



The Great Tour of Barolo

(1st leg: Roddi - Verduno - La Morra - Vergne)

Roddi is a medieval town with concentric streets radiating out from the castle at its centre. It is also the starting point of this itinerary. The plains between Roddi and Pollenzo were the scene of some great battles. One of the most famous was the battle of the "Campi Raudii", which saw the Roman Consul Mario's victory over the Cimbrians. At Verduno the vineyards of Pelaverga grapes create a beautiful landscape, at La Morra and Vergne the landscape embraces the grand cru vineyards of Barolo.



Information

- Length of the route: 14 Km
- Duration: 4 hours, 30 minutes
- Starting point: Roddi
- Arrival point: Vergne
- Recommended season: spring, summer
- Difficulty: 2
- Signs: red and white horizontal stripes

From via Cavour in Roddi, follow the asphalt road and go straight across the first crossroads. At the second crossroads turn left and follow the dirt road. After about 1.5 km of level road cross over strada del Toetto, and carry on straight, then turn left at the first crossroads. At the second crossroads turn right onto the dirt road and continue until you arrive at a poplar wood. Carry on through the woods until you reach a gravel road and then take the road to the right after about 400 metres. Go up the road to the left that goes through the woods and touches on a vineyard. At the next crossroads go down to the right onto the asphalt road and then turn left. After a steep 200 metres go left at the next crossroads which takes you up to the historic village centre of Verduno.

Once you have reached the village carry on along the main road towards Rivalta, turn left after 50 m. You will come up to Madonna del Pilone, from here carry on along the dirt road between two banks until you reach the village of Castagni. Carry on straight-ahead along the asphalt road towards La Morra, turn left after about 200 m. Follow this road up the hill until you reach a crossroads, here you can stop and admire the country chapel of Madonna di Loreto. Continue on to the right through the vineyards until you reach an





«The King of Wines»

Barolo was one of the first wines to receive the D.o.c. status, in 1980 it also received the D.o.c.g. recognition. The average yield of the vineyards is less than 80 quintals of grapes per hectare; the alcoholic content of the wine should be 13%.



Barolo must undergo at least three years of ageing; two of which must take place in oak or chestnut wooden casks. Barolo wine that has undergone an ageing of at least five years can use the additional distinction of "riserva". Historically, the origin of Barolo wine is thought to date back to 1837, when 10 carriages of wine were sent to King Carlo Alberto by the marchesa Giulia Colbert. She was the daughter of a famous French minister as well as being the wife of Carlo Tancredi Falletti, the marchese of Barolo. Until that time the local red wine that would eventually become Barolo, was a sweet wine similar to marsala. Once it arrived in the Sabauda royal court it acquired fame and prestige, eventually becoming «The Wine of Kings».

asphalt road that takes you up to the main road. Turn left to arrive at La Morra. You can take a break in piazza del belvedere, from here you can admire a view across almost all the different municipalities that produce Barolo wine. You can also visit the Cantina Comunale (where you can taste and buy local wines). Starting off again opposite the Parochial Church, go down to the left along the cobblestoned ancient bastions (part of the town's ancient defensive walls). You will come to the road to Barolo; turn left onto this road. After about 200 m the road splits into three; turn right onto a small asphalt road that leads towards Bricco del Dente. After 300 metres of gentle ascent, turn left and then carry on straight-ahead, ignoring the dirt roads to the side, until you arrive at a house at the end of the ascent. Turn left here and go down into the forest (one of the last ones of the Langa del Barolo). Turn right at the first crossroads, halfway up the hillside. Carry on, keeping to the right until you come out of the woods and arrive at a cement water tank. Descend to the left and then to the right onto a gravel road; carry on for about 500 m. Turn left at the first crossroads and then right at the second, going across vineyards and fields. You will then come to an old farmhouse (Cascina Bergeisa). Go past, and continue along the small dirt road; ignore the deviation and keep to the left until you arrive at the first houses of Vergne (alt. 410 m). It is worth stopping to look at the mural paintings on the walls of most of the houses; they depict traditional rural scenes.

