



Giro d'Italia Alpe Segletta



The year was 1992, when the 75th Giro d'Italia, which counted champions such as Indurain, Chioccioli, Chiappucci, and Fignon, brought to the fore one of the climbs hitherto unknown to most: the **Alpe Segletta**, a climb of 8 km and 500 meters with an average gradient of 9%.

For the record, on Friday, June 12, two crowd wings applauded El Diablo (born Claudio Chiappucci), who was first at the top of the hill at the junction between Piancavallo and Manegra. Four arrived at the finish line in Verbania, Indurain, Chiappucci, Lelli, and Chioccioli, with the sprint victory going to the latter and the great Navarro in the pink jersey until the end of the race. Returning to the present day, the memory of these great champions has remained, while Alpe Segletta is always there to attract the many passionate climbers on two wheels.

Our journey starts and ends at a more recent novelty: the parking lot of the **teatro il Maggiore**, which opened on June 12, 2016, based on an idea by Madrid-based architect Salvador Pérez Arroyo.

Skirting the San Bernardino Creek along its right bank, we first reach Renco and then the Trobaso traffic circle, from which we continue straight uphill to Cambiasca.

From Cambiasca, where it meets Intra's other stream, the San Giovanni, take a right to the Intrasca Valley.

The first stretch up to **Ramello** is practically flat; once you get near the small town, you begin to climb. But it is only a tiny appetizer; you still have a chance to catch your breath before facing the actual climb.

Arriving first at the **Nivia bridge**, at the Intragna-Aurano junction, where you take a right, then at **the Giavina and Laura bridges**, you immediately realize that the music changes with a succession of hairpin bends, narrow and blind, and an average gradient that steadily moves into the double digits.

Thus, you arrive at **Aurano** with a bit of a struggle, but overall, within more than acceptable levels. Time to refill your water bottle at the fountain in the center of the village, and you continue on to one of the most challenging sections of the entire climb, the one that leads from the end of the town of Aurano to Alpe Segletta (**Via Giulio Pastore**), with a couple of points (near the road sign with the name of the village and before the exit of the woods in the **Gabbiana locality**) where the maximum gradient is 18%.

The passage from Alpe Segletta (also known for the **Lake Maggiore ZIPLine**) is smooth, with an average gradient of around 9%. The GPS returns to double digits for the next section until the junction to Piancavallo-Manegra, with the first section characterized by a series of hairpin bends among a birch forest (a pioneer plant there, where there used to be pasture) until the foot of **Monte Croce d'Oro**. Here, you may catch your breath, refresh, and enjoy some of the beautiful surrounding scenery before tackling the last asperity, halfway up, with a view of the lake, Montorfano, and the alpine chain on the right, where you always pedal between 10-12% gradient. Fatigue ends at the **junction of Via Giulio Pastore and SP 56 Premeno-Colle**: left to **Piancavallo** and its renowned **Auxologico center**, right to **Manegra**, where our route takes us. Before heading down the broad road to the valley floor, enjoying the beautiful view of Lake Maggiore near the parking lot or from the promontory to its right is worthwhile.

The descent to Manegra is fast and facilitated by an extensive roadway. However, to avoid any possible risk, it is best to always keep your speed under control.

Having reached the end of the beautiful descent and passed the small town, you return to climb towards **Pian del Sole**; it is the last climb of the day, just over 2.5 km, with highs of 9%.

Once at the "sunny" hamlet of Premeno, it is all downhill to Verbania, passing through **Premeno**, **Pian Nava**, **Bée**, **Vignone**, **Arizzano**, and **Zoverallo**. When you reach **Intra** you cross over the San Giovanni stream and at the traffic circle continue straight on **Via XXIV Maggio** towards the San Bernardino stream. At the traffic circle, turn left onto **Via Brigata Martiri Valgrande**, and at the **Sant'Anna bridge**, cross over to the other bank. At the traffic circle past the bridge, continue left onto **Via Olanda**, and from the road underpass, you reach the square of the Maggiore.

