WALKS AROUND RADICONDOLI AND BELFORTE

NATURE AND HISTORIC TRAILS

Years ago the tracks we use today for walks were used as the main means of communication from one village to another. Whether by foot, on horseback or riding a donkey, people moved about along these shortest routes. The track that goes from Radicondoli to Belforte is a fine example of these itineraries. This walk starts off at Porta Olla in Radicondoli from where the view opens out to Belforte on the South Coast. The actual distance from Radicondoli to Belforte is 2.5 km but the road that runs from one village to the other is 6 km long. In this map we will describe different walks that take you from Radicondoli to Belforte and the vicinity. The major route is about 35km long, but you can choose the minor tracks that wind out of the inhabited areas. Along these routes you will discover many interesting fossil sites and nature curiosities. Together, the many tracks form a network of routes that we have tried to plan to suit your itinerary of your own choice.

Recommended Routes

Route A view from Radicondoli

1. With your back to Porta Olla take the road that leads to the valley south of Radicondoli.
2. After about 150 metres on your left you will see what remains of an ancient vineyard (vitis maritata). Shorty after this on your right hand side lies what once was the Convento di Francesco (inhabited by Franciscan monks and now a cultural and musical centre).
3. The road now turns into a dirt track. After a few metres you will encounter an old stone pond called locally Fonte della Conca. It was used in the olden days as a washing tap and for storing water.
4. Keep going straight along this track until you arrive at Podere Gliognolo, (if you make a left turn you will get back onto the main road). Continue straight ahead. Further on the path slopes slightly and contours to the right. At the end of this curve take a left turn where the pathway gets narrower. This view to your left is the typical clay gullies (balcani) often seen in Tuscan landscapes.
5. A little further on there is another parting of the ways where you will notice a definite downward slope on your left. Keep going straight to where the pathway winds into a smaller track. About 30 yards from here, the path winds into a riparian area called Fossi di Fosso Lucignano. The ground here forms a deep hollow and curves slightly to your right (toward the valley). Keep following the wood in this direction for about 200 metres until the grove lies at a right angle to the horizontal plane.
6. Here there is a spot where you can easily get across the Fosso Lucignano and thereby enter the nearby field.
7. Advance south along this field (toward Colle Pettori) skirting a tree trunk on your left. Here you will find a series of pathways through the hedges, which will take you into the neighbouring fields. Of all these pathways try and take the one farthest to the left near a group of trees that narrow down the field considerably toward the house side.
8. Once you have crossed this field you will encounter a dirt track, which leads to Colle Pettori and to the valley road. Carefully cross this road and step into the olive grove, which will take you to the adjoining Podere Vecchio.

Route B: Suitable for walking and for bicycles...
Ancestral vineyards “viti maritate”

The words “viti maritate” translate literally into “married vineyards” and were essentially planted near trees, then gently tutored on to the trunk of the tree thus the tree became their support. One of the most widely planted is the vine with its leaves also protected from the wind, rain and hail stones. These plantations were very common up to 1800 and the trees chiefly used were maples (Acer, Cana parvula, poplar (Populus nigra), hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna), blackberry (Rubus idaeus), rose (Rosa Canina) (greenweed or dyer’s broom (Artemisia vulgaris), Spanish broom (Spartium junceum), stinging nettle (Urtica dioica), and ferns. Their unique soil and vegetation characteristics are distinctly different from surrounding habitats. Biodiversity is especially rich with trees and herbs, shrubs and trees), but their intervention of man and has always played a key role in this complex vertical stratification. Animals may play a distinctive role in the formation of the terrain. Animals may play a distinctive role in the formation of the terrain. Our thanks to Paolo Bosco for all the information and suggestions on geological matters; to

Enjoy the countryside and respect these rules:

1. Keep to paths when crossing farmland.
2. Do not pick flowers, they’re just as pretty on photo graphs.
3. Protect wildlife, plants and trees.
4. Do not pick flowers, they’re just as pretty on photo graphs.
5. Remember to use a compass.
6. Make no unnecessary noise.
7. Ho to avoid all water clips.
8. Keep dogs under close watch.
9. Pay attention to all signs.

Emergency numbers

Cassia, Viterbo
06 0779506 Casinelli Radicondoli
077970515 Town
077321105 Chemalo Radicondoli

Bush connections (look-out list for specific advice in the map)

Radicondoli
06 14:00-16:00
Viterbo
06 05:30-05:45
School
14:00-15:00
16:00-16:10

The socalled “Calunci” are very common in the Tuscan landscapes, they are formed by the entomological activity in pressi gules typical of the Appennine area, often in clay, ludiaceous or sandal. These frequently found in areas where there is a major sun exposure, therefore south or south east exposed areas. These are also a stage of the formation of large cracks which slowly get deeper as the rains are ever more frequent. In the dry season these are usually dry but on wet days they can usually consider as a very rainy season. The most notable “viti maritate” have been replaced by modern vineyards where the vines are supported over poles and wire. The ancient vines can also be very important and easy to manage. However, it is hard to think that these skills were employed during Etruscan and Roman civilizations. In order to get the best results it is important to avoid the use of any herbicide that may change the characteristics of the lemon.