FOURTH STAGE - EUROPEAN TRAIL CORRIDOR AND 1.

PERTINENCE IRPINIA TREKKING AVELLINO.

LETINO ( 1060 mslm ) - FONTANA dei PALOMBI ( 1173 ) - GUADO la MELFA REFUGE ( 1300 ) - MASSERIA di VALLESECCA ( 1256 mslm ) - PIANTA del MELO ( 1090 mslm ) - CAMPITELLO MATESE ( 1440 mslm ).

BRETELLA DIFF. EE : GUADO la MELFA REFUGE - MONTE RUZZO ( 1563 mslm ) - MONTE MILETTO ( 2050 mslm ) - CAMPITELLO MATESE .

The Stage starts from the Villa Comunale of Letino ( 1060 mslm ), right in front of the Lake Gallo below. A small village in the Province of Caserta Letino is surmounted by the beautiful ninth/tenth-century castle, which covers an area of 90 m by 40. Inside there is placed the Sanctuary of Santa Maria al Castello.In the part below the Borgo flows the Lete River that originates from the Source of "Capo Lete " ( slopes of Mount Ianara, 1575 mslm), which ends in a catchment area that goes to form the Lake of Letino. From here , by karst phenomenon, it enters the Caves of Cauto, formed by two branches, absolutely worth visiting.

From the Villa Comunale we proceed to Via Roma, which introduces us to the Historic Center. We come to a small square where there is the Town Hall and an ancient Church. We take Via Molise, always going uphill, until we reach the upper part where we find the Castle ( summit part of the country ). Here keep to the right and go slightly downhill on the road for about 150 meters, then turn left onto a dirt road bordered by dry stone walls. Continue downhill to an equipped cliff and to) a small bridge that makes us cross a stream. Immediately after you turn right,slightly uphill,onto a dirt road and follow it for about 20',until you come to a fork,where you turn left and take a brecciata,still uphill.

You pass some hairpin bends and, after about another 20', meet another fork on the right. Here you can take the Variante for Campitello Matese with difficulty E that takes you directly to the Guado la Melfa Refuge, while proceeding straight ahead you continue on the third stage.After a while you can admire, in all its breadth, Lake Gallo, with its two small islands. You pass the locality "Campitello," once a potato-growing area, and begin to penetrate into the interior. You win an elevation gain with hairpin bends near the Sorgente del Campo, where it is easy to encounter a herd of horses in the wild, and you come to a further fork, where you keep to the left, slightly downhill, leaving out the dirt road that proceeds straight uphill. You cross a small green clearing and continue slightly uphill, still on the dirt road. Two more forks, at the first straight yes, right no, at the second slightly right yes, left no.

After about 2 hours and 15 you reach the " Fontana dei Palombi " at 1173 mslm, with a stone structure equipped with 10 intercommunicating pools and an equipped rest area, falling within the Municipality of Gallo. After a short restorative break, you begin the ascent keeping to the right ( to the left slightly downhill no ), proceeding always on a dirt road, until you reach a small plateau. Continue the ascent amidst ferns until you reach a very obvious milestone marking the territorial border between Gallo and Roccamandolfi and between Campania and Molise, at an altitude of 1400 mslm.Here begins a downhill path, not well marked except with white/red signs on rocks sometimes hidden by the high vegetation, that reaches the side of fields planted with potatoes, where you meet a dirt road ( 1284 mslm ), and, shortly after ,a crossroads where you must keep left going downhill ( right not uphill ). After a while the descent ends and you meet a wide plateau, also cultivated, (Vallepiana), where there are several small farmhouses and an Agriturismo. The dirt road crosses a paved road, which you follow keeping to the right. Immediately afterwards you pass by a fountain (not working) and after about a kilometer you come to another crossroads where there is another fountain, also not working.

We are at an elevation of 1180 mslm. We continue on the paved, little-used road and, having reached a u-turn, continue straight ahead (road sign prohibiting cars), uphill. After one kilometer you arrive at the " Guado la Melfa" hut, in the municipality of Roccamandolfi, which in winter also functions as a starting point for the cross-country ski school. We are four hours from the start. After a while , on a bend, we disregard a detour to the right and proceed idritti n slightly downhill.

At the beginning of the Campitello Valley with its large plateaus, we turn left onto a dirt road, uphill and leave the path that proceeds straight and will be the beginning of the EE link road to Mt. Miletto. You climb up a good slope passing a few hairpin bends until you come to a fork where you keep right, changing direction completely. You proceed, still on a dirt road that passes below Bocca Muzzo.