TECHNICAL ASPECTS

It is one of the most coveted climbs for hikers because of its roughness and the striking environment in which it is pedaled.

The predominant element is water: from Lake Maggiore, you ascend along the two streams that, over the centuries, have given birth to Intra, so called because it arose at the mouth of the two streams that come from the two beautiful valleys that are part of the Val Grande National Park.

A 50/28 is recommended as the speed.

CRITICAL POINTS

1. Tight, blind hairpin bends from Laura Bridge to Aurano.
2. Two sections, with the most significant roughness, between Aurano and Alpe Segletta.

TECHNICAL DATA

Relevant geographical area:	Verbano / Valle Intrasca / Alto Verbano
Place of departure and arrival:	Teatro Il Maggiore in Intra
Number of legs:	1
Length:	42.9 km
Height difference	1029 m
Total ascent:	1196 m indicative
Total descent:	1195 m indicative
Difficulty:	MEDIUM
Average duration:	4 hours 30 minutes
Minimum elevation:	195 m.a.s.l.
Highest altitude reached:	1224 m.a.s.l.
Degree of cyclability:	total
Recommended period:	April-October
Presence of dedicated signage:	no
Target audience:	amateur cyclist/cyclo-hiker

VANTAGE POINTS

Piancavallo-Manegra junction, Monte Croce d'Oro.

EATERIES

Cambiasca, Aurano, Alpe Segletta, Piancavallo, Premeno.

INFO POINTS

VERBANIA INTRA - Piazza Ranzoni 40 - 28921 Verbania Intra (VB), Tel. +39 0323 503249/+39 0323 556669, turismo@comune.verbania.it

VERBANIA PALLANZA - Viale delle Magnolie 1 - 28922 Verbania Pallanza (VB), Tel. +39 0323 557676, proloco@comune.verbania.it

BIKE SERVICE

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Ebike Lago Maggiore (Inside Space), **Rental**, Via 42 Martiri, 165 (FS Station production area) - 28924 VERBANIA FONDOTOCE (VB), Tel. +39 351 9115572 / +39 339 6741662, info@ebikelagomaggiore.com, www.ebikelagomaggiore.it/

CHARGING STATIONS

Corso Mameli, Imbarcadero vecchio - 28921 VERBANIA INTRA (VB)

Località Alpe Segletta - 28812 AURANO (VB)

La Genzianella Restaurant, Corso Italia, 2 - 28818 PREMENO (VB)

PLACES OF INTEREST

Along the route

San Giovanni and San Bernardino streams, variants to various villages in the Intrasca valley (Caprezzo, Intragna, Scareno), Zip Line Lake Maggiore (from Pian d'Ala to the "Batua" of Alpe Segletta)

Nearby

VERBANIA

Landscape Museum, Casa della Resistenza - Itinerari partigiani, Museum of Popular Religiousness, House of Water, Teatro Il Maggiore, Lake Maggiore Nature Reserve.

CAMBIASCA

Cobianchi irrigation ditch and power plant fed by the waters of the San Giovanni stream, Monscenù Oratory, San Rocco Church.

AURANO

Oratory of Our Lady of the Rosary, Parish Church of St. Matthew, Lake Maggiore Zipline, Verbano Cadorna Line, Pian Vadà Refuge.

PREMENO

Oratory of San Salvatore 16th century, Villa Bernocchi, G. Garibaldi passage monument.

BÉE

Centuries-old chestnut tree in Barozzi Square and colossal sequoia inside Villa Wuhrer in Bée, Painting of the Divine Shepherdess 18th century, Church Nativity of Mary 16th century, Chapel of the Sciuvlino in Roncaccio 14th - 15th century.

VIGNONE

San Martino monumental complex 16th century, Ca' dei Muli, the village of Filippo Ganna.

ARIZZANO

Parish Church of San Bernardo 17th century, monumental mosaic in the square of the former town hall.