

The **network** of Emblematic Mediterranean Mountains consists of **nine** complex living **mountains** located around the **Mediterranean Sea**, in **France, Greece, Italy, Spain** and **Albania**. The respective territories are working together on common **challenges**:

- Preserving **patrimonial values** from endogenous and exogenous threats
 - Sharing **positive experiences** and good practices
 - Increasing **international recognition**



EMbleMatiC Ecojourneys are nine routes of **experiential slow tourism** across **hinterland areas** of European Mediterranean Mountain regions. By enjoying these journeys, visitors have a chance to **explore** the areas' **singularities** and the **activities** offered by local providers. These are journeys where **nature** and **culture** meet, and the experience with **body** and **soul** is such that it generously conveys the **emblematic character** of the territory.



Project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund



ETNA • THE GENISTA AND VINEYARD WAY



The “Genista” and
vineyard way

Etna



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Introduction

Emblematic Mediterranean Mountains



Dear reader,

What you have in your hands is not only a tourist guide of Etna through the “genista” and vineyard way, but also the result of an ambitious project carried out by the Emblematic Mediterranean Mountains network. Mt Etna belongs to a group of Mediterranean mountain areas that work together in order to offer you a more intensive, authentic and sustainable travel experience. You can enjoy these experiences through 9 different *Ecojourneys* (see map above), which lead you to discover with all senses the hidden gems lying around some of the most amazing mountains across the Mediterranean basin.

Each *Ecojourney* offers you a route or a group of routes across the hinterland area of these mountains. Whilst enjoying this journey on foot, biking or riding, or using public transports, you have a chance to explore the areas’ singularities and to discover activities, creations and festivities offered by locals. All routes are perfectly integrated in landscapes that still preserve the footprints and the spirit of their ancient cultures and gorgeous nature.



But there's more: because we know how important aspects such as sustainability and responsible tourism are for you, we are committed to offer you an experience that...

- Is located in hinterland areas that are outside of the usual (and overcrowded) touristic routes;
- Has been conceived and developed mainly using and placing value on already existing infrastructure;
- Is a result of participatory processes with local stakeholders who are aware of environmental good practices related to water and energy consumption, waste management, fostering local and seasonal products, and obtaining ecolabels;
- Is conceived to favour interaction with local people and producers;
- **Will allow you to live for a while the essence of a Mediterranean mountain area, its nature, its culture and its people and traditions. Go for it, it's waiting for you!**

Your EMbleMatiC Hosts



Project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

Nine EMbleMatîC ecojourneys

Once you will have enjoyed the ecojourney of this guide, you will be very welcome to carry on visiting the others 8 slow tourism routes located accross the hinterland areas of the territories of the EMbleMatîC Mediterranean Mountains network. More information available on the network website www.emblematic-med.eu and below:

Canigó, France

The foothills of the Canigó

Come to explore, to taste and be amazed whilst enjoying everchanging views over the Sacred mountain of Catalans! The foothills of Canigó, the promise of a slow and curious walk full of natural scents.

www.canigo-grandsite.fr



Çika, Albania

From Çika highlands to the beach

A scenic route running in parallel to Çika crest, enriched with a bouquet of 5 extending paths to balconies and paysages, natural & cultural heritage and welcoming people, is the heart of this journey.

<http://himara.gov.al/>



Pedraforca, Spain

The seven faces of Pedraforca mountain

The seven faces of Pedraforca is a new tourist experience that will take you to discover all the secrets hidden by this magical mountain. From one day up to seven days to impregnate yourself!

www.elbergueda.cat / www.visitbergueda.cat



Gran Sasso, Italy

The Gran Sasso, a mountain of Saints and Warriors

Ascend from the Tirino Valley to the Gran Sasso, the highest peak of the Appennini Mountains. Enjoy an emotional journey through nature, ancient traditions, landscapes and tasty local products.

www.galgransassovelino.it / www.yesgransasso.com



Olympus, Greece

"Olympios Zeus", Cultural Route

A mythical route that combines grandiose environment with remarkable historical monuments in a unique harmony. Organized infrastructure and services offer experience that really worth the visit!

www.pieriki-anaptixiaki.gr



Etna, Italy

An ecojourney through pathways of Etna

"Ginesta" and "Vineyard" flowered fields

Discover traditions that have not changed for hundred years. Live with the locals, experience their culture and everyday lifestyle whilst falling in love with this very special part of the world.

www.galetnaalcantara.org



Serra de Tramuntana, Spain

The route of Comte Mal

Under the shelter of the majestic Mount Galatzó, that rises above the sea, you will wander on a land of legends, through an outstanding cultural landscape, shaped over centuries by proud local people

<https://caminsdepedra.conselldemallorca.cat/en/-/la-ruta-del-comte-mal>



Mnt (Psiloritis) Ida, Greece

On the Paths of Myth

Through the ecojourney of Mt Ida (Psiloritis) visitors could discover the Paths of Myths, History, Cultural Heritage and Natural Wealth in order to meet the original side and timeless value of Crete.

www.psiloritisgeopark.gr/Home/2/1.html



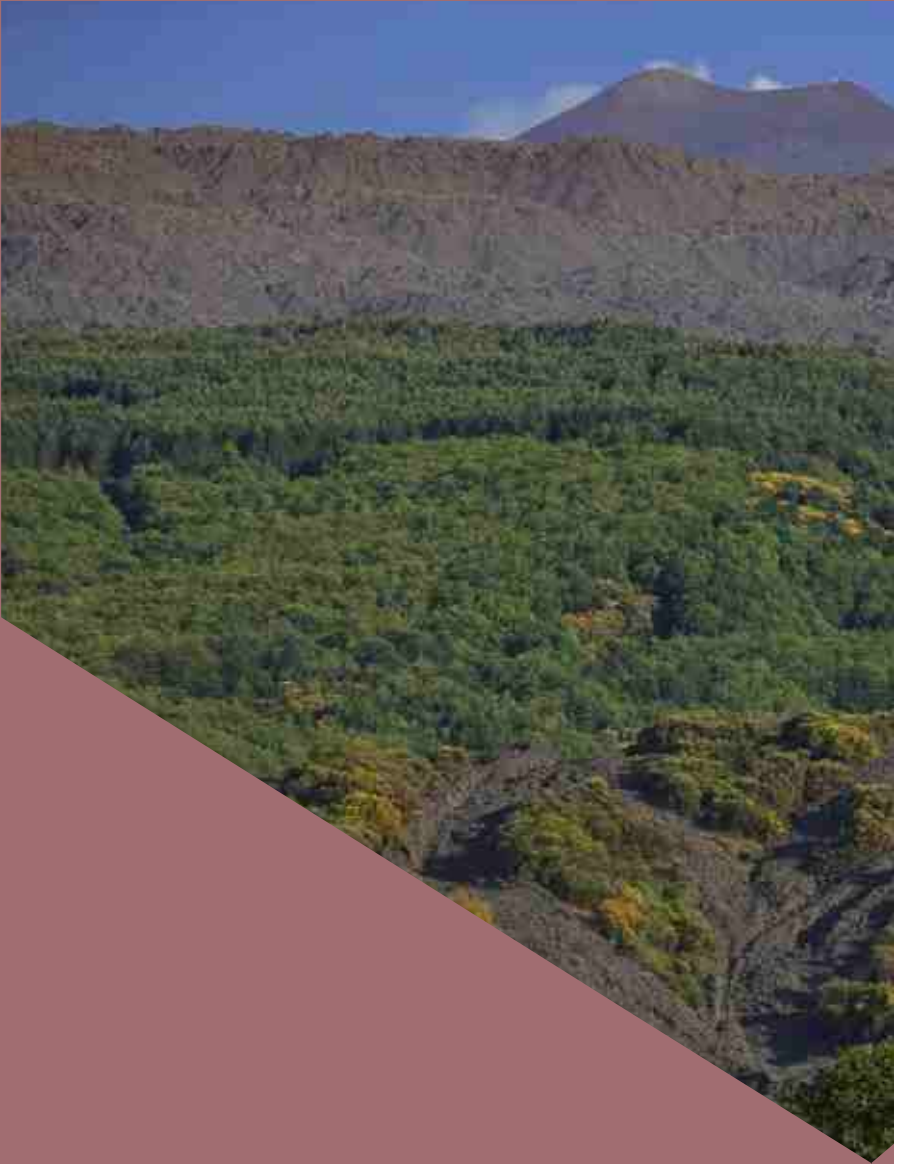
Sainte-Victoire, France

In the mood for Sainte-Victoire

We want you to enjoy the unexpected Sainte-Victoire and share it's authentic mood. Experience our local way of life and meet people who embody the spirit of our living territory.

