TWENTIETH STAGE - EUROPEAN TRAIL CORRIDOR E/1.

PERTINENCE IRPINIA TREKKING AVELLINO.

SERINO ( 423 mslm )- FIUME SABATO 508 mslm ) - CAMPO LASPIERTO ( 1300 mslm ) - CIVITA DI OGLIARA ( 650 mslm ) - CASONE MASUCCI ( 707 mslm ).

Serino has 7,254 inhabitants and is located at 423 mslm and has 24 hamlets. For the origins of the name we have to go back to the Oscan language " SARINO ", which means " clear ", with obvious reference to the varied springs and lush waters in the territory. From the Samnites it passed to the Romans, to the Lombards, where in 850 it became part of the Principality of Salerno, and then, as " CASTRUM SIRINI ", it passed to the Normans, the Angevins, the Aragonese and, lastly, to the Caracciolos.

The Serino aqueduct, in addition to giving water to Avellino, in Roman times, under the Emperor Augustus, gave drinking water to the main centers of the Campanian plain, up to the grandiose reservoir of the Piscina Mirabilis at Cape Miseno, for the supply of the entire military fleet that stopped there. Visit the 17th-century Convent of St. Francis with a 24-moon cloister and various Churches built in the different hamlets.

The stage begins at the Town Hall of Serino, one of the Gates of Entry to the Picentini Mountains Regional Nature Park. After about thirty meters turn left and cross a small Piazza, then keep right, slightly downhill. After a while, at a crossroads, go straight on the S P 138 for about two kilometers to meet, on the right , the road that leads to the hamlet of Ribottoli, ( to visit the Hermitage of San Gaetano, built around the middle of the 17th century, and the small Church , of the same period, right next to the Hermitage, inside which there are stucco decorations and a wooden ceiling adorned with 18th-century paintings ).

Here continue straight ahead, still on the provincial road, encountering, on the right, a small spring and on the left a votive Chapel. About four kilometers from the start, you leave the S P 138 and turn left onto a slightly downhill dirt road. You pass through chestnut groves and follow the course of some valleys, staying below the provincial road and above the Sabato River. After about two kilometers you descend on the river right at the confluence with the Matrunolo Stream. You pass on the right bank and climb a little by turning right, on a dirt road, until you meet the river again.

Here you pass again on the left bank turning immediately left and passing alongside the riverbed with a wide bend. After a while keep to the right ( large bend not far away ), until you reach the Lontro Fountain, built by the Forestry Department in 1956. Around the spring there is a continuous trickle of water from the walls completely covered with moss. Continuing, you pass another bend going up a little, still on a path, and then descend again and take a dirt road.

After about three hundred meters you leave the dirt road and cross the river to reach the Fountain of the Hornbeam, on a path, which flows between rocks and under a hornbeam tree. Continue on and you come to a small picnic area, where you leave the Sabato River and turn left onto a path equipped for the differently abled. Eventually you turn right and pass a shrine dedicated to S.S. Salvatore, after which you leave the dirt road and climb, among pine and beech trees, to S S 574, which you cross and then turn right. You pass the aforementioned S S again further up, and turn right again, still on a dirt road.

You pass the state road for the last time by descending a little, then turn right, on a path, crossing a stazzo. From here on you will follow an old mule track that will zigzag. You cross an area planted with chestnuts with a traverse that takes you over a valley. You pass the bed of a stream that only in a few months of the year brings water, and begin to climb with a greater gradient. You cross an area full of scattered rocks, still alongside the stream, and come to a sharp bend around 870 mslm.

Here, continuing straight ahead and climbing up a section of rocks, you can reach a crook from which water gushes out. Retrace your steps to the bend and continue uphill with stone steps and dry stone walls. You reach above the jam where the gorge widens. We keep to the right, keeping the Ripe della Falconara on our right, but higher up.

We continue the ascent, crossing a small valley several times ( coming from Campolaspierto ), until we reach a passage between the rocks that takes us into a beautiful centuries-old beech forest, at the foothills of the Vernacolo ridge. Continue keeping slightly to the right until you reach the Karst plateau of Campolaspierto ( 1300 mslm ), located at the foot of the Terminio peak ( 1806 mslm ).

