombarcaro, which was mentioned in Fenoglio's novel "Il partigiano Johnny".

After 2.5 km leave the road which crosses the plain at the chapel "Pilone del Reduce", a modern war memorial. Go uphill to the right towards the hamlet of Valle. In the centre of the hamlet, turn right and follow the road signs to Mombarcaro until you find the SP103, just after the Shrine of Madonna delle Grazie.

In Mombarcaro, the highest village of the Langhe with its 896 mt a.s.l., follow the ring road and the road signs to the tourism office and the Museum of History (via Galliano). Pass the ancient medieval arch (14th Century) and go along the main street of the village as far as its opposite end. Park your car in the car park in the Belvedere square and walk uphill to the church of San Michele Arcangelo (16th Century), which is also called the "roof of the Langhe".

The stopping point is near the church, and it dominates the surrounding valleys. In the area of Mombarcaro, we suggest you visit the deconsecrated



Church of San Rocco, a small stone building that Fenoglio defined as "a black ship moored along a black crest of nothing", and the picturesque hamlet of Cadilù, which is surrounded by cultivated fields, where the brief and sarcastic novel "Pioggia e la sposa" by Fenoglio is set.



Strada Romantica

Langhe Roero

stop 10:
Municipality of Mombarcaro
(896 m s.l.m.)

The name of Mombarcaro has Latin origins: from the Latin mons (hill) and barcari (barbarism, from boats), the hill from which sailing ships and big boats could be seen. It is an emblematic name for the “top of the Langhe”: here the view opens out from the Maritime Alps to the perpetual snow of the Monte Rosa.

We suggest you visit the historical and ethnographical museum, the Church of San Rocco with the “Cavalcade of the deadly Sins”, the beautiful frescos by Antonio Ocello from Ceva and the Sanctuary of the Madonna delle Grazie (in the hamlet of San Luigi).

The surroundings of Mombarcaro will enchant you: the luxuriant countryside, in some places still uncontaminated, is dotted with votive chapels and small villages, which are often made up of a few stone houses along a road.



Sunset (Municipal Archives of Mombarcaro)

the theme of the stop

The sea

Here thinking about the sea seems impossible: it is hidden by woods and hills, although the Ligurian beaches are quite near. But from some hilltops, on a clear day you can see the shimmering of the waves.

In these hills, which were so poor in the past, the sea was food for the spirit.

With its tales, it fuelled a desire: to plough the waves and cross it for many days, until one reached the land of abundance, “La Merica”.



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...from Mombarcaro to Camerana - (12km)

From the car park in the square, with your back to the panoramic terrace, looking towards the parish church, turn downhill to your left. Stay on the right side until you arrive again at the ring road, and after a brief descent, at the stop sign, you turn to the left. Cross the village of Mombarcaro and pass the Sanctuary of Madonna delle Grazie of the 17th Century (on the right side), the Bormida valley extends on your left side.



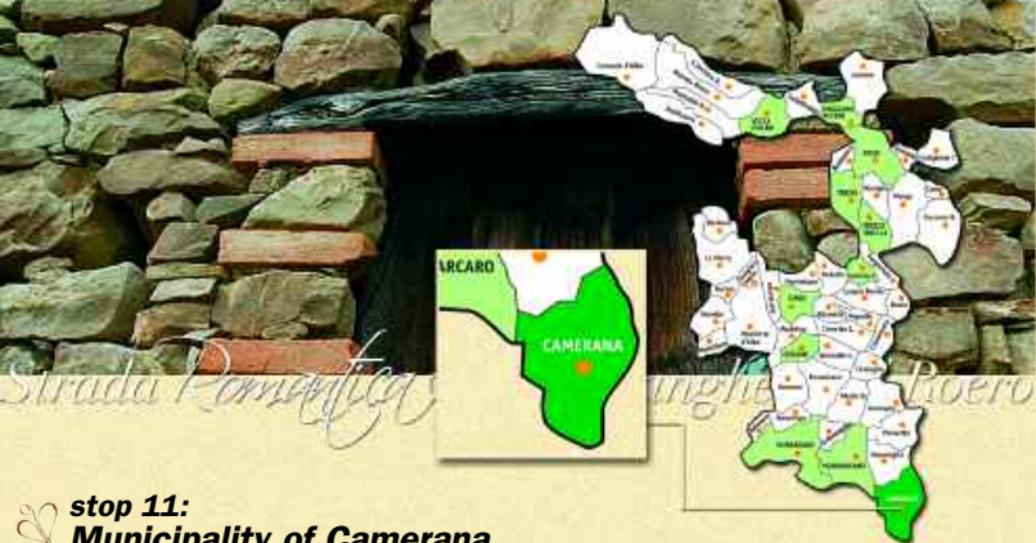
You continue along the watershed, gently downhill: at the crossroads you turn right towards Ceva. At the end of the descent, after about 600 metres, at the first crossroads turn right, and continue for about 5 km on an asphalted road along the Belbo river, crossing fields cultivated with the famous potatoes of the upper Belbo valley. After passing an excursionists' refuge with a charming mountain church, you turn left and continue on the SP439.

