

THE ASCIANO – MONTE ANTICO RAILWAY

Closed in 1994 as a "dead branch" and reopened in 1996 as tourist line, the railway departs from Asciano station and covers two kms before it runs through big valleys with bold viaducts and galleries.



On the right a striking view of the outstanding gullies around the Monte Oliveto Maggiore Abbey opens to your eyes.

By Trequanda station the line enters the Asso Valley. The train runs through sweet hills whose colours recalls the Siena clay and reaches the town San Giovanni d'Asso overlooked by the Middle Age Castle.

Still plunged in this amazing landscaspe, the line now approaches the monumental Torrenieri-Montalcino station which was built in 1865; beyond it the stretch goes through cultivated fields and comes closer to the Asso creek.

The shape of Montalcino stands out in the distance on the right side of the railway and on its feet green valleys stretch covered by vineyards which give birth to the esteemed



wine Brunello. The herds aren't bothered by the train running and browse peacefully in the meadows.

Sometimes some wildlife specimen

even show up on the sides of the line such us pheasants, hares, foxes, wild pigs and fallow deer.

After passing the Casalta gallery, the line enters the Val d'Orcia (Orcia Valley) and arrives in the little village of Monte Amiata Scalo.

It then approaches the stony bed of the river and they almost overlap. For a short track you can discern on the right the village of Castelnuovo dell'Abate which arose near the old Abbey of Sant'Antimo, while on the left the Amiata mountain dominates and you can perceive the soft contours of the villages lying on its slopes.

The valley widens out. Here the railway runs through the vineyards and orchards of Villa Banfi and then arrives in Sant' Angelo-Cinigiano station. The small village of Sant' Angelo Scalo has arisen around this station.



The train keeps on running along the Orcia valley heading for the Maremma region, it passes under the Poggio alle Mura Castle where the glass museum has its seat, crosses the Ombrone river and approaches Monte Antico station, already in Province of Grosseto.

300 meters ahead the Orcia river ends its run which started many kilometers before between Radicofani Rock and Cetona Mountain. Its clear waters join those of the Ombrone river and flow together slowly to the sea.

Our line meets the one coming from Siena through Buonconvento and it then joins the Tirrenica Railway under the middle age village of Montepescali.

