

## Bologna e the Piccola Cassia Route

### Hiking & Biking trails

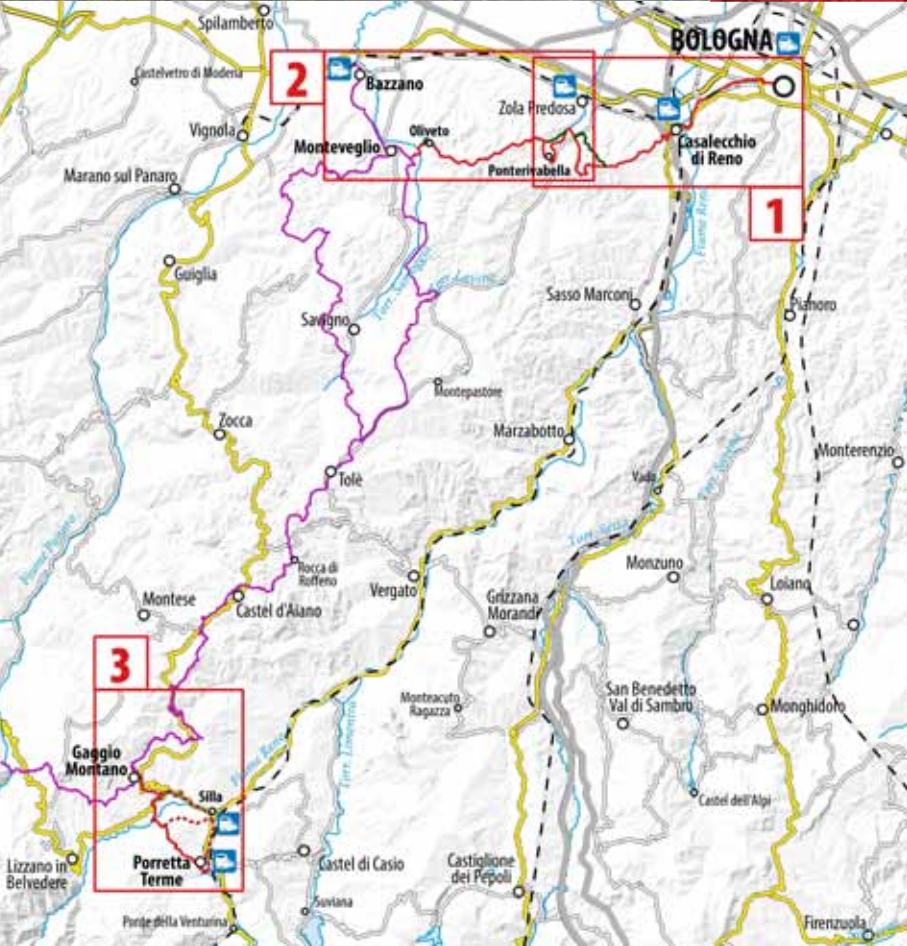
Bologna - Monteveglio  
Gaggio Montano - Porretta Terme



GPS  
WGS 84  
compatible



HIKING & BIKING MAP 1:25.000



Thank you to the  
CAI of Bologna for their valuable  
collaboration

#### LEGENDA - Legend

- Itinerari verso la Piccola Cassia  
Path to Piccola Cassia
- Stazione FF.SS  
Railway station
- Acque  
Waters
- Varianze  
by-pass
- Edificio, Edificio industriale  
Building, Industrial building
- Bosco  
Wood
- Varianze MTB  
Mtb by-pass
- Chiesa, Cimitero  
Church, Cemetery
- Curve di livello  
(equidistanza 20 m)  
Elevation line
- Piccola Cassia
- Tabernacolo, Croce isolata  
Tabernacle, Cross
- Altitudine  
Elevation
- Altri sentieri  
Other hiking-trail
- Campo sportivo  
Sports field
- Fontana o sorgente  
Spring
- Punti di interesse  
Points of interest
- Autosstrada  
Motorway
- Punto di guado  
River crossing
- Strada principale  
Main road
- Strada secondaria asfaltata  
Asphalted road
- Strada non asfaltata  
Not asphalted road
- Informazioni  
Information
- Carrarecchia  
Track, dirt road
- Pronto soccorso  
First aid
- Ferrovia  
Railway
- Confine area protetta  
Regional boundary

