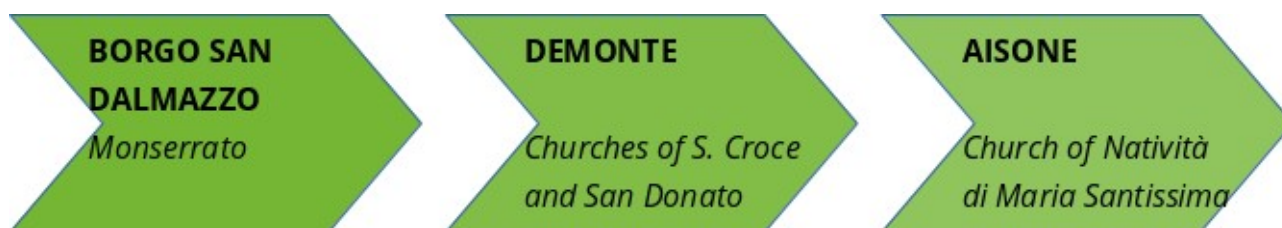


## ITINERARIES IN VALLE STURA

### SCULPTURES

#### ROUTE



#### INTRODUCTION

Not only paintings or silverware witness the art and devotion of the valley. Churches and confraternities boast a rich heritage of sculptures that has spanned many centuries: the oldest of these statues have undergone rework or repainting, others no longer "live" in their place of origin; others have been used for more than three hundred years on the days of the patronal feast. A wealth not only of objects, but also of traditions makes special this valley.

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## THE STOPOVERS

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### 1. BORGIO SAN DALMAZZO. Monserrato

Although the documentation of the life of the Sanctuary of Monserrato is more recent, for a long time devotion was concentrated in this place around the small wooden sculpture of the Madonna and Child, now restored and preserved in the Abbey Museum. The sculpture is striking for the solidity, with which the characters are moulded, with their turned and full volumes: we are now towards the end of the 15th century, when art slowly leaves the dry and broken Gothic lines to approach the soft 16th Century styles.

### 2. DEMONTE. Churches of Santa Croce and San Donato

The confraternity of Santa Croce preserves a particular group of sculptures with the Christ in the garden of Gethsemane, whose history is well documented: the church of Saints Processo and Martiniano in Turin in fact purchased it in 1782, at that time under reconstruction. It is attributed to Stefano Maria and Giovanni Maria Clemente, among the most appreciated active sculptors in Turin in the 18th century. The processional statue of San Donato dated and signed on the back of the book "STEFANIJ CHLEMENTE FECIT TORINO 1760", belongs to Stefano as well.

### 3. AISONE. Church of Natività di Maria Santissima

The parish church of Aisone preserves a remarkable patrimony of sculptures by Antonio Roasio, a Monregalese artist in the 19th century, who was also particularly appreciated in the Alpine area. The entrance of the works into the church's properties is attributed to the parish priest Don Giuseppe Antonio Rossi, originally from Monterosso, who worked on important renovations of the building, including the fresco decoration in the interior. The works were completed and purchased over a period of about ten years: Madonna del Buon Consiglio [Our Lady of Good Counsel] (1860), Sant'Anna con Maria Bambina [Saint Anne with Mary Child]

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(1864), Madonna del Rosario e Gesù Bambino [Our Lady of the Rosary and Jesus Child] (1865), San Giuseppe e Gesù Bambino [Saint Joseph and Jesus Child] (1870).

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