SECOND STAGE EUROPEAN TRAIL CORRIDOR E/1 -

 PERTINENCE IRPINIA TREKKING AVELLINO.

MONTAQUILA ( 480 mslm ) - SANTA LUCIA ( 243 mslm ) - TAVERNA RAVINDOLA ( 225 mslm ) - PONTE 25 ARCHI ( 222 mslm ) - CARPINETE ( 275 mslm ) - CASE PAGLIAIA ( 332 mslm ) - MONTERODUNI ( 468 mslm ).

Montaquila is a small town of 2346 inhabitants located in the Alto Volturno at 480 mslm. It has, as its background, the Mainarde Mountains. As a result of excavations carried out in 1980, many villa-factories from the High Imperial period, between the 1st century BC and the 1st century AD, were found. It was dominated first by the Lombards and then by the Normans, who gave it the name Montis Aquilis or Mons Aquilus, which can be translated either into Mount where the north wind blows or gloomy place. Montaquila always belonged to Caserta and then to the Kingdom of Naples until the Unification of Italy in 1860, where it was assigned to Molise. Along the E/1 route , in the locality of Roccaravindola, we cross the 25-arch Bridge, on which the ancient Roman-era road to cross the Volturno River rested.

The route begins at the Montaquila Town Hall and enters, on the left of the building, on a downhill cobblestone road. After um po, at a fork in the road, it turns right. Continuing, at another turnoff, you keep left. At the end of the dirt road you turn left and enter a paved road. You skip a wide bend in the road entering a dirt road , which again leads onto the asphalt. At km 35 we take the S S 158 , on which we travel only a wide curve, then pass, turning right onto secondary cemented sfrada.

We pass the hamlet Colle Grotta, disregarding a detour to the right and cross a provincial road, where we proceed straight ahead. After a while you leave out the road that veers to the left and continue straight taking Via Lazio. You cross the hamlet Masserie la Corte II turning onto Via Iovine, passing a fountain and a square with a church and fountain. We turn right onto Via Manzoni and after about 200 meters, at another fork, we keep right again for Colle Pepe, until we reach an arrow indicating an oil mill, where we turn left leaving the road leading to the aforementioned hamlet.

From here we follow an almost straight secondary road for about 2 km, ignoring three detours to the right and one to the left, passing through olive groves and ilex groves. You disregard the fork leading to the olive oil mill on the right and proceed straight ahead. Continue straight again to another junction ( on the right not ) and also pass the small road leading to the cemetery on the right going straight.

You meet a shrine with Madonnina and a fountain and after a while turn left, slightly downhill. Immediately afterwards turn right flanking a stream on the left and then cross a small bridge to reach the hamlet of S. Lucia. At the intersection with the road you turn right. At a crossroads you briefly keep left and then immediately right on Viale Raffaello Sanzio toward the Sports Field. Continuing on we cross a humpback bridge over the railway line and after a short while we join S S 158 and turn right through the hamlet Taverna Ravindola, where you can stop for a coffee or snack.

At the first crossroads we keep left, still on the state highway, to take Corso 25 Archi, provided with a sidewalk, which takes us past the aqueduct and the Volturno River on a viaduct that has, indeed, twenty-five arches. We pass under an overpass of the S S 85 and shortly after leave the S S 158 and, turning left (signposted Isernia ),uphill, travel a short distance on the S S 85 ( km 40 ),then turn sharply right on a cemented road and pass in front of a wood store.

Here you meet several detours so no right, no right, no left. You pass on a dirt road and again no right, no left, no right. You pass the locality Carpinete and come to a first crossroads where you proceed straight ahead, as at the second ( paved road ). Continue on a small asphalt road, omitting a detour to the right, and you reach the junction of the hamlet of Case Pagliaia, where you turn left.

