



THE SHRINE OF S. MIRO AL MONTE

You can find this point of interest in Canzo - Path 1 - Stage 4

INFORMATION

Location: the Shrine of S. Miro al Monte stands upon a square of approx. 20 metres x 15 on the left side of the Ravella Valley.

Paving: the part outside the Shrine is gravelled; the entrance path, the area under the porch and the parts of the square on the side of the building are paved.

Architectural barriers: information on accessibility is available in the description of Stage 4.

Access: access to the Shrine is by the portal located in correspondence of the central arch of the porch, the only one which opens entirely onto the ground. To enter one must cross a small raised threshold.

Services: -

Leisure and food: -

DESCRIPTION

(*Silvia Fasana*)

The Shrine of S. Miro al Monte is a small stone building, with a simple gable façade preceded by a recently rebuilt portico with three arches. There is a head and shoulders figure of *St. Miro* with his arms open in the lunette of the entrance portal, accompanied by the words «*And you shall have water*», in remembrance of the last words he said in Canzo before leaving for Upper Lake Como, where he died. The interior is simple and secluded: on the main altar stands a seventeenth century altarpiece depicting the *Madonna and Child with St. Miro* (left) and *St. Roch* (right), surrounded by a rich stucco decoration with caryatids at the sides. The walls are frescoed with great *Scenes from the life of St. Miro*, painted by the artist Albertazzi in the 50s of the last century.

The Shrine was built starting in 1643 on the site where tradition has it that the hermitage of St. Miro Paredi once stood. The building, funded by donations of local devotees of the Saint, could be completed only in 1660. Beside the church you can see a small two-storey building, home to a number of monks probably connected to the nearby monastery of S. Francesco, until it was suppressed at the end of the eighteenth century. The monks cultivated medicinal plants on small mounds, which are still visible, made with dry stone walls on the opposite side of the Ravella stream (“*Giardin di Fraà*”, i.e. “*The Garden of the Brothers*”). From the second half of the 19th century the structure was left in a state of disrepair; in the following century restoration and conservative adaptation works were carried out on a number of occasions.