

The electric railway from Stresa to Mottarone

One of the most significant moments of Liberty in Stresa was the “train” that connected Stresa with the top of Mottarone with electric traction in direct current. Connecting the summit of Mount Mergazzolo, also known as Mottarone, with the lake had always been an ancient dream that had finally come true, forever changing the image of the town. The first idea, in 1887, was a traction train and a fundraiser was organized for this purpose, but the following year Tommaso Tadini presented his first successful project, while the final one was approved on June 15, 1906.

The official inauguration took place on Tuesday July 11, 1911: the first train went up to Mottarone carrying only the technicians. The next day it was open to the public, on September 1911 the solemn celebrations took place. In Stresa there were two stops: one next to the Pier, the ‘Pensilina’ the other next to the Railway station of the line Milano-Domodossola, in pure liberty style. The two stations were connected by a link just outside the city. The wagon depot was in via Carducci. To allow the railway to pass through the city, the Crée stream was covered.

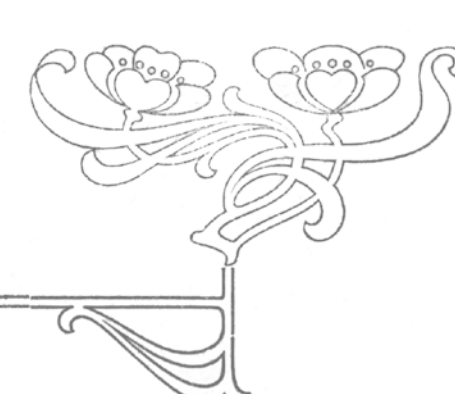
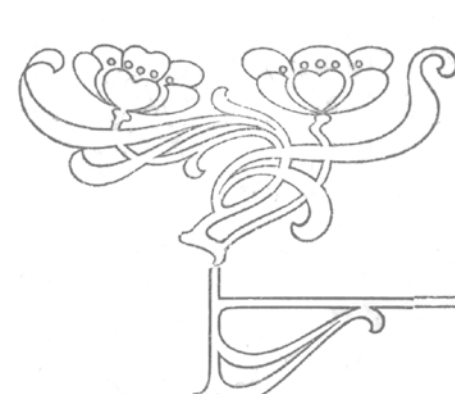
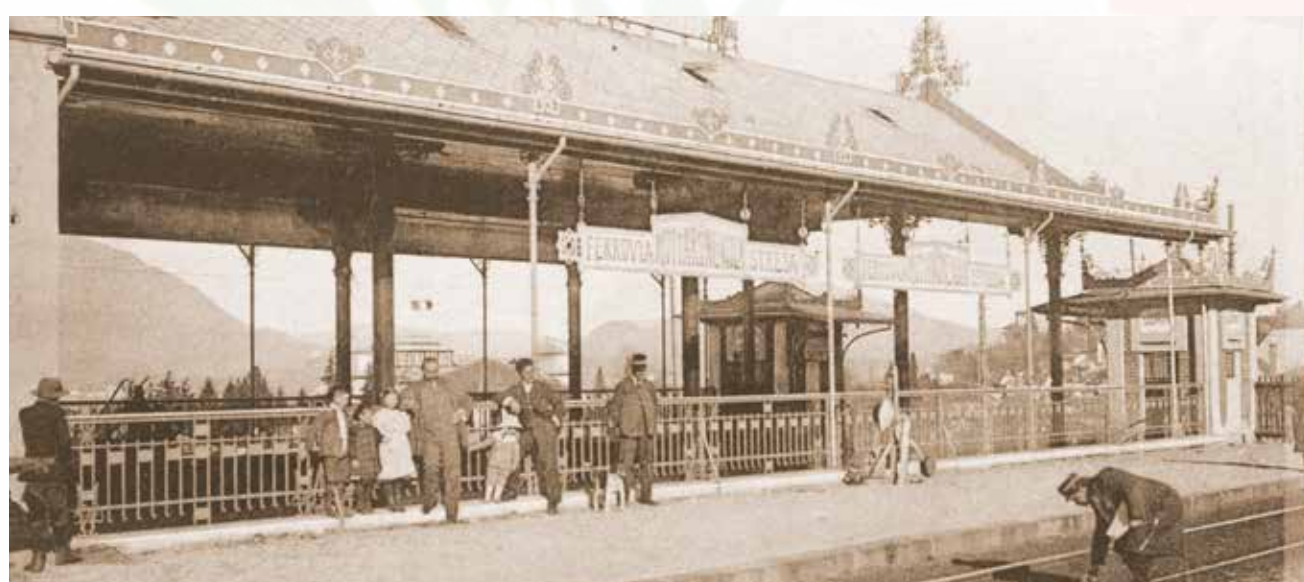
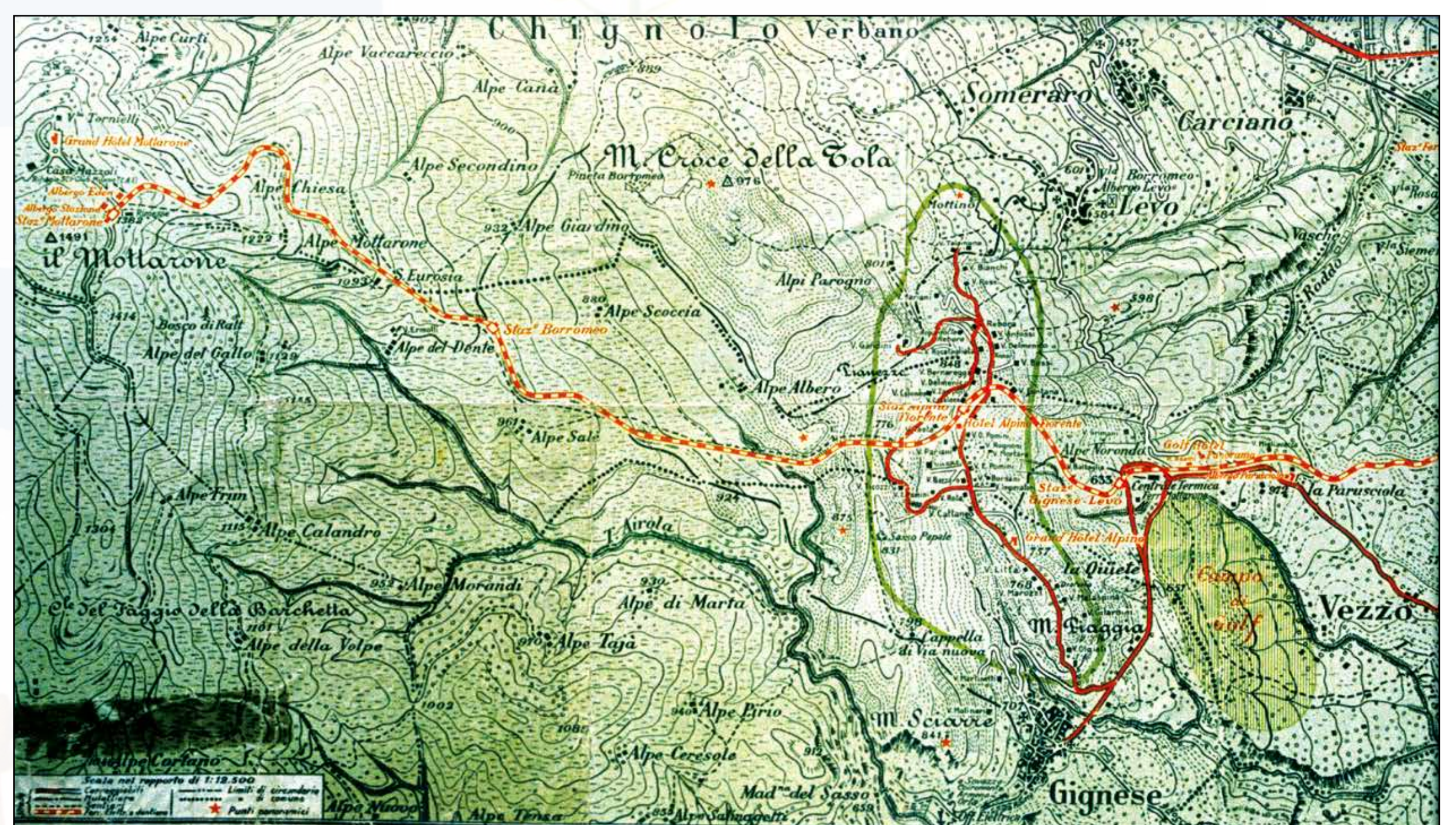
The Mottarone railway worked successfully from 1911 to 1963 without interruptions, thanks to unique views and comfortable hotels, first of all the Guglielmina hotel founded in 1884 and soon transformed into a Grand Hotel.

During the First World War, due to the lack of personnel, recalled in the war, the railway was downgraded for local transport.

Back to normal, thousands of people were taken by the train to the mountain top where snow fields, ski jumping and ski schools were the main attractions. So much so that in the Thirties the State Railways launched new special lines from Milano to Stresa on Sundays.

At the outbreak of the Second World War the railway increased significantly due to the many refugees who moved to the area: in 1945, 108,000 passengers were transported.

In the early 1960s, the little train ended its runs. On Monday 13 May 1963 at 12.55 the last train took its last run when car number 5 coming from Mottarone went to the Stresa depot. It was the last, unforgettable page of local history.



English