For the more trained from here one could reach, in an hour and a half, the summit of the Terminio, proceeding to Collelungo and then turning for the north side of the mountain until reaching the first Peak with the trigonometric signal, , a little lower than the second which is on the right.

We quote an excerpt from Giustino Fortunato who reached the summit on July 30, 1878 " at 7 o'clock we were at the head on the Laspierto Meadow, enclosed by slopes cloaked with beech trees. Pulling ourselves to the left hand, we gained a rise of the enormous steepness of the Ripa Cannella, which falling down plumb between Monte Vernacolo and Colle di Basso, gives the entire western slope of the Montagnone the concave shape of a horseshoe. Falling back that way, in the dense shade of the forest defiled by vestiges of nocturnal carpenters' thieves, we touched shortly after the Collelungo Gap, and quickly took head-on the uneasy slope of the last stratum, on which old beeches cling forcibly, from hanging branches and twisted trunks, attracted and flayed by the frosts and snows of winter. On the dot at 8 o'clock, panting from the rush, we arrived on the major ridge of Terminio, the midday ridge, which advances thirty-eight meters that of the north, at the top of which because a little freer, was raised by the General Staff the trigonometric signal ".

From the square of Campolaspierto one proceeds on the asphalt road for almost a hundred meters, then leaves it keeping to the right to enter a parallel path that winds among the beech trees until reaching the square of Ripe della Falconara, a splendid balcony over the valley of the Sabato River, from which one can see from the sea of Battipaglia to the Mai Mountains, the Valley of Avellino, Mount Pizzone, the Sanctuary of Montevergine with all the peaks of Partenio, Mount Vallatrone, and finally the Matese group.

From here continue on the ridge uphill, to reach the highest point of the stage ( 1350 mslm ), then turn right, downhill and after a traverse find yourself under a beautiful cliff equipped for the climbing school. Continue into the beech forest on a path that opens like a natural corridor among the trees, beaten only by cows. You reach the Varco del Faggio ( 1152 mslm ), on the S S 574, where you immediately turn right on a path that descends with a good gradient and with narrow hairpin bends. You keep to the left the gorge that feeds the spring located further down. You pass a few sections of rocky ridges until you intersect S S 574 again. You turn left and meet the Panicare fountain, with a rocky ridge behind it that is completely covered with a thick layer of moss.

After a short break, continue crossing the road and climbing it for about 50 m, then turn right and take a narrow path.You go around, descending, a small ridge to reach the bed of the stream formed by the spring. You cross it and continue to descend on a very narrow, somewhat slippery and somewhat sloping section downstream. You return to pass over the bed, on a wide stretch but with large stones, until you keep to the right again to rejoin the trail.

You then come to an area planted with chestnut trees and join a dirt road that leads onto a cemented inter-farm road, just after crossing the stream again, which passes between a rocky structure. We climb a bit and ignore a detour to the left to continue the descent. Now the gorge is on our right and we continue through chestnut groves. We disregard another detour to the right and continue until we meet the Olmo fountain, perhaps the source of supply for the Roman town of Ogliara.

The Civita di Ogliara is located on a plateau a few meters from the Sabato River. A wide stone wall circuit about three meters thick is visible, with four towers and an entrance with a wide portal

From the fountain of the Elm you turn left, onto a paved road and after a while you keep left again to enter a path that goes around the walls of the Civita, and then flows onto a paved road. Turn left and continue on asphalt. At a fork you keep right and after a while you reach Casone Masucci, a small old structure near the Sabato River where farmers in the past spent all summer with their families producing milk, cheese, ricotta, mozzarella and caciocavalli.

In the structure one can sleep and eat and then continue on their way.

In July 1878, the meridionalist Giustino Fortunato, coming from Solofra, stayed overnight at Casone Masucci in a barn and the following day climbed to Terminio, almost certainly, on the route we identified for the E/1.

DIFF. EE - DUR h 8 - DISL. mt 928 uphill and mt 644 downhill - in reverse DISL mt 644 uphill and mt 928 downhill. DUR h 7.30. - DIST km 21,700.

Maximum point mt 1350.

PRESENCE WATER ON THE ROUTE : YES.