You pass a picnic area and the hamlet of Barbei and then you reach the area of Camerana and the crossroads to Camerana-Villa, where you find the town hall.

Follow the road signs and turn left into via Piave: pass the town hall, then you cross the village and reach the square of S. Annunziata. Here you find the Church dedicated to S. Annunziata, which dates back to the 18th Century and displays a characteristic leaning bell tower. You can park your car and go to the other side of the square. Walk up to the bell tower, which is the last vestige of an ancient fortress which dated back to the 10th Century. Here you find the last stopping point of the Strada Romantica along the old Salt road. If you want to continue your tour, you can reach

the beautiful village of Prunetto, which is located a few kilometres further on. It dominates the hilltop that separates the Bormida valley from the Uzzone valley. This location is worth visiting not only for its magnificent landscape, but also for the richness of its flora, which is particularly luxuriant in spring, and for two esteemed architectonic monuments: the castle of Scarampi, which dominates the village, and the sanctuary of Santa Maria del Carmine (14th Century), with a beautiful group of frescos dating back to the 15th Century:





Strada Piemontese

linghe Roero

stop 11:
Municipality of Camerana
(525 m a.s.l.)

Camerana is made up of various hamlets extending on to a broad valley along the Bormida River from Bormida valley to the upper Belbo valley.

It is located between two large woods, the Selva Pallarea and the Foresto wood; the plain extends towards the Belbo valley until the main hamlet of Villa, which is characterized by its old tower, which is still silhouetted against the horizon as in stubborn defence standing among ruins of the ancient manor house in despite of its age. The first documents about this fortification date back to the 10th Century: in 967 a document about the yearly incomes of the land churches destined to the Bishop of Savona, Bernardo, reported the presence of a fortress in this place. It was just a small fortified house with the aim to defend the village, but it was very important for its position, since it was at the crossroads of the most important roads which connected the Piedmontese hinterland with the Ligurian Riviera, along the so called "salt road".



In the 15th Century the ancient fortress was turned into a castle. The building survived to one thousand years of wars, plague and cataclysms; eventually it was destroyed by the locals in 1937; only the tower was spared, and just because nobody knew how to pull it down. From the top



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of the tower, at thirty metres of height, you can enjoy a wonderful landscape: the view opens to the hamlet of Villa and over the whole Bormida Valley. The Baroque Church of S.S. Annunziata with its precious high altar made of fine polychrome marble mosaics and the peculiar leaning bell tower is worth visiting. The nature of the region will surprise you: the



Dactylorhiza maculata (Oreste Cavallo)



Riserva Naturale (Wildlife Sanctuary) Sorgenti del Belbo, which is located among the villages of Montezemolo, Camerana and Saliceto, is a particular, unique and uncontaminated part of Langa. The area is perfect for trekking, riding a horse or a mountain-bike, or even for cross-country skiing.



the theme of the stop-



Hundreds of orchids and other flowers

The rural ingenuity has developed a great skill in the exploitation of self-sown vegetation: herbs, shrub and trees are used for cooking, medicine, house building, tool manufacturing or ornamental purposes.

Many wild fruits grow spontaneously: chestnuts or walnuts are rich in calories and they are the basic ingredients for many typical recipes of the Langa. Plants and herbs are often used for cooking and medicine: for instance nettles are used for the filling of agnolotti, while mallow has sedative properties.

Even if these herbs are used every day for cooking and medicine, please remember that a large number of plants are protected. A regional regulation prohibits the picking of about seventy species in the region of Langa and Roero; in particular picking wild orchids is strictly forbidden: the forty-three different species present in the Langa are a unique richness of this region, since they represent almost the half of the Italian orchid species.

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CAMERANA
Hundreds of orchids and other flowers



From Camerana to Vezza d'Alba

Camerana - Mombarcaro: from the square of S. Annunziata in Camerana, turn right into the SP111 and continue for about 3 km, then you turn right in the direction of Zemme and continue for 5 km. At the crossroads, go straight on towards the Belbo valley. After 2.5 Km, go uphill and turn right into the hamlet of Valle and follow the road signs to Mombarcaro. The stopping point is near the church, in the highest part of the village.