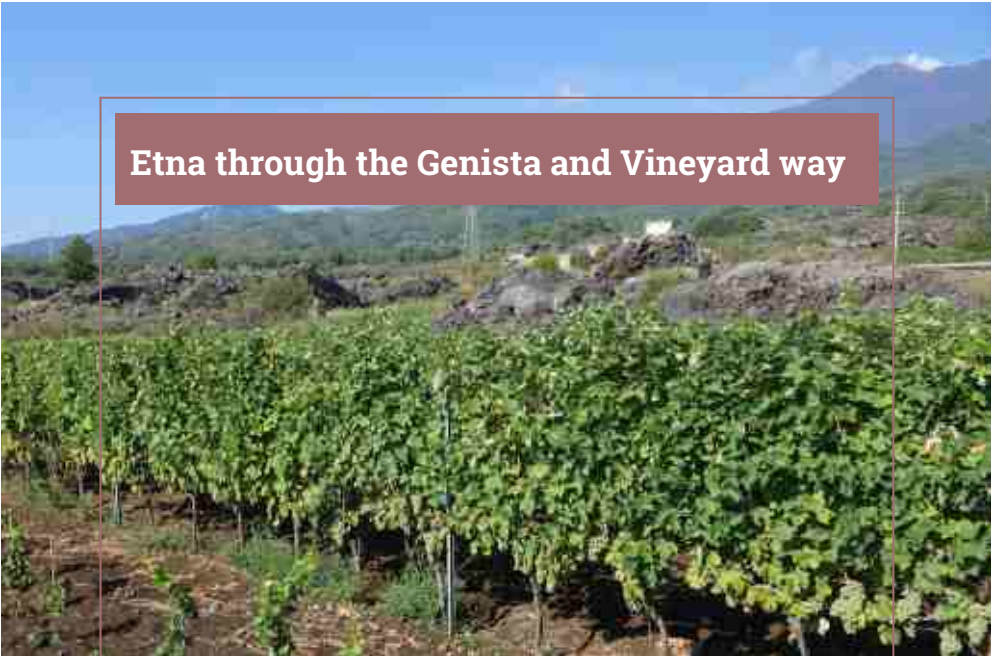
www.fuveau-tourisme.com







Introduction of the area



Etna through the Genista and Vineyard way

Vineyard

Path of Genista

"Walking through the middle lands of Etna means crossing the disputed territory between man and nature. The "Etna through the Genista and Vineyard way", proposed here, does not touch the summit areas, but allows you to discover areas that are however strongly marked by the volcano. In four days walking you will go from Nicolosi to Linguaglossa for a total distance of about 60 kilometers. In this guide we also propose to dedicate a fifth day to the visit of the Etna "wine valley": by bike along the Alcantara river from Randazzo to Castiglione di Sicilia."

The Path of Genista offers walkers or cyclists alike the opportunity to experience the Etna landscapes in all seasons, touching places of absolute naturalness, but also enjoying the comforts offered by welcoming stopping places and the warm vitality of the piedmont towns. Certainly in some areas you will notice the invasive human settlement that took place in the last century, but above all the intense relationship between inhabitants and mountain of fire will be evident: an infinite competition between nature that sometimes destroys and the always ready men farmers-artisans-hoteliers to start over, aware of however having to be respectful and tankful of the strength of Etna incessant activities.

The old farmers said that "Etna takes and gives!". They also said this

*Alcantara river*

with tears in their eyes when they saw the lava flow descend on the cultivated land. They repeated it like a mantra when the hot ashes ruined the crops, well knowing that in any case from those ever-active craters it comes the fertility of the soil and the extraordinary beauty of the landscape. The recurring question that the visitor has the need to ask about the dangerousness of the volcanic territory ("But aren't you afraid of living here?") will find, along the Etna through the Genista and Vineyard way, multiple exhaustive answers, because of the different characteristics of the territories we are going to discover.

*The Etna territory*

The area of holm oak and chestnut trees

The southern slope of Nicolosi is the most urbanized area of the itinerary, where it is evident the desire of the inhabitants to push their settlements towards the high altitudes without too many worries, in the awareness that Etna has in any case a very wide territory where the risk is distributed in space and time. Furthermore, the southern slope is the one where the role of the holm oak (*Quercus ilex*) dominates, the tree finds its ideal environment in the midlands around thousand meters and it has regained without delay all the agricultural funds that were abandoned in the mid-sixties of the twentieth century, when the vineyards seemed to enter into an irreversible crisis. But if the holm oak clearly demonstrates the ability of nature to return to the places from which it was driven out, the chestnut grove is instead a symbol of a forest welcomed by the woodsman man who planted it and who still takes care of it. The name itself of the town of Trecastagni recalls an ancient relationship with this generous tree, which offers sticks for the vineyards, supports for orchards, roof beams and which continues to give work to dozens of craftsmen, besides producing tasty autumn fruits.

The area of the Valle del Bove

The second day of walking is characterized above all by the impressive view of the Valle del Bove: the pierced side of the volcano, an enormous stratigraphic section of Etna that tells us stories of very ancient activities. An imposing presence from the landscape point of view with its steep walls (even more than a thousand meters high),



Chestnut tree

*The Valle del Bove*

but able to offer comfort to the inhabitants of the volcano. Observing the lava flows that descend towards the wide depression about 7 kilometers wide is in fact a disturbing sight only for the visitor. The Etna man instead considers the rivers of fire within the Valley as a tranquilizing view at the bottom because he considers that area like a free zone reserved for volcanic activities. As long as the lava flows overlap with the previous ones, the outlet remains harmless for the activities and the houses, indeed the eruptive effervescence is popularly considered a healthy release of energy from the Earth. Without forgetting that the Valley represents a

*The Etna territory*

strongly iridescent scenic element: its appearance changes with the seasons, as the snow begins to settle, the white cloak covers it almost completely and then finally begins the slow retreat from the steep gullies.

The area of hazelnut trees

Around Sant'Alfio and Piedimonte Etneo area the central element of the landscape is the hazelnut tree, which gives the countryside a particular elegance. Its cultivation has had mixed fortunes and seems to have found particularly favorable conditions on the eastern side. During summer the hazel groves are the realm of a low and pleasant shade, while the lava stone houses - which sometimes testify to the pre-existence of the inevitable vineyards - are pampered by the branches of the trees. Here too there is no lack of castings and signs - even recent ones - of ethnic activities. But in general, men and women living in Etna area have always found good reasons to start over after each eruption. In the "Ripe della Naca" area there are many altars bearing the date of 1928, they remind the year of the terrible eruption that destroyed the entire town of Mascali, but gave those who escaped the fury of nature the right energy (essentially feeling themselves as miraculous) to face new sowing and uncertain vintages.

The area of the pine forest and forest domain

The last days of trekking are mainly characterized by natural environments. Thanks above all to the activity of the Sicilian foresters



