

WINTER DESTINATION: MACUGNAGA

OUT
OF
MILAN

"You can have no conception of real beauty unless you visit Italy at least once and you must only make the effort to fully enjoy it at leisure "
(Johannes Brahms)

It takes less than two hours by car to get to the only Himalayan Face of the Alps: the Monte Rosa, the Pink Mountain. It is the tallest wall in the Alps and the best view can be admired from Macugnaga. You can reach this little village after climbing the picturesque valley, Valle Anzasca.

The valley is a typical alpine landscape, but its unique characteristic is the road finishes at the footsteps of Monte Rosa, therefore it has maintained wilderness and traditional charme nowadays rarely found. The 20 kilometers curvy road from Piedimulera to Macugnaga pass through numerous villages from where you can enjoy many different views of the Monte Rosa and admire the classical structure of all Italian mountain settlements:

lovely churches, small piazzas, communal fountains and homes with stone roofs that still make the majority of the constructions.

At the end of the valley there is Macugnaga. It is not clear why its population, that speaks a Walser German dialect, moved to this remote alpine region at the beginning of 1200, but since this land is so difficult to reach, the Walser have maintained ancient traditions and unique habits for centuries.

Many of the houses are still made today using the ancient tradition of Blockbau, wood without nails, mounted on a base of stones. Inside every home there is the



stube, the living room where the typical carved provides heat. The wood is burned inside the stone to heat the living areas. The typical home can be seen at the Museo Casa Walser. There are many lovely restaurants that serve the typical alpine food: polenta, cheese, deer, mushrooms and liquors.

Turism has been at the core of Macugnaga economy since after the discovery of gold, when Macugnaga and the valley became an important commercial centre and families from the rich cities in Lombardy and Piedmont started to build mansion and spend summers escaping from the heath and winters skiing.

For mountain lovers there is everything: trekking, skiing, climbing, vertical trekking, but simple walks can also be enjoyed ad history can be discovered with a visit to the ancient Tiglio, a 13th century tree, that was the centre of political activity. The valley remains a hidden gem, at the tourism is limited to people that love high mountain experience and genuine products.



WHERE

MACUGNAGA
Verbano - Cusio - Ossola
1 h 30 mins by car from Milan

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