



Main itinerary, leg D FROM CAMPEA TO CONEGLIANO

The journey is coming to a close. After passing through the areas of greatest interest - Feletto, the Piave District, the Valdobbiadene area - after visiting the numerous wineries, the wine estates, sampling the various qualities of Prosecco, the road home takes you back towards Conegliano. In Campea, it's worth calculating some extra time to enjoy a walk through the old village. This has always been a hunting area, the wild, uncontaminated nature encouraging many animals to make their homes here. In point of fact, until two centuries ago, this was where the bear shooting parties set off from. The district was also the stage of a feud between the Brandolini nobles (who played the masters in the area) and the Savoini

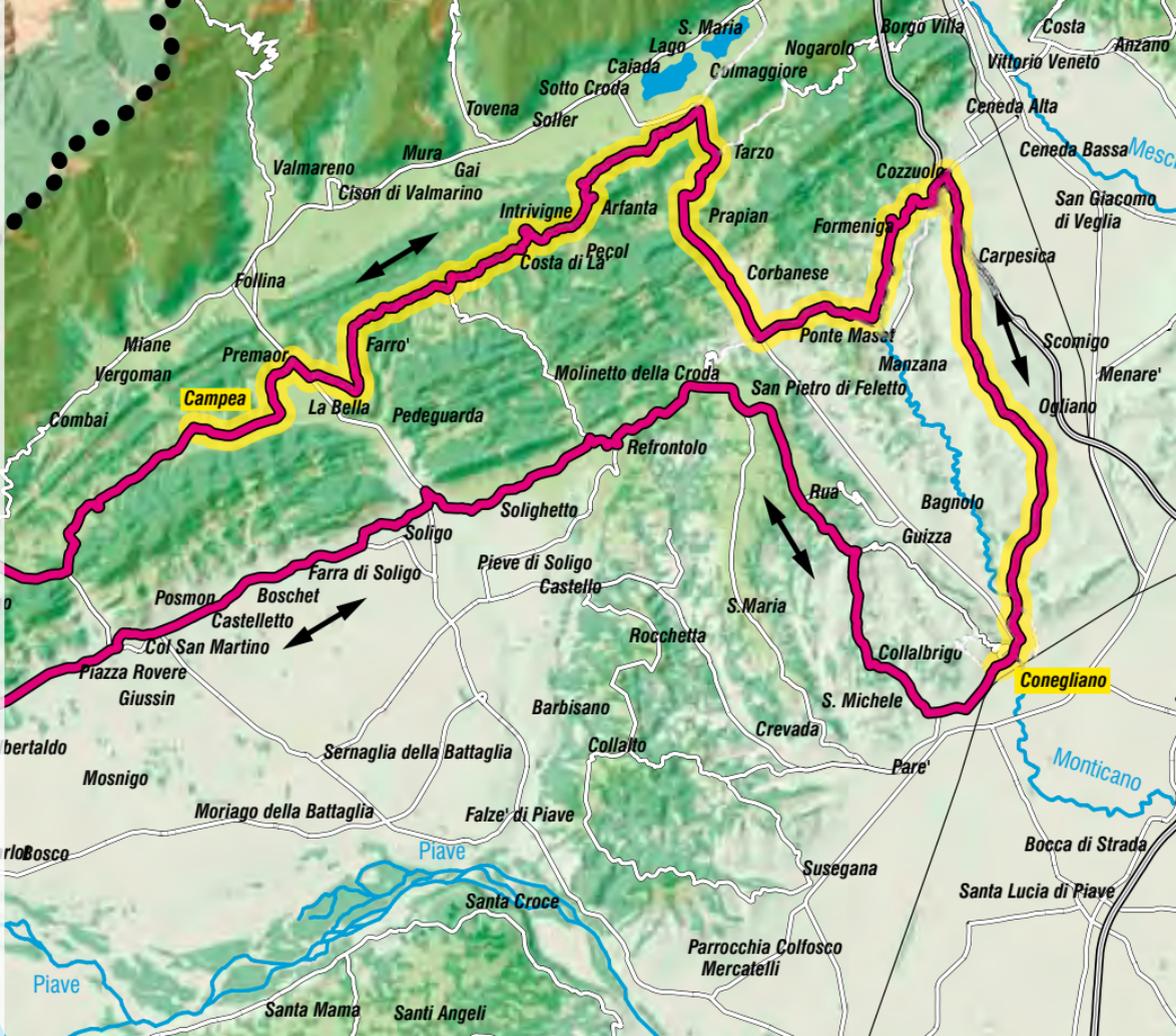


family: rivalry was so fierce in fact that Brandolino VI died when shot by his rival's harquebus during a hunt. Leave Campea, cross the River Soligo and, once you reach the Pedeguarda neighbourhood, continue towards Farrò. You are given an all-embracing view of the valleys below. Though the geological

conformation does not differ much from the places you have just left, you will be struck by the notable difference in the scenery: the vineyards are like islands rising up from the greenness of dense chestnut forests. Further up the road, you will come across Arfanta, followed by Tarzo and, lastly, Corbanese. The chain of mountains swoops steeply



towards the plains of Vittorio Veneto and Conegliano. You now head for Cozzuolo, then continuing towards Carpesica, before finally reaching Ogliano whose name recalls the winter of 1707 when freezing cold destroyed most of the plants growing here, including the olive trees. The intensity of the landscape, now behind you, is replaced by the gentle rolling of the low hills on which vineyards vie for space with other crops. The view once again stretches as far as the eye can see: the bell towers of the parish churches, the villas perched on the tops of the hills, the farms, the towns... the sweet region called Marca Trevigiana.



CHESTNUT WOODS ON THE MOUNTS' SLOPES

In ancient times, the woods - both the chestnut woods and areas forested with other species of trees - together with the pastureland, were all part of a large collective estate. In the 16th century, the Republic of Venice decided to hand these lands over to the community, determining that the members of the villages' indigenous families be entitled to use them as they saw fit.

65% of the local wooded surface area was covered with chestnut trees: the logs were used as firewood and to fuel the kilns, the younger branches were used as stakes for the vines, whilst the older plants were cut to make beams. All this, though, was nothing compared to the importance the fruit had. For centuries, the chestnut was a hugely important food: its picking and the way it was then divided out were governed by special rules.



From the 18th century on, until the 19th century, the collective traditions began to die out, eventually disappearing altogether when the woods became state property. During the twentieth century, the exodus towards the lower-lying lands and the cities finally put an end to this tradition.

Today, there is renewed interest in growing this fruit. Above all, with the current passion for organic produce, the cultivation techniques employed do not use pesticides, making it a highly prized fruit. The chestnut festival "Festa dei Marroni" held in Combai in October is not to be missed.