Hazelnut tree



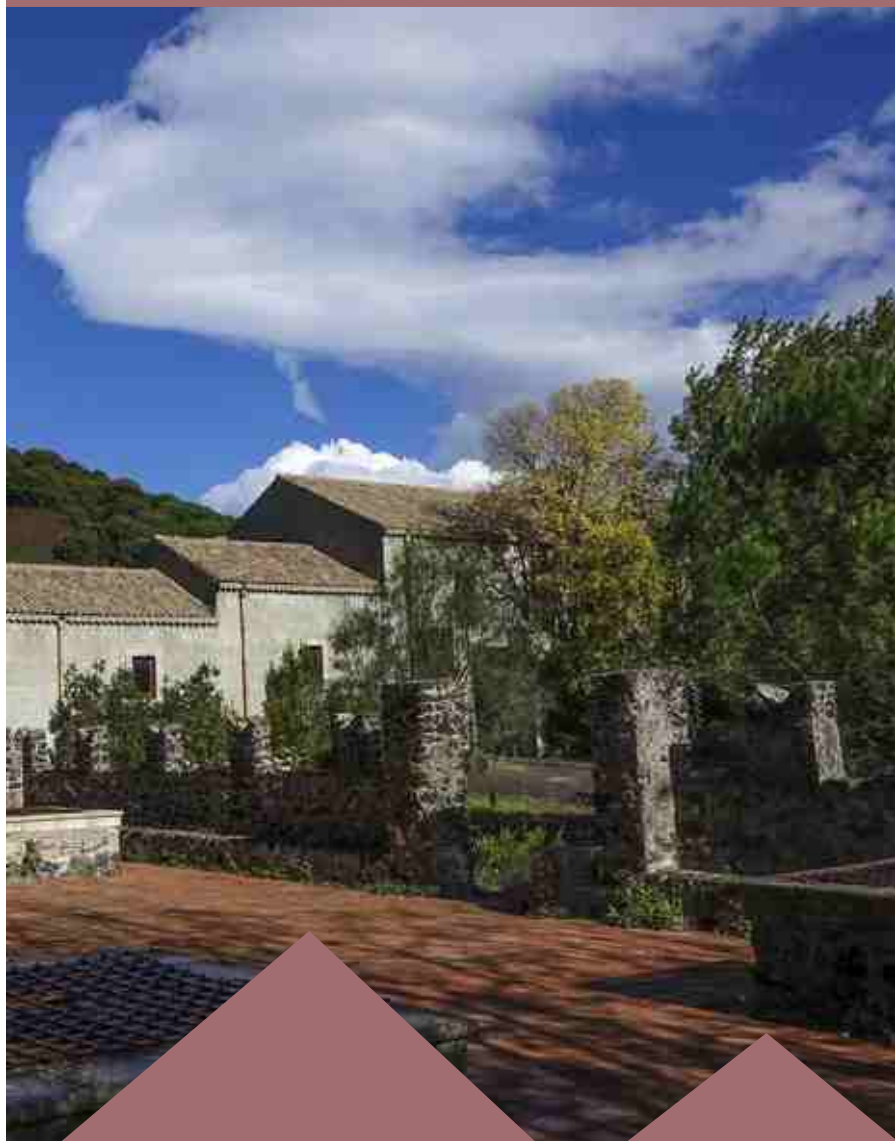
Pineta Ragabo

who, in the last few decades, have reforested, cared for and looked after ever larger areas. As the traditional activities have been downsized the state forest has expanded. Inside were built dirt tracks, shelters and bivouacs. The Sicilian Region has given work through the tool of the forestation and has at the same time given back to nature large portions of Etna. The final descent towards Linguaglossa and Castiglione mostly takes place in the woods, but this time in the shadow of the Ragabo pine forest. A secular forest that tells a story that is still different: that of the communities that used it intensively, that from the pines extracted the resin and obtained trunks for sailing ships. Until the "boom" of skiing and mountain hikes led to the transformation of the ancient "towing" - used to bring the logs downstream - into automotive access routes to fun on the snow.

Let's go now to discover the "Path of the genista" that proceed for about 60 kilometers, normally walkable in four days, with the possibility every evening to find comfortable places to stop and have a good room, enjoying taste of Sicilian cuisine. There is also the possibility for those who wish to stay in tents inside private areas equipped for this purpose. Travel times are obviously shown net of stops.



- 1 Nicolosi - Etna Park - Monte Arso (Pedara)
Casa Capinera (Trecastagni) - Zafferana Etnea 18
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Presentation of the eco-journey

1 Nicolosi, Etna Park, Monte Arso (Pedara), Casa Capinera (Trecastagni), Zafferana Etnea



Route:	Medium difficulty	Duration:	5 hours
Map Symbol:		Height:	980 m
		Length:	16,5 km

From the inhabited center of Nicolosi you reach the headquarters of the Etna Park, worthy of a visit as it was built inside a monastery dating back to the 12th century. Do not miss the short path of germplasm that winds around the monumental building. The trek continues on secondary asphalted roads and then on cart tracks up to Monte Arso: an imposing extinct volcanic cone that dominates the entire southern slope. The vegetation of this zone consists essentially of tenacious evergreen oaks and genista. Continue through partially built-up areas until you reach the rural village of Tarderìa, a district of Pedara. It goes up again for about ten minutes, but coming back immediately to go down through a small valley that soon turns into a comfortable dirt road in the middle of high poplars. Going over You will use a communal road that winds through a chestnut grove for about a kilometer and a half, until the vision suddenly opens up on Monte Ilice (a crater dating back to the year 1000) and on a large stretch of the Ionian coast, from Syracuse to Acireale. Here is the Casa Capinera, a point of information and reception of the Etna Park. The structure takes its name from the first successful novel by the writer Giovanni Verga, who set a part of the story in these areas, describing the site of Monte Ilice as a place of beauty, particularly loved by the young protagonist of the story.

*Monte Illice*

The last part of the stage is dedicated to the descent to the inhabited center of Zafferana Etnea, through small roads and paths in the areas where the forest has regained the ancient cultivations.

The descent takes place on the steep ridge from which the vineyards were accessed until the mid-twentieth century. We pass by the water supply well in the district of Cavotta, we tackle a difficult uphill stretch and then descend through a typical “paved” road to the village of Sarro. For the last part of the route we follow the provincial road with extreme caution up to the center of Zafferana Etnea, where there are various possibilities for overnight stays.

*The Etna Genista*

2 Zafferana Etnea, Ilice di Carrinu (Milo), Case Pietracannone, Magazzeni (Municipality of Sant'Alfio)



Route:	Medium difficulty	Duration:	4,5 hours
Map Symbol:		Height:	1200 m
		Length:	13 km

Leave the town of Zafferana starting from the town public garden and following the paved road that climbs markedly northwards (via della Montagna). A little further on, a signboard indicates on the left the direction to reach Val Calanna and the 1991 eruptive theater, the itinerary continues instead to the right



Ilice di Carrinu

entering the upper part of the fraction of Ballo. From here you go up again on a paved road reaching Contrada Dagalone where an ancient mule track begins, offering the tangible testimony of the activities that once characterized the medium slopes of the volcano, when the lands were tilled with enormous effort to obtain vineyards beyond the thousand meters of altitude. The mule track is used for a long stretch until it meets the signposted detour for the imposing Carrinu Ilice. A 10-minute walk is enough to admire one of the most fascinating natural monuments of Etna: an old holm oak, over 700 years old, with a vigorous foliage overlooking a now ruined house. A tree that impresses with its grandeur and that surprises even more if you think that its first rooting on the harsh volcanic soil occurred when the Swabians still reigned in Sicily!

Continuing to walk in the midst of nature you pass by the pleasant town of Piano Bello (inside the forest domain, where there is a traditional "pagghiaro" house built of branches that can offer a temporary shelter in case of bad weather) and you go along the Valle del Bove. The 1950-51 flow (which closely threatened the town of Milo) is traversed on a recent forest path, enjoying magnificent views of the looming south-east terminal crater. To reach Monte Fontana is used a comfortable in the midst of the Etna genista, which in this area have an arboreal bearing and which are covered with fragrant blooms during the summer. A centuries-old chestnut tree welcomes hikers now near Monte Fontana, where there is a wide dirt road. With a comfortable route on the 1979 lava flow (which in a single night escapes from the Valle del Bove and appeared at the gates of Fornazzo village) we reach the farmhouse of Pietracannone, destined to be the base point of the Etna Park, but currently being restructured. Beyond the block, go back on asphalt for about a kilometer, going down the provincial road to Etna Nord. At the height of an altar placed immediately after a hairpin bend you return to a quiet little street, this time amidst the typical hazel groves of this side. Continuing down, you come across the ancient straight road called "Finaita", which once formed the border of a fiefdom. Follow it until you reach the different structures that offer hospitality in the Magazzeni area (municipality of Sant'Alfio) at the end of the stage.

3 Magazzeni, Bocche del 1928, Bosco della Cerrita, Rifugio Monte Crisimo, Pineta Ragabo (Linguaglossa)



Route:	Medium difficulty	Duration:	4,5 hours
Map Symbol:		Height:	1420 m
		Length:	13 km

The first part of the day is dedicated to the area of the 1928 craters, reminding the impetuous eruption that caused the destruction of the ancient town of Mascali, but spared the town of Sant'Alfio. In 1958, the faithful of the area built the small church from which the third stage of the trek began. Even alongside the rural buildings there are small votive altars that recall the faith of those who saw their lands spared by the fury of the volcano.

After about an hour's walk you come across the eruptive fissure, which can be visited if fitted with a pocket lamp. Following the tiny cones lined up one after the other, one notices in fact the last "hornito" which is accessible from below by a narrow opening: entering it with extreme care everyone discovers the inside view of the channel in which the river of lava flowed. Descend the flow for a short distance using a comfortable dirt road until you reach a well-kept farm. At this point we go back uphill entering the forest domain, in an area marked above all by a wide oaks forest. The first stretch in the oak wood is rather steep, so you come across an obvious fork in the road where you turn left and continue on the comfortable forest track inside the dense forest. The itinerary goes down again, crossing a portion of the territory of Piedimonte Etneo

up to meet a signal that invites you to turn left to reach the forest buildings of Mount Crisimo, one of which is usually left open so as to allow emergency shelter of hikers. The tank is also accessible, but contains not-drinkable water. The place is still very panoramic and worth a stop. A further uphill stretch allows you to reach the Monte Crisimo saddle. Here the route becomes almost flat for a couple of kilometers. We cross one of the last offshoots of the violent bilateral eruption of 27 th October 2002, which destroyed almost all the tourist facilities of Piano Provenzana in a few hours and caused serious damage even on the opposite side of the volcano with a contemporary lava flow. It is pleasant to note how the sides of the flow are already sprinkled with young pine seedlings ready to continue the eternal cycle of life that continues after death. To reach the stopping places we use the wide forest road (still paved) that was once used to bring down the mighty trunks of the Ragabo pine forest. Once you reach Piano Pernicana, go up the easy way to the area where you can stay overnight and have dinner.



