

YOU MINES

PARCO MINERARIO CORTABBIO DI PRIMALUNA

CORTABBIO BARYTE MINE

From Closure to Inclusive Mining Tourism

Presenter: Mr. Dario Milani



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OF MINING AND
UNDERGROUND MUSEUMS



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CORTABBIO BARYTE MINE

- ▶ Mineral discovery: 1860 → Start mining activity: 1868
- ▶ End of mining activity: 2012 → Launching cultural site: 2015
- ▶ Blind route: 2017 → Special wagon: 2018 → Panoramic lift: 2025

2026

- ▶ **First mine with Panoramic lift → the only 100% inclusive mine in Italy**



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Technical and Cultural Approach

- Guided by former mine director
- Focus on stability and safety
- Selection of key mining features

Sources of income

Entrance ticket only → Guides' fees, some brochure and Ordinary maintenance



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Designing the Visit

- ▶ Group management strategies
- ▶ Clear storytelling
- ▶ Adapting to different audiences



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Accessibility and Inclusion

- Accessible paths
- Experiences for visually impaired visitors
- Inclusive approach



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Underground Panoramic Lift

- Unique in Italy
- Safe access to deeper levels
- Enhancing visitor experience



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▶ Visitor Growth

1,600 → first year(2015)

4,000 → before pandemic

Closure 4 years for COVID-19 + upgrading works
(Vittoria Gallery redevelopment and Lift installation) :
since 2020 - re_opened in may 2024 !!

3,000 in 2025
Increasing trend



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**Underground works and
management methodologies**

▶ Short video



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International Cooperation 2026

NEW Interreg Italy–Switzerland project approved and funded- includes many actions:

- Joint training
- Emergency practices exchange
- AI real-time translation tools
- Laser scanner survey of the mining complex
- Structural modeling with stability and water flow checks



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► Scientific collaboration

- State University of Milan: bachelor, master's dissertation
- Polytechnic University of Turin: master dissertation
- University of Insubria: field experiences
-  → Horizon: Grignolo is a project partner (funding candidate) with Polish Geological Institute, Czech Technical University in Prague, Lviv Politechnic National University & other



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► Future Development

- Integrated tourism packages
- Promotion and networking
- Visitor growth target: ×3
- Cultural exchanges and collaboration with other European mining sites



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Mining tourism in Italy

- ▶ Still underdeveloped
- ▶ Limited integration
- ▶ Strong potential



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a replicable model

- Preserve identity
- Ensure accessibility
- Develop sustainable tourism



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We would be happy to collaborate with you by sharing our experience and hearing your opinion on our mine.

Our friend Monika said:

«the largest mine voids I've ever seen in the Alps!»



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Szczęść boże Glück Auf Che Dio ci assista!

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Thank you !

Dario Milani



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