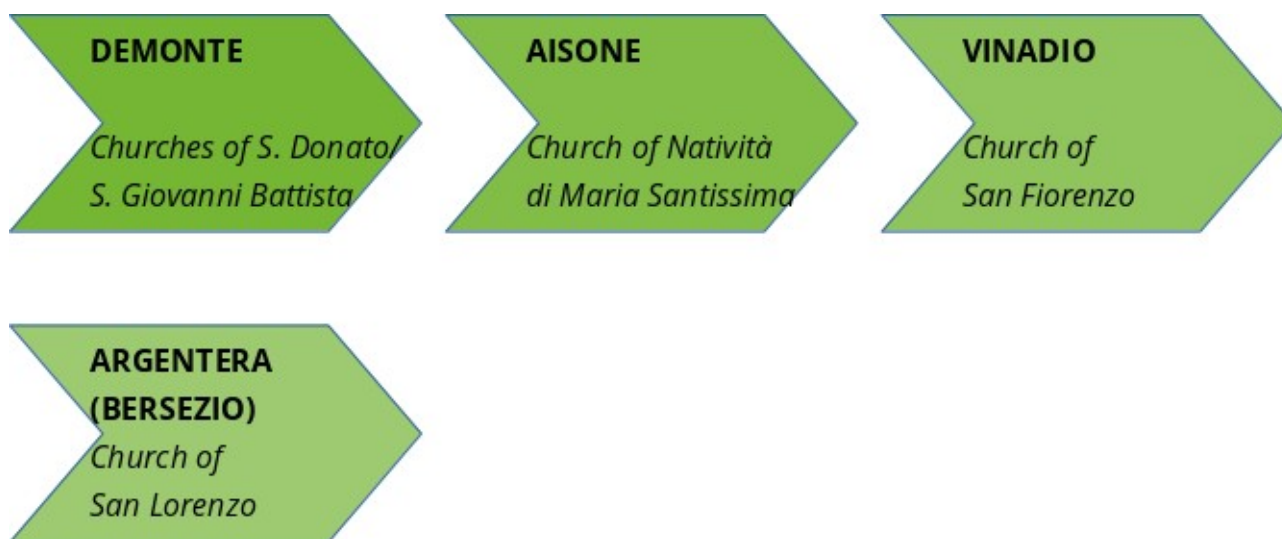


## ITINERARIES IN VALLE STURA

### TREASURES

#### ROUTE



#### INTRODUCTION

The churches of the valley have been the object of great devotion and attention by the faithful who, over the centuries, have commissioned or purchased precious objects: crosses, reliquaries, chalices, and ostensories are now part of the ornaments of chapels, confraternities and parishes. The most significant objects, after sorting and study, have been put together in protected and alarmed places, which can be visited on request. Many small treasures that give life to a project spread throughout the territory, linked to the communities of belonging.

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## THE STOPOVERS

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1. DEMONTE. Church of San Donato and Confraternity of San Giovanni  
Among the many important churches in the capital of the valley, the parish church and the brotherhood of the beaten blacks are those still best known today. The sacristy of San Donato hosts a selection of silverware and furnishings for the celebration of the liturgy: silver chalices, ostensories and pyxes belonging almost all to the 17th - 18th Century. In San Giovanni, on the other hand, there are different types of carved and gilded wooden reliquaries and a complete liturgical vestment in silk made in the 18th century. Many of these objects come from Alpine chapels and have been admitted here for security reasons.

2. AISONE. Church of Natività di Maria Santissima  
Inside the small treasure of the parish church of Aisone, we can see an intense portrait of Saint Philip Neri: it is the sculpted wooden reliquary bust dating back to the 17th century. There are numerous images and engravings of the saint, who died in Rome in 1585, which have handed down his precise physiognomy: a severe but elegant visage, framed by hair and a thick white beard. This enabled the artists to depict it with realistic and real-life features, as in the reliquary of Aisone.

3. VINADIO. Church of San Fiorenzo  
Sumptuous crosses made of precious materials always preceded the great processions and apostolic visits in the past. One of the most significant examples of the entire Piemonte is located in Vinadio: it is the large cross in silver and blue enamels with lily ends. A French goldsmith built it expressly for this church at the end of the 15th Century, as evidenced by the statue of San Fiorenzo and the town's coats of arms. The panels contain the sorrowed, the evangelists, Christ the Redeemer and Mary Magdalene.

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#### 4. ARGENTERA (Bersezio). Church of San Lorenzo

The small village that greets us before leaving the valley in the Middle Ages was home to an important priory dependent on San Teofredo de Le Puy. Evidence of its importance are the goldsmith's objects preserved in the small treasure of the presbytery: the brass cross of Limousin origin - the oldest in the diocese - the sumptuous reliquary arm made in 1496, by Canon Stefano Lupi and the eye-catching cross with enameled stand, is also attributable to the 15th century. Most of these works are of French origin and are evidence of the liveliness of the exchanges in the upper valley and the predilection for transalpine cultural patterns.

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