

CASTAGNETO CARDUCCI

7 - Anello di Pietrarossa – 13 km – dislivello 680 m difference in height (hunting area)

After having passed the town of Castagneto Carducci in the direction of Sassetta, immediately after the bridge over the Fosso del Fontino, turn right into via Nemorense. A few tens of meters later you can find parking on the right.

We continue on foot on via Nemorense which, once you leave the town, becomes a dirt road and, with a gentle climb through the woods, it leads us to the locality of Bagnoli; from here, walking further, we arrive at a vast clearing with an old chestnut tree in the center which still has a vital part, despite being partly burned by lightning. We can make a short stop here for a snack.

Continuing always in a southerly direction, the road is now flat.

When you come to a point where the road bends slightly to the right and in front of there is a wooden gate. On our left, with an intersection at an acute angle, a fairly wide and uphill path starts. We take it and, going up the side of the hill, we come to a crossroads.

We can continue to the left, or take the other path to the right (uphill at the beginning) which leads us in a short time to what is apparently one of the many huts of the aqueduct. This is the Bull of Count Piero, the first work carried out in the area by the Gherardesca Counts for the collection of drinking water, built starting from 1787. In 1863 it was donated by Count Ugolino to the municipality of Castagneto and used to supply a pipeline in terracotta (shortly afterwards replaced with a cast iron pipeline) of 6.7 kilometers long the new deposit of the Migliorano spring (a few years ago pieces of the terracotta pipeline were still visible along the path: probably someone liked to take them home a souvenir).

We continue to climb, ending up rejoining the path we had left out on the left to see the bubble and continue to the right, until we reach an intersection, where we will continue straight.

After about 1.5 km, the ruin of a beautiful cottage on our right, built partly in stone and partly in brick, held together by a pink mortar.

At the front of the building stands a majestic maritime pine.

This is Pietrarossa, which was the operational base of the partisan detachment of the III Garibaldi Brigade operating in the area: from here, in fact, a large portion of the territory was dominated, with the possibility of controlling the movements of troops both from the south and from the north and also from the internal.

Although today it is hidden by vegetation, we can imagine open spaces around it, which were cultivated at the time.

Far from the main communication routes, it was still easily reachable on foot from Castagneto, Sassetta, Suvereto and San Vincenzo.

From Pietrarossa, continuing the path southwards, we almost immediately find a crossroads which we will take to the left; further on we will find a crossroads, at which we will take the small road that goes to the right to reach the locality of La Fiora.

We have thus reached the ridge road that we must take to the left to reach Pian dei Brizzi.

First, we should stop in the large clearing in front of us and which is suitable good for packed lunch.

Resuming the journey, after an almost flat stretch (Pian dei Brizzi), we find another house semi-ruined on our right and, immediately before the house, a path that descends towards Sassetta.

We go on, until we reach another crossroads: even here on the right you can go down to Sassetta, while we always continue on the ridge, which now rises a little up to Capo di Monte which, at 520 m above sea level, represents the highest point of the excursion.

Now you begin to descend, still in the woods, passing the detour to Monte Carpineta, on the top of which is the fire lookout.

Just before another hunter's hut, the ancient (Roman? Medieval?) pavement will be clearly visible under our feet: we are in fact traveling along the ancient Via Campigliese, which led from Castagneto Carducci to Campiglia M.ma.

After the hut, always on our right, an educational area on the production of charcoal was equipped, in which a charcoal pit had also been rebuilt; now only the remains of the typical hut where the charcoal burners lived during the production period are visible, alternating also at night in the fire surveillance shifts.

We continue to descend towards Castagneto Carducci, which at a certain point will begin to show itself on our left with a series of beautiful views.

A few more steeply downhill bends in the middle of the villas and we find ourselves in via Nemorense, where our cars are.