



Giro d'Italia San Domenico



The climb made famous by women cyclists

Thanks to the stage finish in no less than 4 editions of the **women's Giro d'Italia** (2013, 2014, 2015 and 2019), this climb has risen to international headlines.

Big credit also goes to **San Domenico Ski**, which, thanks to substantial investment, attracts thousands of ski enthusiasts in the winter season and bike and mtb enthusiasts in the summer.

San Domenico, thanks in part to the nearby Simplon Pass (at an elevation of 2005 m.a.s.l.) and its excellent hotel infrastructure, has for the past few years become a coveted training site for some of the world's top professional cyclists.

Between Domodossola and Varzo there is the first section up to the **Napoleonic bridge** at **Crevaladossola** and leading to the **junction** between the **Divedro Valley** and the **Antigorio Valley**: difficult, but not prohibitive. The same is true from the exit of the old SS 33 until the arrival in **Varzo**.

The real climb, however, is the one starting from the Divedro Valley capital, which should not be underestimated, despite the fact that the elevation gain appears to be not excessive.

The first challenging section is encountered at the entrance to **Val Cairasca** (particularly hard is the ramp before **Maulone**, with peaks over 12 percent). Then, at the junction to Trasquera, you can rest a bit. The last 4 kilometers, characterized by a series of 5 hairpin bends, are challenging but fairly even, with average gradients around 9% and peaks of 11-12%.

The road is rather narrow and has a dozen hairpin bends.

The descent requires caution especially on weekends due to heavy traffic.

The southern exposure can create some problems during the hottest hours of the day (especially in the first 3-4 kilometers).

At **San Domenico** there is a wide view of the head of the valley and the steep drop leading to Alpe Veglia.

Alpe Veglia (1758 m), reached from San Domenico by a dirt road, is one of the most interesting naturalistic areas in the Piedmont Alps. It is an alpine basin of beautiful pastures and larch forests, overlooked by the majestic peak of **Monte Leone** (3559 m.a.s.l.).

TECHNICAL ASPECTS

The real climb starts in Varzo and climbs about 13 km with an average gradient around 8%.

CRITICAL POINTS

Most challenging section in Maulone locality with peaks around 16%.

Descent to be approached with caution due to narrow and somewhat busy road on weekends.

TECHNICAL DATA.

Relevant geographical area:	Ossola
Place of departure:	Domodossola Railway Station
Place of arrival:	San Domenico
Number of legs:	1
Length:	23.8 km
Height difference:	1144 m
Total ascent:	1150 m indicative
Total descent:	10 m indicative
Difficulty:	MEDIUM
Average duration:	3 hours
Minimum altitude:	273 m.a.s.l.
Highest altitude reached:	1417 m.a.s.l.
Degree of cyclability:	total
Recommended period:	May-October
Presence of dedicated signage:	no
Target audience:	bikers

VANTAGE POINTS

Aaa

EATERIES

Domodossola, Varzo, and San Domenico.

TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICES

DOMODOSSOLA - Piazza Matteotti c/o Bus Terminal - 28845 Domodossola (VB) - +39 0324 248265 - infopoint@visitossola.it

BIKE SERVICE

BikeMotion, **Sale-Shop-Hire**, Corso Colonnello Attilio Moneta, 57 - 28845 DOMODOSSOLA (VB) Tel. +39 349 2562899 info@bikemotionshop.com - www.bikemotionshop.com/

Ciclomania Barale, **Sale-Shop-Hire**, Via Papa Giovanni XXIII, 64 - 28845 DOMODOSSOLA (VB), Tel. +39 0324 241203, Info@ciclomania.com, www.ciclomania.com/home.html

Il Ciclista di Calvetti Fabio & Brusco Stefano, **Sale-Shop-Hire**, Corso, Via Ferdinando Disegna, 10 - 28845 DOMODOSSOLA (VB), Tel. +39 0324 227400, ilciclista.snc@tiscali.it, www.ilciclista.com/

San Domenico Ski, **Rental**, locality San Domenico - 28868 VARZO (VB), Tel. +39 0324 780868, www.sandomenicoski.com

CHARGING STATIONS

E-bike Charge, at Bar Centro, Piazza della Torre - 28868 VARZO (VB)

San Domenico Ski, San Domenico locality - 28868 VARZO (VB), Tel. +39 0324 780868, www.sandomenicoski.com

PLACES OF INTEREST

Along the route

Napoleonic bridge in Crevoladossola, medieval tower, Roman bridge over the Diveria, and archaeological museum in Varzo.

Nearby

DOMODOSSOLA

Civic Museum of Natural Sciences "G.G. Galletti," Mattarella Hill Archaeological Museum, "Mellerio Rosmini" Museum of Natural Sciences, Civic Museum of Palazzo San Francesco, Civic Museum Sempioniano, Civic Museum Palazzo Silva, Sacro Monte Calvario Special Reserve.

CREVOLADOSSOLA

Historical Art Museum, Museum of Sacred Architecture.

VARZO

Archaeomuseo Multimediale del Parco Veglia Devero, medieval tower 14th cent., Roman bridge (rebuilt in 1300) over the Diveria, several Oratories dating from the 16th-17th cent., Archaeological Museum.