

Tiglio

Tiglio is a small hilltop community of two villages, Tiglio Basso, and higher up Tiglio Alto. You can walk to Tiglio and simply retrace the path back to Fornacetta and Barga, which takes about 2½ hours. Alternatively there are a number of walks which start at Tiglio including to **Coreglia Antelminelli** and to **Loppia**. www.casa-fontana.com/Coreglia.pdf

Leaving Casa Fontana go eastwards along via di Mezzo. At Porta Macchiaia continue straight ahead down into the village of **Fornacetta**. The Palazzo on the crest to the left is the Villa Angeli, built by the Marchese Francesco Angeli in the early 17thC. It was acquired by the Comune after WW2 and was until recently used as a school for the hospitality industry. It is currently empty pending necessary anti-earthquake strengthening. The large Liberty style villa below you on the left, "Villa Buenos Aires", now flatted, was built in the 1920's by Ferruccio Togneri, who had emigrated to Argentina in the 19thC.



In the centre of Fornacetta the road forks in front of the church of Santa Maria Assunta, which was reconstructed in the mid 18thC by Giuseppe Bonaccorsi, a famous musician with the Teatro Giglio in Lucca, who retired to his Fornacetta birthplace and extended the church and restored the historic organ.

At the church the road forks, the right hand lane leading down to the terraced farmland of Bugliano. We will take the left hand road, which continues up through Fornacetta until it again forks. The right hand lane is the mule track which winds its way up to Tiglio and the ancient Giuncheto Jasper quarries. Follow this

track till you meet the public road and follow it for 200m or so until the road, signposted to Giuncheto and Serra, drops off to the right. Take this road and continue on the public road to Giunchetto where it peters out in a farmyard. Here go left following the marked path (sign for horse, mountain bike and foot path) which continues as an unmade track down through woodland.

■ ■ Look out for the red and white markers of the Club Alpino Italiano (CAI) who maintain many of the tracks. Cross the bridge at the mill and the track starts to wind up through the woods past a small group of houses then down into the valley. On the left is a small chapel and opposite it a rock known locally as "il salto del diavolo" (the Devil's leap) and you should be able to make out his hoof prints in the surface of the rock. Cross the bridge and the road winds up through the chestnut woods again. Finally you will arrive in the small piazza where there is a signpost indicating the route to Tiglio Alto, to the left up Via della Chiesa. At the top of the street you will meet the main road, cross over and to your left you will see a narrow marked path which climbs up through the chestnut forest. Continue until you pass a house on the right and you will see the tower of the church above you. Continue up the track which leads up to a gate in the enclosing wall of Tiglio Alto, which was once a fortress. There is now only the church and a handful of houses around the piazza. There is a bar but it only opens for Festas. From Tiglio Alto you will get a magnificent panorama across the valley to the village of Coreglia Antelminelli.



From Tiglio Alto retrace your steps to Tiglio Basso and back to Barga. Don't be tempted to go back along the road as it is considerably further.