

## Route description

**Start of circuit.** Leave the car in the cemetery car park and walk back to the road SP2; turn right and follow the road for about 200 metres, before taking the dirt road to the left along the ridge.

Keep to the right at the first junction and climb back up the hill, which offers a panoramic view; then start to descend on the opposite side, to reach the Romanesque church of **Santi Nazario e Celso (23)**, standing alone in the countryside.

The building is decorated with alternating bands of sandstone and bricks, while the entrance doorway is quite richly decorated with sculpted stone and bricks in a 'saw tooth' pattern. Inside there is a fragment of a fresco which dates back to the XVth century, showing Santa Caterina d'Alessandria.

At the side of the church there is a large bell tower, also decorated in alternating bands and chequered patterns, with two double pane windows and one single pane window. The most attractive is the double pane window between the second and third band of string course tiling.

The bell tower stands 20 metres high and seems to dominate the whole valley down to the Versa stream: the view ranges from Montiglio, Villedaati and towards the Casale part of Monferrato.

Go back to the previous junction, take the track to the right and walk downhill, between the fields, to the bottom of the valley. At the junction (marked by a shrine), take the track to the left and follow the Asti - Chivasso railway for about 1.3 kms. At this point, the road passes under a railway bridge, continues straight on a smaller track, then slopes gently upwards. At the junction keep to the right, then, at the next, turn the corner (at the sign) for the Romanesque parish church of Piesenzana.

Staying on the dirt track, the church is at a distance of 250 metres (picnic area).

This ancient religious building, standing alone on the hill, is surrounded by what remains of the old cemetery, which was still used until 1890.

Back at the junction, take the left and continue towards Montechiaro, on the tarmac road between the houses, until you get to the little church of San Sebastiano.

Walk towards the town and at the crossroads turn left to visit the Fontana della Rocca (ancient watering place).

Back at the crossroads, go straight on into Via Sant' Antonio, which goes up the hill to the town centre.

Montechiaro d'Asti is a town built on the ridge between the Versa valley and the Rilate valley, with an unmistakable profile, formed by its tall square tower, originating in the middle ages. The town was founded around 1200, when the inhabitants of Cortanze, Mairano, Maresco and Piesenzana joined together to set up a fortified settlement.

Walk back along Via Piesenzana then downhill on the SP2 to Piazza del Mercato; turn left and walk along Via Mairano for 1 km (be careful, outside of the town there is no pedestrian pavement), leading back to the cemetery, the starting point.



Association  
of social promotion

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**The Romanesque Hills Route**  
promotes knowledge and use  
of the romanese heritage of the local  
areas between the river Po  
and Monferrato.

With the collaboration of:



With the support of:

Municipalities and Parishes of Albugnano, Andezeno, Aramengo, Berzano di San Pietro, Brusasco, Buttigliera d'Asti, Casalborgone, Castagneto Po, Castell'Alfero, Castelnuovo don Bosco, Cavagnolo, Cerreto d'Asti, Cocconato, Cortazzone, Lauriano, Marentino, Mombello di Torino, Montafia, Montechiaro d'Asti, Montiglio Monferrato, Portacomaro, San Sebastiano da Po, Tigliole, Tonengo.

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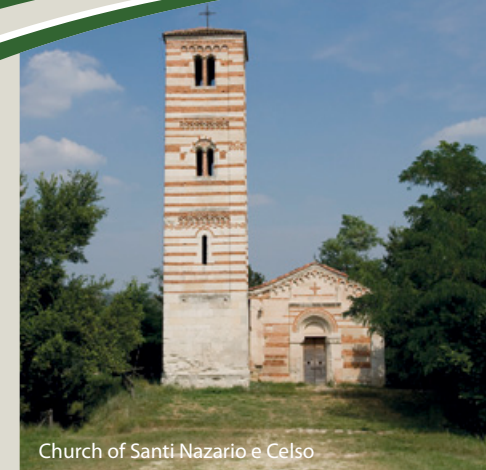
# Romanesque walk

Montechiaro d'Asti

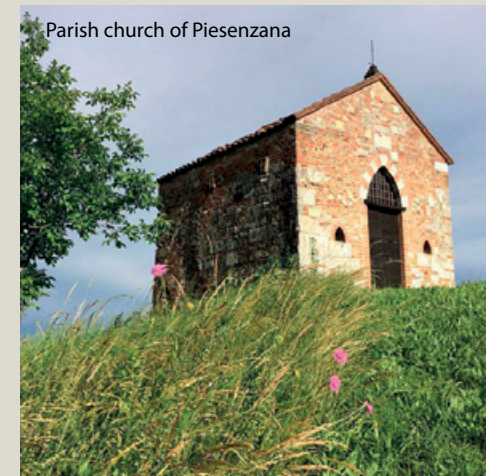
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Municipality of  
Montechiaro d'Asti



Church of Santi Nazario e Celso



Parish church of Piesenzana



Abbeys and churches between  
the river Po and Monferrato





The numbering of the churches  
refers to the  
**General map of the RRC.**

#### Legend

- Asphalted route
- Paths or unpaved roads
- Scenic viewing points
- Starting point
- Asti-Chivasso  
tourist train

Length: 9 km

Time required: 3h

Difficulty: hiker level

0 500 m

Scala: 1:20000

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Upload the **GPX track**  
of this route

