



Monte Carza



This medium-difficult mixed route has regular climbs and excellent and safe descents. Its technical sections enhance the area's morphology but are never exaggerated.

Recent work has made the trail passable for anyone of average athletic and technical ability.

However, it is not suitable for beginners.

For propaedeutic purposes, with less technical difficulty, a "B" route is also proposed, also marked by arrows with the initials **V29a**, with the left notch **green** color of **TC** level.

We start from the **parking lot** near the former Grotto **Monte Carza** (now Wonderwood, complete with a restaurant, adventure park, small pond, and enchanting views of Lake Maggiore).

Continue uphill for 1.6 km **towards Colle**; once you reach "**Gpm Ologno**" (made famous by the passage of the 2015 **Giro d'Italia**, complete with a plaque commemorating that event), turn right, taking the "**tagliafuoco della Pineta**."

After 300 m, a brand-new path begins on the right. It runs through the pine forest and winds along the mountainside, offering a unique and spectacular view.

It is a fast section with a couple of easy technical passages leading to the beech forest. There is a root bottom and a subsequent path leading to the junction "**bivio del Pino**."

Here, take the ridge road to the left, all the way down the slope, taking a look at the view and paying proper attention to driving the vehicle.

Keeping to the right, continue to the entrance of the "**La Magnifica**" trail, where the descent of the same name begins (it is no coincidence that it was so named).

After a long traverse, with a couple of technical sections, you arrive in the "**ditch**," from which, on the right, the second part of the descent begins, comprehensive and fast, to the **Strada Provinciale**.

Turn left and, after 20 meters, descend to the right. This involves a traverse along a meadow, at the end of which you come near a light pole; here begins the "**Lavuu**" descent, which is short but very beautiful.

At the end of the descent, go up along two curves on asphalt, then, to the right, take a dirt road. After 100 meters, turn left, taking the section leading to the "**hedges**." From there, along a fast descent and a short uphill ramp, you turn left, continuing on the dirt road until you find the asphalt again.

After 1.5 km of ascent, you reach the **Carza junction**, where, before the hairpin bend, you take the small ramp on the right, from which begins the section called "**star of Lake Maggiore**" that leads to the **summit of Monte Carza**.

Near the summit is a noteworthy steep section: quite tricky, but with a little effort, it is doable by staying in the saddle.

The subsequent descent is hair-raising (or, if you like, adrenaline-pumping), with a comprehensive and fast first section, then, turning right, a technical but drivable second one, inside the forest on the artificially carved path, until you arrive at **Prato Rotondo**.

Here begins the climb, which includes as many as 13 hairpin bends called "**la Tremenda**." It is steady and challenging all the way to the top.

At the last bend, on the right, a small path leads back to the ridge road, which is then travelled in the two-way direction, in this case downhill.

Turning right, you continue for about 150 meters to the already-known "**bivio del Pino**." This time, turn left onto the "**strada dei Cavalli**," which takes you back to the starting area.

For the sake of the record, it should be noted that, in the last stretch, once back on the "ridge road," turning left (instead of right), after a few dozen meters, experience the thrill of sitting on the yellow **Big Bench of Lake Maggiore - Monte Carza**, No. 138 on the national circuit, which currently numbers about two hundred.

TECHNICAL ASPECTS

Some technical passages require good vehicle riding skills; therefore, the route **is not suitable for beginners**.

CRITICAL POINTS

1. Traverse leading to the "fosso."
2. Near the summit of Monte Carza, where some pedaling strength and endurance are required.

TECHNICAL DATA

Relevant geographical area:	Verbano
Place of departure and arrival:	Monte Carza parking lot
Number of legs:	1
Length:	11.5 km
Total ascent:	630 m indicative
Total descent:	630 m indicative
Difficulty:	OC (CHALLENGING)
Average duration:	1 hour 30 minutes
Minimum altitude:	882 m.a.s.l.
Highest altitude reached:	1209 m.a.s.l.
Degree of cyclability:	good
Recommended period:	June-October
Presence of dedicated signage:	yes
Target Audience:	mtb lover

EATERIES

Wonderwood with its "Grotto Carza."