Reticolo chilometrico WGS 84-UTM 32T, GPS compatibile  
0 1 km

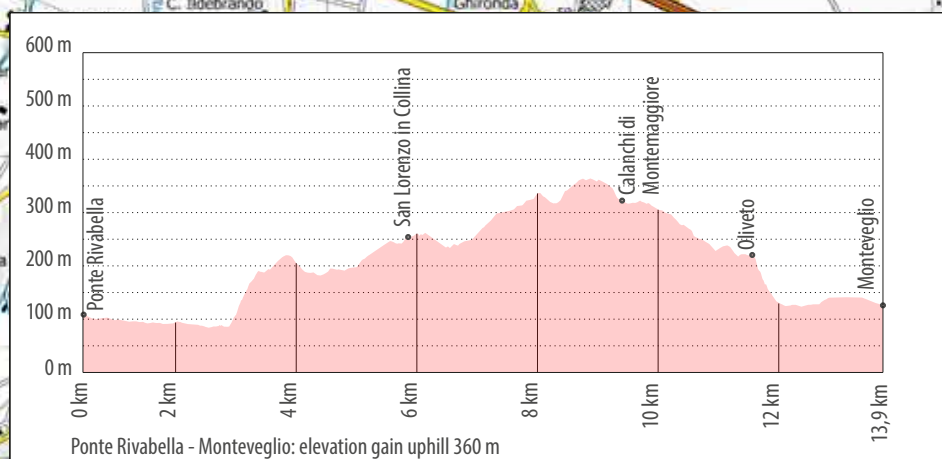
