

Villa Certinale and Romitorio

Walk 5

Distance - 4½km (2¾ miles) **Rise and fall** - 460ft **Map:** Kompass 661, Siena, Chianti, Colline Senesi, 1:50,000.

A straightforward walk, largely in woodland, linking the Villa Certinale with the great Romitorio, high on the hillside above. Steadily uphill on the outward part but no steep gradients. No problems underfoot. The Romitorio, a former hermitage, is dated 1716. It has four storeys and some unusual features, including an Egyptian cross. At the front is an impressive well.

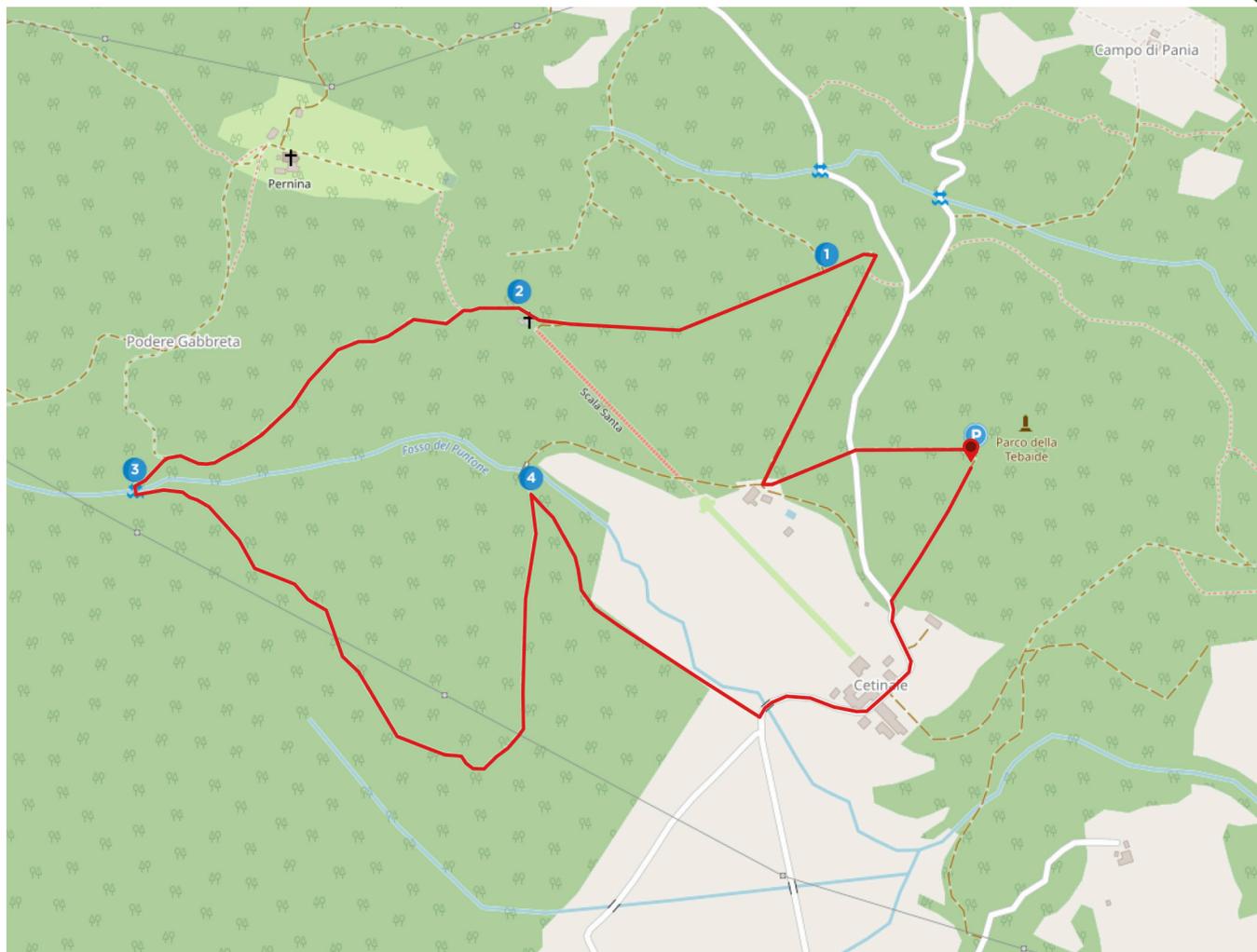
Start/car parking: Wide cul-de-sac road way opposite to the entrance gate of Villa Cetinale. Parking advice in both Italian and English. From Stigliano drive to Rosia and Sovicille, heading to Ancaiano (signposted). Immediately before entering to Ancaiano village, turn right along an unsurfaced road signposted to Villa Cetinale, which is a further half mile.

Note: It would be a great help to future walkers if you could record any inaccuracies you come across during this walk and report them to reception so that appropriate amendments can be made. *Thank you for your help and happy walking.*

WALK

From the parking area walk to access roadway and turn right uphill. In less than 100 yards the track bends to the left. Continue uphill and here there is a first glimpse of Romitorio through the trees. Pass a little tower on the left then a private roadway leading to Cerbaia. On the track right side there is a huge gateway that gives access to a particular Italian Garden known as Parco la Tebaide. In the opposite side there is a rather eroded statue. Go on the same route and pass another track on the left, still following the white and red waymarks. Keep left at a fork, where we join the route 110.

1. Thirty yards after the fork leave the track to turn left along a narrow waymarked path climbing and winding through woodland, stony underfoot (be careful, the signed path turns to the right immediately to go uphill). Join a broad track in a short distance. Turn right, soon bending to the left to complete the ascent to Romitorio where there are occasional long viewers of Sovicille area.
2. After visiting Romitorio, which will probably be secured against vandalism, continue along the track rising between stone walls to pass behind; this soon becomes a broad woodland roadway. In 200 yards ignore a waymarked path to the right. Stay in the main track.
3. At a Y junction turn left to commence to descend, with a sharp left bend and a dry stream bed in 50 yards. Stay with the main track at a fork and continue to descend.
4. Join another track with a lower stone wall. Turn very sharp right to continue the descent, soon passing another shrine, now heading right through more open countryside. Join the Cetinale access road just below the buildings. Turn left pass the Granaio building and return to car park.



 - Walk

Disclaimer:

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