



San Martino is a small church located at an altitude of 475 m on the slopes of Sasso S.Martino above Griante. An easy path leads to the church from where you have a lovely view of the central lake area.

**Starting point:** Tremezzo (or the parking lot at Rogaro – see walk 3 how to reach it)

**Itinerary:** Tremezzo - Rogaro - San Martino - Griante - Cadenabbia - Tremezzo

**Total duration of the walk:** 2.30 hours

**ascent:** 275m - some signs indicating S.Martino

**difficulty:** good walking shoes required

**Route:** From the boat dock of Tremezzo next to the tourist information office cross the main road and pick up the cobble stone alley called, via Selve di Rogaro, that leads to the hamlet **Rogaro**. At the end of the long steep flight of steps you end up on a paved road near the tower of Rogaro. This watch tower belonged to the important family Visconti and it was part of the defensive system of the Comacina Island. Before turning left we recommend a small deviation to the right in order to admire “**la Catapecchia**”, a villa built at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century by the bishop of Mindo in an eclectic style. Walk back in order to reach the road that winds up from Tremezzo to Rogaro that you follow to the right for 50 m. Go up the steps that lead to the rural settlement of Rogaro. Turn left into Vicolo alla Chiesa that brings you to the church of the **Madonna di Einsiedeln**. This baroque church was built in 1733 and inside it still preserves an old black wooden statue called “**Black Lady from Einsiedeln**” made by a Swiss sculptor and brought here by the rich local merchants. From the church square follow the continuation of Vicolo alla Chiesa and then proceed to the left.

You will pass the restaurant la Fagurida and shortly after the restaurant Rusall. Now continue on the paved road for about 400 m until you reach the parking area with pick nick tables and fountain.

Proceed another 100 m and then take the cart track to the left to **San Martino** (sign). At the intersection, just past a small olive grove, continue straight on. On the right you will notice an area used by the wild life rangers as recovery for deer that have been either wounded or rejected by their mother.

You descend into a small valley and then ascend its opposite side along the steep steps.

Then follows a more relaxing stretch with a great view of Bellagio. A steep flight of steps brings you to the degrading fields of the Monte Crocione while advancing towards the impressing rocky face of Sasso San Martino.

You pass the deviation for Pilone and follow the trail



in a slight descent to the right. It ends on to the trail that leads up from Griante to San Martino that you reach shortly.

The S. Martino church was built in the XVI century to house the wooden statue of the 14th century representing the **Madonna with Child**. The legend tells that the statue was found in the 16th century by a shepherd girl in a cave in the mountains where it was put a century before by an inhabitant of Menaggio when the town was destroyed by the Grigioni. The statue was brought down to the parish church where it miraculously disappeared and was found again on the Sasso di S. Martino.

This was interpreted as the desire of Maria to be venerated on the mountain.

First a small shrine was built and then the church. On your way down from the church you will follow the cobble stone steps that lead down in wide bends to Griante. Along your way you will pass a series of little chapels decorated with mosaics representing various stages of Christ's life.

About half way you encounter the chapel **Cappella degli Alpini**, dedicated to S. Carlo. At the end of the steps you end up on the paved road (via S. Martino) that you follow to the left. After 30 m pick up the continuation of Via San Martino to the right.

You reach the church S. Rocco where you take the cobble stone street that runs along the right side of the church. You are now in the historic centre of Griante where we advise a stroll through it's narrow alley ways to admire its beautiful palaces.

Then walk along via Tomaso Grossi in order to reach the parish church **SS. Narbore e Felice** built during the first half of the 17th century. Just past the church pick up the street to the left via Franzani (no sign), then at the end near the town hall, cross the paved road and pick up the flight of steps that end near the Hotel Britannia of Cadenabbia. Proceed towards the lake side road and turn right in order to reach Tremezzo.