



# Sant'Angelo *in* Colle

MONTALCINO TOSCANA

In the heart of Val d'Orcia



An aerial photograph of a medieval village nestled in the Tuscan hills. The village features numerous stone buildings with terracotta roofs, surrounded by lush green fields and rolling hills in the background. A winding road is visible on the right side of the village.

## Historical notes

### The Etruscan era

The Etruscan civilization is witnessed by various findings in the territory, ranging from the VIII to VII century BC. Until Romanization, the characteristic feature of the territorial organization is the transit of a commercial route from internal cities (Chiusi, Arezzo), to the seaports. The activity of local populations has supposedly provided logistical support and also defence services

### Romans and Longobards (or Lombards)

With the Romanization of the area, the most important change was the beginning of agricultural activity in the countryside with the creation of rural holdings and farms throughout the territory. Particularly remarkable, the finding of an ancient furnace for cooking precious sealed or Arezzo ceramics.

With the end of the Roman Empire, the area has gone through a period of economic crisis and stagnation. In this context, the important thing was the opening of the **Via Francigena** or **Romea** by the Longobards, which - though not crossing these places - lapped them.

The Longobard presence is supported by the same name of the village: Sant'Angelo = San Michele Archangel (who is the protector of the Longobards). There are also findings of early middle age ceramics and, during the laying of the gas pipes, the ground floor of a Longobard shed was discovered.



## **Republic of Siena and Grand Duchy**

This is how it came to 1200. The important fact is now the conquest by the **Republic of Siena** and, with this, the presence of news in the Siena archives. When the Senesi arrived, they found a Castle managed by a Commune, witnessed by the beautiful seals with the effigy of San Michele. For Siena, Sant'Angelo has represented a remarkable strategic border outpost against the threats from Maremma, becoming the seat of a military vicarage over the southern boundaries of the Republic. Another important fact of this period was the establishment of a Grancia (farm) of the Hospital<sup>1</sup>, from which the modern properties have originated since 1500.

After the pestilence of 1348, the decline of the Republic began and also the loss of strategic importance of this area. For a long time, life has taken place without much change. The main road and trade axis, which for centuries has been in the east-west direction, according to Grand Duke Pietro Leopoldo transport policies, has become north-south.

## **The end of sharecropping system and the economy of wine**

The last epochal change was in the 1950-60s: the overcoming of the sharecropping system, with the consequent depopulation of the countryside.

This seemed the beginning of an unstoppable decline. From the 1970s, instead, the high quality wine production has led to a new development cycle, fortunately so far, respectful of the environment and with the ability to add value to it.



## Structure of the town, viewing points and monuments

**Sant'Angelo in Colle** has kept the structure of a medieval fortified castle, as it probably was from the 11th to the 12th century and remained under Siena domination as the seat of an important military garrison of the Republic in the 13th-14th century.

There are two concentric paths: the first - external, with some viewpoints along what remains of the old walls and the second internal along the narrow medieval alleys. Today, there are two main viewpoints:

- Over the valley of the **Ombrone** river and the **Maremma**, to the West, in front of the beautiful castles of **Argiano** and **Poggio alle Mura**, in a succession of **Brunello** vineyards interspersed with forest patches. On clearer days, there is also a glimpse of sea among the hills, in the area of the **Uccellina** park, the top of the **Giglio** island and the mountains of northern **Corsica**. Here are some of the most beautiful sunsets. This site is just in the main square of the village, on the open western side.

- Over the **Val d'Orcia**, to the South, dominated by the majestic **Mount Amiata** (over 1700 meters), towards **Sant'Antimo**, the **Velona**, **Bagno Vignoni**, **San Quirico**, **Castiglion d'Orcia** and **Pienza**. Here there are still Brunello vineyards until the Orcia river, while beyond the Orcia extensive pastures and then the mountain forests appear. This site is at the bottom of via del Paradiso, a narrow street that starts from the main square, at the entrance to the church.