The Cerrita wood

4 From the Pineta Ragabo to Linguaglossa or Castiglione di Sicilia



Route:	Medium difficulty	Height:	980 m
Map Symbol:		Length:	19 km up to Castiglione di S. 17 km up to Linguaglossa
Duration:	5,5 / 6,5 hours		

From the 1400 meters of altitude of the Pineta Ragabo it is time to go down to the valley. A day mostly on dirt roads that at first touch Monte Corruccio (see the cave of the same name, an ancient effusive mouth) and then cross a large area once cultivated with vineyards and now fully re-conquered by natural vegetation. It is impressive to see small service structures at the vineyards (so called "palmenti" above all) that reach well over a thousand meters of altitude, where the environmental conditions were certainly hostile for the farmers of the nineteenth century and where today the forest dominates unchallenged. In a few short stretches you also cross a wide "trazzera" of transhumance that the shepherds used once to move the flocks in seasonal transfers. It also crosses a private land where hikers' welcome structures have been built and it continues on a comfortable little road. After the Previtera houses, turn left and begin to descend in a more decisive manner. Once arrived at the bottom, go along for a hundred meters on the so-called "street of a thousand height" and enter the lava field of 1923, the eruption that covered a large cultivated area. You walk in the open air until you see the little station of the Circumetnea Railway (that of Cerro) at a short distance, still used as an optional stop for the narrow-gauge train. At this point you can turn right and continue for about a hundred meters on the main road 120 until

you reach a small road on the left that allows you to go down directly to the tiny village of Catena, a district of Linguaglossa town. From here continue for a short while on the main road until you reach on the left the Via Terramiceli, from which you can easily reach one of the ancient inter-farm roads that allowed a quick connection with the main village of Linguaglossa. At this point meet for the first time since the start of the trek some floodwaters, connected to volcanic activity. A final descent through small cultivated farms and finally one of the ending goals of our journey: Linguaglossa with its historic center, its mountain traditions and a remarkable culture and practice of good food.

If, on the other hand, you have reached the Cerro station, turn left and our destination becomes Castiglione di Sicilia. The final trait in this case is even more fascinating. You cross an area characterized by large hazel groves, but also by some stagnation of water in winter as revealed by the unmistakable toponym of "Pantano" (muddy area). We then walk on the extension of the Circumetnea railway built after the 1923 eruption, when the authorities of the time preferred to realize a complex and expensive deviation from the areas covered by the new lavas so to serve the built-up area of Castiglione too. The stretch of old railway that is covered today is very pleasant, although paved, as it is largely shaded and with beautiful views of the fortress that dominates the built-up area of Castiglione, which was also a Greek settlement due to its strategic position. Arriving almost at the provincial road, in front of the cemetery, you enter a short tunnel and head straight for the old station. Here the last signpost of the "Etna through the Genista and Vineyard way" warns that the destination is now close and it is time to finally descend to admire one of the best preserved Etna historical centers.

5 From Linguaglossa to Randazzo and Castiglione di Sicilia by bike in the Valley of Wines



Route: **Medium difficulty**

Length: **23 / 55 km**

Map Symbol: 

The valley of Etna wines has found a new splendor in the last twenty years. The lands that until the mid-twentieth century were the large supply area for the Riposto wine industry and at one point had known abandonment, were restored to their ancient vocation and others were planted with vines. All the most important Sicilian wineries came to produce in the area between Randazzo, Linguaglossa and Castiglione, joining other Italian and foreign entrepreneurs who already at the end of the last century understood that Etna could produce quality wines. Since then the vineyards have changed the landscape for the better, bringing beauty and development, while the international quality wine market now recognizes the Etna wine valley as an area of excellence.

Our proposal is to travel by bike, using the secondary road network and the now abandoned railway tracks. A cycle tour that goes well at the end of the "Genista's way", but also as an autonomous proposal to enjoy the elegance of the landscape riding an ecological and healthy vehicle like the bike, with or without assisted pedaling.

Here is our suggestion: from Linguaglossa you can reach

*Vineyard with Etna in the background*

Randazzo using the Circumetnea railway that passes along the Etna vines with the possibility of making stops along the way for visiting the cellars and vineyards. From Randazzo, take the state road 120 for a short distance and then take the low-traffic provincial road 89 which runs alongside magnificent wine estates. After about ten kilometers from the constantly descending starting point, turn left to reach the river that drains the waters of the Nebrodi and part of the Etna and reach Moio Alcantara, famous for its peach orchards. At this point we go back briefly and turn left using the so-called "wine route", but after a few hundred

*Alcantara river*



Cuba of Santa Domenica - Castiglione di Sicilia

meters you'll find the signs for the Alcantara river at the "Stone Path". Continuing straight on, instead, there are beautiful rural dwellings and traces of artefacts linked to the old Taormina-Randazzo railway (closed in 2002). After 4 kilometers, in the middle of the hazelnut groves, it meets the abandoned station of Castiglione di Sicilia and it continues thanks to pleasant little roads (mostly paved and surrounded by greenery) up to the Cuba of Santa Domenica, a medieval Latin cross church that would have been built around the eleventh century. Continue to the left of the ancient place of worship following a small road that leads to a



The historic village of Castiglione di Sicilia



Church of San Nicolò - Randazzo

wider one where you turn to the right. Continue until you reach the wine trail from which you reach a fresh fountain first and then steeply up the built-up area of Castiglione di Sicilia. This one-way stretch is about 23 kilometers mostly downhill. To return from the via Carmine di Castiglione, go up towards the Circumetnea station which, for some years after 1923, reached this area of the Alcantara Valley with its trains. Once on the Costa road we will head north, taking advantage of the moderate slope of the former railway line (in the opposite direction from the last stage of the "Genista's path") in the direction of Rovittello village. Before arriving in the village, turn right to descend towards some valuable wine-growing areas. This time we will entirely use the provincial road 89 for the return to Randazzo, passing by the Pietramarina and Verzella districts to finally return to the section already traveled in the morning from Moio to the starting point. Along the provincial roads, although they are usually poorly trafficked, caution and great attention are recommended. The return journey is approximately 32 kilometers.

Ente Parco dell'Etna

Via del Convento, 45 - 95030 Nicolosi (CT)

Tel. +39 095 - 821 111 www.parcoetna.it

Ente Parco Fluviale dell'Alcantara

Via dei Mulini - 98034 Francavilla di Sicilia (ME)

Tel. +39 0942 388020 www.parcoalcantara.it





Where to eat

Restaurants and Pizzerias



Ara dell'Etna

Pizza e Food

International dishes, typical Sicilian cuisine, pizzas

Tel: +39 095 7801440

Address: Corso ara di Giove 341, 95030 Pedara CT

Url: www.ristorantearadelletnapedara.it



La Fenice

Industry excellence

Original dishes of typical Sicilian cuisine

Tel: +39 095 7081036

Address: Via Cassone 92, 95019 Zafferana Etnea CT

Url: www.ricevimentilafenicezafferanaetnea.it



Dai Pennisi

Butcher's shop with kitchen

Visible matured meats, cheeses and artisan salamis

Tel: +39 095 643160

Address: via Umberto 11, Linguaglossa CT

Url: www.dai pennisi.it



Sole Neve

Restaurant and Pizzeria

Typical Products Tasting - Excursions - Transfer

Tel: +39 095 647997

Address: Contrada Sciarmanica Via Mare Neve, Linguaglossa CT

Url: www.sole-neve.it



Restaurants and Pizzerias



Le Delizie

Restaurant

The most delicious traditional dishes

Tel: +39 095 921596

Address: Via Bonaventura, 2 Randazzo CT

Url: www.hotelscrivano.com/ristorante.php



Country House

Show/Class cooking

Traditional recipes of Sicilian cuisine

Tel: +39 0942 986022

Address: S.S. 120, Rovittello Castiglione di Sicilia CT

Url: www.santoroconserve.it



President

Bar Restaurant

Typical Sicilian specialties

Tel: +348 0737064

Address: Via R. Margherita, 174 Castiglione di Sicilia CT



Sine Tempore

Ristorante

Tasty dishes related to the territory and seasonality

Tel: +39 0942 980368

Address: Via M. Baracca, 2 Castiglione di Sicilia CT

Url: www.ristorantesinetempore.com







Where to sleep

Accommodation



Castle of Lauria - Castiglione di Sicilia

Etna Sunrise

Bed and Breakfast

A pleasant stay a stone's throw from the center

Tel: +39 334 130 86 22

Address: Via delle Rose, 18 Zafferana Etna CT

Url: www.etnasunrise.com



La Fenice

Bed and Breakfast

Industry excellence

Tel: +39 095 7081036

Address: Via Cassone 92, 95019 Zafferana Etna CT

Url: www.ricevimentilafenicezafferanaetnea.it



Shalai

Resort

Ancient residence with a 19th century flavor

Tel: +39 095 643128

Address: Via Guglielmo Marconi 25 Linguaglossa CT

Url: www.shalai.it



Hotel Scrivano

Hotel

Thirty spacious and welcoming rooms

Tel: +39 095 921596

Address: Via Bonaventura, 2 Randazzo CT

Url: www.hotelscrivano.com



Accommodation



Basilica of Santa Maria Assunta - Randazzo

Country House Santoro

Resort

Relaxation and comfort throughout your stay

Tel: +39 0942 986022

Address: S.S. 120, Rovittello Castiglione di Sicilia CT

Url: www.santoroconservet.it



Hotel Federico II

Hotel

Located in a building from the 1300s

Tel: +39 0942 980368

Address: Via Maggiore Baracca, 2 Castiglione di Sicilia CT

Url: www.hotelfedericosecondo.com/it/







**Where to meet
local producers**

Extra virgin olive oil



Extra virgin olive oil

On the slopes of Etna Mount there is a type of olive oil cultivation that has no equal in all part of Sicily. Generally characterized by small plots that go even beyond 800 meters a.s.l. where there are two cultivars with distinct characteristics: the “Nocellara Etnea” and the “Brandofino”. From these two cultivars used alone or in blend, with other minor cultivars, oils with unique and well characterized characteristics are obtained with high aromatic and phenolic contents that contribute to providing these products with qualities widely recognized and appreciated by the most demanding consumers.

