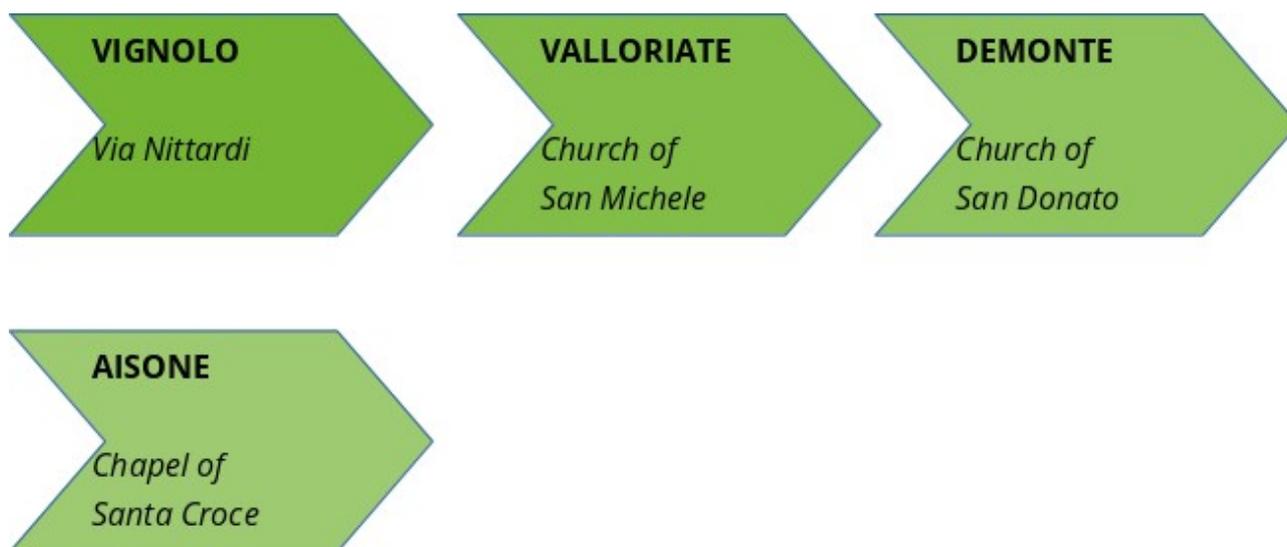


## ITINERARIES IN VALLE STURA

### FRESCOES

#### ROUTE



#### INTRODUCTION

In a valley with ancient traditions such as the Stura Valley, there was certainly no lack of painted evidence of the devotion and wealth of its inhabitants. The passing of armies, the transformations of buildings, the change in taste and historical events have; however, led to the loss of some of the most ancient paintings in the territory. Most of the pictorial heritage can be found today inside the parish churches, most of which were embellished between the 18th and 19th Centuries. This route is intended to take you on a journey between the Middle Ages and the Baroque Age.

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## THE STOPOVERS

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### 1. VIGNOLO. Via Nittardi

Walking in the historical center of Vignolo, you can still see some dwellings decorated with late medieval frescoes. The delicate Madonna enthroned with the Child can be seen in a driveway in Via Umberto; whereas more lively paintings in Via Nittardi, are more naive in their features but with a chivalrous taste all of our own. The frescoes evidence - with some license - the adherence to the models of the International Gothic style, characterized by elegant and almost fairy-tale characters. The elements of heraldry instead sanction the Savoy territorial domains.

### 2. VALLORiate. Church of San Michele

The restoration work carried out in 2010, on the parish church of San Michele brought to light a splendid fresco in the apse basin. A frame of architectural mimicry takes up those that are the characters of the structure of the church itself, but within this illusory space are painted celestial figures: God the Father and Jesus the Savior surrounded by angels flying are extremely scenic. The pastel colors and brilliant tones, as well as the highly suggestive scenic setting put up the work in the middle of the 17th Century.

### 3. DEMONTE. Church of San Donato

Walking along the right aisle of the imposing church of San Donato, you will find yourself in the rich chapel dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary, decorated and furnished shortly after the middle of the 17th Century by the atelier of brothers Giovanni Antonio and Giuseppe Nuvolone. The right wall depicts the exciting scene of the Battle of Lepanto, which took place in 1571, between the Muslim and Christian fleets: the triumph of the Christians was attributed to the intercession of the Virgin Mary, to the extent that in 1572, Pope Pius V instituted the feast of Santa Maria della Vittoria, which was later transformed by Gregory XIII into the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. For this reason, the image of this battle stands in many of the chapels with this dedication.

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#### 4. AISONE. Chapel of Santa Croce

Located along the ancient road linking Aisone and Vinadio, the Chapel of Santa Croce features one of the few 16th Century frescoes preserved in the valley. The theme focuses on the Passion, in accordance with the name of the church: Christ crucified between the two thieves and the Sorrowful Madonna.

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