Sunset from  
the town square

The Castels of  
Argiano and Poggio  
alle Mura, from the  
town square

*Silvana Biasutti*  
2019







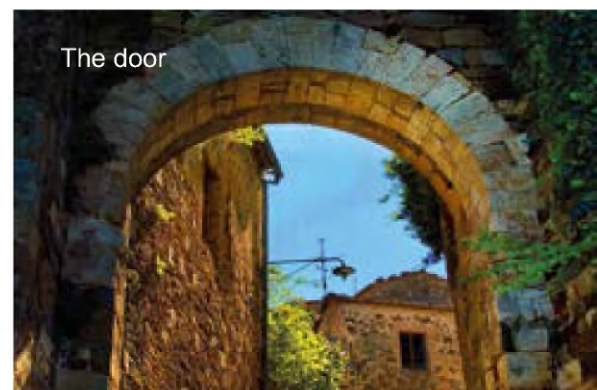
### **Palazzaccio, Watch Tower**

The tower should date back to the 13th century, probably built on an older structure from the Siena power as the stronghold of their new military garrison, sight tower, but also alert to the outside enemies of the southwestern border. With the decline of the Siena domain, the tower loses its function. It is probably broken down and used as a sheepfold in the following centuries, up to the recent restoration and self-management by the community (it is home to the social circle of the village).

Rio Bollag's picture, 2020

### **Access gate to the village on the north-east side**

There are no certain reference dates for this door. Today it remains the only gateway to the old walled centre. It is assumed that there was another door (St. Peter's Gate) on the southern side of the village, as in a 14th century document a door looking toward Montenero was mentioned together with a "Main" door on the opposite side. Probably the latter was the present door.



Simonetta Capecechi's drawing, 2018





## Main church dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel

The church of **San Michele Arcangelo** is located in the main square of the village. The first reference document is dated July 15 1212, when Ildebrandino di Bando, Consul of St. Angelo in Colle swears allegiance to **Siena** in the hands of Ranieri di Montone. Probably the original church was much smaller than today's.

Today, the church is large and linear with a single nave. The facade is in stone. The quadrangular belfry remained unfinished for many years, replaced by a "gable" with two bells. Only in 1950, the current quadrangular tower was built with four bells.

In ancient times the church was to be largely frescoed even if only the remains can be seen. After the entrance door on Via del Paradiso, on the right, we find the Ecstasy of San Carlo Borromeo by Raffaello Vanni (17th century). Immediately after, continuing on the right, there are the remains of a 14th century fresco. which depicts the Madonna enthroned with four saints. Further on, always on the right, we admire San Leonardo, a fresco from the Sienese school of the late 14th century.

The central altar has the ancient stone table facing the people, on the sides of the altar there are two Renaissance wooden figures depicting San Bernardino and Santa Caterina da Siena, which until a few years ago were placed in the **church of San Pietro**. Behind the central altar,







*Our Lady of the Rosary - Rustichino - 17th cent.*

dominates the polychrome wooden Crucifix of Sienese school, probably from the 15th century, restored in the XVIII century. The precious marble tabernacle is dated 1450.

Returning to the exit on the opposite side to the previous one, we find the fresco of the Resurrection of Christ dated 1477. Immediately afterwards, we admire the painting by Francesco Rustichino (Rustichino) "Our Lady of the Rosary", a valuable caravaggesque piece from 17th century of Sienese school. There is also a discreet eighteenth-century copy of Francesco Vanni's Sant'Antonio Abate. In front of it there is the baptismal font, a modern piece of good workmanship in Carrara marble. On the last Sunday of September the feast of San Michele Arcangelo is celebrated during which it is traditional to bless children..

