

Chiantone-Vinadia

Rio Chiantone

Create: 2023-03-09 20:49:55	Update: 2023-10-14 09:16:06	Print: 2026-06-26 11:06:03
Country: Italia / Italy Region: Friuli Venezia Giulia Subregion: Udine Town: Tolmezzo		
Difficulty: a little difficult	Grading: v4 a4 V	Total time: 5h10
Approachtime: 5min	Tourtime: 5h	Returntime: 5min
Altitude entry: 800m	Altitude exit: 340m	Delta Altitude: 460m
Canyon length: m	Highest rapell: 55m	Amount rapells: 22
Transport:	Rock type:	Drainage area: km ²
Season:	Orientation:	Best Time:
Rating: ★ 3.7 (10)	Info: ★ 2.8 (6)	Belay: ★ 2.6 (8)
Specialities:		
Gear: Ropes: 2x60		
Summary: (machine translated) It is advisable to do the Chiantone-Vinadia in June or July, because then the sun can reach the deep canyons. The Chiantone-Vinadia is rather rarely climbed mainly because of the garbage problem in Chiantone. However, the rappels in Chiantone are very good (Pro-Canyon). Geologically beautiful canyon framed almost entirely by high walls - virtually no escape. The Chiantone section is very narrowly cut and aquatic, offering no escape and few rescue options (weather check!). There would possibly be the possibility to escape at the diversion through a long tunnel. Here, however, you must 1. have light with you and 2. check before the entry whether the grids at the exit of the canyons are still cut. Conversely, you can use the tunnel if you want to do only the lower part of Vinadia. Be sure to take water with you, as the water is definitely not drinkable due to the impurities and the canyon is quite long and strenuous. Info from canyon.carto.net (not verified): "There is also the possibility to walk only the lower part of the gorge from the power station in the middle of the gorge. From the parking lot west of the bridge over Torrente Vinadia, ascend on an indistinct path for about 120m and then traverse on horizontal climbing tracks to the left to the entrance of the tunnel. Down to the right through the grate and hike for about 15-20 minutes through the tunnel to the power station - headlamp necessary. In April 2016, however, this tunnel was blocked again and thus NO intermediate entry possible. This also eliminated the possibility of an intermediate exit at the water diversion." It is therefore advisable to first check the grids before planning an exit - these are always cut through and renovated again ;-)		
Hydrology:		

Access: (machine translated)

From the large oval traffic circle in Tolmezzo, turn onto the SS52 in the direction of Ampezzo. Stay on the SS52 for about 4.2 km until you pass the Vinadia canyon. At km 16/III turn onto the SP125 in the direction of the village of Vinadia. Stay on this road for approx. 700m until you pass a house on the right ("Legnonlandia"), where you can park alongside the driveway (see picture). If several cars are available, most of them should park in the lower parking lot, because a maximum of 2 cars should park in the Chiantone parking lot. (N46,4103890/E012,9669440) Take the shuttle car back to the SS52 and turn left towards Tolmezzo. After 2.3km, take the exit towards "Canvea" on the SS52 and then turn left (drive through the underpass of the SS52). After 200m, turn right and follow the road for 1.2km. Before the bridge over the Torrente But, turn sharp left. Stay on the road for 800m through the short tunnel and immediately after the tunnel turn left towards "Cazasso". Follow the serpentine road uphill and after 3.2 km you will reach the village of Fusea. Stay on the road and after 5 km you will reach the bridge over the Chiantone (before the village of Buttea). Attention max. space for 2 cars (N46.440132,E12.973330)

Approach: (machine translated)

From the parking lot go uphill on the road towards Buttea, until after about 100m a forest road on the right leads into the forest. Follow the road downhill for about 200m to Chiantone.

Tour: (machine translated)

Once in the streambed of the Chiantone, there is first a small walking passage, before it goes blow-on-blow. The first rappel is made from a block on the left side around which a rope with a major link is placed. After that the canyon is equipped with Canyon-Pro stances. I.e. with glued anchors and in most places chain anchors.

Furthermore, there is an SOS plaque at every rappel point from this point on.

At the SOS point 21 a rope traverse should be tightened on the left side, before one comes to the chain anchor from which one can rappel without water danger. From this point on, for the next 2.5 - 3 hours, there is practically no possibility to get to safety, since the Chiantone is an extremely narrow canyon.

There are 4 rappel points in a row, where at C25 (SOS 18) you rappel directly in the water stream. There follows a longer walking and swimming section in which the canyon is not wider than one meter for a long time and the walls rise up to 50m on the left and right.

After that you come to the highest rappel point (SOS 16) which is a bit stupid to reach because it is a hanging belay. That is, there are several lugs on which you hook the self-belay to get to the chain anchor. For this, the ropes can be pulled off very well. Another 5 rappels follow, interrupted by smaller walking and swimming sections, before you see daylight again after about 2.5 - 3 hours when the Chiantone flows into the Vinadia.

Unfortunately, the Chiantone is always very littered, because sometimes garbage is thrown into the Chiantone from the bridge at the parking lot. If you do not mind, however, the Chiantone offers a canyon experience that there is rarely in the kind and length in Friuli, because extremely dark, quite aquatic and also with beautiful rappelling places.

Arrived in the Vinadia follows a small abseil SOS 10 followed by a longer walking passage, before you come after about 3h to the water drainage, which can be used if necessary via the shaft (see special features) after previous grid check as an exit. The water drainage is reached after about 3 hours and is the only emergency exit possibility in the whole tour.

