



First discovery itinerary

THE COLLALTO FEUD - MARCA STORICA

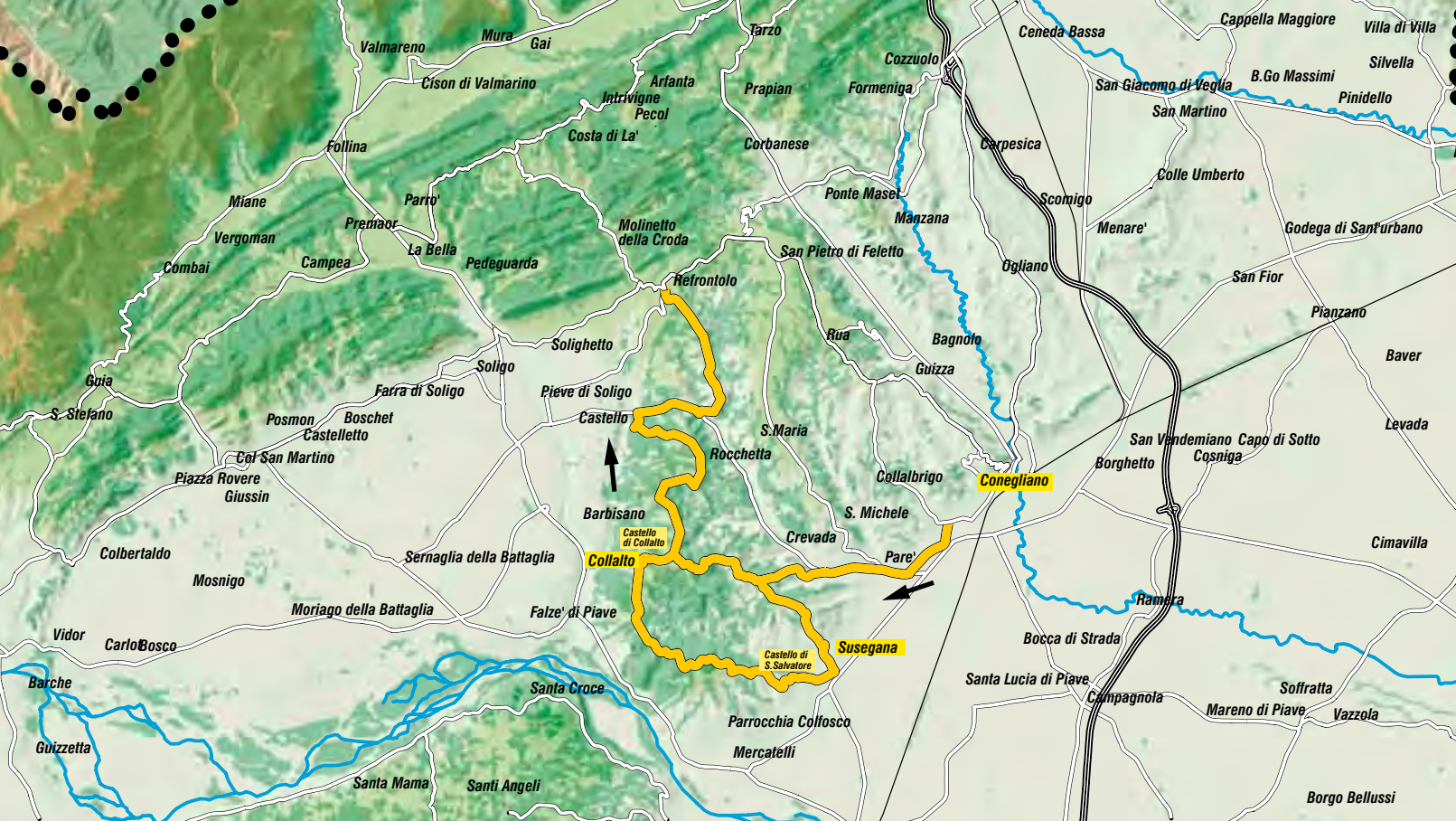
The Collalto Feud includes lands that, to the east of Conegliano, fall within the municipality of Susegana and were once the property of the Lombard family, the Collaltos, who later became counts of Treviso. Even before 1000 AD, a great deal of land was donated to the Collaltos in their capacity as imperial officials. On the left of the River Piave first, then towards the northern side of the province of Treviso. Skilled in political relations and shrewd plotters, they always managed to secure important positions and consequently play an influential role in local political life.

The centre of power was concentrated around Castello di Collalto, a castle built in around 1110 by Ensedisio I, and subsequently transferred to the fortified



castle of San Salvatore, which Rambaldo VIII had erected in around 1300. The itinerary indicated takes in Castello di San Salvatore - which without a doubt bears the strongest iconographic testimony of this area - before venturing further into the lands of the ancient feud. Here, amongst the gentle

hills, you can catch a glimpse every now and again of the old houses once occupied by the share-croppers, typically painted yellow with two horizontal red stripes. Once you reach Collalto, you can admire the remains of the Castle, which never fail to enchant.



CASTLE HOPPING IN SEARCH OF LEGENDS AND TRUE STORIES

There isn't enough room here to tell the whole story of the house of Collalto, though you can find fine accounts in various textbooks and specialized guides. However, perhaps the odd "tip" on how to react when you stumble across a ghost might be in order...

No noble family worth its salt is without its eccentric, prominent characters, and the Collalto family certainly had its fair share. Two of the most outstanding members were Rambaldo VIII - a man wielding great political influence in the first half of the 14th century, responsible for the by-laws that governed the counties under



the family for many centuries - and Rambaldo XIII, sixteenth count of Collalto. Commander of the lansquenets, this was the man accused of sacking Mantua in 1629, an event Alessandro Manzoni gives a good description of in his novel "The Betrothed". The character arousing the most interest though is Bianca, known as Bianca di Collalto even though she was just a lady-in-waiting, around whose sad story a legend has been spun. Indeed, legend has it that in the 12th century, Tolberto di Collalto took the lunatic Aica da Camino as his wife. Aica, realizing that there was a fondness between her husband and her lady-in-waiting, didn't miss a single opportunity to play cruel tricks on her. One day the nobleman, on the eve of a journey, whilst saying goodbye to his wife who was having her hair combed by Bianca, met the lady-in-waiting's gaze in the mirror and Aica immediately became aware of the sentimental bond between the two, clearly in love. As soon as her husband left, she shut Bianca in a tower and the poor girl starved to death. The ghost of the unfortunate Bianca is said to have appeared to the Collaltos on various occasions and still drifts around the castle.