Restaurants along the central locations touched by SP64.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Along the route

Wonderwood Adventure Park in Carza.

Nearby

CANNERO

Citrus Park, Ethnographic Collection, "blue" flag beach, magnolia lakefront, Castles of Cannero, Cannero River Falls, square of frescoes, Lourdes grotto.

TRAREGO VIGGIONA

Tactile Museum of Natural Sciences "Seeing with Hands," Wanderwood Park and "big bench" in Carza, St. Eurosia Church in Passo Piazza.

OGGEBBIO

Istituto Auxologico Italiano in Piancavallo, fortified tunnels of Morissolo, Linea Cadorna of Verbano, the parish church of S. Pietro di Gonte, Villa Anelli, the oratory of the Nativity of Mary in Cadessino, church and oratory of Sant'Agata in Novaglio.

Standards of behavior

1. Stay on the trails

Respect the trail and any prohibitions on access. Respect private property.

2. Leave no trace

Respect the land. Wet and muddy trails are more vulnerable than dry trails. Stay on existing trails, and do not create new ones. Don't take shortcuts by cutting corners. Take any litter with you.

3. Drive carefully

A moment's distraction can endanger both yourself and others. Abide by speed limits and ride so that you can always control your bicycle. Always wear a helmet.

4. Don't scare the animals

Animals are easily startled by an abrupt approach, sudden movement, or loud noise. Allow them enough space and time to adjust to your presence.

5. Give right of way properly

These trails are not only for bicycle use but also shared by hikers on foot. So, especially downhill, speed should be moderated: around a bend, someone may be coming up. Let other trail users know you will overtake them through a friendly greeting or a bell. Bicyclists must give way to all non-motorized trail users. Bicyclists proceeding downhill should provide the right of way to those going uphill. Make any overtaking as safe and polite as possible.



REMINDER:

BIKERS MUST ALWAYS GIVE WAY TO OTHER USERS

RULES OF CONDUCT FOR BIKERS

Since the appearance of the first mountain bikes, the NORBA (National Off-Road Bicycle Association) has drafted a code of conduct intended to regulate off-road activity with full respect for nature and other frequenters of the mountains and trails.

Many clubs, organizations, associations, and schools throughout Italy have adopted the NORBA Code. It consists of a series of general tips that, if followed carefully, can help make this sporting and hiking practice so much in vogue today more enjoyable for everyone.

NORBA Code

1. Always give the right of way to hikers on foot.
2. Slow down and use extreme caution when approaching and overtaking walkers or other cycle hikers. Always signal your arrival well in advance; avoid shouting or yelling, apologize, and greet politely.
3. Always keep mountain bike speed under control and approach turns with extreme caution, anticipating sudden obstacles. The pace should be commensurate with the type of terrain, the type of trail, and each person's experience.
4. Always stay within the marked route, thus minimizing environmental impact (permanent damage to surrounding vegetation and subsequent soil erosion).
5. Do not disturb or frighten domestic or wild animals; give them time to move away and off the path.
6. Do not, for any reason, leave garbage as a result of your passage; you should collect your own and, when possible, also those abandoned by other "distracted" hikers.
7. Always respect private and public property, leaving gates, mobile barriers, or bars as they are found. In all cases, go directly to the landowners to ask for permission to pass. "No trespassing" often means "Please ask permission if you want to pass."
8. It is always advisable to be self-sufficient during cycle-hiking. The goal to be reached and the speed at which one moves should be proportionate to the psychophysical preparedness and ability of the driver, the equipment, the environment, the terrain, and, above all, the weather conditions.
9. Never undertake a cycle tour alone, except in cases of force majeure. Stay away from isolated areas distant from major roads, and always leave clear directions regarding the route to be taken and the estimated return time.
10. Minimize impact with nature: steal only images and memories and leave, at most, the barely perceptible imprint of the wheels of your vehicle.