The production of PDO olive oil must follow a very precise specification. PDO brand products, including extra virgin olive oil, are protected against counterfeits throughout Europe. In the territories of the Etna Park and the Alcantara River Park takes origins two important oils with a controlled and guaranteed designation of origin by the European Community: the Valdemone PDO and the Mount Etna PDO.

Info: **Agricola Barbagallo** Url: www.agricolabarbagallo.com

Address: **Via Fogliarino, 8 Piedimonte Etneo (CT)** Tel: +39 349 455 8555

Info: **Frantoio Oleario F.A.T.** Tel: +39 347 4045815

Address: **Str. Com. Mompilieri Nicolosi (CT)** Url: www.frantoioserafica.it

Info: **Le Terre di Castel Leone**

Address: **Contrada Argana s.n. SP 7i Castiglione di Sicilia (CT)**

Url: www.letterredicastelleone.it Tel: +39 338 1131126

Wine production



Red grape for must

Etna wine production, of particular value, is strongly influenced by volcanic soil and the presence of the sea; the same cultivation soils are also divided into “microzone”, each suitable for a specific type of vine, based on altitude and exposure. For its quality, the Etna wine - in the types red, rosé, white, superior white and sparkling wine (the latter born in 2011) - was the first, among the Sicilians ones, to obtain in 1968 the prestigious recognition of the Cdo brand. The representative varieties are “Nerello Mascalese” and “Nerello cappuccino” for red grapes and “Carricante” and “Catarratto” for white grapes.

Info: **Enoteca Regionale Sicilia Orientale** Tel: +39 2352 021100

Address: **via Edoardo Pantano 46, Castiglione di Sicilia (CT)**

Url: www.enotecaregionalesiciliana.it

Info: **Strada del Vino e dei Sapori dell'Etna**

Address: **via Mazzini 5 Piedimonte Etneo (CT)** Tel: +39 392 76263404

349 8628192 / 348 77517970 Url: www.stradadelvinodelletna.it

Info: **Produttori Etna nord** Url: www.produttorietaetnanord.it

Tel: +39 3473590547 / +39 392 9708495

Info: **Cantine Tornatore** Tel: +39.095.7131576

Address: **via Pietramarina, 8A Castiglione di Sicilia, loc. Verzella**

Url: www.tornatorewine.com

Info: **Enoteca La Via di Bacco** Tel: +39 339 7357898

Address: **via Maggiore Baracca 3 Castiglione di Sicilia (CT)**

Info: **Azienda Vinicola Spuches** Tel: +39 393 9927546

Address: **Via Nazionale, 78 Solicchiata Castiglione di Sicilia (CT)**

The Gold of Etna



Etna honey

Among the many products whose production is favored by the lava earth, the honey, also called “Oro dell’Etna”, is one of the best known and appreciated. His production was born in 1920 in Zafferana Etnea, where the first “Iapari” (Sicilian beekeepers) were born. Today the municipality reaches the production of 15% of the entire national product with over 700 beekeepers.

In the Etna area are produced different varieties of honey with different colors and tastes, among which the best known are: Millefiori, Eucalyptus (or Chestnut), orange and lemon Zagare, Carrubbo, Citrus fruits (like bergamot), Mandarin, Cedar and grapefruit.

From the work of bees comes the Royal Jelly too, used mainly as a tonic, and the Propolis, a natural antibacterial often used to treat colds and to strengthen the immune system.

In 2002 Zafferana Etnea, together with ten other Italian municipalities, set up the national association “Le città del miele” (Towns of honey circuit) which aims to unite the largest honey producers in Italy.

Info: **Apicoltura Privitera** Tel: +39.348 1966022 - +39 340 6831319
Address: **via Mulini, 56F Zafferana Etnea (CT)**
Url: **www.apiculturaprivitera.it**

Desserts and Gastronomy



The Sicilian Cassata

The quality of the carefully selected raw materials, combined with the skill and passion of expert master pastry chefs give life to products of excellent goodness, laden with the emphatic Sicilian confectionery tradition. Our master cooks and pastry chefs have known how to exploit their innate passion for desserts by researching old traditional Sicilian recipes and offering everyone a result of innumerable specialties. So many goodness tickle the tastes of tourists and vacationers who, after having tasted them, become ambassadors of the Sicilian pastry all over the world. It's impossible to resist the call of the infinite delicacies: the "Sicilian", the most famous fried pizza of Sicily with tuma and anchovy filling, a specialty born in the 40s, the "arancini" (rice ball) filled with ragù, pistachio, spinach. The biscuits and traditional desserts are endless: hazelnut pastries, almond pastries, tea leaves, the so called "ski biscuits", sheep's milk ricotta pastry and martorana fruit.

Info: **Santoro Country House - Show/Class Cooking** Tel: +39.0942 986022

Address: **via Nazionale S.S. 120, Rovittello Castiglione di Sicilia (CT)**

Url: www.santoroconserve.it

Info: **Bar Pasticceria President** Tel: +39.340 0737064

Address: **via Regina Margherita, 178 Castiglione di Sicilia (CT)**

E-mail: ristorantebarpresident@gmail.com

Info: **Pasticceria Donna Peppina** Tel: +39 095 7081410

Address: **Via Roma, 220 Zafferana Etnea (CT)**

Url: www.donnapeppina.com



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What to do



The 9 eco-route municipalities

Linguaglossa Etna north

Nicolosi, Pedara, Trecastagni, Zafferana Etnea, Milo, Sant'Alfio, Linguaglossa, Randazzo, Castiglione di Sicilia.

"The Territory of the eco-itinerary involves the municipalities belonging to the Etna area and the Alcantara Valley. A unique territory, a natural landscape alive, that changes according to the altitude, an experience that does not leave indifferent, from "living in the open to learn about the true nature of Sicily."

Nicolosi

Nicolosi, on the slopes of Etna, was built around the twelfth century by the inhabitants of the areas surrounding the monastery of San Nicolò La Rena. Rebuilt several times (for example, after the terrible eruption of 1669, which gave rise to the Red Mountains, reaching Catania and the sea, or those of 1776 and 1886), the city has always risen, offering visitors stunning natural beauty and modern services, becoming a source of pride in the Etna area, deserving the title of "Gate of Etna".

Nicolosi, with its ski slopes for winter sports and a cable-way, with which you can get to the mouth of the volcanic crater, accompanied by licensed guides, is an almost obligatory stop for visiting Mount Etna.

WHAT TO SEE - the restored Monastery of St. Nicholas Rena, since 2005 headquarters of Etna Park, the Mother Church, in the

*Nicolosi*

Baroque style; the Church S. Maria delle Grazie, the Church of the Madonna del Carmine (1724), the Church of St. Joseph, with several paintings of the late 1700s and some ornaments from the Monastery of St. Nicholas, the Museum of Rural Life.

www.comune.nicolosi.ct.it

*Etna*



Pedara

Pedara

Pedara, with a territory that extends for 19,20 square kilometers and ranges from 600 to 1600 m. a.s.l., offers the beauty of its landscapes and the healthiness of its climate, with an interesting cultural and naturalistic route, starting from the center and its special seating in lava stone, that reach easily to the most scenic spots. Here, the urbanization clears and offers wonderful views to 360 degrees: a succession of fantastic frames between the sea, the hills and the mountains, with its fragrant chestnut, juniper and cyclamen.

In the town there is the volcanic cone of Mount Troina, a green lung in the past almost entirely covered with vineyards, despite the particularly topographical difficulties would make it grow.

