

Grotti and Le Stine Castle

Walk 6

Distance - 5 km (3 miles) **Rise and fall** - 350ft **Map:** Kompass 666, Chianti, Colline Senesi, 1:50,000.

This walk passes through a beautiful panoramic route overlooking the famous Crete Senesi, the area of wonderful colours, flavours and fantastic views of clay hills. The itinerary pass through the suggestive farm of "Grotti" and discover the famous agricultural traditions of "Crete Senesi". In the way it is possible to visit "Le Stine" medieval castle, a very well conserved castle in a wonderful wooded area.

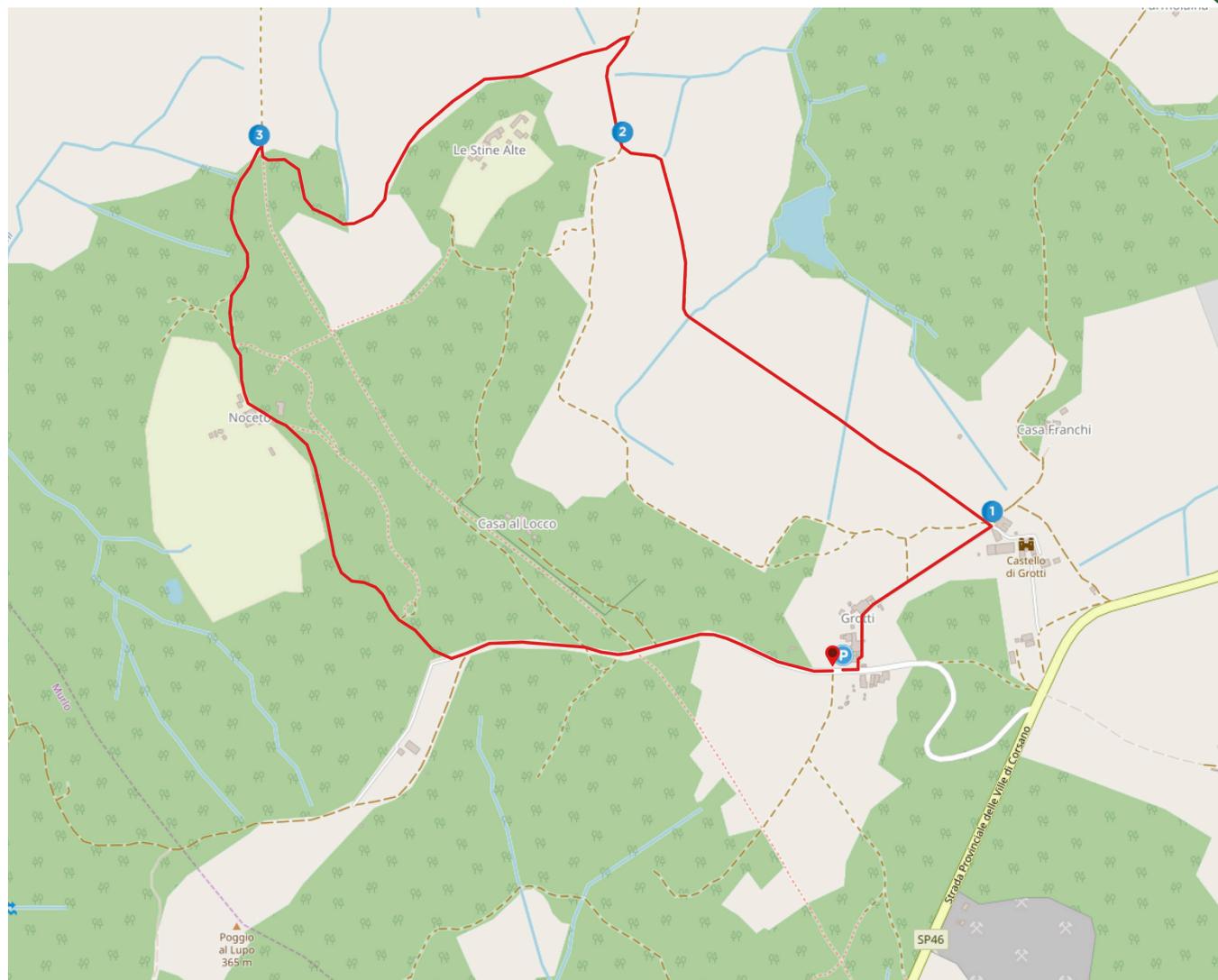
Start/car parking: "Grotti" car parking. From Stigliano drive in the direction of the main road Siena-Grosseto. At the rotation, cross the road and go straight in the direction of Bagnai driving on a non-surfaced road (signposted). Turn right following the signposted for Bagnai and after half a mile turn left in the direction of Grotti. Once you reach Grotti hamlet you can park on the road side (usually there is enough space) or, turn left inside Grotti and after 200 yards there is car parking on the right.

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 main road turn left, go through the hamlet of Grotti and after 200 yards, Grotti Castle is on the right. In front of the Castle there is a typical gate with cypress on the sides. Turn left on this trail and follow the route with the view of Siena and Crete Senesi on the right. The road turns slightly first to the right and then to the left, at this point you can see the tower of Le Stine, a famous medieval Castle of the area.

1. If you want to visit the castle, turn left in the path that leads to the tower and at the Y junction turn right and pass the old castle gate with a chain. Then follow the path to the castle. In the medieval time le Stine was a very important castle for Siena and it had been used as a farm from the renaissance time until last century. Now it is abandoned but it is still possible to see the tower and part of the walls system.
2. Go back on the same trail to the gate turn left and return to the main trail with the fantastic view of Crete Senesi. Turn left once you get the trail and continue for 200 yards then turn left on the path that goes behind the castle hill, follow the path for 300 yards, pass the olive grows and follow the road that first turns slightly left and then right, ignore the paths on the sides and continue on the main one until you get the open fields.
3. Here turn immediately on the left on a small track, ignore the climbing and continue on the small lane going on the field side with the view of the valley and get into a woodland. Follow the trail, start climbing and at the Y junction go left and continue to go uphill until you reach the Podere Noceto. Stay on the left and continue on the main trail, pass the belted pig farm, and arrive on the main road to Grotti. Turn left and following the road return to Grotti.



— Walk

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