

# ITALIA!

Issue 78 May 2011 £4.20

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an economic resource. Apparently in 1935, more than 300 families earned their living as fishermen. The lake is full of fish (sardines, perch, whitefish, pike, trout, tench and small salmon) which are served at restaurants around its shores. In Marone, the restaurant Alla Galleria in 15th-century Villa Bagnadore offers a spectacular view from its terrace, freshwater fish dishes and wines from the local Franciacorta vineyards. To read more, visit my blog at [www.worldvoyager.wordpress.com](http://www.worldvoyager.wordpress.com)

**Francesca Balestrazzi, email**

*Thanks for sharing your Lake Iseo knowledge, Francesca. It was awfully difficult to narrow our top five lakes down, with so many fantastic options to choose from!*

### INSPIRED BY ITALY

The work you do at *Italia!* is so important to travellers and those who appreciate everything Italian. For many travellers it gives them a starting point to fan out into the great unknown – and into better-known parts of Italy too. We have learned to use B&Bs from which to explore while having a safe haven every night. We enjoy going to Italy to paint, and although it started out only as a hobby, you have helped fill in the gaps of our planning to help us visit places even some of the locals have never visited!

**Joel Patience, email**

*What a painting! A great illustration of Italy's inspirational power – thank you for sharing it.*

### FORLORN FESTIVAL

Your December issue advises readers not to miss the Lucca Summer Festival, but I have experienced a little of it and, as a result, would not recommend it. Piazza Napoleone in the centre of this walled city is not (in my view) a suitable venue for concerts. When we booked into a hotel in the centre of Lucca for four nights, we were unaware that our stay would coincide with a concert from Carlos Santana as part of this Summer Festival. Had we known, we would not have gone at that time.

For several days prior to the concert, Lucca's narrow streets could not cope with the lorries delivering scaffolding, staging and seating, and this lovely piazza changed into an unattractive 'campsite' before our eyes! On the afternoon of the concert, stewards closed off the streets around the piazza, which made it extremely difficult to get in and out of our hotel. When we went to bed, music from the loudspeakers filled our room until late. Once the concert was over, the noise from the departing audience continued to keep us awake. The organisers spent the next few days tidying up, ready for the next concert the next weekend!

We have enjoyed many wonderful holidays in Italy and I always used to say, "Italy never disappoints" but, sadly, on that occasion, it did!

**Jennifer Shearer, Edinburgh**

*This music festival is a major event in the area – do any readers have a differing experience of it?*

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### CHAT ITALIA!

#### JOIN OUR LATEST FACEBOOK DISCUSSION:

#### WHERE ARE YOU GOING ON YOUR NEXT ITALIAN HOLIDAY?

*A 'Two Nuts In Italy' type trip: small towns, backpack, ten days. If you haven't read the book, do! A beautiful experience of Italy.*

**Patricia Laughlin**

*Hoping to rent a villa in Tuscany and, of course, a few days at Hotel La Palma in Stresa – my all-time favourite place in the world.*

**Carol Jones**

*I plan to visit the Amalfi Coast, starting with Sorrento, hop over to Capri, then on to Positano. I would also like to go to Ravello.*

**Lisa Lombardo**



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*One of Joel's fabulous watercolours painted in Italy*



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