

Climb to Carcente

This walk is a stiff uphill ramble up the ancient cobbled path linking the lower hamlets of San Siro to the higher village of Carcente, which is now semi-deserted, but full of atmosphere and fascination.

The walk starts from our house, Il Campanello.

From the entrance of the house, walk round the house opposite and up the side of the tiny courtyard. Follow the path round to the left and then follow it as it winds up to the top of the old village, to a flight of stone steps. Take these and keep going up. You will see a path off to the right that leads to the higher hamlet of Pezzo. Once in Pezzo, take the left turn. You will start to climb quite steeply and in a minute or two you will be in the forest.

Keep climbing – at times the path might be a little slippery, so take care. Use the handrails where they are provided. Imagine yourself driving a herd of sheep up here. You will come to a T-junction, and you will take the path to your left. Winding up, you will soon see the houses and church of San Martino above you. Stop to have a look at the ancient wash-house. When we first came to Acquaseria, the village still had one of these.

The church of San Martino from above



Up in San Martino you will see a bar (very friendly people here!), which is also a small restaurant. Please stop for a drink and an ice-cream. From here you have a choice of climbing higher, to Carcente, or giving yourself a pat on the back and going back down.

When you get back down to the T junction where you turned left to go up to San Martino, you have the option of going straight on. This is a nice path through the woods that descends more gently. Just follow your nose to get home – you can't really get lost because you can always see where you are!