

## Mountain Bike tours

Idea, texts and photos: Gerard Muecke

### Bric Arpiol / Monte Tivoli 1791 m

**Starting Point:** Oncino 1220 mt  
from the hotel via Paesana, direction  
Crissolo, detour Ponte Laita

**Activity Level:** 600 m height difference,  
mainly on asphalt and cobblestone  
simple trails duration time about  
4 hours

**Features:** Great Monviso view.  
From the end of May to the first snow.



#### Route:

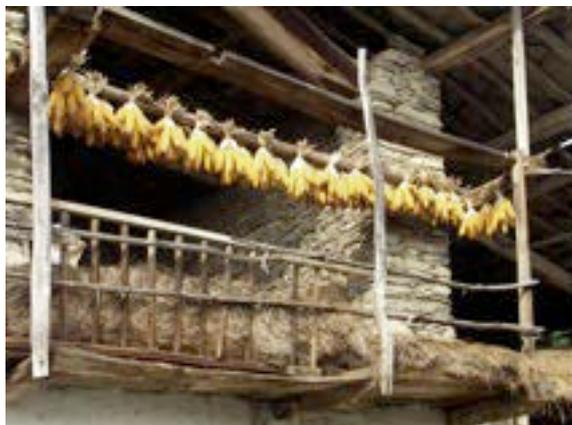
From Oncino (parking behind the church) along a country lane to Meire Bigorie near Ruetto 1280 m, but before the big left bend go straight on. Along intermediate/difficult winding slope we reach Barma Fredda pass, 1453 mt. Here the paved lane ends and we cross the green valley up to Rio dell'Alpetto bank. We will ride and push our bikes along its left bend until we arrive at some mountain shelters over the stream. Some meters beyond the pastures is the lane and the near village of Paschie, that we reach after a short drive over an old stone bridge. After an elbow on the left around the houses, there is a paved lane that after Meire Tirolo becomes a cobblestone lane and in 30-45 min we are at the pass at 1768 m just below Bric Arpiol where we can admire Monviso. The short way to the top offers no problems and the rapid return along via Porcili towards Oncino is really fun.

Your mates can return before the others and maybe have a drink!

#### Map:

Monviso IGC no. 6 from the internal library

## Pian del Lupo / Vallone dell'Infernotto



**Starting Point:** From Hotel la Colletta towards Paesana detour at Agliasco

**Activity Level:** 1200 m height difference, about 4 hours  
Difficult pebbly start with a climb at the end

**Features:** Wonderful wild Infernotto Valley view below Ostanetta

### Route:

Beyond the hotel up to the beginning of our back trail from Paesana along the small paved lane to Agliasco (photo) and Raina, where our cycle track starts.

After 1,5 hour route we reach an equipped area at a crossroad and we go straight on.

First we turn left and go straight on for a couple of minutes until Pian del Lupo where we can enjoy an open view of the surrounding area and the rocky mountain range below Bric Arcett.

On the way back we take the long trail across Infernotto valley, that now is more clear and deeply cut, and then we climb up to the forest shelter on a steep cobblestone path.

We go further up on the valley, then to the Rio up to Ponte dell'Ula.

In the end again we find the fast paved lane to Via Vottero just before Barge.

Unfortunately, after Vottero and Beliamone hamlets, it takes another hour both on paved and cobblestone steep climb before reaching the trail starting point beyond the hotel.

### Map and Guide:

Monviso IGC no. 6

Tour no. 28 from the internal library

### **LA COLLETTA** **Hotel Ristorante**

via Colletta, 29 - 12034 Paesana (CN)  
Tel. +39.0175.94262 / Mobile +39.348.5659612 / Fax +39.0175.945321  
VAT 03685670048 - info@lacolletta.com

## Monte Bracco 1307 m

Starting Point: Hotel La Colletta

Activity Level: From easy to difficult. About medium high difference - 4 hours  
asphalt and gravel 50:50

Features: Monte Bracco loop tour for about 100m altitude  
but this time we are forced to come back to the bar or under a shower!

### Route:

With at least 3 atm per tyre, we leave the hotel towards Barge and after Mondarello through a steep trail we reach Convento della Trappa. Don't lose the open overview of Po Valley and Monviso behind the church as during the next two hours with only 2 atm, it will be very hard. Steep, first asphalt, then cobblestone and in the end a very steep ramp.

“Always stay on the left: the first detour on the right heads you, at this point or later, back to the hotel; we descend the second one when coming back from the top (Croce d'Envie 1307 m) taking a left on the third.

At the first marked detour we cross the entire west face until we find a steep gravel path at the foot of Monte Bracchetto at about 700 m altitude. Now turn right along a stream bed and then head left across a pasture up to a pass (sometimes we will push our bike) We finally find a forest track that heads us back to the hotel through Giala.