WHAT TO SEE - the Church of St. Antonio Abate, the Church of the Annunciation, the Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie, the church Santa Maria della Stella, the Church of San Vito, the church of San Biagio, the Basilica of S. Catherine of Alexandria, the palace of Don Diego Pappalardo, the palace of the descendants of Don Diego Pappalardo, the lava stone Portal of 1547.

www.comune.pedara.ct.it

Trecastagni

The origin of Trecastagni (567 m a.s.l.) dates back to the pre-archaic, although the first historical evidence, found in the area surrounding the fort "Windmill" and the crater lake of Monte Urna, date back to the Roman times.

The village, on the slopes of Etna, has repeatedly suffered devastating consequences of the volcano: the earthquake of 1408, the eruptions of 1541 and 1542, as well as the shocking earthquake of 1693, which destroyed even the city of Catania.

Over the years it has changed its nature of land devoted to agriculture, in tourism-oriented country, mostly residential, thanks to its climate and its geographic position, just a few kilometers from the Etna volcano and the sea.

WHAT TO SEE - the Teatro Comunale, the Church of St. Nicholas of Bari, the Church of Sant'Antonio Abate with attached catacombs, the Church of St. Anthony of Padua, the Church of Mercy, known as "the Black", the Church of Our Lady of Help, the Church of Our Lady of the Three mountains, the Sanctuary of Saint Alfio with the museum of votive paintings.

www.comune.trecastagni.ct.it



Trecastagni



Zafferana Etnea

Zafferana Etnea

The history of Zafferana (600 m a.s.l.), known as “the Pearl of the Etna”, at the slopes of Etna Volcano, began in the early decades of the 600, with the first houses and the agricultural economy.

In 1792, an eruption of Etna covers the fertile land, destroying forests, orchards and pastures.

The incident raises concerns over the inhabitants who, with faith, ask God, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, the miracle to block the frightening wave of lava, carrying in procession the statue of Our Lady of Providence. By which time the inhabitants, resigned, are going to leave their homes, casting hangs a short distance of the village. In memory of the event, it was erected an altar and a plaque was placed.

WHAT TO SEE - The town park of Villa Anna; the Town Hall, a precious liberty building; the Beekeeper House Museum; the Museum of old trades.

www.comune.zafferana-etnea.ct.it

Milo

The town of Milo, being at 750 m. a.s.l., is pleasantly cool in summer and a dwelling place caressed by snow in winter. Its location allows you to enjoy a panoramic view that stretches from Catania to Taormina and, on clear days, to push the eye up to Calabria.

Milo is one of the highest inhabited Etna town, this means that its vineyards, woods, old farm houses have been “visited” several times in the past, by the owner: the volcano Etna in its most warm and enveloping dress, the lava. It was the summer residence of Giovanni d’Aragona, who used to spend part of the summer in this place and loved it so much to build, in 1340, a small church, that today became the mother church of the country. Milo, with its precious grapes and the home of famous singers, is also known as the “city of wine and music”.

WHAT TO SEE - The path leading to Monti Sartoriu, originated by lava flow in 1865; The viewpoint of Monte Fontana overlooking the Valle del Bove; The Etna Park Visitor Center in Fornazzo; the woods of Caselle, with the centuries-old holm of Ilice Carrinu, whose age is estimated at about 700 years.

www.comune.milo.ct.it



Milo

*Sant'Alfio***Sant'Alfio**

Sant'Alfio (550 m a.s.l.), an ancient town in the beautiful scenery of the Etna Park, on the slopes of Etna, is unique for its panoramic position, which preserves the original appearance, marked by narrow streets on which rise buildings from 1600, and it is famous for the production of wine and for the "Castagno dei cento cavalla (one hundred horses chestnut), ancient specimen of the plant world with an estimated age of 2000 years, recognized by Unesco as "Monument messenger of peace": the legend says that Queen Joanna I of Aragon with his retinue of 100 horses and 100 riders during a thunderstorm recovered under his foliage. It was also a source of inspiration for the painter Jean Houel, whose painting, today, is at the Museum of St. Petersburg.

WHAT TO SEE - the Mother Church, dedicated to the Patron Saints Alfio, Cirino and Philadelphus; the Calvary Church; the church dedicated to Our Lady of Tindari in Nucifori; the Church Magazzeni; the Museum of the Vine and Wine.

www.comunesantalfio.ct.it

Linguaglossa

Linguaglossa, on the foothills of Etna, (550 m a.s.l.), offers its typicality of mountain town with Etna lava stone streets and doorways, the manors on the main streets and flat houses in the adjacent streets, while the alleys recreate an ancient atmosphere, linked to the processing and transportation of the gigantic Etna pines which was extracted resin from, essential for the Sicilian fishing fleet. Here you can enjoy the products of this land with various but strong flavours: hazelnut, wine, ricotta cheese, cheese, honey and homemade sausage to the strain, wisely worked, while restaurants offer local dishes enriched by delicious mushrooms from Etna and wild vegetables.

Linguaglossa is also the direct access to the Etna Park and to the hikes to the summit craters and, in winter, also to the skiing and ski slopes.

WHAT TO SEE - the frescoes in the Church of the patron S. Egidio, the Capuchin Monastery with the eighteenth-century wooden case, the majestic Mother Church, the Church of St. Francis of Paola, which houses the statue of the Madonna of Loreto, the Ethno-anthropological Museum of the people, Piano Provenzano (craters of 2002), Mount Conca.

www.comune.linguaglossa.ct.it



Linguaglossa

*Randazzo***Randazzo**

Randazzo is located at the crossroads of three major provinces (Catania, Messina, Enna), strategically connected to the centre of what was once the Val Demone.

Rare, if not unique, example, Randazzo provides its territory to the Regional Park of Etna, the Nebrodi and the Alcantara River; three protected areas that give it the power to be able to expand in environmental content and still intact nature.

Uncertain are the origins of Randazzo, certain is that he came under the influence of different cultures: there is still the Greek district, the Latin Quarter and the district of Lombardy, which are the current center, while impressive monuments make cognizance of the splendor that the city had in the Middle Ages.

WHAT TO SEE - the Middle Age walls; Castle-Prison; the Church of St. Mary; via Arches; the church of St. Nicholas; the church of San Martino; the Museum of Natural Sciences; the Archaeological Museum; "The Statue of St. Nicholas" by Antonello Gagini.

www.comune.randazzo.ct.it

Castiglione di Sicilia

Castiglione di Sicilia, one of the largest municipalities in the province of Catania, has many architectural excellences and landscapes, especially in the village overlooking the valley.

The city is part of "Club dei Borghi più belli d'Italia" ("Club of the Most Beautiful Villages in Italy") and of the Association Aceb "Città Eredi di Bisanzio" that put together Italian villages with Byzantine sites and some Russian cities.

One of the oldest traditions is the art of embroidery and English point. Very important is the viticulture with excellent wines exported all over the world. Among other productions there are extra virgin olive oil and sweets made with local hazelnuts.

WHAT TO SEE - the Castle of Lauria, the Basilica of the Virgin Mary, the Church of Sant'Antonio, the Church of Peter and Paul Saints, the Castelluccio and the "Cannizzo", church of San Vincenzo, the Church of Santa Domenica, better known as "Byzantine Cuba", national monument since the early 1900s.

www.comune.castiglionedisicilia.ct.it



Castiglione di Sicilia

Activities you can do



Etna Museum

Culture, nature, food and wine

"Excursions, in-depth studies and laboratory activities. Integrated itineraries that allow you to discover the cultural richness and the extraordinary biodiversity of the Etna area."

Viagrande Butterfly House is a magical world where hundreds of butterflies, among the most beautiful and colorful, fly undisturbed inside a large tropical greenhouse. The Butterfly House is recognized by the Ministry of the Environment and has now become a "must" destination for tourists coming to Etna. Nearby, a little educational farm has recently been set up with geese, chickens, goats and a donkey. The new laboratory called "From seed to fruit" was designed to make children aware of the cycle of nature, by letting each of them plant a seedling to bring home and take care of.

(www.casadellefarfallemonteserra.it - Tel. +39 347.0415868)

Etna Museum, the largest museum in Italy dedicated to volcanoes is also located in Viagrande, a five minutes' drive from the Butterfly House. Inside, in addition to the interactive exhibit and the faithfully recreated settings, you can experience the Earthquake Simulator, unique in Sicily, equipped with a large dynamic computerized platform that reproduces the earthquake along with the show of an educational movie. This year Etna Museum hosts an exhibit dedicated to the Mediterranean Diet with food tastings and interesting interactive courses. The excursion to the craters of Etna

*Butterfly house*

and to a lava flow cave is the natural complement to the visit to the museum. With the torches and helmets provided by the museum, the guide will accompany the school in the most suggestive locations of this amazing UNESCO Heritage Site.

(www.museodelletna.it).

