

Connected trail - Brown route

From Bellosguardo towards Monte Oliveto: the panorama over Lorenzo de' Medici's city

Via di San Carlo (Piazzetta di Bellosguardo) - Via di Bellosguardo - Via di San Vito - Via di Soffiano - Il Boschetto (route inside) - Via di Monte Oliveto - Via di San Vito - Via di Bellosguardo - Piazzetta di Bellosguardo

We continue along **Via di San Carlo** until we reach **Piazzetta di Bellosguardo**, where we then take **Via di Bellosguardo** towards the centre of Florence. On our right we come to Via Roti Michelozzi (a recommended detour to enjoy an unrivalled and unique view of Florence's landmarks). On our right along Via di Bellosguardo, we come to **Villa La Limonaia** (a beautiful panorama over Florence opens up at the end of this property) and on the other side we see **Villa Brichieri Colombi** (not open to the public).



A glimpse of Piazzetta di Bellosguardo



Villa Brichieri - Colombi

In the 19th century this property belonged to the writer, Isa Blagden. Like many other beautiful residences in the area, it was a popular haunt of Florence's cultured Anglo-American community: Henry James, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, and many others.

When we reach Prato dello Strozzino, we turn left from this park onto **Via di San Vito**, where we see the towering fifteenth-century **Villa dello Strozzino** (not open to the public).



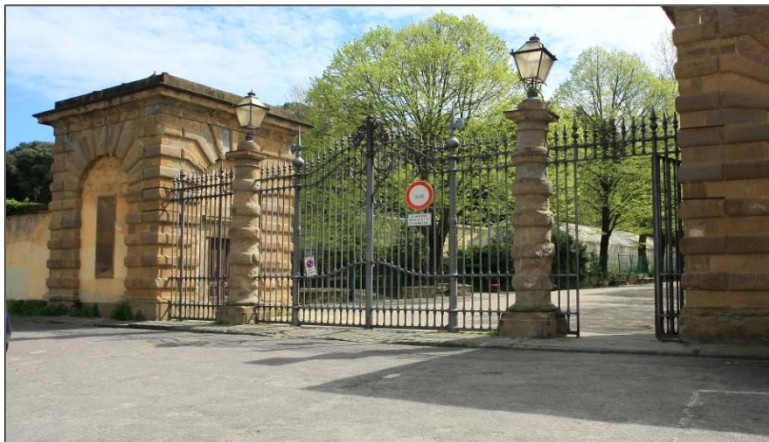
Prato dello Strozzino



Villa dello Strozzino

Villa dello Strozzino
Attributed to Simone del Pollaiuolo, this villa features a unique series of half-moon decorations along the façade, which were added in the 16th century. The half-moon was the symbol of the Strozzi family, which also gives this villa its other name: Villa delle Lune ('luna' means moon in Italian).

As we continue along **Via di San Vito**, the road gets gradually narrower as it runs between boundary walls that occasionally open up with views of the west part of the city. We pass by farmhouses, noble homes and villas surrounded by gardens and olive groves, until we reach **Via di Soffiano**. Here we take right and then walk on for about 200 metres until we get to the opening with the gate to the **Park of Villa Strozzii - Il Boschetto**.



The gate to the park of Villa Strozzii



Inside the Park

The Park of Villa Strozzi - Il Boschetto

Giovan Battista Lorenzo Strozzi built the large park and Villa Strozzi in the 16th century after he purchased a huge area to add to his property at the Cafaggio woods. The nature and habitats in these “wild woods” have been preserved and enriched with decorative features, while the villa was decorated with a beautiful mannerist-style garden. In the mid-nineteenth century, Giuseppe Poggi (who was responsible for a large part of the work in Florence when it was the capital) was commissioned by Ferdinando Strozzi to carry out the restoration of the building and the new park layout. He thus built the entrance on Via di Soffiano, the carriage road which runs from this entrance, the slopes in the southern area (in place of the fields) and the walking trails that run through this section, the glade at the top of the hill (which has a beautiful panoramic view over the villa and the park), as well as the layout and decorations of the sixteenth-century part next to the villa. This entire area, including the buildings, was purchased by the Municipality of Florence, which turned it into a public park. The villa (not open to the public) is now occupied by Tempo Reale, a musical research, innovation and education centre founded by Luciano Berio, while the lemon house hosts modern art exhibitions and events organised by Quartiere 4.



The Park



The Villa



The Lemon house



The small connection bridge



The Park

We now stroll down the main path through the park, surrounded by lime trees, sycamores and horse chestnuts. After the second bend, we keep to the right (ignoring the section that climbs up towards the lemon house and the villa) and walk along a boundary wall. We stay on this path until we reach the entrance/exit to the Park, heading uphill to our right onto **Via Monte Oliveto**.

