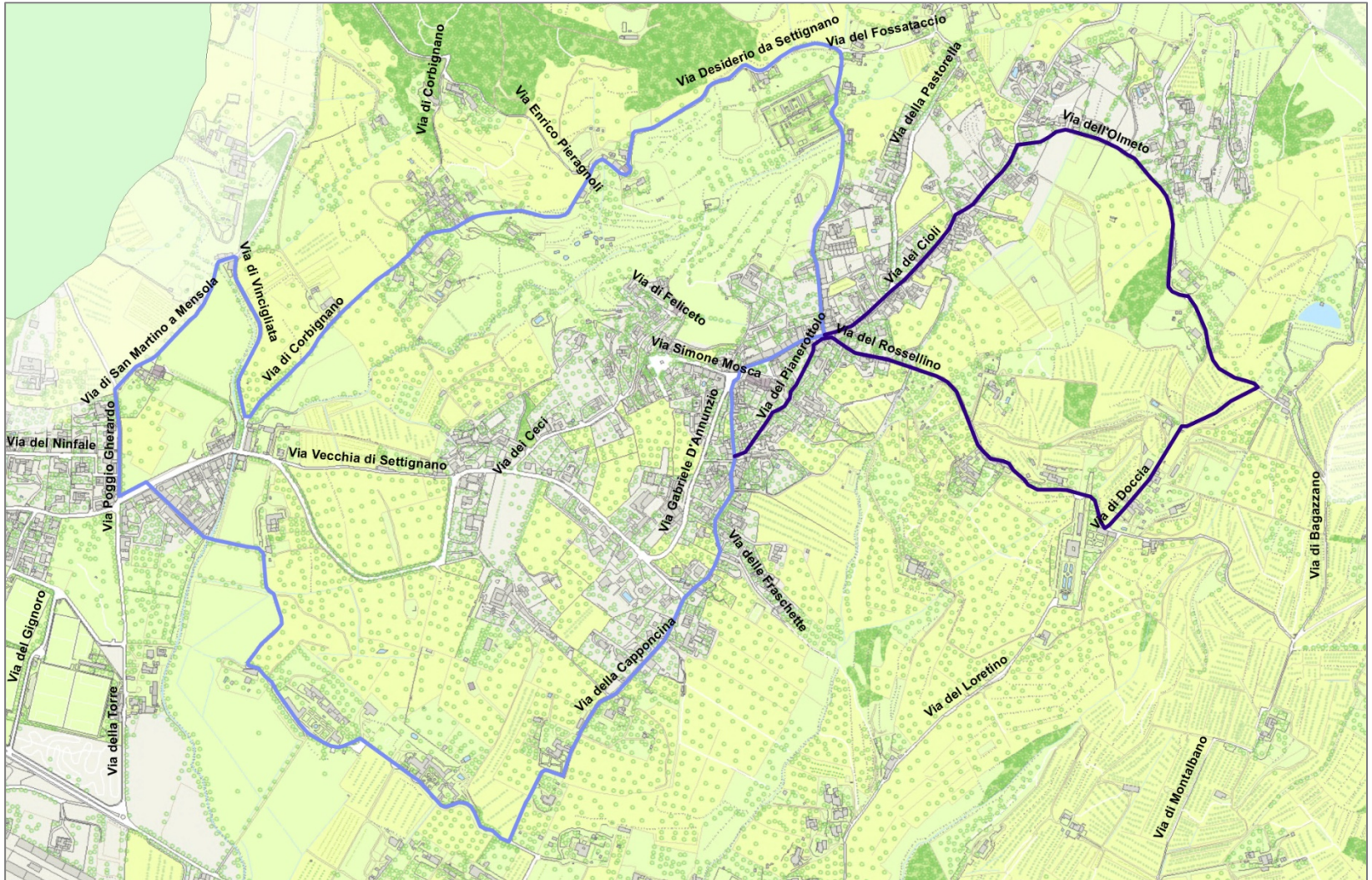


The map - Basic trail - Light blue route



Basic trail - Blue light route

Through Ponte a Mensola and Settignano: the beauty of the agricultural landscape, the strength of its stone and the genius of its art

Via Poggio Gherardo - Via S. Martino a Mensola - Via di Vincigliata - Via di Corbignano - Via Desiderio da Settignano - Via San Romano - Via della Capponcina - Via Madonna delle Grazie - local road with a small footbridge over the Mensola River - Via Madonna delle Grazie - Via Gabriele D'Annunzio.