You cross the hamlet by turning onto the inter-modal road and at the first crossroads you go straight, while at the second you keep right. Continue for one kilometer and two hundred meters and you reach S. Eramo; about one more kilometer after a wide curve and you pass through the hamlet of Castagneto and to the point of intersection with the Vallone dello Spedale ( located on the right ). Another 350 m uphill, on a municipal road, and you pass the Cemetery.

From here one last tear with a section with a good incline and you reach the Historic Center of Monteroduni. Stage Location.

DIST. km 14,300 - DISL. uphill mt 246 and downhill mt 258 - DIFF. E - DUR. h 4.30.

In the opposite direction DISL in ascent mt 258 and in descent mt 246.

Maximum altitude 480.

PRESENCE WATER : YES.

THIRD STAGE EUROPEAN TRAIL CORRIDOR E/1.

PERTINENCE IRPINIA TREKKING AVELLINO.

MONTERODUNI ( 468 mslm ) - VALLONE DELLO SPEDALE ( 350 mslm ) - FALASCOSA ( 613 mslm ) - PONTE SANNITA ( 800 mslm ) - VALLELUNGA ( 809 mslm ) - COLLE DELLA LUCINA ( 905 mslm ) - MERSA DEL SOCIO ( 910 mslm ) - GALLO and LAKE OF GALLO ( 860 mslm ) - LETINO ( 1060 mslm ).

Monteroduni is a village of 2,067 inhabitants located at the foot of the Matese . Its origin dates back to the Longobard period, and even today the urban layout is preserved almost intact. Strolling through the narrow concentric streets around the Castle of the Pignatelli Princes, one can descend toward the ancient city walls from which one can catch glimpses of the surrounding panorama, made up of dense forests, valleys and pastures, from its various belvederes, and then push one's gaze to the wide plain of the Volturno and, in the background, to the fascinating mountain range of the Mainarde. Worth visiting are the magnificent Pignatelli Castle, the entire Historic Center, the Church of St. Michael the Archangel, and the various refreshment points to taste typical dishes such as " pumpkin with beans " and " tenne e checucce " , flowers and tender parts of zucchini and handmade pasta.

The Stage starts from the Historic Center and descends on the small road that leads to the lower part of the Borgo, passing in front of the Cemetery. From here it continues to descend by entering an inter-modal road passing the fountain of Santa Lucia, right in the Vallone dello Spedale, to reach the Via della Principessa, that is, the ancient mule track that from Monteroduni led to the Prince Pignatelli estates in the territories of Gallo and Longano.

The route, from here, runs along that route up the shores of Novale and Lucito separated by the Sant'Eramo valley, to flow into and through the San Eusanio valley and to reach, then, the north/west slopes of Falascosa. Once over the ridge, just after the south/west turn, one arrives at Scanno dell'Orso, from where one of the most beautiful spectacles of the central/southern Apennines appears : the view of the very deep Forra di Peschio Rosso and of the incision that the Rava delle Cupelle marks in the Pastorelle, in the Valle Perduta, up to Campo Intringolo and Santo Spirito sul Volturno.

From Falascosa, one passes through Femmina Morta, where one encounters the Carlantonio Cave and continues through the Biada Valley to continue climbing along the gorrid west slope of Colle Torricella ( Ripa della Stella ), where Campanariello rises. The Via della Principessa turns decisively south, still on the ridge of Torricella and, at this very point, there is an overlook of the Peschio Rosso. Just after this point, one encounters " la preta r' ru carr' ", or mysterious carvings on the living rock that legend has it were left precisely by the wheels of the wagons that passed through.From here, following a stretch on a falsopiano, one reaches the Rava di Vallelunga, whose course marks the border between Monteroduni and Gallo Matese, at the point where one crosses a stone bridge said to be of Roman times. Crossing the bridge, being very careful, one could descend almost to the stream bed, to admire the first waterfall of the Rava ( see photo ).

The previous description was provided to us by the GEA Monteroduni Association.

We have arrived in Campania and precisely in the Province of Caserta. We continue along the Via Romana going up a bit and encountering on the right a water purifier and on the left a washhouse and the Acqua di San Benedetto spring. You pass on a cemented small road and come to the paved road of the hamlet of Vallelunga. On the right you go into the Old Town, while the path continues to the left on Via San Benedetto.