Mombarcaro - Murazzano: from Mombarcaro go downhill along the SP103 as far as the crossroads to Ceva, and turn right. You cross the hamlet of Bragioli and, at the next roundabout, you turn to the right. Follow the SP661 to Murazzano until you reach the roundabout just outside the village. Follow the street leading to the historic centre/tourist information point. Once you have reached the ancient covered market, go uphill on your right side and reach the car park at the foot the park. The stopping point is on the panoramic terrace around the tower.

Murazzano - Cissone: you leave Murazzano following the road signs to Alba /Bossolasco. In Bossolasco, take the ring road, leaving the historic centre on your right side; at the roundabout, go straight on along the SP32 towards Alba. When you are in Serravalle, you turn left towards Cissone. After about 2 km you find the stopping point on your right side near the weigh bridge, just before the village.

Cissone - Sinio: cross the village of Cissone and go downhill along the SP56 for 4 km. At the end of the valley, turn right towards Roddino/Serralunga, and go uphill for 2 km. At the crossroads in Roddino, you turn left to Serralunga. After about 3 km, turn right to Sinio and follow the same direction at the next crossroads too. When you are in Sinio, follow the road signs to Montelupo (via Bricchi): the stopping point of the Strada Romantica is after 2 km on the right side, at the top of the climb.

Sinio - Benevello: leave the stopping point of Sinio behind you, then turn right and turn right again at the next three crossroads, until you reach the area of Rodello. At the roundabout, take the road to Bossolasco. You pass the hamlet of Valgaia just before the village of Lequio Berria, then you turn left to Benevello. Enter the village centre and go up towards the castle, where you find the stopping point of the Strada Romantica.

Benevello - Trezzo Tinella: in Benevello, go downhill along via Roma, then at the crossroads, turn right into the SP106 to Alba. When you reach the crossroads in the hamlet of Manera, go straight on uphill towards Trezzo



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TREZZO TINELLA
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elle Langhe e del Roero

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Tinella. After about 1 km, turn right into a small, partly unpaved road towards the hamlet of Boscasso, until you reach a car park 300 m further on. You continue on foot to the top of the hill, where you find the stopping point of Trezzo Tinella.

Trezzo Tinella - Treiso: go downhill leaving the car park and turn right towards Trezzo Tinella. Turn left at the first roundabout towards Treiso. Follow the road signs to Treiso at the roundabout in Borneto and at the crossroads in the hamlet of Cappelletto. Go downhill as far as to the hamlet of Canta: turn left towards Meruzzano/Ginotti/Montersino; the stopping point is at the third hairpin bend, after the last houses.

Treiso - Neive: go uphill to the hamlet of Canta and turn left. Go on for 2 km until you reach Treiso. At the roundabout, follow the road signs towards Neive and continue in the same direction also at the crossroads in Tre Stelle. At the roundabout in Neive, go towards the old town, going uphill to the right. Cross the medieval square passing through the portal of San Rocco, and go downhill into via Borghese. Turn left into via Circonvallazione after the arch. You will find the stopping point after 150 m, on your right side, just after the sport facilities.

Neive - Magliano Alfieri: from the stopping point in Neive, turn to the right and go downhill. Turn to the left at the stop sign and go downhill again, when you arrive on the SP3, turn to the left. Follow the provincial road until you are in Baraccone. Here, at the roundabout go towards Canale: turn right after 50 m, just after a small bridge. You continue for 1.5 km as far as the hamlet of Moisa. At the stop sign, turn to the left into via Moisa. After 300 m, turn right into via Cane as far as the new cemetery. Turn to the right and go uphill for 200 m ; at the crossroads turn to the right. Once you reach the small church made of red bricks, turn left and go uphill for about 1 km as far as Magliano Alfieri, following the road that leads to the castle.

Magliano Alfieri - Vezza d'Alba: leave the castle behind you, turn left into via Asilo Alfieri, leave the village and go towards Priocca along the SP2. After 500 m, turn to the left and continue towards Castellinaldo. Once you are in the lower part of the village, go uphill to the town hall and the castle. Turn left after the walls and go uphill to the right into via Duca degli Abruzzi and via San Salvario. After about 700 m, you find a crossroads opposite to the church, turn to the left and go downhill for about 1 km. Turn right at the stop sign. From here, follow the road signs to Vezza d'Alba until you reach the town hall in the upper part of the village, in the square of San Martino. Park your car and walk uphill to the stopping point on the top of the rock.

					
BENEVELLO	SINIO	CISSONE	MURAZZANO	MOMBARCARO	CAMERANA
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