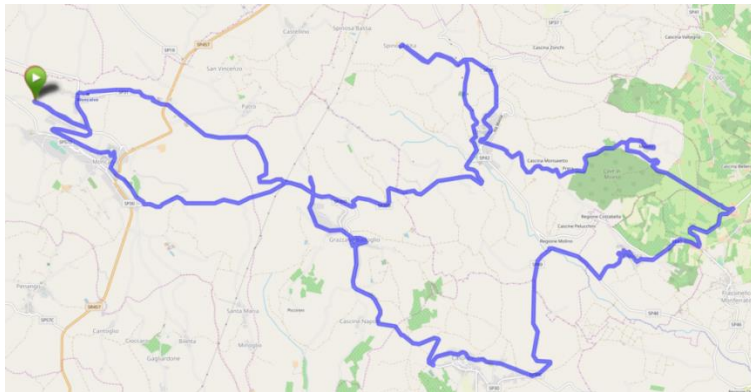


TOUR 5

FOLLOWING ALERAMO'S FOOTSTEPS

Today we offer you a perfect means of transport for tours in the Monferrato hills: e-bikes! The e-bike allows the less trained cyclists to climb hills comfortably and the less young people to safeguard their mobility, moreover it makes group rides more fun, continuous having to wait each other. This new journey begins in Moncalvo, the smallest city in Italy, by renting our e-bike at [Monferrato Bike](#), choosing from the thousands available. For newcomers there is a small tuning test with the vehicle and then ... steady, ready, go! The first stop on the tour is to reach Grazzano



It's time for a wine tasting at the [AziendaagricolaSulin](#) (reservation required), where the careful and deep research of quality allow to obtain a product with excellent organoleptic characteristics, obtained also with the minimization of interventions with chemical substances in the vineyard and rigorous selection of rare clones and vines; and the [Fratelli Natta](#) Winery, a family-run business which keeps intact the traditional wine production from the great tradition of Piedmontese winemakers.

Next, a brief visit to the area including the [Badogliano Historical Museum](#) (check online for operating hours and guided tours) and Aleramo's tomb, located inside a chapel of the church dedicated to Saints Vittore and Corona, indicated by a fresco with Aleramo's portrait and a fragment of mosaic with black and white tiles depicting two monstrous animals that face each other (for overtime visits outside the functions and the first weekend of the month, call Miss Rita at +39 0141 925158).

Let's proceed along the path to get to Olivola, a unique village built almost entirely of "stone from cantons" and enjoy lunch at the [Cà Nostra emporium-winebar](#) (phone no: +39 0142 928235) that offers aperitifs, tastings, and slow food lunches.

Pedaling through suggestive scenery we arrive at the unique Saracen village of Moletto, whose viewpoint is a UNESCO World Heritage. Near Moletto, the Saracens Caves are still

partially unexplored they have exercised and continue to exercise an unquestionable charm on the imagination of the people. For many years people, especially the local people, spent entire winters, free from their agriculture work, digging in the quarry area in search of the alleged Saracen treasure that no one ever found.

In the summer, the breathtaking panorama that can be enjoyed from here even at night, attracts crowds of young people who arrive up here to spend the evening listening to good music in the company of friends or simply to escape the heat. It's time now to stop and enjoy the landscape calmly, savoring the colors and scents, eating a cake, drinking a coffee or sipping a drink. In a tuff farmhouse you can find the Cave of Moletto (phone no. +39 0142 921468), a really suggestive place where in summer you can relax in the cool of the ancient stables overlooking the courtyard. A little further on you will find the [ba@chiuso](#), defined by most as a magical place that, within its sixteen years of activity, has managed to enhance the territory, the Monferrato hills and its delicacies (we recommend follow its webpage for updates on the many musical events).

Next, let's move to Ottiglio, a village perched on the hill, to savor the aromas and flavors of the wines produced in the area. One option is Winery [La Spinosa Alta](#) (upon reservation) which boasts a compatible production respecting the environment and the product, and [Vinicea](#) with cellars arranged on four levels, the last one is excavated in the tuff. These underground rooms, called *infernot*, are ideal for refining in oak barrels and storing wines, and they have been recognized by UNESCO, a World Heritage Site since 2014.

Upon returning to Moncalvo, we recommend enjoying a unique aperitif at the [Bottega del Vino](#) (phone no. +39 339 1751905), with straight from the garden products: wines, bread, oil, cheese (available at prices "from producer to consumer"). The winery is inside the fascinating ancient tower of the castle, and you can visit the ancient walkways. Let's enjoy the Moncalvese life at the Caffè Roma (phone no. +39 0141 917389), enjoying homemade ice cream or some other specialty of the house. Time for dinner? A few steps away the [Corona Reale](#) trattoria-winery, is a historic family run restaurant located in the center of the village, which offers typical Piedmontese cuisine – reservation recommended. Moncalvo is known for its meat, so for a tasting of the traditional "bollitomisto" you can't miss the Central Restaurant (phone no. +39 0141 917126). Finally, the spacious and bright rooms of the [Locanda del Melograno](#) await for a good night's sleep.

Another option is moving to the village of Grazzano, dine at the exclusive location surrounded by nature of [Locanda Casa Costa](#) or enjoy a romantic candlelight dinner at the da [Ristorante Natalina](#) to taste traditional and genuine savory cuisine, and stay at the Albergotto hotel, furnished with authentic traditional furniture in a "romantic/rural" atmosphere that will make your stay pleasant and special.

Translated by Vittoria e Ludovico Gallina