

## TRIP TO ITALIA FROM THE 30<sup>TH</sup> OF SEPTEMBER TO THE 7<sup>TH</sup> OF OCTOBER 2007 SAN ZENO DI MONTAGNA

This was a trip that Anne Berit won from the magazine Nytt&Nyttig. They called it a trip to Verona. Kjell could accompany if he paid what it cost. Two days before we got the tickets we received more details about the trip. It then showed that we going to stay at a small place up in the mountains 30 km north of Verona. We had looked at the weather forecast and found out that there were going to be around 15-20 degrees in the day. When we checked the weather forecast for San Zeno, then it said that there were going to be about 5 degrees in the middle of the day. We had prepared for summer weather but now we rushed to the shop and bought super underwear.

We went from Gardermoen and parked the car at Dalen Parking as usual.



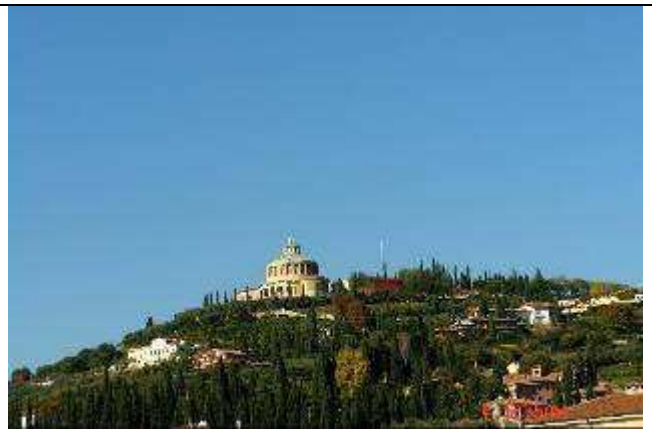
General view from Gardermoen



A picture from the airport in Verona

We went by a plane, which was chartered by Nytt&Nyttig. The trip took about 3 hours.

On the airport in Verona we were received by two buses. At first we were taken on a sightseeing trip to a church, Santuario della Madonna di Lourdes, which was situated on a hill above the city.



Then we were taken into the center of Verona where we got a free lunch on one of the restaurant lying right besides an old Roman arena, which is from year 30 and is the third largest in Italy.



We ate at one of these restaurants



The arena



After the lunch we went for a walk through the center of the town.

Verona is among others known Romeo and Julie who lived here. We ended up where Julie shall have lived. There was also a statue that should represent Julie.



Julie



The balcony

After some hours the buses came for us and the trip continued to San Zeno di Montagna and Hotel San Zeno, where we should stay.

There was a common dinner when we came to the hotel, but we had to pay for the dinner.

Here are some pictures of the hotel.



The hotel seen from outside



The room



The bar



The reception seen from two different angles

The hotel was situated in the outskirts of the little village and when we were going out to eat, then there were a couple of kilometers to walk.



Here are pictures of the little village

The first day we went around in the neighborhood and made us acquainted there.



Here sat and had a four courses dinner on Anne Berit's 60 years birthday. This restaurant was a couple of kilometers away from where we stayed.

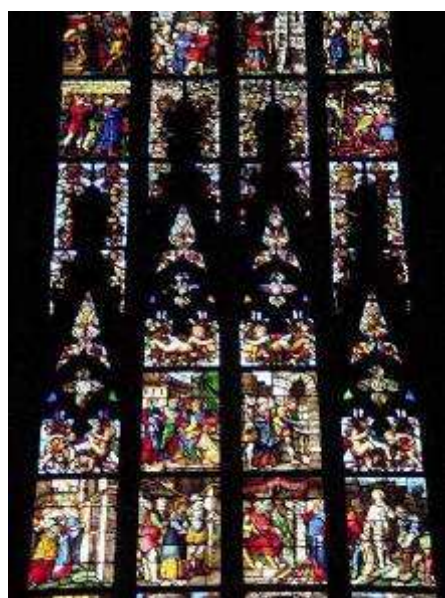


We also went to a restaurant that had as a specialty courses with chestnut. We had rabbit with chestnuts.

There were chestnut trees all over and there were a lot of people who picked chestnuts, but many big areas were fenced in and here was displayed big signs that it was prohibited to pick chestnuts there.

The excursions, which Nytt&Nyttig had on their program, were so expensive that we planned our own excursions. The second day we rented a car at a rental company via the reception and we got it handed over at the hotel. We got a small Peugeot.

When the car was ready we drove for a trip to Milano. This is a big city and the parking in the center is quite limited. When in addition almost all the streets in the center are one way streets, it is quite a job to find a parking place.



We were in the Milano cathedral. This is Europe's third biggest church and it is great decorated. Here is an example of a stained-glass picture seen from the inside.

Just nearby the cathedral lies Galleria Vittorio Emanuele 2, which is a roofed pedestrian gallery with shops, restaurant and pavement cafés.



The entrance



Inside the gallery

The next day we went to Venice. This is a special town, which lies on various island and the height over sea level is about. At high tide the streets are flooded. There are a lot of channels in between, 150 channels and 400 bridges.

Here we parked the car in a parking house, while we went into the center of the town



The biggest bridge is the Rialto Bridge



View from the Rialto Bridge along Canal Grande, the biggest and longest channel



More channels and bridges



This is the Bridge of sighs



It was simple to find the way around.  
There were signs all over



Here is one of the most known buildings in the center of the town, the San Marco cathedral.



The next day we decided to go to an area south of Genoa, Cinque Terre. There there are five small villages lying in a row along the cost.

We drove at first to the most northern city to try to fin a hotel, but there is not allowed to drive in the city. Only necessary driving for those who live there is permitted. We have to park the car far up in the hill and walk down. We then went back to the nearest town north of there, Levanto, and we got a room there, B&B Serafina. It was cheep but OK. There was not breakfast.



What is very convenient with these cities is that the railway goes past all these cities along the cost. The trains go all the time so it is simple to go back and forth between the cities. However the land is so steep that most of the line goes in tunnels. The train only comes out in the daylight at the stops.

Monterosso al Mare was the first village we went to. We only went from the train, down to the beach and back again

Then we went to Vernazza. Here we spent some time and had a wine at an outdoor restaurant where there was not allowed to smoke outside.



Then we went to Corniglia. We took the bus up into the town. Here we had dinner after we had waited for a while that they should open. Then we walked down to the station again on many hundred steps.



Manarola was the next. Here we had to go through a tunnel to get to the town. It was now late in the day and we did not see so much. It became too dark. We sat for a while at a restaurant talking with a Swedish couple.



In Manarola we first had a walk looking at the boats, which are drawn into the streets when they are not in use.



Here Kjell is sitting talking with the Swede



The station in Manarola



The station in Riomaggiore

There was dark when we were at these stations. They look like this in daylight.



This is the southernmost city in Cinque Terre.  
Its name is Riomaggiore



Here Kjell is sitting on the train in Cinque Terre



Here Kjell is sitting outside the hotel San Zeno  
after we are back



The last day we went for a walk up in the mountain  
to a place called Prada. There was a chair lift from  
Prada up to the top of Monte Baldo. It was so foggy  
up there that we didn't go up.



There was an open restaurant up there, where we  
had a beer before we went down again.



Here Kjell is sitting outside the hotel with the  
luggage, waiting for the bus, which is going to take  
us to the airport.