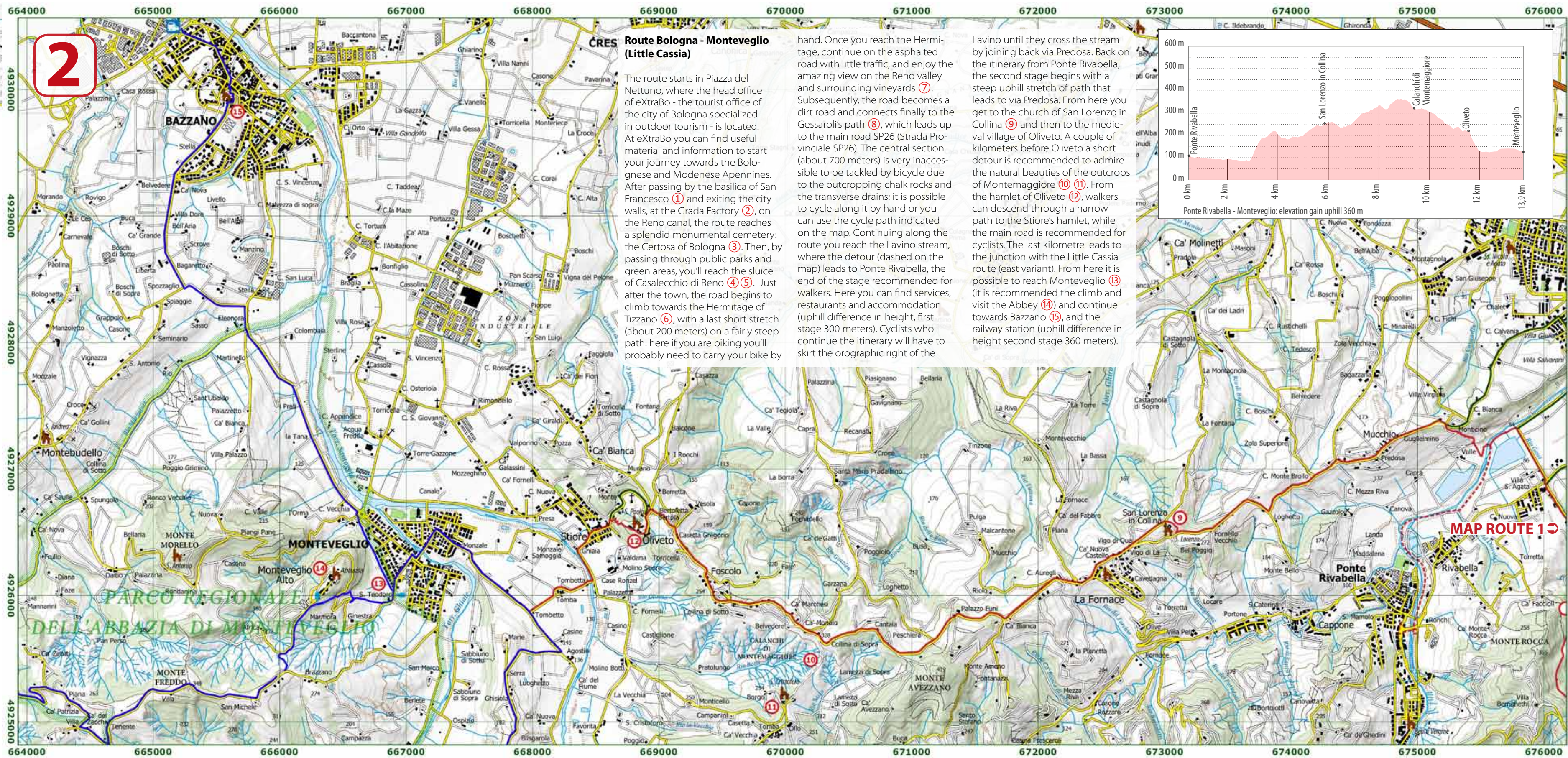
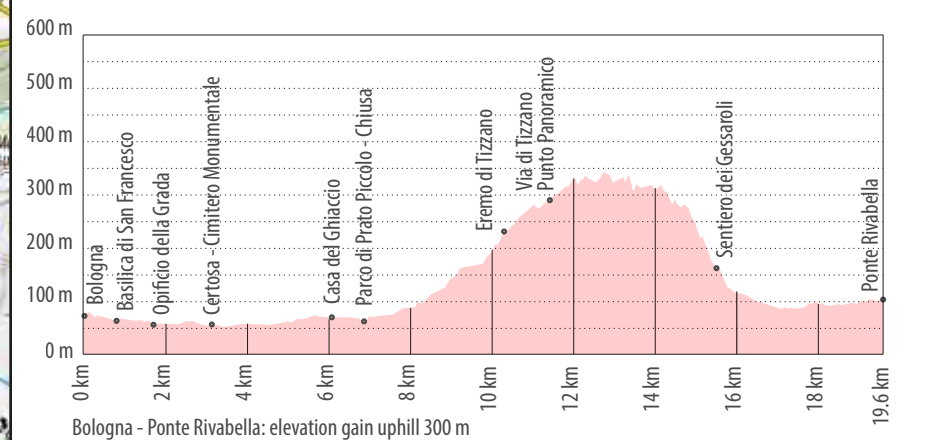
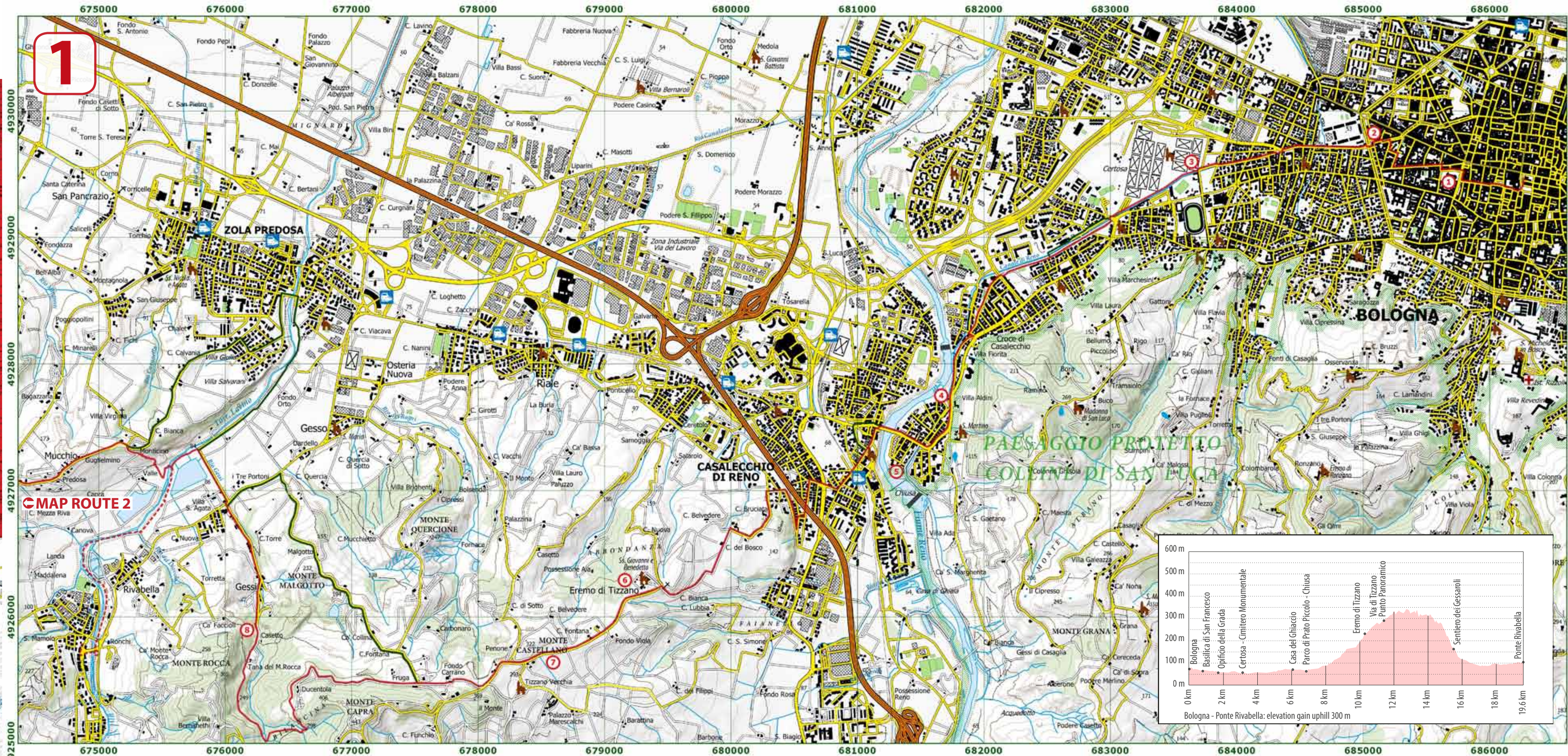
Scala 1:25.000