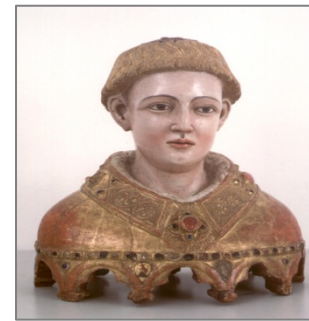
From **Via Poggio Gherardo** (a side street off Via Gabriele D'Annunzio) we continue uphill in the direction of **Via San Martino a Mensola**, where we can admire the **Church of San Martino**.



View of the Church of S. Martino



Interior of the Church



Bust of St. Andrew

The Church of San Martino a Mensola

This church was built over an existing oratory dedicated to St. Martin, the Bishop of Tours (you can see the remains of the apse and other artefacts underneath the church's floor). It was built by St. Andrew the Scot in the 9th century, who was the first abbot in the monastery founded here. He lived and died here and his remains are kept in an untouched wooden coffin which was gilded in 1389. There is also a beautiful fourteenth-century reliquary bust of him. The renovations of 1451 and 1452 gave the church its current Renaissance,



The Master of S. Martino a Mensola



The triptych by Taddeo Gaddi



The altarpiece by Neri di Bicci



The underground chamber

Brunelleschi-style appearance, while the loggia and the oratory date back to the sixteenth century. The church contains many masterpieces, including the triptych by the Master of S. Martino a Mensola (on the high altar) entitled "La Vergine con Bambino e Santi" (1391), the triptych by Taddeo Gaddi (on the altar of St. Anthony) known as "Vergine col Bambino, S. Lucia e S. Margherita" (1360), as well as the altarpiece by Neri di Bicci (the altar of St Francis) called "Virgin with Child, John the Baptist, St. Francis, St. Magdalene and St. Clare".

At the end of Via San Martino a Mensola (featuring the beautiful, charming Tatti Mill) we head to our right onto **Via di Vincigliata**. We then take another right, heading down **Via di Corbignano**. At the beginning of this road, we find two stone inscriptions in memory of the famous people who were born, lived, worked and stayed here. This area was much-loved by artists, writers, art critics and even painters (even though none are named on the inscriptions, the Macchiaioli painters often drew the landscapes around these hills).



The Tatti Mill, taking its name from the nearby Villa



The illustrious foreign guests



The great Italian artists



Via di Corbignano

In between rows of trees, fields, dry-stone walls and lower partitions, we climb up this beautiful road as it gradually gets steeper and steeper, until we reach the **village of Corbignano** (a recommended detour). We can wonder around this village by following the one-way street which opens out onto a panoramic square.

Recommended detour
The Village of Corbignano

The origins of this village date back to the ancient Roman site belonging to the Corvini family (hence Corbignano), which was located on an important branch of the old Via Cassia. Boccaccio used to live here at No. 10 (and may have been born here), which is now just the remains of his father's house and a private home.



A road in the village of Corbignano



Houses in the village



The Oratory of Carro

He found inspiration here for his poem "the Nymph", a tragic love story between the Nymph Mensola and the shepherd Africo. The village used to be home to miners and stonemasons, who worked in the nearby quarries at Trassinaia and Maiano. In the small square we find the Oratory of Madonna del Carro, now a private studio, which was probably built on the site of an existing tabernacle and dates back to 1695.

The road now continues as **Via Desiderio da Settignano**. This road passes in front of the **Oratory of Vannella**, providing beautiful panoramas and stunning views over the ancient villas.



The oratory surrounded by cypresses



Part of the façade

The Oratory of Vannella

This oratory was built and decorated with frescoes in the early 18th century. It holds an image of the Madonna with child on a throne, attributed to a young Sandro Botticelli, which used to decorate the existing tabernacle where the oratory was built (although it is in poor condition and unfortunately the recent restoration work was unable to restore much of the painting after it has spent so much time exposed to the elements). As legend has it, an apparition of the Virgin came to a young girl, Vannella, while she was tending her sheep near to this site. The stonemasons and stonecutters who used to work at the quarry at Trassinaia wanted to erect the tabernacle here, near to the road that they used to take to work ("il sentiero degli scalpellini" or "the stonemasons' path") as a devoted memory of this miracolous legendary event.