*San Leonardo - Fresco 14th cent.*



*Resurrection - Fresco - 1477*







### Church devoted to the Madonna della Misericordia

The main reason for the construction of this church by the end of the XIX century seems to have been to host the painting (see the picture), Madonna with the Child, which was before in St. Peter's Church. The painting is a precious XIII/XIV century sample of Sienese school, attributed to Ambrogio Lorenzetti. The church is in stone, it has a large door at the entry side. Inside it is very simple with a single nave, the windows are two in the right wall and two in the left one. In the middle of the altar stands the image of the Madonna to which Sant'Angelo people are very devoted. The third Sunday of May is celebrated the **feast of Our Lady**.



### Church dedicated to Saints Peter and Paul

We do not know precisely the date of construction, but we know that Pope Leo X in 1464 granted as a dowry, to the Capitolo della Cattedrale di Montalcino, a church dedicated to **Saint Peter**. Through the documents of a Pastoral Visit of 1744, held by the Bishop of Montalcino, Borgognini, the church appears completely restored. The years go by and the church is abandoned and then re-opened to worshipping in 1960 by the village committee. The facade today has a large door with two windows at its sides. Above the door, a circular window opens. The church has a single aisle with a semi-circular apse containing the sacristy, which is accessed through two doors with oval windows to the right and to the left of the altar. There is a bell gable (see picture) with one bell. Today the church is in a state of abandonment.

*Bell gable of the  
St. Peter Church -  
Rio Bollag 2020*







**B&B:** 1 Borgo Vecchio e Porta vecchia - 2 Il Colombaio - 3 Dimora delle Muse - 4 La Togata - 5 Castel Brunello - 6 Minnie's Cottage / **Restaurants:** 7 Il Cerchio del Vento (pranzo, bar/tabacchi e alimentari) - 8 Il Leccio (ristorante, bar) - 9 Il Pozzo (ristorante) / **Sites:** 10 Il Palazzaccio - 11 Chiesa di San Michele - 12 Chiesa della Madonna - 13 Chiesa di San Pietro - 14 Porta Vecchia - 15 vista Amiata/Val d'Orcia - 16 Maremma/tramonto - 17 PARKING

### Wineries in the area



ADesso c'è solo BOSCAGLIA E VIGNETI. QUASI UNA MONOCULTURA...



# MAP OF THE PATHWAYS To run, walk, bike

SANT'ANGELO

IN COLLE

STRADA

IL PODERE

DEI NERI

LE CETINE

In the following downloadable maps, there are three pathways starting from Sant'Angelo in Colle, of which one has two alternative routes. One additional pathway goes from Montalcino to Sant'Antimo, with two alternative routes as well.

## PATHWAYS FROM SANT'ANGELO IN COLLE

### Sant'Angelo in Colle: Tour of the sources

1 Cimitero, 2 Podere Patrizio (strada alternativa), 3 Fabbrica, 4 Infernino, 5 Ficaoli, 6 Montiano, 7 Fonte Fienile, 8 Bozzolino, 9 quercia monumentale, 10 Podere Giardino, 11 Fonte Lontano.

### • Sant'Angelo in Colle - Colombaio - Cassero Cetine - Strada di Sesta

1 Colombaio, 2 Infernino, 3 Fosso Uccellia, 4a Bivio Cetine/Cassero, 5/a Fosso, 6/a Lago di Terrarossa, 7/a Strada di Sesta.

4b Cetine, 5/b Cancellini, 6/b Quercioni della Piana (querce monumentali), 7/b Piana, 8/b Campovernino, 9/b Piancorrello, 10/b Terrarossa (6a), 11/b Strada di Sesta (7a)

### • Sant'Angelo in Colle - Ragnaie - Montalcino

1 Cimitero, 2 Ponticino, 3 Strada degli Orti, 4 FonteRenza, 5 Fosso del Tracolle, 6 Podere Capanna, 7 Santa Restituta, 8 Villa Castelli, 9 Madre, 10 Cappuccini, 11 Ragnaie.