Estratto dalla carta della Collana Provincia di Bologna (L'escursionista Editore/TrackGuru)

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## FROM BOLOGNA TO MONTEVEGLIO

### 1 Basilica of San Francesco

The church, the earliest example in Italy of French Gothic style, was built in the 13th century on behalf of the Franciscan community installed here in 1218 with Bernardo di Quintavale, one of the first disciples of St Francis. Today's building is a pastiche of different styles, ranging from Romanesque to late Gothic and early Renaissance. Particularly noteworthy are the high Romanesque-Gothic façade, the apse with its two bell-towers and the rampant arches of the radial chapels, surrounded by the 13th-century mausoleums of the first university professors Accursio, Odofredo and Rolando de' Romanzi. Inside, the austere and grandiose setting of the church is dominated by the magnificent marble altarpiece of the high altar, sculpted between 1388 and 1393 by the Venetians Jacobello and Pier Paolo dalle Masegne. Also worth highlighting are several sepulchral monuments along

Basilica di San Francesco

the walls, including the tomb of Pope Alexander V and the Romanesque Muzzarelli Chapel, as well as the 14th-15th century cloisters of the adjoining monastery. The complex is also home to several collateral institutions, such as the Library of St Francis with 39,000 volumes and pamphlets, the Rubbiani Archive, the Historical Archive of the Bolognese Province of Friars Minor Conventual and the Music Archive.

### 2 The Grada Factory

The church of Santa Maria and San Valentino della Grada owes its name to the iron "grada (grate)" - still visible today - through which the Reno Canal flows into the historic centre, and which was used to prevent enemies from entering the city. The nearby building called "Opificio della Grada" is an ancient hydraulic factory built between 1681 and 1683 as a leather tannery; nowadays, it houses the so-called "Opificio delle Acque", a place intended for cultural exhibition and educational initiatives organized in the framework of the "Bologna Città d'Acque" permanent project.



La Grada

### 3 La "Certosa" – Monumental Cemetery

Following the occupation of the City by the Napoleonic troops in 1801, the "Charterhouse of San Girolamo" was converted into a cemetery area; today's structure is located on the vestiges of an ancient Etruscan necropolis and is counted among Italy's oldest monumental cemeteries. The Charterhouse was founded in the fourteenth century alongside the church of San Girolamo, consecrated in 1359, and still retains a significant heritage of art works. After the conversion of the religious complex into a cemetery area, with several interventions carried out according to the characteristics of pre-existing buildings, the piece of land around the Renaissance cloisters was used to expand the burial area, thus creating a charming and monumentally significant articulation of spaces. Particularly significant is the Cloister number seven, home to the tomb of the Marconi family and to such art works as the "Montanari" Monument by Diego Sarti, the portrait of the blacksmith Gaetano Simoli by Tullio Goltarelli, and the monuments dedicated to the ceramist Angelo Minghetti and the publisher Nicola Zanichelli. What is more, the monuments dedicated to Raffaele Bisteghi by Enrico Barberi, and - near the Charterhouse street entrance (Via della Certosa) the tombs of Giosuè Carducci, Giorgio Morandi and Lucio Dalla, are also well worth a mention.



La Certosa

### 4 Paraporti Scaletta o Casa del Ghiaccio, San Luca e Verocchio

The "Paraporti Scaletta, Verocchio and San Luca" is a complex of hydraulic works developed to keep the canal clean by throwing back into the river the crushed stone deposited in the riverbed, which were causing a reduction of the carrying capacity of the canal. It is located shortly after the start of the Reno Canal, immediately downstream of the ancient Lock of Casalecchio. The first upstream, the Scaletta (also called "Casa dei Ghiacci", namely Ice House) is equipped with a vertical adjustment valve capable of creating a strong water current within the canal, specifically meant to bring away the sediments carried by the water and deposited in the riverbed, thus guaranteeing the cleanliness and continuous carrying capacity of the networkstill ; the flood-gate is also equipped with a surface spillway allowing workers to break up the sheets of ice that formed during the winter with metal-tipped poles, preventing them from "ruining" the wooden wheels of the Bolognese mills.



