

Tour: Rasa(546m) - M.Chiusarella(915m) - M.Martica(1032m) - M.Legnone(867m) -
Rasa

After I vainly hoped that my next available days were really sunny days, listening every evening to the news about the weather, I finally knew that yesterday would be a nice day! After the initial euphoria I began to choose the destination among the best of my deposit, just among the best? Oh, no! Be careful, we had a lot of snow, the snow has not yet settled, on the top is very cold so the wise part of me goes down with my pretensions and level. Ok, let us satisfied ourselves, we move to plan B and go there at 1800m, after all we were never been there I agreed with Chiara (this time I will be accompanied), the preparations, the latest news about the weather say moderate wind, is there avalanche danger? Well I climb from the south, I am downwind and I am OK! But the devil shows me a pamphlet about the wind and the snow which tells me that "moderate wind" is actually a wind force 4 (Beaufort) and already favors the accumulation of snow on leeward slopes. But ... just a moment! Wasn't downwind the side where we should climb ? Well, just a little consultation, then we leave the plan B and invent a plan C, a low-altitude tour on the mountains near home. We like it: "So we are safe..., so we will be home at 13...., so we don't travel a lot by car ...". But this is really a little bitter: "but those are the mountains where we run and go on MTB on summer! We consider them the play areas just outside the city." Anyway, we decided: a beautiful ascent with snowshoes very close to Varese. Instead, not even this one! On the south side that we ascent to the Monte Martica the snow has already disappeared then we leave the snowshoes in the car and climb to Pian Valdes by trails harder than the military path. So we reach the summit of Monte Chiusarella with splendid views everywhere, of mountains, lakes and plains towards Milan in all the directions of the compass rose. Lots of photos and then we reach the two peaks of Monte Martica. From there we go down on the steep snowy North side (snowy, yes!) but the snowshoes await us in the car so we rely on the good hiking boots and we continue till the village of Brinzio. Not yet satisfied we decide to climb the other side of the valley on the slopes of the Campo dei Fiori till Passo Varrò. From there we decide to ascent to Monte Legnone that has nothing to do with the namesake and more important mountain but with its (only) 867m is much easier to climb for us. Well, the trip is ending, we go back to Passo Varrò and from there to the village of Rasa where we left the car. At the end of our tour we were satisfied, and found to be not so tired but we discovered with pleasure, at home, we collected 901m in altitude and 13.1 km (SLE = 22.1 km) against 981m and 11.1 km (SLE = 20.91 km) of the plan B that we regretfully abandoned! That is, the two trips were equivalent and we had several other advantages.

Before we complain of a situation we should really consider all its aspects!

This is not to say anything more; we will consider again the A and B planes as soon as possible. The mountain is made up not only by numbers, but of knowledge, places, exposures, different views, etc. But now the numbers gave us a "sop"!

Key data

Real elevation difference: 901m

Total length km 13.1

Mean gradient about 12%

Total time 4h30' (short stops included)

Split times:

Monte Chiusarella	Monte Martica	Brinzio	Monte Legnone	Rasa
0h57'	0h52'	0h43'	1h11'	0h47'