### • Montalcino - Ragnaie - Villa a Tolli o Ventolaio - Sant'Antimo

1 Montalcino, 2 Lume spento (sito archeologico), 3 Podere il Cocco, 4a Podere la Màgia, 6 Sant'Antimo.

1 Montalcino, 2 Lume spento (sito archeologico), 3 Podere il Cocco, 4b Casisano, 5b Ventolaio, 6 Sant'Antimo

### Circuiti Treno Natura (TN) from the Railway Stations of Monte Amiata Scalo and Sant'Angelo/Cinigiano

## WARNINGS

Dear Visitors, we propose you these routes to let you know a bit about Montalcino landscape: there is the renowned wine, but also olive groves, woods, white streets, old farmhouses, springs, and other great and little wonders. **Our journey** starts from Sant'Angelo in Colle and our love for the site suggests to remind us that the landscape is made by men - as well as by the natural beauties - so please take care of it. We ask you to respect the private properties you will pass through along the paths, in particular to close the gates that protect the properties from hoofed animals. Another sign of respect regards your car: please park it so that it does not disturb the beauty of the landscape (use the large Parking area at the beginning of the old town, or other ad hoc places).

WARNING! THESE ROUTES ARE NOT MANAGED BY THE MUNICIPALITY AND ARE NOT SUBJECT TO REGULAR MAINTENANCE. WALK AND BIKE WITH THE NECESSARY CAUTION AND REPORT ANY POSSIBLE OBSTRUCTION OR OTHER PROBLEMS TO ANY BUSINESSES IN THE TOWN.

DOWNLOAD THE FILES OF THE PATHS IN DIFFERENT FORMATS (GOOGLE EARTH, GARMIN, MAPS)