Paraporto - Casa dei Ghiacci

### 5 The little lawn & the sluice of Casalecchio

The Casalecchio sluice is an imposing hydraulic work located on the Reno river, with a 160m long, 35m wide slide and a drop of 8.25m. It was created in the mid-14th century to divert part of the river's water into the Reno Canal and bring it into the city. The use of water as a driving force enabled Bologna in the Middle Ages to experience fabulous economic growth by harnessing it to power silk mills and other factories. The sluice, symbol of the motive power behind the flourishing growth of the city, has also taken on a symbolic value of equal strength and importance, by being included at the end of 2010 in the list of UNESCO's 2000-2010 programme of World Heritage Sites for a Culture of Peace for Young People. The point of interest shown on the itinerary leads to the "Prato Piccolo" park, the site of a former barrage destroyed in 1325, with a series of fascinating views over the sluice and its associated buildings, such as the guardhouse with spillway known as Pracinino ("prà znein" in dialect).



Prato Piccolo - Chiusa di Casalecchio

### 6 The Hermitage of Tizzano

The Tizzano Hermitage was built by the Camaldolese monks between 1655 and 1741. The church, dedicated to St Benedict, features a simple and elegant Bolognese Baroque style. The interior consists of a single, tall, light-filled nave surrounded by six side chapels, connected by narrow passages and displaying fine paintings. Also worth noting are the beautiful 16th-century crucifix in olive wood and the reliquary with fragments of the True Cross and other relics bearing witness to the Passion of Christ. High up on the left side of the building stands the bell tower built in 1724 and once inhabited by the Prior. The large lawn at the back still retains the ruins of two of the former seventeen cells for the Hermit Monks, as well as access to a secondary church, a sort of consecrated cellar, used as a refuge during the II World War.



Eremo di Tizzano

### 7 Via Tizzano - viewpoint

Stretch of road with extensive views over the lower Reno valley and the hills planted with vines, home of the Pignoletto DOCG and other typical wines of the "Bolognese hills territory".

### 8 The Gessaroli's path

This path bears the name of the ancient miners (the gessaroli). For centuries they have been extracting and working by hand the chalky mineral deployed for construction purposes within an impervious yet fascinating territory. The trail is about 1 km long and starts from Borgo dei Gessi (where the chalk miners lived) and continues along the area of the chalk outcrops of Monte Rocca, Monte Castello and Monte Capra. The path is interspersed with resting points for visitors equipped with tables and benches, and information boards displaying themes relating to the chalk karst phenomenon and other naturalistic aspects.



Sentiero dei Gessaroli

### 9 San Lorenzo in Collina

The first construction of the parish church of San Lorenzo in Collina dates back to between the 4th and 6th centuries AD, up to the point of administering a large area counting a total of 22 churches in 1300, scattered throughout the territory between the Via Emilia and the high Apennines, bordered by the Lavino stream to the east and the Samoggia to the west. The current simple hut-shaped architecture dates back to 1474, when, following the disappearance of the system of parish churches, San Lorenzo fell into decline with Pope Sixtus IV granting the patronage to the Grassi counts, who preserved the building (together with the presbytery) from the risk of collapse and built a Renaissance cloister. By 1780 it had been modernised in the Baroque style, with the interior frescoes depicting the life of St Lawrence eventually removed.

### 10 Outcrops of Montemaggiore

Large gully basin encrusted into the "Scaly Clays". The aridity, the deformation of the soil and the greying hue of the gullies provide a striking contrast with the verdant woodland and the regularity of the large vineyard winding its way through the neighbouring valley. The path crosses the area of the gullies and allows a suggestive view thereof.



Calanchi di Montemaggiore

### 11 Church of di San Cristoforo

Located in a charming, isolated position in the small hamlet of Montemaggiore, the church of San Cristoforo is a neo-Romanesque reconstruction of the previous church destroyed by the great earthquake of 29 May 1929, whose epicentre was in Montemaggiore itself. The meadow in front of the church is the perfect spot for a break, while offering a magnificent overview of this landscape and its vineyards.



