

Blog #66 - Baveno & Lake Maggiore, Italy

Thursday, 5 October 2017

The next morning (Wednesday, 13th Sept) I walked to the hotel of Niky's friend, settled into my room there and enjoyed a yummy breakfast overlooking the lake - private shoreline and the sand was all raked smooth and dotted with deck chairs and tables and manicured gardens.



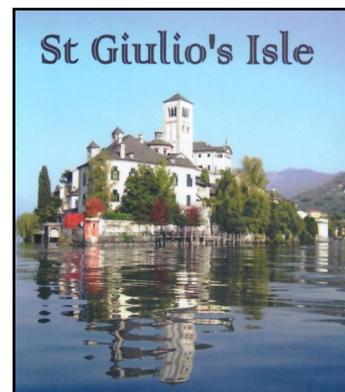
My room was on the third floor.

The cascading plant that you can see in the picture on the left was on my balcony railing and I had a magnificent view from that balcony out over the lake.



I sat and stitched there on the balcony

until Niky came to meet me at 11am to take me on a tour by car around the area before catching the ferry to St. Giulio's Isle.



What an interesting place. I know there are still old occupied monasteries today but showed my ignorance by not realising that there are still 'silent order' ones today. And learnt that only certain nuns are able to leave the monastery each week to sell their wares.

I enjoyed walking all around the walled monastery along the path which is known as the Way of Silence.

At intervals along the path are hanging signs with thought provoking verses.

Before beginning the walk a sign reads, "Follow the way slowly, in silence, pause to meditate upon each phrase".

On the way back to Baveno, we visited Paola, a stitching friend of Niky's, to share some afternoon tea and for me to see all the amazing pieces of needlework that Paola has stitched.

Plans for the next day - visiting two island homes - were disrupted due to there being drizzly rain. Consequently had warming soup for lunch at Niky's home and I was treated to experience her sewing/needlework room and look at all her pieces of needlework displayed throughout her home. Despite the misty rain, we hopped aboard a ferry and went to the smaller island which had the most glorious gardens (plants from all over the world in it - even pungas from NZ) and the house contained



*treasure, after treasure, after treasure.
So much inspiration for needlework pieces!*

*The room pictured was my favourite room in the house.
Living in such a new country as ours, it is hard to take in
that this home is hundreds and hundreds of years old!
Can't you just imagine Juliette standing on the balcony?!*

*How do you like this hedge?
This manicured show-piece was giving privacy to an
exclusive lake-front hotel at Baveno.*



*That evening (my final evening at Baveno) Niky took me their hotel
for a delicious dinner.*

Her lovely husband "waited" on us.

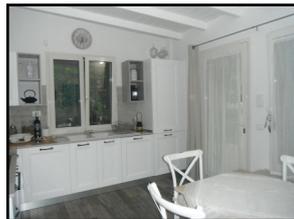
*The next morning she took me to the railway station to begin my
journey to Massa, Giulia's home town.*

A truly wonderful time with a lovely friend at a wonderful place.

*On the train, and once again, the stress levels began to rise a bit. If one is travelling with a friend there is always someone to
speak to or share something with or confer with - for example, "Do you think we are at the right platform?" or "What was the
next stop that they called out?" etc. Another stressful thing with the Italian trains. They are seldom on time!*

After almost a days travel I safely reached Massa and Giulia was waiting to meet me. And made me feel SO welcome.

When I visited & stayed there two years ago they were in the process of building a cottage in their back garden for guests.



*Now it is all finished. Absolutely lovely. An awesome place to stay.
Inside, on her dining room table Giulia had a Christmas ornament
that she had designed and stitched.*

*It was her contribution to the Just CrossStich Christmas Ornaments magazine.
If you have purchased this magazine - you will find this ornament in it.*

That's all for the moment.

*Only a couple more days in Italy
before I begin my journey home.*

