



The Colceresa route is an itinerary of about 12 km that winds among the hills of Pianezze, Molvena and Mason. It was created with the intention of emphasizing their extraordinary environmental, historical and artistic heritage. It develops on a medium high hilly ridge; it rediscovers ancient paths that cut through meadows, woods and old “contrade” (hilly hamlets) in different directions, allowing the visitor to experience an intimate and captivating relationship with nature.

The route, which can be travelled in about five hours by any hiker, is particularly recommended to groups of friends and families who love spending a day out in the open. It is also recommended to sportsmen and runners who are looking for an alternative route where to train in the stillness of nature (maximum travel time, three hours).

The most significant points are equipped with illustrative panels that allow the visitor to gain deeper knowledge on flowers, herbs and plants, interesting rock formations, canals and streams, hammers and mills and to learn the story of mule tracks, ancient “contrade”, churches and oratories, villas and palaces.

It is advisable to start from the square in the centre of Pianezze, where visitors can leave their cars in the nearby car park.

## NATURALISTIC DESCRIPTION

Along the Colceresa route you can observe the various characteristics of the territory: basaltic and volcanic rock outcrops, sandstone and limestone sedimentary rocks and tuff stone sedimentary rocks; terracings of the sloping terrain, known as “masière”, i.e. dry-stone walls, built with local rocks; hollows that have been cut and carved by brooks. The hydrography of the territory is pretty rich: rivulets, streams, brooks, springs canalized and organized by man in the course of centuries, in order to favour the irrigation, to improve the soil conditions and to exploit the potential force of water. In the area of Oldelle, a “contrada” of Pianezze, runlets run down the small valleys and merge into the “rosa dea vale” (canal of the valley) and then into an unspecified rivulet, “rium”. In Val Grande and Val del Costo the land and the rock is deeply carved by streams. On the border between Molvena and Mason, Laverda creek, certainly the longest, the most complex and water-rich waterway, flows into the Angarana canal, used to irrigate and to make mills, hammers and sawmills work. Along the way you often see meadows, gardens, vineyards, olive groves, cherry orchards and many other fruit-bearing trees, inserted in a rather unique hilly environment that offers various areas of remarkable naturalistic interest. The paths

that go through Val Grande at Pianezze, le Spironche, le Strambane, la Tisa, il Mascarellotti, la Piana dei Micheletto and la Strada (road) della Mariana at Molvena, il Bosco (wood) dei Lanaro and la Stradona at Mason are particularly suggestive. The woodland vegetation mainly consists of tall trees, as the invasive Black Locusts, the numerous white Hornbeams, the large Chestnut trees whose traces sometimes remain in the stumps; the Elms, Manna Ashes, Maples, Hackberries that, with their roots grounded in the rocks, create twisted tangles; the big Alders, characteristic of humid areas and even some majestic Oak trees, Poplars, Plane trees, Mulberries and Willows. There is also a rich underbrush made up of extensive brushes of Butcher’s broom and thorns, of many ferns belonging to various species, of moss carpets and horsetails, of various coloured lichens that cover the rocks and thriving ivy that often grows up the tree trunks. The meadows, mainly cultivated with gramineae and clover and regularly mowed, supply highly nutritious forage.



The quietest areas, far away from residential zones, are populated by Foxes, Badgers, Hedgehogs, Martens, Stone Martens, Weasels, Dormice, Hares and Roes; Squirrels jump from one branch to the other and couples of Pheasants hide in the tall grass of the meadows. There are also many birds that live and nest on the trees, where the wood is thicker: the Blackbird, the Thrush, the Great Tit, the Chaffinch, the Robin Redbreast and the Raven. In the numerous streams live fish such as “Marsoni”, Shrimps, “Squaleti”, Trouts and amphibians such as Frogs, Toads, Salamanders and Newts. Among the reptiles you can often see Blindworms, “Ande” and “Carbonassi”.

**Information:** [www.percorsocolceresa.it](http://www.percorsocolceresa.it)

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