Montemaggiore - Panorama

### 12 Ancient village of Oliveto

The hill of Oliveto, already inhabited since prehistoric times and then occupied by Etruscan and possibly Roman settlers, was originally called Casale Sotorium, later to become Monte Oliveto due to the peculiar vegetation of the area with thousands of olive trees. In 776, the territory of Oliveto was donated by the Lombard dukes of Persiceto and included in the fiefdom of the abbey of Nonantola until the Olivetans became independent in 1131, remaining a free commune for about a century before freely deciding to pass to the commune of Bologna. In 1428, the Olivetans and the Bolognese once again opposed Papal rule, who sent Caldora's mercenary troops to plunder the town and its castle. Only a few traces of the old Oliveto buildings have been preserved: vestiges of the 11th-century castle and the oratory of Santa

Maria delle Grazie (recently restored and already in existence in the year 1000) and the bell tower of the frontless church of San Paolo, home to an altarpiece attributed to the 17th-century Bolognese painter Elisabetta Sirani. However, the most important and best-preserved building is the so-called Cà Grande dell'Ebreo, seat of the Jewish community and the first bank in the area. The walls of this imposing mediaeval complex still bear an old terracotta plaque with a Latin inscription reporting the beginning of the site construction "built in 1410 by Salomon Mathasia". Just at the gateway to the village we find the "Bronzina", a heavily altered late-Medieval building that served as a lodging for the Grandees of Spain in 1527. A legacy of their passage is the Spanish-inspired festival that takes place annually in March, the "Festa della Saracca". The celebration is dedicated to the "Funerale della Saracca", i.e. the funeral of the dried sardine, buried at the foot of a wooden cross to symbolise the end of winter shortages and the beginning of spring.



Oliveto - Cà Grande dell'Ebreo

### 13 Monteveglio's Abbey Regional Park

The Regional Park of the Abbey of Monteveglio was created to safeguard the most evocative part of the Samoggia valley, crowned by the thousand-year-old parish church, the Abbey of Santa Maria di Monteveglio, located in an elevated position within the ancient medieval fortified village. The hilly landscape is characterised by woods, valleys and gullies, alternating with meadows, cultivated fields, vineyards and ancient rural settlements, once belonging to local convents. The protected area includes many treasures of geological and naturalistic interest, well displayed in the Park Centre inside the main building of the rural courtyard of San Teodoro at the foot of the hill, just outside the village of Monteveglio. Moreover, a nature trail accessible to visually impaired and disabled people has been developed in the surrounding area. For many years, the park has been committed to carrying out in-depth environmental education activities in schools with innovative systems and contents. The area, also known for its culinary traditions, is home to the Consorzio Vini dei Colli Bolognesi (Wine Consortium of the Bolognese Hills), set up to promote and safeguard the special qualities of local wines.



