-THIRTEENTH STAGE EUROPEAN TRAIL CORRIDOR E/1 -

 PERTINENCE IRPINIA TREKKING -

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 square, then keep right, slightly downhill. After a while, at a fork, go straight on the S P 138 for about two kilometers to meet, on the right , the road leading to the hamlet of Ribottoli. Here continue straight on, still on the provincial road meeting, 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 above S S again further up, and turn right again, still on a dirt road.

You pass the state highway for the last time by descending a little, then turn right, on trail, crossing a stazzo. From here on you will tread 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 mt. Here, continuing straight ahead and climbing up a section of rocks, you can reach a jam 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. You always 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 ( it comes from Campolaspierto ), until we reach a passage between the rocks that takes us into a beautiful centuries-old beech forest, to the foothills of the Vernacolo ridge. Continue keeping slightly to the right until you reach the Karst plateau of Campolaspierto ( m 1305 asl ), located at the foot of the Terminio peak ( m 1806 asl ).

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 height 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 Valle di 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 ( m 1350 asl ), 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 ( m 1152 asl ), on the S S 574, where you turn immediately 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 ridge, 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 pause, 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.

Here you turn left, onto asphalt road and after a while you keep left again to join a path that goes around the walls of the Civita, and then comes out onto asphalt road. Turn left and continue on asphalt. At a fork, keep right and after a while you will reach Casone Masucci, a small old structure near the Sabato River where farmers, in the past, spent all summer with their families to produce 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 - DISL. mt 933 uphill and mt 649 downhill - DUR. h 8.30 - DIST. Km 18

PRESENCE OF WATER ON THE ROUTE : YES.