A few kilometers' drive to reach Zafferana Etnea, where the **Planetary** with a 10m dome offers exciting and engaging shows thanks to the ultra-modern full-dome system. Constellations, planets, galaxies and ... the fascinating mythological stories related to the vision of the sky. (www.planetariozafferana.it)

*Planetary*



The cave of Polyphemus

In Zafferana Etna you will also find the new structure dedicated to classical mythology, **The Theater of Myths** which presents: "SICILY. THE HISTORY IS HERE", an interactive show about the HISTORY OF SICILY, from prehistory to the present. This interesting documentary about the main historical periods was created in collaboration with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and made even more fascinating thanks to the innovative system of interaction with the public. (www.teatrodeimiti.it)

Last, "**La Grotta di Polifemo**", a fascinating and entertaining nature trail retracing the famous episode of the Odyssey. The route includes the labyrinth, sundials and many other curiosities related to mythology and the ancient legends of Etna.

The **Etna Wine Route** promotes a discovery journey of the Etna territory, transporting tourists to a "Volcano" of smells, flavors and unique and overwhelming beauties.

The Etna Wine Route Association embraces wineries, farms, accommodation facilities and restaurants, giving the traveler unforgettable experiences, with wide scenarios ranging from the fresh mountain air to the sea breeze. It does this through the "Etna Wine Train" Tour too, which is a unique way in the world to travel the slopes of Etna, aboard the Circumetnea Railway's narrow gauge railroad. With the Wine Bus, travelers will be taken along the routes of the Etna Wine Route to discover the most beautiful wine cellars in the area and taste their wines. A guide on the train will illustrate the places and cellars in Italian and English. The return, slowly descending, with the sea on the horizon, will find travelers in love

*The theater of Myths*

with the places, atmospheres and wine of Etna.

(tel. +39 349.9244672 www.stradadelvinodelletna.it)

The **Civic Museum of Natural Sciences** in Randazzo exhibits the ornithological collection Priolo, begun in 1939 by Angelo Priolo and built over thirty years. Originally dedicated to only Italian avifauna, over time the collection has expanded to exotic birds and is currently composed of about 2000 pieces. The collection, particularly important for the study of the avifauna of Sicily, includes about 400 different species and also includes extinct birds, such as the francolin and the little hen. The geological collection is

*Etna Wine Train*



Museum of the Puppet Opera

composed of fossils, minerals, rocks and shells, mostly collected in Sicily: note some findings of Pleistocene fauna, some volcanic products from Etna and some specimens of fossil fish from Sicily and Brazil. A highlight of the museum is a stupendous diorama that reproduces the scene of the extinction of the griffins.

(tel. +39 095 921615)

The **Randazzo Puppet Theater Museum** today houses a rich collection of antique puppets: 39 specimens of high historical and artistic value, built between the 1800s and the 1900s by historical puppet masters of the Catania school and dressed in precious fabrics and chiseled metal armor. This museum exhibits puppets that, as tradition wants, were used to stage variations of the “chansons de geste” of the era of Charlemagne and his paladins. The characters are the most famous ones who have always been passionate about large and small, including Orlando and Rinaldo. (tel. +39 095 799 1611)

The “**Paolo Vagliasindi**” **archaeological museum** in Randazzo is housed in the “former prison” Castle, and includes the collection of Baron Paolo Vagliasindi, one of the most important archaeological testimonies of the Etna area, which includes Corinthian, Ionic and Attic pottery. The famous vase called “Oinochoe Vagliasindi, dated at the end of the 5th century BC, where is represented the infrequent myth of the Harpies punishing the blind king Fineo rescued by the Boreadi. The numismatic collection is relevant. (tel. +39 095 921861)

Saints Peter and Paul Museum (inside the Church of Sant'Antonio Abate). In the heart of the Alcantara valley, in Castiglione di Sicilia, a precious eighteenth-century façade preserves a garden of inlaid marbles of a thousand colors. It is a place where the heart beats, influenced by the arts of the Messina school, the result of the artistic patronage of the most refined eighteenth-century aristocracy of Sicily. The high altar of 1708 with its marble inlays, in polychrome mosaic, form a typically Baroque balanced composition in its plastic and dynamic conception. The Church - Museum, still consecrated, is dedicated to the cult of Sant'Antonio Abate and houses the statue of the Holy Saint made by Nicolò Bagnasco from Palermo between 1814 and 1815.

Among the works of art we hear the echo of the history of powerful Castilian noble families who competed to make the richest and most decorated temple. They create a Museum itinerary, a "Petrified Garden", within a Baroque architectural jewel, the Church of Sant'Antonio Abate. (Tel. +39 0942 984058 +39 348 9176432)

In the **Santoro Country House** in Castiglione di Sicilia you have the opportunity to take courses to learn how to cook and prepare local cuisine specialties. Lessons will be held in the show cooking room. They will be held not by qualified chefs only but also by local women who will show the traditional recipes of Sicilian cuisine. The courses will be held for groups starting from two people each day. Participants will eventually be able to taste the dishes they have prepared during the lesson.

(via Nazionale S.S. 120, Rovittello - Castiglione di Sicilia CT)



Saints Peter and Paul Museum

*Jeep Tour Etna*

Now a must, the Jeep Tour is one of the most immediate ways to discover the “Mongibello” (ancient name of Etna).

The **Etna Top Crater**, an excursion organized by **Etna Discovery**, foresees the ascent by 4x4 Jeep equipped for off-road on volcanic paths up to an altitude of 2800m, where the volcanic landscapes seem to recall the lunar ones. On special 4x4 vehicles you climb up from an altitude of 1800m to almost 3000m, along a track that will offer breathtaking sea views. From this altitude, the arrival point of any mechanical means, a 4-hour trek begins (round trip) with a height difference of 340m, which will take you

*Excursion to the summit craters*



Sulfur formation on Etna

to the edge of the central crater of Etna.

(www.etnadiscovery.it - tel. +39 095 780 7564 tel. +39 336 923807)

On The Volcano is born from the passion for the Etna volcano and with the aim of offering an authorized volcanological guide service.

There are several organized excursions, such as: **Etna summit craters, Inside the Valle del Bove, Traverse Etna** from south to north, Etna by mountain bike. All of them will allow you to immerse yourself in the nature of the volcano, creating an "ancestral" experience and providing a wealth of news and curiosity about all aspects of the visited environment.

(www.onthevolcano.it - tel. +39 370 1054392)

Etna Vacanze offers consultancy for the organization of excursions and tours aimed at all those who wish to learn about the treasures of our marvelous territory: hiking, wine and food itineraries (with guided tours to the most famous wineries in Sicily) and cultural (to discover the millenary history of the island).

(www.jubelviaggi.com - tel. +39 095 916424 - 366 4008680)

Folk festivals, religious celebrations



The band of a patronal festival

The territory in celebration

"Folk festivals, religious celebrations, village festivals. A journey into the warmth and colors of a people that knows how to combine the deep bond to their origins and traditions with a proverbial welcome, a healthy and irrepressible desire to be together. Furthermore, some of them have unique and inimitable particularities, characteristics that give unforgettable emotions"



The Sicilian cart



The cheese maker in the living nativity scene

The Etna territory is a land rich in traditions, the result of a fruitful intertwining of civilizations, cultures and different dominations, a diadem of music, songs, sounds and colors.

Here the folklore shows itself in the most varied ways: from festivals in traditional costumes to ballet in the square, from religious celebrations to village festivals. If great devotion and charm express the many and different celebrations of the “Patron Saint”, no less attention is given to the other “primary” festivals, which take place extensively throughout the entire territory of the valley. Christmas is underlined by the many living nativity scenes,



Grape harvest festival



The traditional cooked seeds called "calia"

almost always linked to Sicilian craft and pastoral traditions; Easter, whose celebrations cover the entire Holy Week, offers a multitude of representations full of suggestion and pathos, particularly on Holy Thursday and Good Friday; the Carnival is an explosion of life that knows no rest, between music, endless dances and costumes; in June, during Corpus Domini fest, there is the custom for women to set up pretty altars in the corners of the country. A large number of sacred and profane celebrations are superimposed to these festivals linked to individual local events such as the thanks to Saints for miracles or received graces, the evocation of historical



Patron festival

events and so on, in a religion and superstition fusion that constitutes the true richness of these places in terms of spectacle and popular feelings.

