



Pizzallo

stream's waterfall

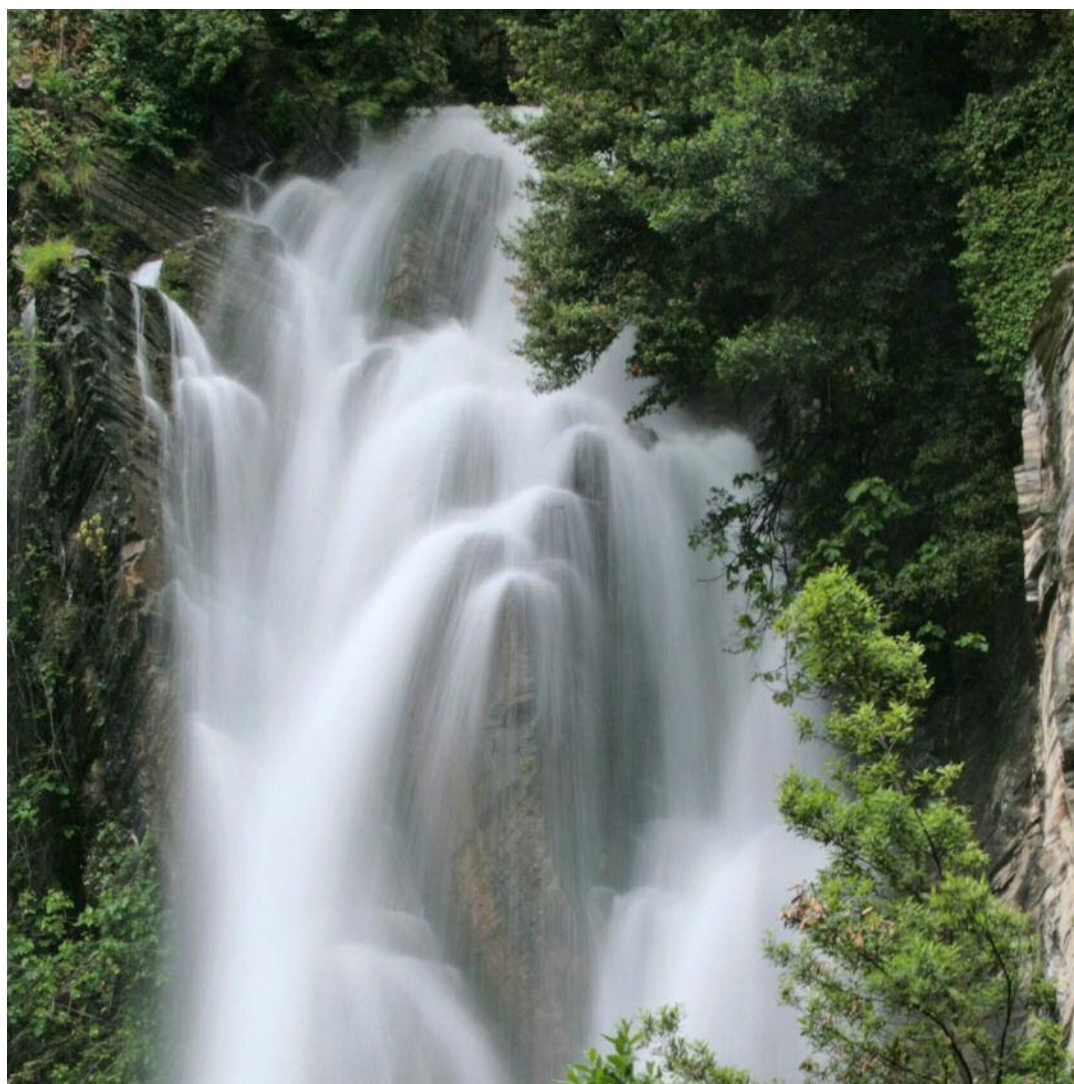
Life in Moltrasio is deeply connected with water, from the one coming from the Vespantina natural spring water, to the one that flows through the rocky surfaces until it reaches the lake.

Both water and stone are two materials that characterized – and still characterize – Moltrasio. The waterfall of the Pizzallo stream is an expression and representation of this idea, since rocks create this spectacular and sonorous fall.

It is sonorous not only because of the endless murmur of the cascade when it is fully flowing, or because of the subtle buzz that can be heard when the cascade is not at its

full potential, it is sonorous because it is said that the waterfall was the inspiration for Vincenzo Bellini (1801-1835) to compose *La Sonnambula* (The Sleepwalker). The artist spent a long period of time in Moltrasio, a place that became his inspiration.

The waterfall influenced the inhabitants in Moltrasio not only because of its beauty and its emotive nature, but also because it was the core of the Watermills valley. The place was officially named this way due to its economic importance and impact on the urban area.



Between the 16th and 19th century, the extraction of stones was a privilege reserved for the owners of the watermills, who could collect rocks from the river beds. This activity was subject to law. It then is easy to infer its economic relevance.

Since 1722, the Pizzallo stream had been powering around 11 watermills located all over the course of the stream. Only one of them remains in the present, but there exist

documents that describe the others. The locations in which they used to be can be found on the cadastral map here. Taking into account that in that time there were around 500 inhabitants, it is clear that the water mills also worked for the neighbor villages, which brought wealth to Moltrasio.

The last functioning watermill in Moltrasio ended its activity in the 1950s, and it had engraved its fabrication date: 1787.

