



Giro d'Italia Monte Ologno



From Lake Maggiore to the foot of Monte Ologno, where the 18th Melide-Verbania stage of the **98th** professional **Giro d'Italia** passed through in 2015, the climb is considered to be of the first category with its average gradient of 9% over 10 km. On the ramps to Monte Ologno, **Alberto Contador** (Giro pink jersey) attacked his closest pursuers (Landa and Aru), inflicting a 1'10" gap on them. The stage was won by **Philippe Gilbert**, who arrived solo at the finish line in Pallanza.

To tackle another beautiful climb made famous by the passage of the 2015 Giro d'Italia, you start from the right bank of the **San Bernardino** Creek, precisely from the parking lot in front of the Multifunctional Event Center "**il Maggiore**" in **Intra**.

After the bridge, you descend onto the traffic circle in front of Palazzo Flaim, the seat of the Verbania City Council. Continue on Lungolago Felice Cavallotti promenade in Intra, before the historic pier, until you cross the **San Giovanni** (hence the toponym "Intra": between two streams). From here on, pedal close to **Lake Maggiore**, with consistently mild weather favouring winter rides. The towns touched before reaching the start of the actual climb are **Ghiffa** and **Oggebbio**, with a variation in gradient (in the 3-4% range) between Oggebbio and **Cannero**.

Once in Cannero, near the bus stop, the start of the climb to **Trarego Viggiona** is on the left. It has a sharp curve and a gradient of more than 12%.

In this first 500 m, there is a peak of 13% gradient. Fear not, for the good stuff is yet to come! After about 1.3 km, those who have haughtily snubbed the 39/26 will regret not having the 28. But cheer up! Those still have some strength left to look around can enjoy enchanting views of Lake Maggiore, from the lake inlet below to the famous "**Castles of Cannero or the Malpaga**." Scenic digressions aside, the climb continues, passing through the many "**contrade**" that characterized Trarego Viggiona as a "**tourist municipality**."

The gradients fluctuate around 12% with peaks of 14%, then stabilize at around 9% until the junction for Alpe Colle in the locality of **Cheglio**, a real crossroads with a map board. From here, you turn right in Colle's direction.

The first kilometre is the most challenging, with the gradient reaching up to 16%. In its favour is that it runs in a tree-lined tunnel and is a great comfort on certain scorching summer days.

The actual switchbacks are a dozen, steadily climbing around 9-10%. So up to the "Grotto Monte Carza" (included in the "**Wonderwood**" park, located on the left, in a small clearing, complete with an artificial pond and an adventure park for under 14s and beyond), where the road flattens

out for a few hundred meters, then starts climbing again in a decidedly less claustrophobic and increasingly scenic area.

A few hundred meters from the top of the climb is a fountain dedicated to Mario Pedroni. The top of the hill takes place at the spot that gives the climb its name: **Monte Ologno**, complete with a sign commemorating the historic passage of the **Giro d'Italia**. For the record, it was the **98th edition**, 18th stage Melide (CH)-Verbania, held on Thursday, **May 28, 2015**, with **Philippe Gilbert** winning the stage and **Alberto Contador** winning that year's Giro.

From here, you descend for a little more than a mile to the crossroads of **Sant'Eurosia**, then climb again in Colle's direction. You struggle for a few more minutes before reaching, along a level stretch, the **Linea Cadorna of Verbano** crossroads.

At **Colle**, there is another fountain with consistently fresh water. You then continue on the left in the direction of **Piancavallo**. It is 2 1/2 km with not too steep gradients between 4% and 7%. Monte Rosa makes a unique backdrop for souvenir photos on certain days with clear skies.

The climb ends at an altitude of 1302 m. Then it descends back to **Piancavallo**, with its **Istituto Auxologico Italiano**, with patients from all over Italy, and a good refreshment stop at **La Baita Restaurant**.

Now it's all downhill, almost downhill.

The descent on **Manegra** has an extensive roadway and curves, where considerable speeds are reached; since there is no shortage of traffic, caution is recommended.

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 over the top, it is all downhill until Verbania. One transit place **Premeno, Pian Nava, Bée, Vignone, Arizzano, and Zoverallo**.

On reaching **Intra**, you pass over the San Giovanni Creek and, at the traffic circle, continue straight on **Via XXIV Maggio** towards the San Bernardino Creek. You then take **Via Brigata Martiri Valgrande** and, at the **Sant'Anna bridge**, cross over to the other bank, complete with a traffic circle from which you exit onto **Via Olanda** and come to a close at the Piazzale del Maggiore.

