

ITALY

# The final run

by Stefano Marzoli







Castiglione di Garfagnana (Lucca), 1400-1580 metres. The now abandoned "Passo delle Radici" ski area situated in the Tuscan-Emilian Apennine National Park.



## **THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON SKIING: THE WASTELANDS OF THE APENNINES**

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- July 2021 was the world's hottest month on record.
  - In Italy's mountains temperatures are set to increase by 2-3°C by 2050. In the Apennines this increase is occurring at twice the pace of the global average.
  - Snow cover is not what it once was: in Italy more than 100 million euros are spent each year on supplying the pistes with artificial snow.
  - While skiing is at risk of "extinction", the number of projects to create new infrastructure is growing.
  - On the mountainsides, abandoned buildings and rusting pylons are a testament to the neglect of the landscape and the environment.
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Castiglione di Garfagnana (Lucca), 1400-1580 metres. Abandoned ski slope of "Passo delle Radici" ski area within the Tuscan-Emilian Apennine National Park.







Ligonchio (Reggio Emilia), 1200-1600 metres. The "Ospitaletto" ski lift, decommissioned in 2008, was built within the Tuscan-Emilian Apennine National Park. A recovery project was planned involving the construction of a new chairlift, an artificial snow system and four more slopes in addition to the three existing ones. The project never began.





Marsia di Tagliacozzo (L'Aquila), 1500-1740 metres. Having opened in boom times, just two decades later the Marsia ski area and tourist resort has experienced a dramatic decline due also to conflicts between the consortium that managed the resort and the Municipal council. Numerous houses that were built are now either dilapidated or totally abandoned and ski lifts have closed.





Castiglione di Garfagnana (Lucca), 1400-1580 metres. The control cabin of an abandoned ski lift at the "Passo delle Radici" ski area within the Tuscan-Emilian Apennine National Park.





**According to the latest measurements of the rate of global warming, July 2021 was the hottest month on record. By 2050 Italy's mountain ranges are expected to see temperature increases of between 2 and 3°C and by the end of the century, further increases of between 3 and 7°C.**

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In the Apennine Mountains the temperature is rising at double the pace of the global average and the last ten years have seen a constant decline in snow cover. Italy, with its 6,700km of ski slopes and 1,500 ski lifts, spends more than 100 million euros each year on supplying the pistes with artificial snow. In its latest report on winter tourism, Legambiente defined Alpine skiing as a sport “at risk of extinction”. But, in spite of the evident problems and the “free fall” in conditions that ensure natural snow cover, the number of projects to create new infrastructure continues to grow.

Meanwhile the thousands of rusting pylons, hundreds of kilometres of steel cables and dozens of abandoned ghost resorts spread across the length of the Apennines are testimony to the consequences of mankind's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.





Ligonchio (Reggio Emilia), 1200-1600 metres. The "Ospitaletto" ski lift built within the Tuscan-Emilian Apennine National Park was decommissioned in 2008. A recovery initiative was planned involving the construction of a new chairlift, an artificial snow system and four more slopes in addition to the three existing ones but the project never began.



Ligonchio (Reggio Emilia), 1200-1600 meters. The abandoned baby ski lift built close to the village is still visible today in the village car park.







Castiglione di Garfagnana (Lucca), 1400-1580 metres. An abandoned electricity distribution cabin at the "Passo delle Radici" ski lift.





Montecristo (L'Aquila), 1600-1900metres. The Montecristo ski area, close to the more famous Campo Imperatore, is located within the Gran Sasso and Monti della Laga National Park. The ski area, built in the 1960s, closed permanently in 2001.





Castiglione di Garfagnana (Lucca), 1400-1580 metres. An abandoned snow cat vehicle in the "Passo delle Radici" ski area inside the Tuscan-Emilian Apennine National Park.



Montecristo (L'Aquila), 1600-1900 metres.  
Spare parts of a ski lift that is no longer  
in use. The Montecristo ski area, close to  
the more famous Campo Imperatore, is  
located within the Gran Sasso and Monti  
della Laga National Park. The ski area, built  
in the 1960s, closed permanently in 2001.







Campo Nevada (L'Aquila), 1600-1900 metres. The Campo Nevada ski area, close to the Campo Imperatore plateau, is located inside the Gran Sasso and Monti della Laga National Park. Construction of the Fossa di Paganica tourist complex began in the 1960s but the project was immediately blocked by local institutions due to its perceived environmental impact. Fifty years later, part of the structure is unsafe and is used as a shelter for grazing animals, the other part has collapsed. A redevelopment project was mooted but never implemented.





Castiglione di Garfagnana (Lucca), 1400-1580 metres. A tool shed of an abandoned ski slope in the "Passo delle Radici" ski area within the Tuscan-Emilian Apennine National Park.





Campo Nevada (L'Aquila), 1600-1900 metres. The Campo Nevada ski area, close to the Campo Imperatore plateau, is located inside the Gran Sasso and Monti della Laga National Park. Construction of the Fossa di Paganica tourist complex began in the 1960s but the project was immediately blocked by local institutions due to its perceived environmental impact. Fifty years later, part of the structure is unsafe and is used as a shelter for grazing animals, the other part has collapsed. A redevelopment project was mooted but never implemented.





Villa Minozzo (Reggio Emilia), 1160-1650 meters. The remains of an abandoned snow cat vehicle in the former ski area "La Romita". Throughout the woods it is common to come across remains from the area's past as a ski resort.





Campo Nevada (L'Aquila), 1600-1900 metres. The Campo Nevada ski area, close to the Campo Imperatore plateau, is located inside the Gran Sasso and Monti della Laga National Park. Construction of the Fossa di Paganica tourist complex began in the 1960s but the project was immediately blocked by local institutions due to its perceived environmental impact. Fifty years later, part of the structure is unsafe and is used as a shelter for grazing animals, the other part has collapsed. A redevelopment project was mooted but never implemented.





Ligonchio (Reggio Emilia), 1200-1600 metres. The "Ospitaletto" ski lift built inside the Tuscan-Emilian Apennine National Park was decommissioned in 2008. A recovery initiative was planned involving the construction of a new chairlift, an artificial snow system and four more slopes in addition to the three existing ones but the project never began.





Montecristo (L'Aquila), 1600-1900 metres. The Montecristo ski area, close to the more famous Campo Imperatore, is located within the Gran Sasso and Monti della Laga National Park. The ski area, built in the 1960s, closed permanently in 2001.





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Marsia di Tagliacozzo (L'Aquila), 1500-1740 meters. The remains of a tourist resort. Having opened in boom times, just two decades later the Marsia ski area and tourist resort has experienced a dramatic decline due also to conflicts between the consortium that managed the resort and the municipal council. Numerous houses that were built are now either dilapidated or abandoned and ski lifts have closed.





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Ligonchio (Reggio Emilia), 1200-1600 metres. An old ski with ski boot still attached found near the "Ospitaletto" ski lift. The structure situated within the Tuscan-Emilian Apennine National Park was decommissioned in 2008.





Montecristo (L'Aquila), 1600-1900 metres. The Montecristo ski area, close to the more famous Campo Imperatore, is located within the Gran Sasso and Monti della Laga National Park. The ski area, built in the 1960s, closed permanently in 2001.



