

BIKE TRAIL DESCRIPTION

The **NATURAL PATH** at **DIEVOLE** is one-of-a-kind unique project located principally within the confines of the varied landscape of the DIEVOLE farm, winding through vineyards, olive orchards, woods and hills, giving nature-loving guests of the farm the opportunity to fully experience this age-old land, rich in history, culture and tradition.

The project was developed by restoring the old roads and trails through the woods which over the centuries allowed farmhands to move from farm to farm. Careful attention was paid to the choice of building materials, making maximum use of recycled and reused materials to respect the environment.

The trail provides yet another reason to plan a stay at Dievole, a way to fully experience every aspect of the farm estate in a wide range of activities.

NATURAL PATH offers a relaxing, suggestive and romantic walk.

Photographers and nature lovers will find the wild beauty of the trail ideal terrain for unforgettable photo-opportunities. In addition to marvelling at the unforgettable vistas, along the trail they are even likely to encounter some of the many wild creatures of our territory (foxes, deer, boar, roe-deer).

Sports lovers will have the opportunity to practice various disciplines along NATURAL PATH:

Mountain bikes

A passion for mountain biking was the primary inspiration for the creator of the NATURAL PATH project.

DIEVOLE offers the only local accommodations which can offer a real trail of these dimensions, characterized by a series of ascents and descents challenging even to competitive bikers, with crossings of fords and other areas of incomparable natural beauty in the heart of Tuscany's Chianti classico region.

Trekking

NATURAL PATH allows lovers of this sport – walking stick and backpack in hand- to challenge themselves all the way along the trail.

Cross country running

For runners, the trail offers a fantastic, varied itinerary, with challenging but yet suggestive ascents and descents, where runners will find themselves completely immersed in the natural landscape.

Horseback riding

On request and by reservation, DIEVOLE offers the riders the opportunity to enjoy the NATURAL PATH on horseback, with an excursion that winds among unforgettable vistas and landscapes.

Acknowledgements

The “good folk at DIEVOLE” have made an invaluable contribution to the development of the NATURAL PATH project, in particular: Marcello Mantengoli, Lorenzo Bernini, Riccardo Marchi, Sandro Frati, Luciano Bartalini, Mattia Licari, Antonio Butini, Valerio Stolli, Giosuè Barbagli, Francesco Mulinacci, Maurizio Niccolini, Dino Petri, and Masar Musliu.

Special thanks go to Leonardo Petri, the creator, designer, project manager and very soul of the NATURAL PATH, who infected everyone with his enthusiasm and heartfelt desire to transmit his love for these surroundings to the guests of DIEVOLE.

A Starting/Ending Point



The trail begins and ends in the heart of Villa Dievole, a working farm and rental facility, where hospitality and restaurant services, as well as wine tasting, are available.

B Fidelio Heritage Project



This is the home of the DNA of DIEVOLE: There are 16 fields dedicated to the conservation of the germplasm of the 16 strains of vines which make up the vineyards at DIEVOLE.

It is one of the most suggestive and romantic corners of the property.

C Bocce Ball “courts”



Immersed amid the green leaves of centuries' old cypresses and Holm oaks, it is perfect for playing a game of bocce balls or whiling away a few peaceful moments.

D The Old Farmhouse



It is possible to visit the old farmhouse, which in the past served as a museum of peasant history and culture, in the company of interesting characters and local animals.

E Old Serena stone quarry Rest spot



This quarry dates back to the 1400s, when the Serena stone quarried and processed here was used in the renovation of DIEVOLE around 1500, as well as in the construction of the farmhouses around the village of Vagliagli as well as a few streets in the city of Siena.

F The Old Aqueduct



Dating back to the 1700s, relying solely on the force of gravity, this aqueduct still manages to supply a quantity of litres of pure water to help quench the thirst of guests at DIEVOLE.

G Panoramic View at Sessina / Rest stop



Surrounded by a green wood near an imposing vineyard, this is an extraordinary spot of serene beauty, caressed by constant breezes.

At 432 meters above sea level, it is one of the highest points of the trail.

H Petrignano - Geological point of interest



While easy to miss, this is a actually a rare find.

Observing the rock wall opposite this sign closely, one realizes that he is facing a geological structure. It is possible to discern the various layers of rock as they twist out of the tectonic plates deep in the Earth, reaching towards the surface.

