Chiantone-Vinadia

Rio Chiantone,La Vinadia,Vinadie

Create: 2023-03-09 20:49:55	**Update:** 2026-08-23 22:24:02	**Print:** 2026-10-30 01:10:08
Country: Italia / Italy **Region:** Friuli Venezia Giulia **Subregion:** Udine **Town:** Tolmezzo		
Difficulty: a little difficult	**Grading:** v4 a3 V	**Total time:** 5h18
Approachtime: 5min	**Tourtime:** 5h	**Returntime:** 13min
Altitude entry: 780m	**Altitude exit:** 340m	**Delta Altitude:** 440m
Canyon length: 3500m	**Highest rapell:** 55m	**Amount rapells:** 22
Transport: Car required	**Rock type:** limestone	**Drainage area:** km²
Season:	**Orientation:** Southwest	**Best Time:**
Rating: ☆ 3.9 (15)	**Info:** ★ 2.7 (11)	**Belay:** ★ 2.6 (13)

Specialities:

Gear:
Ropes: 2x60

Summary: (machine translated)
It is recommended to do the Chiantone-Vinadia in the summer, because that is when the sun can reach deep into the steeply cut canyon.
The Chiantone-Vinadia is rarely run, mainly due to the trash problem in the Chiantone. However, the rappelling spots in the Chiantone are very good (Pro-Canyon)

A geologically stunning canyon, almost entirely framed by high walls—there is virtually no escape route. The Chiantone section is very narrow and aquatic, offering no escape routes and only limited rescue options (check the weather!).

Under certain circumstances, it might be possible to escape via a long tunnel during the descent. However, you must 1. have a light with you and 2. check before the entry whether the grates at the canyon's exit are still cut through. Conversely, you can use the tunnel if you only want to do the lower section of the Vinadia.

Be sure to bring water with you, as the water is definitely not drinkable due to contamination, and the canyon is quite long and strenuous. There is a well in the canyon that always works.

Info from canyon.carto.net (unverified):
"It's also possible to hike only the lower part of the gorge, starting from the power plant in the middle of the gorge. From the parking lot west of the bridge over the Torrente Vinadia, ascend about 120 meters on a faint path, then traverse left along horizontal path marks to the tunnel entrance. Go through the gate on the lower right and hike through the tunnel for about 15–20 minutes to the power plant—a headlamp is required. In April 2016, however, this tunnel was blocked off again, making an intermediate exit NO LONGER possible. This also means the option of an intermediate exit at the water diversion is no longer available."
It is therefore advisable to check the gates first before planning an exit—they are frequently cut through and then repaired ;-)

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 passages, before it goes blow-on-blow. The first rappel is made from a block on the left side around which a rope with a majon 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 passages, 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 rappel, 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:

2026-09-12 | Martin Jasek | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ | ⚓ ★ ★ ★ | Low | 👍 Completed
We only did the lower section, but the experience was fantastic from start to finish. The gate was closed, and finding the spot to rappel down to the "window" was a bit tricky—drone footage really helped. A good tip is to stick to the ridge and avoid turning left into the woods onto the wrong path. We enjoyed the tunnels just as much as the canyon itself. Everything in the canyon was great—the rappels and the cold pools, all set against breathtaking views of the surrounding area.

2026-08-19 | Ivan I. | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ ★ ★ | Normal | 👍 Completed
Weapons are fine, the canyon is awesome... if you park in front of the farm, be sure to buy some honey—it's delicious □ (machine translated)

2026-08-10 | Jeroen Kirchner | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ ★ | Low | 👍 Completed
The eastern branch Vinadia-Chiantione is definitely the more continuous and impressive. Beautiful water colours depending on the light penetrating. The highest part had murky water, but it soon improved. Two dead animals though, one of which in the infamous garbage pool. Anchors are mostly pro-canyon apart from the lower part. Tip: as from 2027 there should be a bar up & running at the exit. Friendly people allowing us to park.

2026-07-25 | MirkoT | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ½ | 🕮 ★ ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ ★ | Low | 👍 Completed
More trash than two years ago, but it was out of the water. A dead animal was floating near the end of the Vinadia, but it’s in the section where there are no more rapids, and you have to walk to reach the exit on the left bank. I noticed some new stainless-steel anchors near the last rapids of the Vinadia. (machine translated)

2026-07-08 | System User | | 🕮 | ⚓ | Low | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Chiantone El barranco es espectacular, uno de los estrechos mas continuos que he descendido! Una pena toda la basura que se encuentra en el barranco! (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/22093/observations.html)

2026-05-24 | GeorgB | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ ★ ★ | Low | 👍 Completed
Entry via 45m rappel into the tunnel window and then through the tunnel to the power station. Little water and significantly more gravel than on previous visits, but a few jumps are still possible. (machine translated)

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 | ☆ ☆ ☆ ½ | 🕮 | ⚓ ★ ★ | 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 | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ½ | 🕮 | ⚓ | 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)