

Blog #65 - Fili Senza Tempo - Italy - September 2017

Monday, 2 October 2017

The morning after I had arrived at the hotel, the manager of the hotel was at reception and to my delight, she spoke English and so learnt that there was a supermarket about 15-20 minutes walk away where I could buy fruit, cheese & crackers for my lunches for the next few days that I was to be staying at the hotel.

And so, after a very nice breakfast, I set off to purchase these items. This tumbling-down house & outbuildings pictured was right next door to the supermarket. No other shops nearby apart from a post office across the road and it was only open for a few hours in the mornings. A very quiet, sleepy little area.



Back at the hotel I began unpacking all the stock from my suitcases so that I could begin pricing all the items. I never price anything before leaving home. Just in case my bags are searched. But Italian Customs were wonderful! They didn't even ask me any questions. Just looked at my passport and waved me through!!

When I got tired of pricing and being in my room, I wandered down to the hotel lobby for a cup of tea, enjoy some stitching and have a chat with the hotel manager. She told me of a quicker route to the old town, and so just after 6pm I headed off via that route to have some dinner. Yes - the route was quicker but a LOT more steps! And the steps were a lot steeper. One thing I did find interesting on the way there and that was their letterboxes. Aren't they just gorgeous? I'd love one!



The other discovery was that the restaurants don't open until at least 7.30pm! Too far to walk back to the hotel and so just sat in the square thinking my own thoughts and enjoying the view from the wonderful advantage point from the top of the hill.

Once again though, had to walk back to the hotel in the dark.

Thursday - more pricing and stitching and late in the afternoon other folk who were to be participating at the needlework show arrived from the UK and France and the next morning, rather than me have to pay a huge expense for a taxi, the hotel manager drove me the 15 minutes further out in to countryside (how thoughtful, kind and generous of her) to the castle - the venue for the show - Castello di Levizzano. Absolutely stunning. Vineyards everywhere!



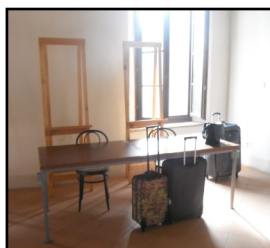
Notice the similarities in the two ex-nobles residences.

In the top pic you can see the façade of the church which is beside a restaurant that is pictured in my last blog.

Once inside, it was "all-go". But where was one to start?

It's quite difficult travelling overseas and setting up an exhibition as one cannot take 'props', etc. in their suitcases.

As it was I had already had to pay heaps for being "over-weight".



Some of the other exhibitors -

Giulia - GPA : Elisabetta - Lizziebusy Handmade : Niky - Niky's Creations : Jacob - Modern Folk Embroidery (UK)
And also pictured - Giulia (the organiser's daughter). Giulia was my interpreter for the whole weekend.
(Her best friend was an interpreter for Jacob)



*Unfortunately I forgot
to take a photo
of
Tania's exhibition stand!*

However, below is a lovely photo of Tania with Niky.



*And too, photos of some of the beautiful needlework pieces by a French designer
that caught my eye -*



It was a very busy weekend as over 5,000 visitors came to the show on the Saturday and by the close on Sunday there had almost been 8,000 visitors - many of them from as far away as Milan & Rome.

*Here is a photo of one of the advertising signs -
situated on a street fence not far from our hotel.*

*As for the show itself, a wonderful friendliness between all the exhibitors, so
much so that everyone got together for pre-dinner drinks and dinner together on
the Friday evening and the Sunday evening. Costs for the dinner and drinks
were spread equally between everyone. Awesome.*

*On the Saturday evening, Giulia, Romina, Simona & Maria Teresa & myself
went out together. Just lovely.*



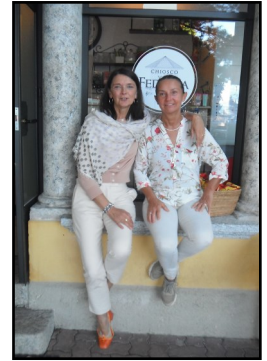
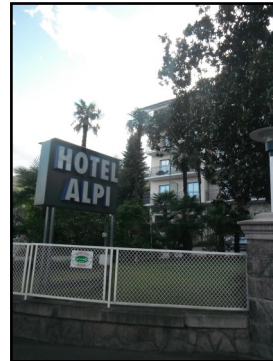
I hadn't planned to do so, but at the show Giulia insisted that I go and stay with her and Mario for a few days, and so I had to change my plans by not staying as long with Niky at the lake. In fact it helped enormously as it meant that I did not have to take all my suitcases with me when I went to be with Niky. Giulia took three of them back to her place for me on the Sunday night which meant that I only had to worry about one suitcase of clothes and not the other three containing all my stitched models and stock. But the loveliest outcome of all was that I spent more time with one of my very special friends!



Giulia has the most beautiful, thoughtful, caring heart.

On the Monday I spent the day changing rail tickets, etc. The hotel manager was awesome with this task. I also spent a lot of the day resting and stitching and early Tuesday morning Flavio arrived to transport me back to Bologna to the railway station so that I could travel from there to Milan, to Stresa (up near the top of Italy, beside Lake Maggiore, near the Swiss border) to spend some time with Niky and see the beautiful area where she lives. Have to confess to not being too keen waiting underground for the train. Also, a bit stressful on the train as not sure of the sequence for the train stops. Had to keep on eye on my watch as knew the expected time of my arrival at my destination and therefore had to calculate how many more "stops" - but sometimes the train didn't stop at a station but whizzed by!

Once at Stresa hired a taxi to take me to Niky's husband's/family owned hotel - Hotel Alpi, but due to it being their busy season I was not able to stay at their hotel. Hanging on some of the walls in the hotel reception area were pieces of cross stitch stitched by Niky over twenty years ago - all 'Told In A Garden' designs.



After a cup of tea Niky took me for walk along part of the shoreline of the majestic lake in front of their hotel and there I met her mum and her sister-in-law. The sister-in-law has a café on the edge of the lake. She bakes some delicious little things to eat!



Niky had arranged for me to go to stay at an apartment owned by a friend of hers since school days and the following couple of nights at this same friend's hotel nearby.

Settled into my fabulous apartment (it was luxurious)

and then Niky took me to dinner at a lovely restaurant (owned by another friend) that is situated high up the hill above the lake and which has the most amazing view over the lake.

As I said in a previous blog - I am truly blessed.

Still more to write and share.

So, until next time, be thankful for where you are and what you have and you will be surprised how peaceful you feel and how wonderful unexpected things will come your way.

*A few years ago I **NEVER EVER** thought I would be having these wonderful experiences. Bye for now.*

