

The Italian Alpine Club *Club Alpino Italiano* – (C.A.I) was founded by Quitino Sella in Turin in 1863. A national, non-profit association open to all, the club pursues Mountaineering in all its many forms, including the study & exploration of mountains, especially those in Italy, and the defense and care of the natural environment. For more information in English on the national C.A.I organization, please visit www.cai.it

Chapter History & Activity

After a brief period of activity in the 1930's, the local chapter was re-born in 1970 thanks to the interest and passion of circa 50 local hiking & mountaineering enthusiasts, some of whom were already members of other chapters. In these following decades, the chapter has continued to grow and currently boasts around 300 members. The activities of the chapter are varied, and include hiking, rock climbing, caving, snow-shoeing, cross-country & downhill skiing, Alpine rescue, and First Aid. Excursions range from one-day outings in the countryside around Siena to overnight trips to regional mountains to week-long treks in some of the most rugged & challenging mountain terrain across Italy & Europe. This variety of activity ensures regular opportunities for participation by chapter members across various skill levels & experience. Excursion leaders complete regular outdoor training courses to ensure safety and responsible environment stewardship at all times during group activities. The association collaborates with a broad network of local & national community associations, schools, and governmental institutions to support outdoor education programs for children & adults, trail development & maintenance, and general environmental awareness, fellowship, & fitness. Central to this mission is the recently restored Castle of Montarrenti, a beautiful medieval hamlet near Siena that has lodging/meeting facilities to host groups from 10-37 people and dining facilities for 60 people. The castle is an ideal base for excursions into the local territory and for seminars and programs on environmental issues. [Klic here](#) Castello di Montarrenti

The Siena Chapter also maintains an extensive library of books, maps, videos, and other media related to Mountaineering and Environmental Stewardship. Regular programs are organized at the Chapter House in Siena and at Montarrenti castle featuring speakers, discussions, and film screening on topics related to Mountaineering & the Environment.