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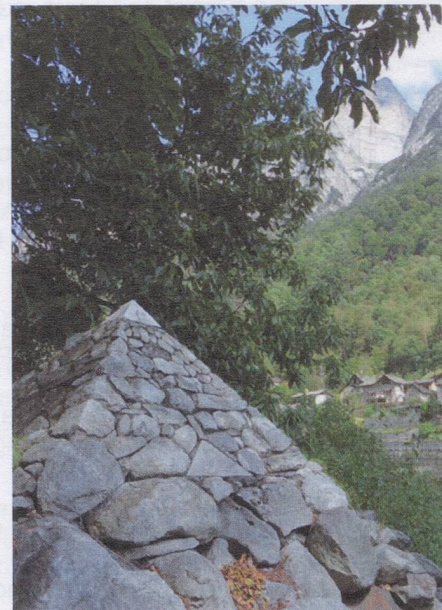
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## The Verzasca Valley

### 'Sentiero per l'Arte' - a footpath of art



Painters, sculptors and architects of Switzerland, together with the *Tenero and Verzasca Valley Tourist Office*, have designed a very special trail that commences right after the famous 'Ponte dei Salti' (the double arch stone bridge) in Lavertezzo and has its destination in Ganne. The 'Sentiero per l'Arte' is a footpath that holds a permanent art exhibition.

The trail winds its way along the Verzasca River (constituting part of the larger trail 'Sentierone') and welcomes walkers and art lovers alike to admire its 34 pieces. All year round, winding for 4.5km between the forest and the river, walkers can admire a variety of artistic sites made of various materials and constructed with inspirational ideas. *The Spazio 2000*, for example, is a surrealist metal and marble sculpture by Ernesto Oeschger and resembles a bird's nest with an egg inside. It is said to cause a feeling of loss among those who gaze upon it, highlighting the ambivalence between reality and dream. Hanny Buergin's *Qui c'è, o qui c'era* shows two tiny feet cast into brass and placed inside a stone and represents both the pain and pleasure that humans experience when settling permanently in a new place. Yet another piece of art made of a local stone (gneiss) and marble (by Antonio Lüönd) depicts the lofty form of a pyramid, evoking a feeling of as you can see in the picture above.

These and many more open-air art works have been constructed in a way that honours the changing nature of the climate and the doings of human kind. In contrast to traditional art exhibitions

where the artists' pieces are physically removed from their audience, the art pieces of the Sentiero per l'Arte are exposed to Mother Nature and peoples touch therefore being subject to change. It is the link between people and nature as well as the cycle of life that inspired the artists to build the trail in 1997.

The footpath of art can be followed after crossing the bridge 'Ponte dei Salti'. Yet even those family members who prefer the dialogue between people over that of art and nature will be pleased: along the two-and-a-half hour walk there are a number of picnic areas and restaurants to hold long and meaningful conversations or simply satisfy their appetite.

By Luzia Sauer

[http://www.tenero-tourism.ch/fileUpload/brochures/41/sentiero\\_arte\\_2012\\_web.pdf](http://www.tenero-tourism.ch/fileUpload/brochures/41/sentiero_arte_2012_web.pdf)  
<http://www.tenero-tourism.ch/en/118/artpath.aspx>

