

Agricultural landscape

Forest, flora and fauna

Rivers and Streams

Villages, villas, parish churches  
and castles

## Castelnuovo and the medieval bridges



View the interactive map:  
<https://maps.valdicecinaoutdoor.it/>

Map data:  
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Type: Hiking, On Horseback | Difficulty: T | ↗ 290 m | ↘ 215 m | ↔ 6 km

Località di partenza e arrivo: -

From the picturesque medieval village of Castelnuovo, which descends steeply in a maze of narrow streets and stairways, you rise again only to find yourself into chestnut groves, many of which are still fully operational and produce highly prized “marroni” chestnuts.

Paths and easy lanes lead to the bottom of the valley of the Pavone stream, where the landscape is gentle, green and bright and open to the amazing view of Castelnuovo standing above.

Descending a little further, you will start to smell the aroma and feel the dampness of the river and then you will hear it gurgling not far away until at last you will see the spectacular archway, which for centuries has towered over the watercourse.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to climb on it, due to the collapse of the embankments, but the view, wading through the cool waters of the stream, is enough to imbue you with the charming power of history. The surprises are not over: after a while, downstream, another bridge can be glimpsed, this time lower and wider, crossing the whole floodplain with many minor arches, to support an aqueduct transport system, proof of the many precious uses of water and the daring hydraulic engineering of ancient times.

## Points of interest

# Valdicecina - OUTDOOR -

### 1. Start and end of the route - Castelnuovo and the medieval bridges

Start-End



### 2. Viewpoint: Castelnuovo and geothermal power plant

Viewpoint

The medieval village and the geothermal power plant from the chestnut groves below



### 3. Old mill, rural architecture

Historical-cultural feature

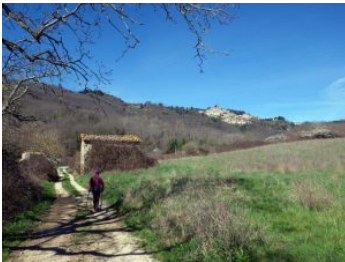
Old mill (Il Mulinaccio) along a tributary of the Pavone stream. In the past, mills were very common in this area, especially for the production of chestnut flour.



### 4. Defizio Bridge

Historical-cultural feature

Medieval bridge located near an ancient building (Defizio) first used for vitriol or alum processing and later as a mill. It has a single arch and is currently not passable. Read more...



### 5. Old farmhouse with view

Silvicultural aspects, Agricultural landscape

An old farmhouse along the road characterises the agricultural landscape and offers a suggestive view of the medieval village of Castelnuovo.



### 6. Viewpoint: towards Pavone Valley and Castelnuovo

Viewpoint

Wide panorama towards the Pavone Valley countryside, the medieval village and the geothermal power plant



### **7. Chestnut grove** Silvicultural aspects, Agricultural landscape

Cultivated chestnut grove (marroneto). Since the Middle Ages, chestnut cultivation has been of fundamental importance to the subsistence economy of this area; after years of neglect, chestnut groves are now being tended again.



### **8. Historic centre of Castelnuovo** Historical-cultural feature

Medieval village with a perfectly preserved urban layout and a particularly impressive typical cluster structure. Walking through the narrow streets of the village is a real dip into the Middle Ages. Read more...