



CHAPEL OF S. MICHELE (ST. MICHAEL)

You can find this point of interest in Canzo - Path 1 - Stage 3

INFORMATION

Location: the Chapel of S. Michele (St. Michael) overlooks a small clearing outside the built-up area of Canzo, at the upper end of Via Gajum, on the left hand-side of the Ravella Valley.

Paving: the clearing outside the chapel is covered by grass and gravel; the base on which it is built is cobbled.

Architectural barriers: access to the clearing is by the footpath after climbing one step; the Chapel is built on a large step; to access the inside of the Chapel (which, however, is usually closed) one has to climb another step.

Access: access to the clearing with the Chapel is by a trail starting from the right hand-side of Via Gajum, following the signal of footpath no. 3 leading to the Cornizzolo. The clearing is surrounded by a small wall, interrupted by two openings to allow people to pass through.

Services: parking available in Gajum and Villa Meda.

Leisure and food: bar-restaurant-hotel in Gajum.

DESCRIPTION

(Silvia Fasana)

The Chapel of S. Michele (St. Michael) stands on a wide step as its base in a small clearing shaded by three (originally four) large linden trees. Built according to a hexagonal plan and topped by a small bell gable, it has four windows and a front door, protected by a wrought iron gate, which is generally closed. The lunette on the entrance carries the Latin inscription «*Hostem repellat impium opemque Pacis dirigat (Fight off the wicked enemy [the devil] and build a work of peace)*». Inside, above the altar, hangs a painting of *St. Michael the Archangel*, holding a sword and scales - its iconographic attributes - in the act of crushing the devil, dominated by the invocation «*Sancte Michael ora pro nobis (Saint Michael pray for us)*» and, along the sides, the depiction of the *Corporal works of Mercy*. In 1928 the building underwent renovation funded by the Bonalumi Mosca family, owner of the adjacent property. Further consolidation and restoration works were carried out by the parish community in the last years of the last century. The place where the chapel stands is called the Lazzaretto, because it was used as a hospice during the cholera epidemic of 1863 (during which the then parish priest, Father Giacomo Minetti, distinguished himself for his dedication and generosity) and perhaps also during previous outbreaks of the infection.