I Panoramic View at Petrignano



This is a unique landscape, surrounded on three sides – east, west, and north – by the hills of the Chianti, and from the south, overlooks the Val D'Orcia and Monte Amiata from afar.

L Arbia River



The spring of the Arbia is in Colle Petroso below Castellina in Chianti, between the compacted layers of limestone. The river was made famous by the bloody battle of Monteaperti fought on its banks. From this spot on, locals have always referred to the river as the Torrente Arbiola (the Arbia stream). Numerous mills once occupied commanding positions along its path.

Trail:

The difficulty level of a trail is indicated by its colour:

Green: easy - Red: moderate - Black: expert

The main trail twists and turns for 19 km, which combined with an additional 8.6 km of alternative trails, make for a grand total of 27.6 km.

Routes:

The trail is clearly marked by the red line, the colour which also indicates its difficulty level, and should be followed counter-clockwise.

The alternative trails are identified by numbers with a yellow stripe.

M The Arbiola Stream Ford /Rest stop



For those not afraid to get wet, this is the largest ford, where one may also take a rest under the sweet shade of the hazelnut trees.

N Arbiola Stream / Rest Stop



Here it is possible to walk along the river; this is the most solitary and peaceful spot along the trail. It is well worth taking the time to rest in the company of this stream, “listening” to its silence.

O Sulfer Deposit/ Rest Stop



Here it is possible to listen to the voice of the land, as sulphuric gasses from the depths of the Earth escape through slits, gurgling and bubbling in the water of the stream.

P Dievole Panoramic View



The Chianti landscape holds sway over this beautiful spot amidst the vineyards. From here it is possible to admire Villa Dievole, in all its peaceful splendour, with its majestic cypresses, an especially moving site at sunset.

Q Wash-house Fountain



Stories, Sisterhood, Friendship, Love. These emotions used to fill this space daily, as housewives and women from the share-cropping farms of the Dievole properties and surroundings would meet to do the wash. Still being renovated.

Places of interest are lettered from A to Q.

Altitudes are indicated in a white circle.

Kilometres are indicated in a white rectangle.

Often in autumn and winter – wetter seasons – when there is mud, challenging fords may be found along the path, as well as an increased irregularity of the path surface.

Of course, all this is part of the “fun” of the trail, which remains as natural as possible.

As a geographical reference, nearby byways and roads have also been indicated on the map, as well as municipal roads (SC) and provincial highways (SP).

Additional tracks:

Along the main trail there are 15 possible side trails covering a total of 8.6 km which are identified with a number and the colour yellow.

These side trails allow each individual to organize his or her discovery of the NATURAL PATH in a personal way.

Fitness trail:

The blue line indicates a pleasant walk through the natural surroundings of DIEVOLE especially designed for those who do not wish to end up too far from the lodgings.

Unblazed trails:

For those whose appetite for adventure is insatiable and who wish to go off independently in whatever direction, these provide access to total freedom and exploration of the territory of the Chianti and the roads of the renowned EROICA route. These are trails outside of the DIEVOLE farm and of the NATURAL PATH where you will find no limits to your adventures.

Warning:

Anyone who uses the NATURAL PATH does so under their own responsibility and at their own risk. Therefore the management invites its guests to use them responsibly and with caution.

Safety:

DIEVOLE welcomes anyone who wishes to use the NATURAL PATH trails, but will not be held responsible for damage to persons or things, or injury in the case of falls or accidents.

NATURAL PATH, as its name indicates, is a completely natural trail, path, way, or route, and as such it is quite possible that those on the path will be exposed to all of the difficulties and risks inherent to the natural territory of the Chianti countryside.

Use of the trails must be undertaken with the proper equipment and supplies for any given discipline; this applies in particular to the Mountain bike route, which is of competitive-level difficulty.

Advice and Proper Conduct:

There are no facilities for refreshments along the trails, nor shelters from the rain.

The closest refreshments and shelter are at VILLA DIEVOLE. Guests are strongly advised to bring the following supplies with them during the summer season: water, hat, sun cream, insect repellent.

Guests are requested to avoid making excessive noise or shouting, so as to safeguard the peaceful atmosphere of the trails for everyone.

Smoking and lighting fires are strictly prohibited. The entire trail is at a high risk for forest fires..

Littering with any type of rubbish is strictly forbidden.

Guests are kindly requested not to disturb wild animals nor to harm the local flora

Guests are kindly requested to avoid any types of behaviour which may put at risk their own health and safety or that of others.

DIEVOLE since 1090

