EIGHTH STAGE - EUROPEAN TRAIL CORRIDOR E/1.

PERTINENCE IRPINIA TREKKING AVELLINO.

SAN LORENZELLO (227 mslm) - CASTELVENERE (122 mslm) - SOLOPACA (180 mslm).

This section takes us over the entire vast Solopaca wine plain, so it is an approach and joining route between the Matese and Taburno/Camposauro mountain ranges.

The Stage begins at the municipal headquarters and descends slightly to the Bridge over the Titerno River, which has a protected pedestrian lane. Immediately afterwards, we turn right and pass the small Church of San Sebastiano, adjacent to the river, and then encounter the "City of Dinosaurs Park," which consists of fifteen life-size fiberglass dinosaur models for a total number of ten species represented. The Park came into being after the discovery of the perfectly preserved fossil of a baby dinosaur found in nearby Pietraroja, dated to about 113 million years ago and recognized as belonging to a new species called SCIPIONYX SAMNITICUS, known as CIRO.

Proceed straight ahead and intersect the S.P. and follow it keeping to the right. You miss a detour to the right and in succession : no left, no right, no left. You thus reach the locality of Izzo and keep left and, after a while, left again on a municipal road, proceeding ignoring two detours to the right. You pass through the locality of S. Elia and continue straight on, then, at a bend to the right, omitting a double detour to the left and, later, another to the left.

At a crossroads we omit a small road on the right and a straight one ahead, to turn right and cross the hamlet of Serre, after which we disregard an inter-farm road on the left and one on the right, to turn, subsequently, left onto a secondary road. After about 500 m, proceed straight ahead to a crossroads, and in a left turn, disregard a detour to the right. On the municipal boundary San Loenzello/ Castelvenere, you intersect the S. P. and follow it for about 200 mt, then keep right, no left, and after a while , in a wide curve, leave the provincial road and turn left downhill.

Proceed for more than a km slightly downhill and you will come to a fork, where you proceed straight for another 150 mt, to enter the provincial road, and then leave it after the bend and turn left to go downhill and cross a small bridge over the Seneta Stream. We are under the Historic Center of Castelvenere and go up Via del Borgo to the Municipal Headquarters.

We are back on the provincial road and pass in front of the Church Santa Maria della Seggiola, alongside the Sports Field and under the S S S 87 bridge. We keep to the left and take Via Scavi, leave out a detour to the left and take Via Tore and then Bosco Caldaia, where we proceed straight to a fork and leave out another to the right.

The course of the small road alternates small descents with as many ascents and encounters several detours that in succession are left out : no to dx, sx, sx, dx, sx. We reach the highest point at an altitude of 169 mslm, from which we can observe all around us, the vastness of the vineyards. We gradually descend toward Solopaca, which we see before us overlooked by Mount Camposauro.

At the end of the inter-modal road we turn left onto a dirt road that ends at a group of houses to become a path. We keep right at the beginning of a small gully and cross an uncultivated field passing by a concrete well. You pick up a dirt road on the other side and flank some vineyards, then keep left at a fork. Continue downhill and pass under an overpass of the Telesina and immediately turn left, cross a level crossing and go onto a paved municipal road.

At a junction we turn right and approach the Maria Cristina Bridge, which takes us over the Calore River. This is the lowest point of the Stage, 58 mslm. On either side of the bridge are four lions and two obelisks. At the end of the bridge, on the left, there is a beautiful structure of Fountain - Washhouse. Turning right we enter Via Bebiana, which runs along the river for a while, then detaches from it and takes, on the left, Via Maurella.

At a crossroads we turn right and travel along an inter-modal road, at the end of which we turn left and proceed straight to the Town Hall of Solopaca, 180 mslm, where the Stage ends.

Solopaca is a Borgo of 3775 inhabitants and is located 180 mslm on the left bank of the Calore River. According to some, the name derives from the Latin Sol Opacus, that is, Country with little sunshine; according to others, the name derives, again from Latin, but from Sub Pagus, that is, Village " that is under " ,referring to the geographical location (under Mount Tumulus of the Cross). It is widely believed among historians that Solopaca was born as a minor center of Telesia probably after the destruction of the latter following Saracen raids.

In 1268 it was given, together with Telese, by Charles I of Anjou to Guglielmo Belmonte, a great admiral of the kingdom. In 1835 the whole town greeted the Sovereign who came to inaugurate the Maria Cristina Bridge, with which the Calore River could be crossed. To visit the Church of San Martino ( XIV sec.), the Church of San Mauro (XVII sec.), the Sanctuary of the Madonna del Roseto, held by the Benedictines until 1803, inside which is preserved a wooden statue of the Madonna of Byzantine workmanship and the Ducal Palace Cava - Grimaldi (1672), with a facade decorated in " rinzaffo " located on Corso Umberto I° .

Today Solopaca is among the most active economic centers of Sannio, known for the production of white and red Solopaca DOC wine, as well as Aglianico and Falanghina.

DIST. km 16,500 - DIFF. E - DUR. h 5.30 - DISL. uphill mt 200 - downhill mt 153 in the opposite direction uphill mt 153 and downhill mt 200.

Altitude max mt 227, min mt 58.