<http://www.santangeloincolle.com/sentieri-trekking.htm>

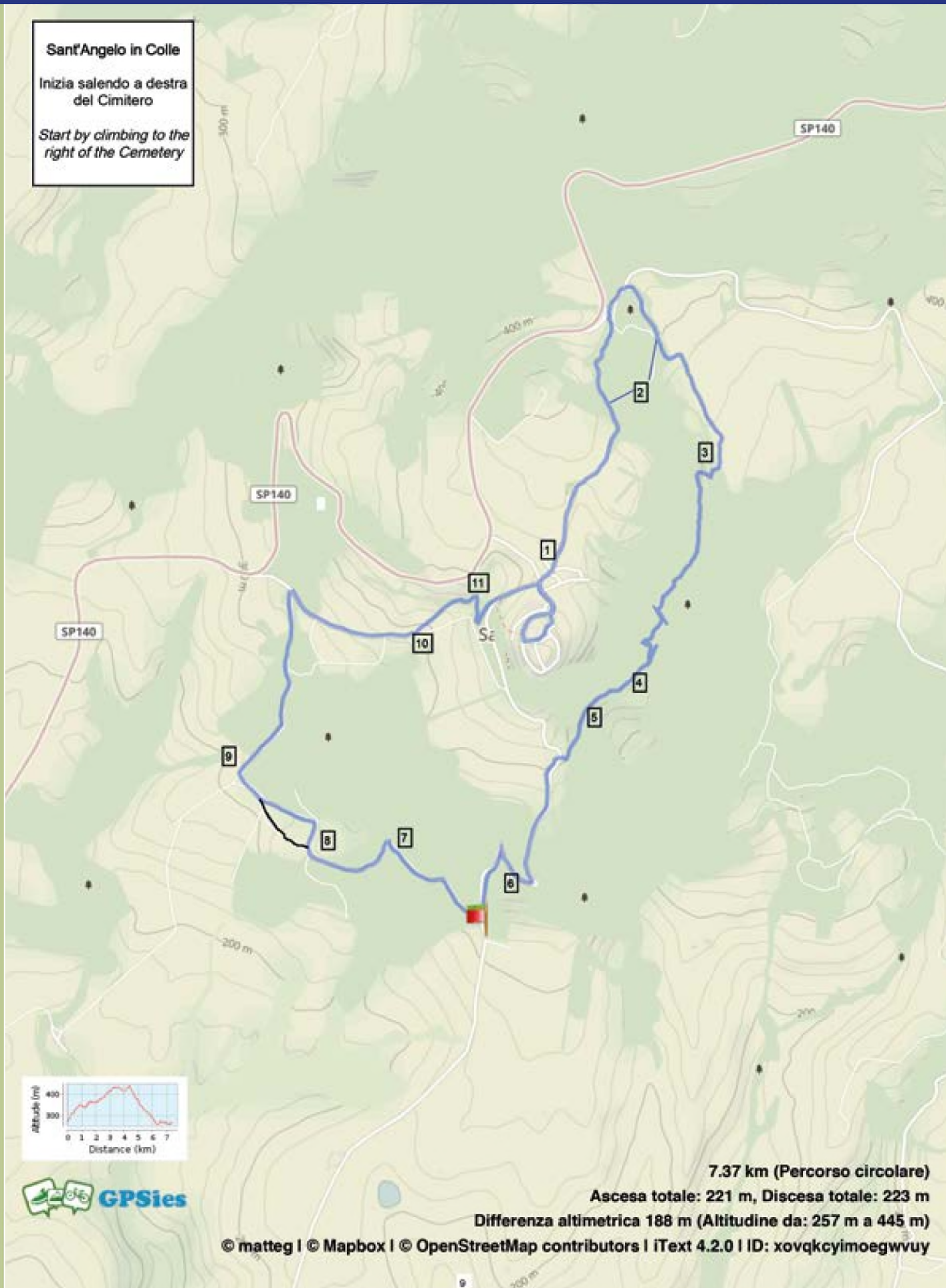


# Sant'Angelo in Colle - Tour of the sources

## Sant'Angelo in Colle

Inizia salendo a destra  
del Cimitero

*Start by climbing to the  
right of the Cemetery*





# Sant'Angelo • Sesta • Piani

Sant'Angelo in Colle

Inizia salendo tra il  
Colombaio e la Cantina  
La Togata

*Start by climbing  
between the Colombaio  
and La Togata*



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13.15 km (Percorso circolare)

Ascesa totale: 407 m, Discesa totale: 407 m

Differenza altimetrica 323 m (Altitudine da: 122 m a 445 m)