Abbazia di Monteveglio

### 14 Abbey and Town of Monteveglio

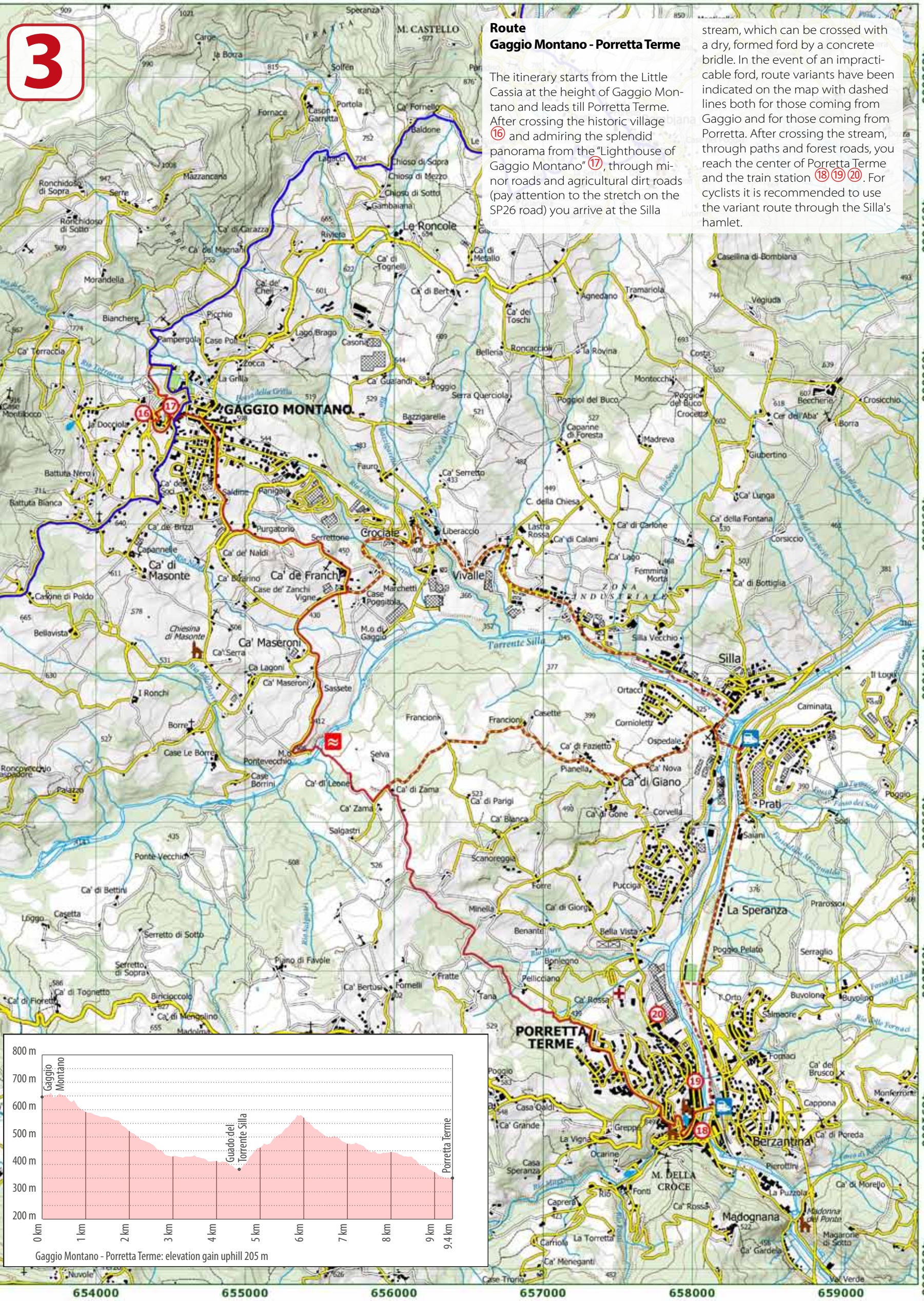
The entrance to the fortified village displays an arched doorway still bearing the lifting loops of the drawbridge. The 14th-century tower on the right side has recently been restored and is now the seat of the Monteveglio Castle Visitor Centre, accessible via a short stretch of the ancient walkway above the walls. Other noteworthy sights inside the village include the historic Casa di San Benedetto, former oratory and seat of the confraternity of Santa Maria delle Rondini, as well as the 17th-century belfry once used to summon the inhabitants. A little further on is the small Oratory of Saints Rocco and Sebastian, erected by the community during the plague of 1631 and restored in the late 19th century. Towards the end of the village we reach the splendid abbey church of Santa Maria di Monteveglio, one of the oldest parish churches in the Bolognese diocese, as demonstrated by the columns in the crypt. The interior consists of a nave and two side aisles, with a raised presbytery overlooking a beautiful crypt with remains of frescoes on the walls. The church's current appearance dates back to the mid-12th century, when the canons regular of San Frediano di Lucca rebuilt the complex in the Romanesque style we see today. After a period of decline, Santa Maria flourished again in 1456 thanks to the Lateran Canons, who carried out various restorations and additions. In 1628 Pope Gregory XV bestowed the title of abbey on the community. The parish and the canons represented a religious, economic and administrative reference point for the park area over many centuries, until the Napoleonic troops took over and the numerous holdings managed by the abbey were dispersed and sold off.

### 15 Castle of Bazzano – archaeological museum

There is some uncertainty about the origins of the present-day Rocca dei Bentivoglio, though they predate the year 1000. Marquis Bonifacio di Canossa (Matilda's father) acquired the castle and the adjoining church of Santo Stefano in emphyteusis from the Bishop of Modena, Guiberto, in 1038. Matilda then inherited the property at the age of nine, but following her death and lack of heirs, the assets would revert to Modena. In 1218 the first walls of the stronghold were built but by 1247 the castle had already been conquered and besieged by the Bolognese (after a first unsuccessful attempt in 1228), who ordered its total demolition. The fortress was then rebuilt between 1296 and 1311 by Azzo VIII d'Este. The present clock tower (once a keep for the entrance gate) dates back to 1317. After 1371 the Marquises of Este also extended the walls of the Rocca, in spite of the current appearance of the building hailing from the Renaissance period, when it was converted into an aristocratic "delizia" for country holidays by Giovanni II Bentivoglio. Of the original late 13th century nucleus, only the tower on the south side and the adjacent wing remain today. The interior includes halls still bearing traces of Renaissance frescoes, such as the Sala dei Giganti, the largest room in the Rocca, architecturally divided by columns with depictions of landscapes, probably of Bazzano and other Bentivoglio lands, interspersed with large armed figures and shields showing the coats of arms of the various families. The adjoining Sala del Camino displays a decorative motif depicting the Bentivoglio arms framed by the Sforza armorial bearings. Today the Rocca is the seat of the Fondazione Rocca dei Bentivoglio and houses the local Music Centre and the "Arsenio Crespellani" Archaeological Museum, with a wealth of artefacts found in the area, from the earliest Mesolithic settlements to the Renaissance. It is also regularly used for public and private events. The cellar bears traces of the original castle foundations and additionally houses a practical information desk providing tips and documentation on the "Città Castellì Cillegi" Wine and Flavours Route. Opposite the Rocca is the Parish Church of Santo Stefano, mentioned as early as 1019, with valuable paintings inside. A large portion of the church and the rectory suffered major devastation during an air raid in 1945 and were rebuilt after the war in a neo-Romanesque style.