### Map and Guide in Italian:

Tour no. 30 from the internal library



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## Rocca Ciaramolin 1405 m



**Starting Point:** From hotel La colletta to Calcinere inf. 730 m

**Activity Level:** Normal multiple variant riding tour; if done following the indication it is very difficult, not always easy, about 700 m high difference, 2-3 hours.  
Asphalt and gravel 30:70

**Features:** Trail on old mountain path across pastures, chestnut forests to the rocky mountain range of Rocca. Good view of Monviso and its valley.

### Route:

Pass through Calcinere, until you find a detour sign on the left to Meire and Ferrere. Ride up on a steep trail to Meire fork, and then go straight on towards Ferrere! Just behind the hamlet, go straight on always on a gravel trail up to Pilone della Fornace.

The trail climbs winding and after passing old farms and giant chestnut trees you reach Rocca pitch with its wonderful view of Monviso and its valley. Head back on the same trail. Variant: once at the Pilone della Fornace follow, beyond the way sign to "Balcone del Monviso", the small indication to the pass up to the opposite side of the valley that lays below Agliasco and head back to the hotel through Ghisola and Paesana.

### Map and Guide:

Monviso IGC no. 6

Tour no. 27 from the internal library

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## Saluzzo, S. Cristina - Castellar

**Starting Point:** Saluzzo Castle 390 m 22 km from Hotel Colletta

**Activity Level:** Intermediate/difficult, steep and difficult not always easy  
Max. 800 m height difference, 4-5 hours

**Features:** From the castle across the woods up to S. Cristina - 900 m - steep downhill trail in Valle Bronda. From Castellar one more variant through woods and wine for those untiring.

### Route:

Saluzzo is too big to be described. Let's start at the castle, in front of the civic tower and San Giovanni's tower and head left, behind the castle, in the well marked trail to S. Cristina.

First on asphalt up to the hill over the town, then on cobblestone, gravel and sand up to Piana in Valle Bronda .

Always following an ideal way for MTB, after a shady chestnut wood, we find a rocky partially downhill trail to Santa Cristina church (downhill guide S.S.5). Now take the uphill path on the left Bronda Valley side and when in a small clearing, head right backwards. Pay attention : it is steep and rocky up to Piana. Asphalt up to Castellar, where you can find a good restaurant under the castle.

For those who want, there is a nice uphill trail beyond the castle to S. Grato, S. Eusebio, Piana e Castellar (1- 1 ½ h).

Through fruit farms and pastures we head back to Saluzzo all together and we immediately climb high through via Pusteria, S. Bernardo and Via S. Chiara up to the Castle.

### Map and Guide:

IGC no. 24

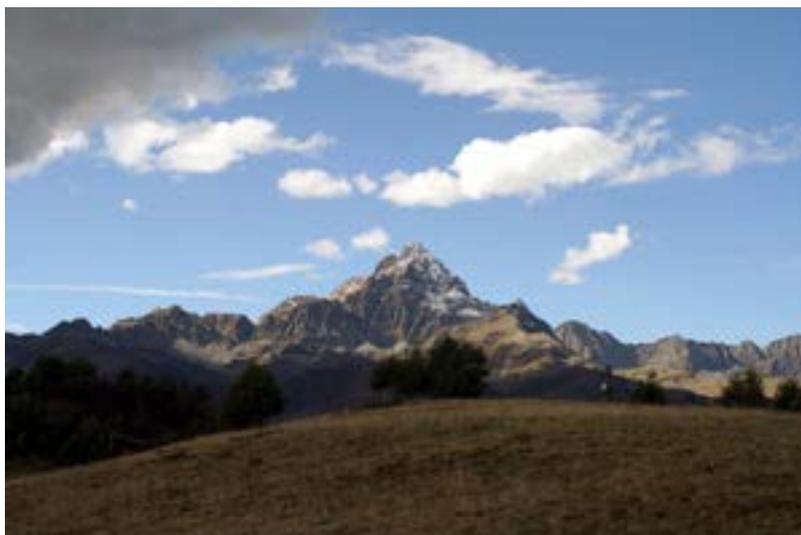
Tour no. 20 from the internal library



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## Croce Turnour 1554 m



**Starting Point:** Hotel La Colletta Erasca by car if needed, cutting out Paesana

**Activity Level:** Intermediate. Asphalt: cobblestone 60:40  
820 m height difference, 4-5 hours

**Features:** Charming tour opposite Monviso, from mountain pastures through old villages down to the narrow Po

### Route:

Beginning from Erasca, at 639 m above sea level, we take the road to Pian Muné at 1442 m. In winter time here there is a crowd of skiers, but the surrounding area is quiet and really steep up to the parking lot near the first skilift.

Turn right on Monviso following our winding cobblestone trail in the valley up to Croce Turnour.

When coming back, we should avoid looking at Monviso to be more concentrated on the trail leading to Serre: this the most difficult part of our tour and it needs attention.

Once in Serre, however, we will have some other pure funny moments. Beyond Ruata, below Oncino, we will ride downhill (mind the few cars passing through) up to Ponte Laita on Po river.

Those without a car can ride back to the hotel.

### Map and Guide:

Tour no. 24 from the internal library

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