FIFTH STAGE - EUROPEAN TRAIL CORRIDOR AND 1.

PERTINENCE IRPINIA TREKKING AVELLINO.

CAMPITELLO MATESE ( 1440 mslm ) - MONTE GALLINOLA ( 1923 mslm ) - SERRA DEL PERRONE ( 1250 mslm ) - BOCCA DELLA SELVA ( 1395 mslm ).

Campitello Matese ( Municipality of San Massimo ) is located at 1440 mslm and isa renowned winter sports center in southern Italy. Until the 1960s the resort had only one building, Rifugio Iezza, which was used as a shelter by shepherds who climbed the mountain in the summer to graze their flocks. In those years already the first groups were beginning to go up to ski and spend their vacations. In the 1970s came the boom that led to the construction of many of the facilities still present today, including the new road from San Massimo. The ski resort can count on about 40 kilometers of slopes for downhill skiing. Ski touring, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing can also be practiced.

Bocca della Selva is a small tourist center located at the foot of Mount Mutria (1823 mslm ), which includes the territories of the municipalities of Piedimonte Matese, San Gregorio Matese and Cusano Mutri. It is home to an important Meteorological Observatory and a small ski resort.

The Stage starts from the Jezza Refuge/bar/restaurant, just opposite the large plateau of Campitello. From here you keep to the right and follow a small stretch of road and then enter a convenient dirt road, turning left, that crosses, on the right side, the entire plateau. Travel about 1,600 m on a brecciata and cross the watercourse, turning right, to meet a small artificial lake used for snowmaking the ski slopes.

From here you take a dirt road keeping to the right of the watercourse and reach the Capo d'Acqua spring ( 1502 mslm ), on a plateau that you cross diagonally, keeping the shepherds' cottages on the left. You ignore two tracks, one on the left and one on the right, and proceed straight ahead. We climb keeping the gully on our right and passing on a narrow path. You reach a small gap ( 1473 mslm ) and keep to the left, ignoring a small path that climbs to the left.

A little further on, continue halfway up the hillside, keeping to the right another gully. You disregard two other detours on the right and pass under a rock ridge. Here you turn to the right and climb to an unbroken line of barbed wire ( Region boundary ), which you cross just before a small pass between Monte Crocetta and Monte Monaco. Just below is another plateau with a waterhole.

Continue the ascent that has us passing under beautiful rock structures below the summit of Monte Crocetta. Continuing, always)) flanking the rocks, we come to another small plateau where we must turn decisively right and cross it, diagonally ( 1620 mslm ). We find ourselves in a very fascinating area between meadows and rocks. Going up we meet another small plateau that we cross to go to the ridge, right on the border of the two regions.

We return to Molise following the ridge line in a section devoid of vegetation until we reach the summit of Gallinola ( 1923 mslm ), where we meet the geodesic point where a large Wind Rose has been placed and, on clear days, we can see the two seas, the Tyrrhenian and the Adriatic. After a well-deserved rest we continue making a semicircle to the right to reach, in a few minutes, the cross placed on the other peak.

From here we begin the descent, keeping to the right, which brings us to another small plateau, which we keep on our right. We turn sharply to the left, over a saddle, and face a section with a good slope with a zigzagging course. We come to another plateau that we cross proceeding straight ahead and resume descending, keeping a gully to the left. You come to a wide plateau that you cross the entire length of, keeping slightly to the left.

You arrive, thus, at a narrow gap again in Campania. Immediately afterwards you descend a stretch of rocks and gravel with narrow switchbacks until you come alongside a stretch of barbed wire turning left. Follow it for a while, still downhill keeping Lake Matese on our right and the whole ridge of the next Stage on Mt. Mutria. We descend into a bottleneck between the rocks and point to a very obvious group of rocks, below which there is a circular pit. Here ends the most challenging section of the route. We find ourselves in the Piano della Corte where there is a stazzo and numerous herds of cows.

The Trail passes just near a bend in S. P. 319, where we turn right and enter a forest where we can easily encounter a herd of horses in the wild. You pass through a ravine where you turn right and then left to climb the ridge line. You reach an altitude of 1549 mslm and can see the Lake and Mount Mutria ( 1823 mslm ) again. Turn left and follow the ridge line for a while. You descend again, turning left, and in about 15 minutes you reach the intersection with the S.P. at km 6 and cross it pointing slightly to the right to join a dirt road.

We continue keeping to the right returning to Molise and after a short while pass under the Sogliette degli Abeti, with its four peaks, on our left. We travel about two km crossing a wide plain where we leave out a dirt road on the right, pass under Monte Porco and cross a second dirt road on the left and proceed straight ahead. Another 500 m and we meet another detour on the left that we ignore. We proceed always on a dirt road that cuts through a beech forest where we must follow the succession of the numbering of the cuts : 89 to the left - 94 to the right - 89 to the left - 95 to the right. We reach the Region boundary and turn left leaving the dirt road and taking a track that descends for about 150 m among the beech trees to enter a dirt road below ( watch out for the marking ).

Continue straight ahead to reach the Cul di Bove Pool, where you veer sharply to the right in a V curve. After a while disregard a detour to the right and continue straight uphill. You proceed and after a while begin to descend for about 30 minutes until you reach a bar ( always open ), right on the Serra del Perrone ( 1250 mslm ) crossroads, an important road junction for Bocca della Selva, Lago del Matese, Guardiaregia and Campitello Matese.

From here cross the road and turn left, on a dirt road, descending a little and keeping very close to the road. You come to a large plateau with a picnic area equipped and turn right on a nice dirt road slightly uphill. You omit a detour to the left and continue straight on entering and exiting five gullies, keeping Guardiaregia on the left. You reach an elevation of 1420 mslm, at a wide bend, where you leave the dirt road and enter the Cusano gully, keeping to the right just above its bed.

You climb for a while and then leave the riverbed and take a path that traces a diagonal until you get around a large rocky structure. Turn right and after a while you intersect a dirt road where you turn left ( 1596 mslm ). We are right on the Region boundary line, which we follow for another 300 mt until we reach an intersection where we turn left toward Monte Mutria while our trail turns right. After 200 mt we come to a widening where a paved road begins that with five narrow hairpin bends takes us to Bocca della Selva ( 1395 mslm ), where the Stage ends.

DIFF.EE - DUR. h 7.30 - DIST. km 22 - DISL. uphill mt 1040 - downhill mt 1085.

In the opposite direction DISL in ascent mt 1085 and in descent 1040. Maximum altitude mt 1923.

PRESENCE OF WATER ON THE ROUTE : SAFE ONLY AT ‘CAPO D' ACQUA’.