TECHNICAL ASPECTS

Loop tour between lake and mid-mountain.

The Cannero-Monte Ologno- Piancavallo is a challenging climb, but it is also rich in satisfaction because of the environment and the views it offers.

A 36/28 is recommended--and a few more.

CRITICAL POINTS.

1. The hardest part is from Cheglio to Mount Carza: 2 kilometres with slopes consistently above double digits.
2. Swift descent from Piancavallo to Manegra: be careful not to overdo it!

TECHNICAL DATA.

Relevant geographical area:	Verbano / Alto Verbano
Place of departure and arrival:	Parking Il Maggiore in Intra
Number of legs:	1
Length:	52.5 km
Height difference:	1029 m
Total ascent:	1195 m indicative
Total descent:	1195 m indicative
Difficulty:	MEDIUM
Average duration:	4 hours 30 minutes
Minimum altitude:	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:	cyclist

VANTAGE POINTS

Exit from Cannero Riviera and Monte Ologno.

EATERIES

Cannero, Trarego Viggiona, Grotto Monte Carza, La Baita Restaurant in Piancavallo.

TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICES

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

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

CANNERO RIVIERA - Via Orsi 1 - 28821 Cannero Riviera (VB) - +39 0323 788943 - cannero@distrettolaghi.it

BIKE SERVICE

Ciclomania Barale, **Sale-Shop-Hire**, Corso Benedetto Cairoli, 63 - 28921 VERBANIA (VB), Tel. +39 0323519516, Info@ciclomania.com, www.ciclomania.com/home.html

Ver-Bike, **Sale-Shop**, Corso Europa, 64/F - 28922 VERBANIA PALLANZA (VB), Tel. +39 0323 501475, info@verbike.it, www.verbike.it

Autocaravan Vagamondo, **Rental**, Corso Europa, 64 - 28922 VERBANIA PALLANZA (VB), Tel. +39 0323 504419, info@vagamondo.com, www.vagamondo.com/

Ciprian Enrico, **Sales-Shop**, Via Giuseppe Castelli, 7 - 28922 VERBANIA PALLANZA (VB), Tel. +39 0323 502401, cicli@ciprian.it, www.ciprian.it/newsite/homepage1.php

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

Ristorante Usignolo, Via Provinciale, 2 - 28826 TRAREGO VIGGIONA (VB)

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

PLACES OF INTEREST

Along the route

Panoramic pass over Lake Maggiore from Monte Carza to Passo Ologno, Wonderwood park of Monte Carza, Istituto Auxologico Italiano of Piancavallo.

Nearby

VERBANIA

Museo del Paesaggio, Casa della Resistenza - Itinerari partigiani, Museo della Religiosità Popolare, Casa dell'Acqua, Teatro Il Maggiore, Fondo Toce Nature Reserve, Villa Taranto Botanical Gardens, Villa Giulia, Villa San Remigio, Romanesque Oratory of San Remigio 11th century, Madonna di Campagna Church 16th century, Collegiate Church of San Leonardo in Pallanza 16th century, the secular yew tree and the Church of Buon Rimedio in Cavandone.

GHIFFA

Museum of Hat Art, Sacro Monte della Santissima Trinità 16th, 17th centuries, recognized by UNESCO as a world heritage site.

OGGEBBIO

Istituto Auxologico Italiano in Piancavallo, fortified tunnels of Morissolo, Linea Cadorna of Verbano, the parish church of S. Pietro di Gonte, Villa Anelli, the oratory of the Nativity of Mary in Cadessino, church and oratory of Sant'Agata in Novaglio.

CANNERO RIVIERA

Citrus Park, Ethnographic Collection, "blue" flag beach, magnolia lakefront, Castles of Cannero, Cannero River Falls, square of frescoes, Lourdes grotto.

TRAREGO VIGGIONA

Tactile Museum of Natural Science "Seeing with Hands," Wanderwood Park, and Carza's "Big Bench."

PREMENO

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

BÉE

Thousand-year-old chestnut tree in Piazza Barozzi and colossal sequoia inside Villa Wuhrer in Bée, 18th century Divine Shepherdess painting, Church Nativity of Mary 16th century, Sciuvlino Chapel in Roncaccio 14th-15th century.

ARIZZANO

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

VIGNONE

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