After a while turn right, following the sign Cemetery ( never built ) on a paved road that becomes a dirt road just after the cemetery building. A few more meters and you come to a small stone quarry, here you keep right and go around the quarry passing by it, still on dirt road and disregarding two detours to the right. ( Wanting to make a stop, before turning for the cemetery, continue straight for a while and meet a bar, on the right, that also does small catering ).

Past the quarry we come to a small viewpoint from which we can admire the route taken by Montaquila and Monteroduni and the whole Mainarde range in the background. We continue passing on a beautiful mule track with two dry stone walls on either side and slabs in the middle, crossing an ilex forest on the ridge line. At a certain point several small stone walls are encountered, and in order not to get confused, one must keep to the right and pass on the outer side of them.

The mule track reaches the Colle della Lucina (m 905 asl) bypassing it and passing not far from a farmhouse, where you turn left slightly uphill. Immediately afterwards begins the descent on a dirt road that continues the bypassing of the Colle until a fork where you have to turn left, still going downhill ( straight ahead you go on Mount Caselle Iannitti, where there is a radio repeater ), to arrive at a small plateau. You pass it and cross a brecciata where you turn right, downhill, passing a section with many rocks on the left side but not insistent on the trail.

You have to go slowly because of the several stones scattered on the trail that can make you slip. After a while we leave the brecciata that continues straight and turn abruptly to the right, onto dirt road that descends gently.From here on we alternate between stretches of dirt road and small clearings surrounded by oaks and hedges, except for small gaps in the vegetation that allow us to continue. After about a km we approach the S P and the stream " fosse delle rave " , which we keep to our left. The glades become wider and cultivated with hay and potatoes and the path continues sometimes on one side and sometimes on the other, always passing through small gaps.

The S P and the stream are always on our left until after the house " Favali " , where we cross the small stream and continue, now, between the road and the stream on a dirt road where flocks of sheep graze. Further on, one must cross the stream twice between protruding stones to almost reach the road. Here, those who want to finish the stage can follow the paved road for about two kilometers and reach Gallo.

Instead, the path continues on the dirt road that turns to the right and crosses a small bridge over the Rave and then continues straight on at a fork, crossing a small section of coppice of holm oaks, to enter a narrow mule track with low dry stone walls on either side, turning left. Proceed for about 800 mt and on a small bump leave it to turn right into the woods ( straight ahead the mule track descends to reach the paved road ).

This stretch in the woods of about 500 mt is a bit articulated, but it climbs on obvious and marked tracks until below the Mersa del Socio, to turn left. It starts to descend and after about 500 mt we turn slightly right not taking into account the detour on the left. From here on we continue on an old mule track for about two km, then pass over a small wooden bridge and after a short while reach the Gallo Cemetery. You go around it and enter a paved road for 250 m.

At the crossroads with the provincial road, go straight ahead in a small alley and immediately after turn left and go along Via Piana and Via San Rocco to the small square of the Mother Church. From here you go up some stairs and pass next to the Town Hall, then descend to the Lake ( 840 mslm ). You follow a small asphalt road for a while, then turn onto a dirt road that flanks it on the left side for more than half of its extension, and then goes around it in the initial part, just below the Letino cliff.

Thus we go along the initial stretch of the lake and face the last part on a cemented road with a good slope. Once up, before intersecting the provincial road, we turn left and pass a flight of steps that takes us right into the Villa Comunale di Letino at an altitude of 1060 mslm, from which there is a beautiful view of Lake Gallo below. Here the Stage ends.

DIST. km 20 - DISL in ascent. mt 1036 and in descent mt 444 - DIFF. E -DUR. h 6.45

In the opposite direction DISL in ascent mt 444 and in descent mt 1036. - DUR h 6.

Maximum altitude mt 1060. WATER PRESENCE : YES