# Sant'Angelo • Santa Restituta • Montalcino

## Sant'Angelo in Colle - Montalcino

Inizia salendo alla destra del Cimitero

Start climbing to the right of the Cemetery



12.49 km (Percorso in un'unica direzione)  
Ascesa totale: 334 m, Discesa totale: 442 m  
Differenza altimetrica 331 m (Altitudine da: 286 m a 617 m)  
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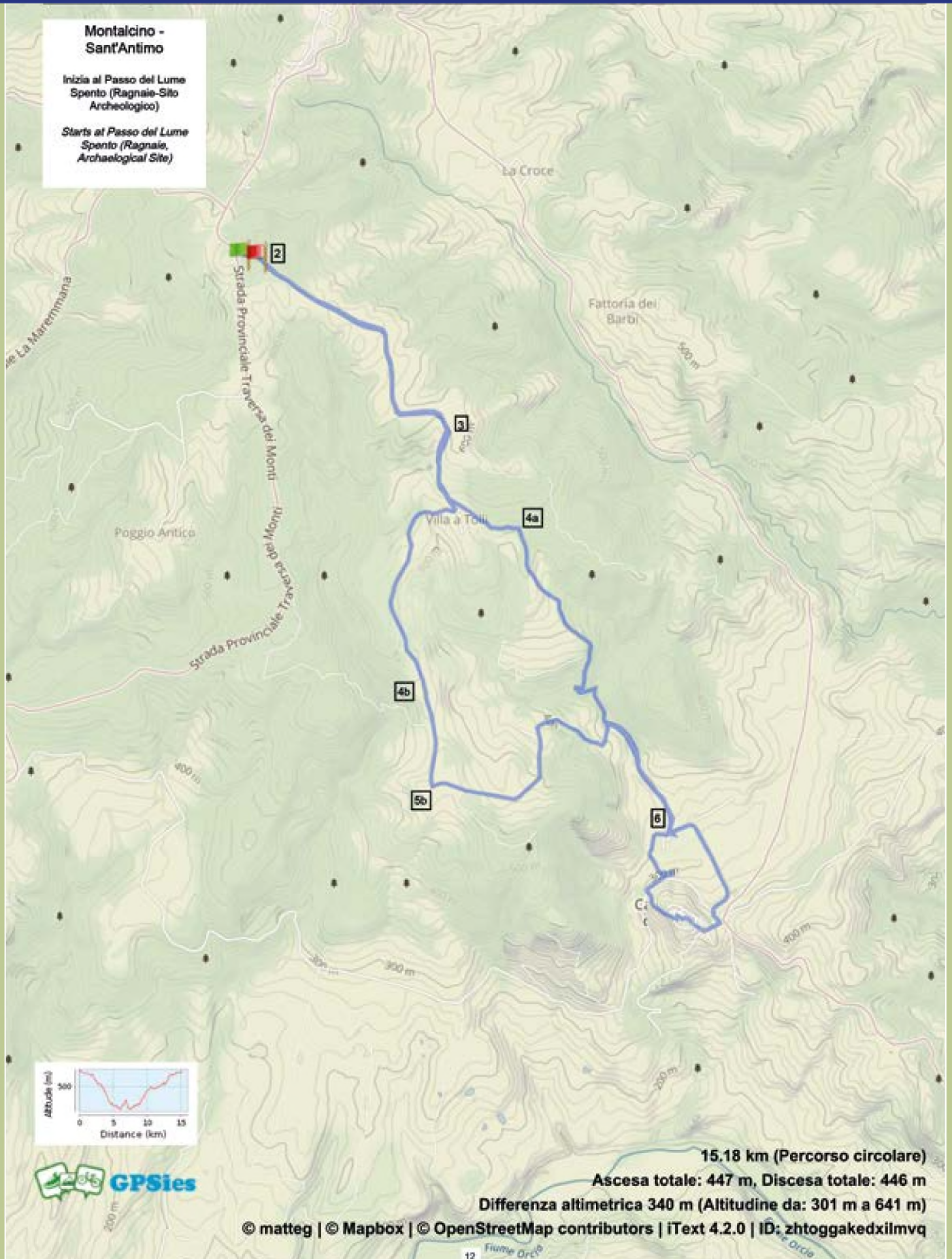


# Montalcino • Castelnuovo dell'Abate

## Montalcino - Sant'Antimo

Inizia al Passo del Lume Spento (Ragnaia-Sito Archeologico)

Starts at Passo del Lume Spento (Ragnaia, Archaeological Site)



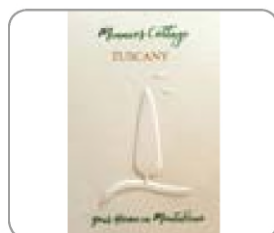
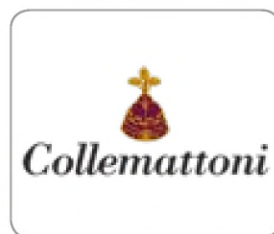
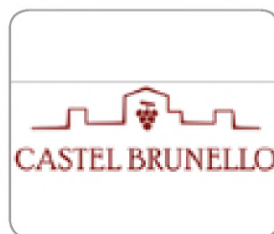
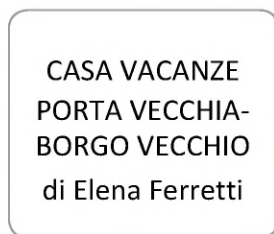
15.18 km (Percorso circolare)

Ascesa totale: 447 m, Discesa totale: 446 m

Differenza altimetrica 340 m (Altitudine da: 301 m a 641 m)

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*Photos: Bruno Bruchi*