Rocca di Bazzano



## FROM GAGGIO MONTANO TO PORRETTA TERME

### 16 Old Town of Gaggio Montan

The municipality of Bologna had a fortress built on the top of the rock towering over the village of Gaggio Montano in the 13th century, the vestiges of which are now only slightly perceptible. Following the Second World War, a very unusual monument, the "Lighthouse" was built in its stead to commemorate the fallen soldiers of the two World Wars. The historic village below, perched around the imposing rock, is still very picturesque and full of fascinating corners. Access to the old town centre takes through the elegant archway of the Capacelli family in the elegant Piazzetta della Rocca, built in 1564 and topped by the family coat of arms depicting a seven-headed dragon and a man's head with a moustache. On the north-eastern side of the rock we find the Church of Saints Michael and Nazario, built in 1892 on the remains of an older nave and a square apse, the only surviving elements of a pre-existing building. Alongside the church is the 15th-century Oratory of St John the Evangelist (or "Santa Maria del Morelli"), remodelled around 1855 and retaining the remains of a large late-Gothic figurative fresco. A scenic Via Crucis connects the church to the cemetery above. Continuing downhill, towards the new part of the village, we find the so-called "Lagazzana" nucleus, with a large vaulted entrance to an internal courtyard overlooked by a 15th-century rusticated portal.

### 17 The "Lighthouse" of Gaggio Montano

The Faro dei Caduti della Montagna is the only mountain lighthouse in Italy and stands as the symbol of Gaggio Montano, with an enchanting view of the surrounding Apennines opening out from its terrace. The Gaggio Lighthouse is a monument dedicated to the fallen soldiers of the two World Wars and was designed by engineer Giuseppe Rinaldi on the Sasso di Rocca, the large ophiolite block on which the ancient fortification stood and around which the town's characteristic historic centre has developed.



Gaggio Montano

### Route Gaggio Montano - Porretta Terme

The itinerary starts from the Little Cassia at the height of Gaggio Montano and leads till Porretta Terme. After crossing the historic village 16 and admiring the splendid panorama from the "Lighthouse of Gaggio Montano" 17, through minor roads and agricultural dirt roads (pay attention to the stretch on the SP26 road) you arrive at the Silla

stream, which can be crossed with a dry, formed ford by a concrete bridle. In the event of an impracticable ford, route variants have been indicated on the map with dashed lines both for those coming from Gaggio and for those coming from Porretta. After crossing the stream, through paths and forest roads, you reach the center of Porretta Terme and the train station 18 19 20. For cyclists it is recommended to use the variant route through the Silla's hamlet.

### 18 Porretta Terme historic centre

The historic centre of Porretta Terme has retained its mediaeval structure and runs along the last stretch of the local torrent, the Rio Maggiore, just before it flows into the River Reno. Porretta owes its renown to the so-called "Terme Alte", an ancient spa complex perched at the top of the town (where the stream emerges from the gorge), consisting of a cluster of fine 19th-century buildings regarded as a major attraction for the Italian upper middle class for a long time. The old town is spread out along the two banks of the stream, among medieval-looking streets and squares, connected by bridges and subways, until reaching Via Matteotti, the heart of the town's life, and finally Piazza della Libertà, home to the 20th-century Town Hall. Slightly away from the centre, on the first slopes of the mountain, we find the parish church of Santa Maria Maddalena with some valuable works of art in its interior. At the end of the square, turning left along Via Mazzini, you will find the Convent of the Capuchin Friars, with its 19th-century church housing one of the most famous mechanical nativity scenes in existence. The 16th-century Sanctuary of the Madonna del Ponte, located just outside the village towards Tuscany, is also worth a visit.

### 19 Porretta Soul Museum

Porretta Terme's city walls are tinged with murals of the great musicians who have visited the city and made Soul music immortal. The alley next to the Sam Cooke mural is home to a museum dedicated to over 30 years of the Music Festival behind Porretta's fame as the European capital of Soul music. The museum's exhibit begins with posters from the first editions and features an extensive photographic and video collection, as well as testimonials, personal items and stage clothes donated by great artists such as Rufus Thomas, Solomon Burke, Bobby Rush and Millie Jackson

### 20 DEMM Museum

DEMM was founded as an engineering company in 1928 but only became publicly known in 1953, when it started manufacturing technologically advanced motorbikes. The DEMM museum was recently created to restore many exceptional models of the old motorbike company to their former glory, with such rare pieces as the famous "torpedo", winner of 24 world records on the Monza circuit in 1956. Don't miss the other sport motorbikes immortalised by DEMM during the Italian mountain championships of 1961, 1962 and 1963, included in this exhibition.