The panorama



Via Desiderio da Settignano

At the end of Via Desiderio, we turn right heading down **Via San Romano**, crossing through the ancient village of Setignano. This once used to be a mining village where they extracted and worked the sandstone, and naturally it was involved in farming. It is also interesting to note that it was once part of the Municipality of Rovezzano. In the small square of **Niccolò Tommaseo**, we find the **Church of Santa Maria a Setignano**.



The view of Setignano with the S. Maria bell tower in the centre



Piazza Niccolò Tommaseo



Telemaco Signorini, *Setignano Square*, 1880



The Church of Santa Maria a Setignano - The original core of the church dates back to the 12th century, although little remains of this now due to the renovation and extension work which occurred during the 15th and 18th centuries. It has three naves and contains many works of art, including the statue of Saint Lucy (patron saint of stonemasons) attributed to

Michelozzo, as well as a papier-mâché crucifix on a cross made from spruce wood by Pietro Tacca. The chapel by Bernardo Buontalenti is dedicated to the Blessed Sacrament, while on the altar there is a picture of the *Last Supper* by Andrea Comodi, which has recently been restored.

Walking by the side of the church, we continue along until we take a left down **Via della Capponcina** (sloping downhill). At No. 32 we find the home of the poet, Gabriele D'Annunzio, who lived here between 1898 and 1910. This house was also the scene of his torrid love affair with Eleonora Duse. We then take right, heading down **Via Madonna delle Grazie**. This narrow walled road leads down into the valley but then opens out with a panoramic view over the fields and pine forests at the foot of the hills. Here we find the beautiful **Villa Strozzi Sacrati**.



The driveway to Villa Strozzi Sacrati



Villa Strozzi Sacrati



The historical memory of the area



A handmade yet effective sign

Villa Strozzi Sacrati

This is a beautiful sixteenth-century villa with two towers (one is old while the other one was added later on for symmetry) and a large garden. It once belonged to the Strozzi family, or more precisely, to the Strozzi-Sacrati, a branch of the family from Mantua, who owned the villa during their latter years before the family line ended. It once included 13 farmsteads, each one with its own well, outbuildings and farmhouse. Nowadays, most of the farmland and surrounding area is no longer worked and the landscape which had been painstakingly cultivated by man for centuries is now almost falling into a state of disrepair. There just remains the land used for olive groves or for growing wheat and alfalfa year after year.

We continue along this street which turns into a country road, passing the lemon house, until we reach a wooden signpost where we follow the sign towards Ponte a Mensola. We cross over the **small wooden footbridge** which stretches over the Mensola River and then stay on this road until we rejoin **Via Gabriele D'Annunzio**.



The country road towards the small bridge



The small footbridge over the Mensola River

Technical information

Trail distance:	5.2 km
Height difference:	124 m
Maximum gradient:	27%
Average journey time:	Walking: 1h 30' - Running: 45'
Difficulty:	****

Technical and sporting features

Road conditions and surface:	There is no sidewalk along this trail, most of which is on asphalt (except for the beaten track section near Villa Sacрати Strozzi). It mainly winds through narrow streets. Pay attention and always run against traffic.
Suitable for:	Walkers with a good level of fitness Runners with a good level of fitness who can run the whole trail Beginners should alternate between running and walking (in the more difficult sections).
Type of training:	The features of this layout allow you to train your ability to handle fatigue .
Footwear:	Walking shoes or running shoes

Directions

Ataf Lines	<i>With stops directly at or next to the start of the trail:</i> line 10 stop Ponte a Mensola 01 on Via G. D' Annunzio (S. Marco - Ponte a Mensola - Settignano)
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Places to visit

Church of San Martino a Mensola

Free admission.
Summer: open between 4:00 - 6:00 pm
Winter: 3:00 - 5:00 pm
Sunday: 9:00 - 11:00 am
posta@sanmartinoamensola.it
<http://www.sanmartinoamensola.it>

Church of S. Maria a Settignano

Free admission.
Open every day between 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Closed Sunday afternoon.

Oratory of Vannella

Open for Marian feasts.
Info via email: guidodegli@tiscali.it
<http://www.oratoriovannella.it>

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 and Carla Giannini Contributor: Giacomo Scarzanella
Photo credits	Church of S. Martino a Mensola - for the kind permission of the Parish of San Martino a Mensola
<i>Special thanks</i>	Managers of places of art, faith, nature and culture <i>for their kind permission to reproduce the images and for their collaboration</i>
Thanks:	Presidents of the District Commissions for Sport 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, Enrico Castagnoli, Leonardo Ricci, 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.