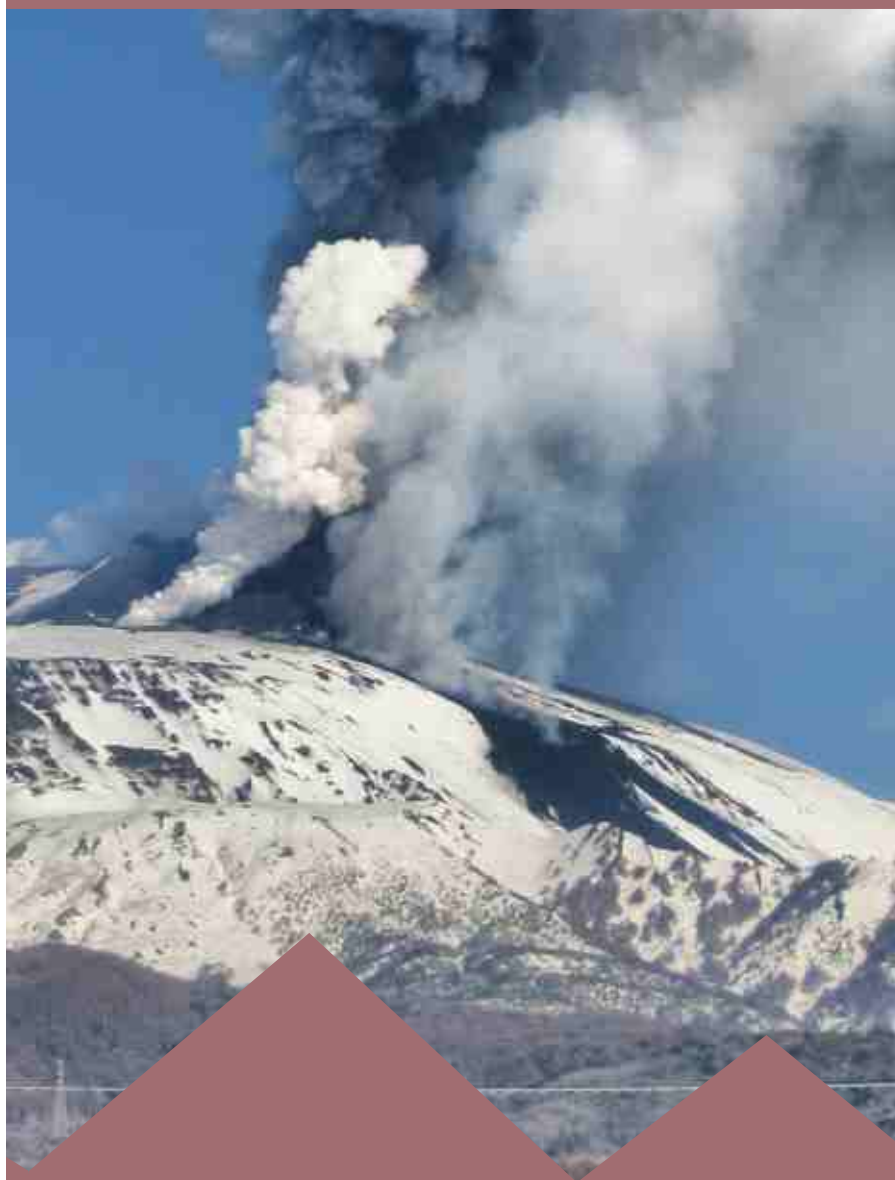
Calendar of patron festivals

- *Nicolosi*, feast of Saint Anthony of Padua, 13th June and second Sunday of August.
- *Pedara*, feast of St. Catherine of Alexandria in Egypt, 25th November.
- *Trecastagni*, feast of St. Nicholas, 6th December.
- *Zafferana Etnea*, feast of the Madonna of Providence, second Sunday of August.
- *Milo*, feast of Saint Andrew Apostle, last Sunday in July.
- *Sant'Alfio*, feast of Saint Alfio, first Sunday of May.
- *Linguaglossa*, feast of Saint Egidio Abbot, 1st September.
- *Randazzo*, feast of Saint Joseph, 19th March.
- *Castiglione di Sicilia*, feast of Maria SS. della Catena, first week of May.



Patron festival





Responsible behaviour



Responsible behaviour

Alcantara river

Being a responsible traveler and minimizing the impact your visit creates is important for the sustainability of the area. After all, sustainable tourism is a way of traveling and exploring a destination whilst respecting its culture, environment and people.

General Rules



Respect **nature (flora, fauna and land)** and don't introduce alien species of flora and fauna.



Stay on the **paths** and trails waymarked and **camp** only in those authorized places.



Light **fires** only in the authorized areas.



Do not drop any of your **litter**, bring it back.



Keep **pets** always **on a leash** and under the control of the owner.



Circulate and park **motorised vehicles** only in authorised **road**/areas.



Etna - Crateri Silvestri

Further Rules

- When entering into a protected area, follow the rules and the instructions from the staff
- Take care of not damaging any signaling and other itinerary facilities
- Respect any kind of private property, incl. buildings, crop fields
- Respect cultural heritage (churches, ruins, walls, and any other constructions)
- Be polite and fair with locals and other users, including hikers, riders and cyclists
- Respect the peace and calmness of the place

Recommendations before you start

- If you walk alone, tell someone of your itinerary.
- Don't overestimate yourself and choose it according to your physical abilities.
- Choose the appropriate clothes and equipment
- Check the weather forecast before leaving and adapt your route according to the weather conditions
- Remember to take enough water.
- Report any breach to the corresponding authority





How to come



How to come

Nicolosi Etna south

Travelling responsibly in times of climate change? Yes, you can! Just offset your CO2 emissions...

- Reaching our mountain areas from other parts of Europe or the world would be not possible without air travel. However, aviation is one of the largest emitter of greenhouse gases and, therefore, contributes to the anthropogenic climate change **in a decisive manner**.
- Fortunately, you can **offset the generated carbon footprint on a voluntary basis** in one of the existing carbon offsetting initiatives. These initiatives usually offer a web tool with a calculator so that everyone can calculate the price of their own carbon offsets. By purchasing the emitted CO2, you can mitigate your own greenhouse gas emissions from transportation (e.g. your flight), but also from using non-renewable energy sources during your stay.
- The purchased offsets are usually dedicated to **on- or off-site forest management projects, but also to conservation of biodiversity** in collaboration with local managers. You can contribute to these projects with small amounts. For instance, the offsets from a flight from Berlin to Thessaloniki (round trip) cost less than 20 Euro, and from Stockholm to Catania, about 30 Euro.
- You can offset your emissions wherever you like. We suggest using **“Atmosfair”**, being one of the most well-known and reliable platform. Just have a look at www.atmosfair.de!
- **Thank you for making responsible and sustainable travel possible!**



Castiglione di Sicilia

How to reach Nicolosi or Castiglione di Sicilia

There are various ways to get from Catania to Nicolosi: by bus, taxi or car. By bus with the AST line (1h 15min), by taxi or by car (20 min).

To reach Castiglione di Sicilia it is possible from Catania to take the train to Fiumefreddo di Sicilia and continue by taxi to Castiglione di Sicilia (1h 2min), or by bus stopping at Piedimonte Etneo (2h 15min) and finally by taxi (48 min). It is also possible to use the Circumetnea with the Catania-Randazzo and Giarre-Riposto routes towards Randazzo, or to reach Naxos from Messina or Catania and continue with the bus.

Highway to Nicolosi: Highway A18 ME-CT, exit at Giarre and continue on the 4-II provincial road to Nicolosi. From Palermo instead take the A19 until the Motta Sant'Anastasia-Misterbianco exit, then take the provincial road 13 and continue until Belpasso and from here to Nicolosi through the 4-II provincial road.

Highways to Castiglione di Sicilia: from Catania airport, Catania ring road, A18 CT-ME motorway, Fiumefreddo di Sicilia exit or the next one to Giardini Naxos. From Messina instead, Highway A18 ME-CT exit Giardini Naxos, continue in the direction of Francavilla di Sicilia and Castiglione di Sicilia.

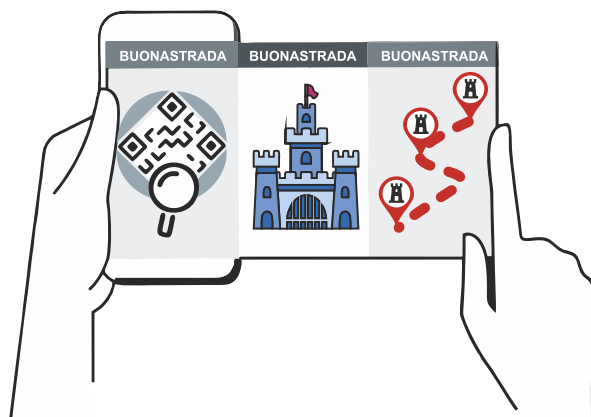
FCE Circumetnea tel. +39 095 541111 www.circumetnea.it

Autolinee AST tel. +39 095 7230511 www.aziendasicilianatrasporti.it

((it reaches all of the villages in the itinerary))

Autolinee Interbus tel. +39 095 532716 www.etnatrasporti.it

BuonaStrada QRcode



It will be possible to follow the Ginestre and vineyards' itinerary by using the poster designing installed alongside the path and provided with BuonaStrada qr codes for research materials, interactive maps, audio guides, virtual tours, pictures, and find out additional area tours.

Also, if you download the app you can follow the path off-line, and benefit of all the advantages offered by local companies.



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www.buonastrada.eu