Now follows the beautiful lower part of Vinadia (Vinadia II). Crystal clear water, which you would not expect after the derivation, coupled with several small rappels, which can be partially jumped. Unique scenery as the canyon narrows to as little as a meter in places with about 100m-150m walls above you. After several small rappels with jumps paired with swims, walks and climbs, you come to the highest rappel in the canyons: a 30m rappel from a chain anchor. Partially, in the lower part, the former via ferrata must be used as anchor. For almost 2h you are in the narrow part, where you have practically no possibility to get out or get to safety. In June or July in stable weather, however, sensational, as light also penetrates to the bottom of the canyon again and again.

A somewhat longer walking passage, where the canyon becomes increasingly open, ends one of the most scenic canyons in Friuli. The dry streambed can be left or left on a gravel road that leads to the former stone custom.

Return: (machine translated)

From the exit of the canyon on the left simply walk along the road for about 200m to the parking lot of the lower vehicle.

Coordinates:

Canyon Start [46.4400 12.9735](#)

Canyon End [46.4319 12.9652](#)

Parking at Exit [46.4104 12.9669](#)

Parking at Entry [46.4401 12.9733](#)

Reports:

2025-12-06 | Canyon Dave | ★★★★★ | 📖★★★★ | 🪚★★★★ | 🌊 Normal | 🍏 Completed

It is not possible to enter the tunnel through the gate anymore, but it is possible to enter the tunnel through the balcony which you can see in the tunnel around 170m from the gate. From the gate you follow the contour leveled path on the right side of the tunnel, slightly up and down to the ridge (~170m). Continue climbing the path up the ridge until you reach the vegetation border (forest) and then keep walking slightly right just above the cliff for about 50m until you see the rock on the photo. There is an indistinct path following the base of this rock face which you take all the way down to the gully where I put an anchor left on the rock face. It takes 45m of rope to abseil down the gully covered with grass and trees directly into the tunnel balcony. If you only have shorter ropes it is possible to use the trees to split the abseil.

2025-12-06 | Horst Lambauer | ★★★★★ | 📖★★★★ | 🪚★★★★ | 🌊 Normal | 🍏 Completed

Unfortunately, there are a lot of disgusting carcasses in Chiantone. Sheep, cows, pigs and deer are currently having a rendezvous.... Otherwise the canyon was great if you're not disgusted by so many dead animals ☹️ All the stalls are tip top (machine translated)

2025-07-22 | Bina | ★★★★★ | 📖 | 🪚★★ | 🌊 Normal | 🍏 Completed

Relatively easy to walk. Unfortunately, there is still a lot of garbage in the canyon and occasionally the smell of dead bodies. (machine translated)

2025-07-11 | Wolfgang | ★★★★★ | 📖 | 🪚 | 🌊 Normal | 🍏 Completed

After a few days of rain, a good time for the Chiantone. Plastered and not slippery. 2-3 places are covered in gravel and need to be downclimbed or rappelled. A little more sun and it would have been perfect (machine translated)

2024-07-29 | Martin | 📖 | 🪚 | 🌊 Dry | 🚫 Not done

ATTENTION: Tunnel entry/exit currently NOT possible, unfortunately the grid has been renovated and is not passable. :(The access to the tunnel from below is quite overgrown, but the path in the OSM is perfectly marked. (machine translated)

2024-06-24 | Rick Paapy | ★★ | 📖★★★★ | 🪚★★★★ | 🌊 Low | 🍏 Completed

Really dirty canyon, couple of death animals in the canyon. Besides that beautiful canyon, worth for a visit, With out the garbage in the canyon maybe a 3 star canyon. last part of the canyon dry because the power plant takes all the water, but the water is much more clearer in the last part

2024-06-23 | Rok | ★★★★★ | 📖★★★★ | 🪚★★★★ | 🌊 Normal | 🍏 Completed

Everything tip top. Little waste and almost no smell. Great canyon. Jumps and slides go some. Good water level. (machine translated)

2023-11-25 | Horst Lambauer | ★★★★★ | 📖★★★★ | 🪚★★★★ | 🌊 Normal | 🍏 Completed

All stands ok. After the floods in October and November, both canyons (Chiantone and Vinadia) are beautifully polished white. We had 2 dead animals in the Chiantone, but these were not a problem due to the low temperatures. Otherwise, the Chiantone is relatively clean for once, thanks to the high water levels in Friuli in October and November. Two of us spent exactly 4 hours in the canyon. Especially with the temperatures (we had -2 °C at the start), not to be underestimated, because no light falls into the Chiantone and the Vinadia in the narrow part is also without sun and so you should wrap up well ;-) (machine translated)

2023-09-24 | Wolfgang | ★★★★★ | 📖 | 🪚★★ | 🌊 Low | 🍏 Completed

Although in the rest of Friuli due to 2-3 rainy days before but rather much water was,...we found here rather low water. Gespühlt was still good, so little to no garbage and also grippy in the upper part. Surprising was then the Vinadia,...I've never seen with soooo little water; "almost dry"; and just unfortunately also very slippery. Stands were so far all OK, although I think in the Vinadia you could still add 2-3, especially if slippery and little gibts there a few unpleasant Abkletterstellen (machine translated)

2023-06-17 | Bernhard | ★★★★★ | 📖★★★★ | 🪚★★ | 🌊 Normal | 🍏 Completed

Super Canyon ☹️ Above as described unfortunately garbage and dirty water , from Vinadia somewhat clearer . Due to murky water necessarily! first always let someone abseil before you slide or jump- partly treacherous . Also because in many places there are no hooks for abseiling and we have solved these with "dead man" - techniques. This was necessary where abseiling, which also happens very often, was not possible and you had to jump / slide. In the area Vinadia partly only single hooks. in chiantone are chain stands. Also plan more time for larger groups