

ITINERARIES IN VALLE STURA

ALTARS

ROUTE



INTRODUCTION

When in the 17th Century, after years of struggles with heretics and Protestants, the first action they took was the renewal of the churches. They placed painted canvases, precious silverware, but mainly altars. The altars of the Baroque period are imposing carved and painted wooden structures, almost a stage on which the faithful saw the Gospel scenes depicted. There must have been specialized workshops that produced them on models that were appreciated and repeated, given the huge diffusion throughout the valley.

Progetto “Valle Stura: una valle, mille opportunità” finanziato da



nell’ambito del bando



THE STOPOVERS

1. DEMONTE. Church of San Giovanni Decollato

The altar of the confraternity of San Giovanni is one of the most imposing masterpieces in the whole Cuneo area. Made by Mastro Pietro Marco da Contes coming from Nice, but living in Demonte, between 1676 and 1682, when it was solemnly inaugurated and praised by all presents. The work was to cost £750, was finally paid £975. The large wooden altarpiece occupies the whole height of the church and represents a decoration centered on Saint John the Baptist, dedicatee of the church, whose decapitated head camped on the cornice.

2. DEMONTE (Festiona). Church of Santa Margherita

A small detour in the hamlet of Festiona will lead you to the unexpected discovery of a church entirely renovated in its furnishings and decoration in the seventies of the 17th Century, as shown by the sculpted altars and beautiful paintings by the Triora painter, Lorenzo Gastaldi.

3. VINADIO. Church of San Fiorenzo

The parish church of San Fiorenzo is one of those with the highest concentration of wooden altars in the valley. There are three large altarpieces sculpted with twisted columns, angels and cherubs, and mysteries of the rosary that depict the devotion of this territory with three-dimensional figures. The two altars of the first aisle were carved expressly for San Fiorenzo, while the second altar of the left aisle comes from the church of Sant'Anna, later demolished for the construction of Fort Albertino. By analogy with the other altars in the valley whose history is supported by documents, we can hypothesize that the altars of Vinadio are dated to the eighties of the 17th Century.