The Hill and Church of Monte Oliveto

The **Church of San Bartolomeo** a Monte Oliveto dominates this hillside. In 1472, Francesco Rosselli painted the “Veduta della Catena” (the Chain Map) from the top of this hill, which was the first full view of Florence from the times of Lorenzo the Magnificent. The **Church of San Bartolomeo** is part of the former monastery complex founded in 1334 by a monk from the Benedictine Abbey of Monte Oliveto Maggiore (located in Chiusure, in the region of Crete Senesi). It was expanded after it received donations of land and then reconstructed in 1454, when it took on the Michelozzo forms that we see today. It was renovated several times in 1725 and 1955. Inside it has one single nave, featuring the fresco and sinopia of the “Last Supper” by ‘Il Sodoma’, several frescoes by Poccetti and a series of important paintings from the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries (“Cristo e la Emorroissa” by ‘il Poppi’, “The Entry of Christ into Jerusalem” by Santi di Tito, and the “Assumption of Mary” by Passignano, among many others).



The “Veduta della
Catena” from 1472
and the Church of
San
Bartolomeo a
Monte
Oliveto



From **Via Monte Oliveto** we stay to the right and walk on for about 200 metres. We then turn right again, staying on the same road.

Once we've passed a small charming little village, we come to the **Church of Santi Vito e Modesto**.



The Church of San Vito e Modesto

The Church of S. Vito e Modesto

The foundations of this building date back centuries (it may have belonged to the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem). It was then named after St. Vitus and St. Modestus, who were worshiped in Tuscany from the 11th century. It features a late fifteenth-century loggia at the front, although due to the different restoration work it has undergone over the years, it now retains prevailing nineteenth-century features. It contains many memorable objects, including a chalice donated in thanks by Grand Duke Leopold II after he walked away unharmed from a carriage accident on the nearby Via di Bellosguardo.



A paved section of Via di S. Vito

We continue on until we come to **Via di San Vito** (keep to the left). We then follow this road for a very short section until we find **Via di Bellosguardo** on our right. We take this road towards Piazzetta di Bellosguardo, which is where we started and now finish our walk.

Technical information

Trail distance	2.9 km
Height difference	76 m
Maximum gradient	43%
Average journey time	Walking: 55' - Running: 27'
Difficulty:	****

Technical and sporting features

Road conditions and surface	There is no sidewalk along the first section of the trail which runs downhill for about 1 km. Via di S. Vito is narrow and has a challenging slope. The road surface is covered in asphalt (except for the section inside the Villa Strozzi Park), and it mainly runs in between boundary walls. Pay attention and always run against traffic.
Suitable	Walkers with a good level of fitness Runners with a good level of fitness who have an excellent technique for running downhill Beginners should alternate between running and walking in the more difficult sections.
Type of training	The features of this layout allow you to perfect your technique for running or walking downhill and uphill.
Footwear	Walking shoes or running shoes

Directions

Ataf Lines	<i>With stops directly at or next to the start of the trail</i> Line 42, stop S.M. a Marignolle (P.zza della Calza - Marignolle)
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Places to visit

Villa Strozzi Park	8:00 am - 6:00 pm October and March; 8:00 am - 5:00 pm from November to January; 8:00 am - 5:30 pm February; 8:00 am - 7:00 pm April; 8:00 am - 8:00 pm May and August; 8:00 am - 8:30 pm June and July; 8:00 am - 7:30 pm September. Open every day.
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NB: The information on the line services and the places to visit was correct in January 2014. Please check for potential changes.

Design, creation and coordination

Project

Text, layout and coordination	Municipality of Florence - Department for Culture, Tourism and Sport: Carla Giannini
Route layout	Municipality of Florence - Department for Culture, Tourism and Sport: Paolo Mangini
Technical and sporting features	Training Consultant: Fulvio Massini,
Photos	Municipality of Florence - Department for Culture, Tourism and Sport: Giulio Monasta, Fabio Reggioli and Eleonora Vasarri Contributors: Walter Braschi, Giacomo Scarzanella
Photo credits	Villa dell'Ombrellino - for the owners' kind permission: Prelios SGR
Thanks	Presidents of the Commissions for Sport in the Districts of the Municipality of Florence Ataf
<i>for the route layouts</i>	Bardazzi Andrea, Bardazzi Giulia, Bugetti Stefano, Verzieri Daniele and Gensini Marco

Maps and Mobile Apps

Coordination and development	Municipality of Florence - Department for Information Systems: Gianluca Vannuccini, Leonardo Ricci, Enrico Castagnoli, Elena Marrassini, Stefano Gecchele and Annita Bandini Contributor: Giacomo Scarzanella Linea Comune S.p.A.: Bianca Maria Beconi and Gabriele Andreozzi
Mobile app	Geoln S.r.l.