After about 250 m you meet another fork and proceed straight ahead, no to the left. You also cross the slopes of Monte Alto and go around it, also facing some hairpin bends downhill, to the Masserie di Vallesecca. From here, proceeding falsopiano, we face a nice stretch with several frequent small changes of direction proceeding northeast.

We pass the villages Folubrico and the beginning of Vallone Grande ( where we disregard a detour to the left ). After about a km, in a tight bend, you leave out another path on the right and continue turning left. We cross the locality Pianta del Melo and in a sharp bend we meet a further fork where we turn decisively right, at an altitude of 1090 m.

From here we climb gradually changing direction completely and facing two long traverses and a wide semicircle to then pass small hairpin bends until we reach the aqueduct ( 1208 mslm ). You flank it keeping it on the right while continuing to climb. After a while we take a small asphalt road that leads us into the center of Campitello Matese to the Jezza Refuge.

DIST. km 23 - DUR. h 8 - DISL. uphill mt 1023 and downhill mt 643 - DIFF. E. In the opposite direction DSL. uphill mt 643 and downhill mt 1023 DUR. h 7 Maximum altitude mt 1508.

Presence of water : only at Acqua dei Palombi.

BRETELLA FOURTH STAGE to Mount Miletto (2050 mslm).

The link road splits from the Official Stage at the beginning of the first Campitello plateau, proceeding straight ahead to reach another plateau, where you can easily encounter a herd of horses in the wild, and keep to the left, keeping the whole plateau on the right. You pass two forks that you leave out ,the first on the left and the next on the right.

At an altitude of 1300 mslm a climb begins with a good slope and you cross a beautiful beech forest, keeping a small valley on the right, to reach and cross the Campitello Valley. Continue on an easy dirt road to a fork, where you keep to the left with a sharp turn and an increase in gradient, to reach the clearing of Serra delle Vallocchie Scure and Monte Ruzzo (1563). You cross the plateau keeping to the left and passing part of the beech forest until you reach the clearing, just below the rocky structure of Colle Tamburo (1982).

This is where the most challenging section begins, not because of the roughness on the ascent or descent, but because of the limited space of the trail, which has been traced by the passage of cows and horses, and because of the steep slopes of the rock walls on either side of the trail. After about 800 m you come to another small clearing where you keep to the left.(Watch out for red circular signs that mark a trail that descends on the right towards Lake Matese). You climb a little, still keeping to the left, and pass a saddle from where you can admire the rocky structure of Miletto in front of us.

A nice traverse begins, slightly uphill, for about a km that takes us to another saddle where we have to turn decisively left (on the right we go down to Colle del Monaco, the junction point between Miletto and La Gallinola). From here another traverse takes us back (obviously on progressively higher altitudes), to a small opening among the rocks. Here we turn right and with narrow switchbacks, some toward the ridge and some inland, we reach another grassy plateau, just below the two peaks of Miletto. We conquer the last 50 m of elevation gain and reach the Miletto (2050 mslm), from which there is a beautiful view of the Campitello plateau with its ski slopes, Lake Matese, La Gallinola, Lake Gallo and the Lakes of Letino formed by the Lete River.

After a stop we head for the second peak, not far away, where there is a small wooden structure with two dishes and an antenna and from which a somewhat challenging descent begins. You point toward an iron pylon (old power line), on narrow path under which the cables of the new power plant run. We pass by the first pylon and the second keeping them to the left, while the third (fallen to the ground) and the fourth we will keep to the right.

In front of us a plateau opens up with a very obvious stazzo to get to which we deviate slightly to the left and descend crossing a small rock structure and a gully..Next we head straight to a saddle where we turn left and resume the descent with a good slope zigzagging between rocks and gravel until we enter a beech forest, where the bottom becomes less slippery.

The path now develops in the beech forest, always downhill, until it reaches a clearing where the dislodges of large boulders that have occurred over the centuries are very evident. On the right, 50 m upward, is located the Cave of the Ciaole, just below a beautiful rock face, where often until June you can still find a fair accumulation of snow.After the dutiful visit to the Cave, we take the path again and continue on the trail that takes us over another drop with small hairpin bends among the rocks.

Immediately afterwards we abruptly change direction and, still descending, reach the pylon of a ski lift, where we turn right and enter a dirt road that takes us to the Bar La Tana del Lupo and to the Rifugio Iezza in Campitello Matese, the stage's arrival point.

DIFF. EE - DIST. km 31 - DISL. uphill mt 1174 and downhill mt 794 - DUR h 10

In the opposite direction DISL in ascent mt 794 and in descent mt 1174 - DUR h 9 .

Max point mt 2050 -

WATER PRESENCE only at Acqua dei Palombi.