

## Monte Senino (Punta Castellacci), 618m

2.15 hrs.



Fantastic walk along the northern pillars of the Gulf of Porto



Monte Senino is not very high, but it is one of Corsica's most beautiful and adventurous mountains – and easily takes the prize as the most photogenic. The twin peaks of Punta Castellacci and Monte Senino separate the Gulf of Porto from the Gulf of Girolata, and offer a superb 360° view sweeping over the two bays as well as Corsica's main ridge.

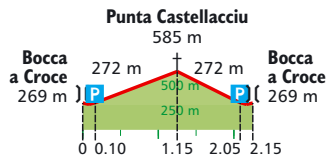
**Starting point:** Bocca a Croce (Col de la Croix), 269m, on the Galéria – Porto road (22km north of Porto) above the village of Osani.

**Height difference:** 350m (Monte Senino an additional 300m).

**Grade:** extremely steep footpath (with some easy sections of scrambling) that requires a certain amount of route finding.

**Refreshment:** *buvette* (snack bar) at Bocca a Croce.

**Alternative:** detour to the summit of Monte Senino: a path continues beneath the crags of Punta Castellacci and to the



right (in a north-westerly direction), at first on the left and then on the right of the ridge, finally reaching the peak of Monte Senino in about 1¼ hrs. (cairns; at the end a scramble (2)).

**Map:** IGN 4150 OT (1:25,000).



The summit of Monte Senino as seen from Punta Castellacci.

From the top of the **Bocca a Croce** pass, a track forks off in a westerly direction and after 800m (10 mins.) crosses a mountain col (272m, parking places). Leave the track here (which descends toward the Gulf of Girolata) to follow a distinct path turning off in a westerly direction. The path is rather precipitous in places and leads on the right of the ridge through scrub wood finally arriving at the foot of Punta Castellacci (10 mins.). Here, bear right continuing your ascent along the path. Reaching a fork in the path after 3 minutes, take the right-hand path which now ascends very steeply and with some very precipitous sections in places – fortunately, trees and rocks usually provide good handholds for the exposed climb. After about 10 minutes – you have now reached the north flank of Punta Castellacci – a short traverse leads you over to the north ridge. The ridge approach continues uphill very steeply, opening up marvellous views of the Scandola peninsula and towards Girolata. After a quarter of an hour's climb, you reach the foot of a high rock face where you keep to the left and continue the ascent through a wide gully flanked by boulders. You gradually come back to the east side of the summit where a short traverse to the left follows after 10 minutes (make a note of this spot for your return). The final ascent along the eastern ridge is not quite so steep as it leads past gigantic crevices in the rocks to your left, and at last you reach the highest point of **Punta Castellacci**, 585m (a good 10 mins.).

