

Hotel Langhe – October 13 & 14, 2017 – Alba, Piedmont, Italy

By Tom Allin

I had a recent request to show more photographs and write about the places we stay. It just so happens that the Hotel Langhe is a great place to write about. After picking up the 4Runner in Genoa and stopping for gas, we left town and headed North toward Alba a small town with a population of 32,000.

We arrived in the late afternoon. We had reviewed all the lodging in Lonely Planet and thought the most inexpensive hotel would not only suit us but was within our budget. We set the GPS to its location, which took us through Alba and to the edge of town where the Hotel Langhe is located.



Of course we had no reservations because a reservation requires planning ahead and committing yourselves to a *plan*. We walked into the hotel through the breakfast dining area and to the front desk. We asked if a room was available and the manager said, “Yes, we had a cancellation a couple of hours ago and therefore a room has opened up”. Who needs a reservation when you have luck on your side.

Nancy headed to the room and I went back to the 4Runner to grab the essentials that include two large rolling suitcases – we hadn't had time to downsize into our overnight duffle bags since we had only picked up the 4Runner a couple of hours ago.



I am standing in a small gravel parking lot but obviously others were parking on the side of the entry drive that is closer to the hotel door and I had done the same.

The Hotel Langhe is located on the edge of town and vineyards. The view from our hotel window:



The room is small and our bags are large. Alba is a get-a-way weekend sort of place and Europeans for the most part travel with very little luggage and therefore a room this size isn't as crowded for most visitors as it was for us.



The bathroom wasn't large or even mid-size but it had what we require: it was clean, it had hot water and that makes it a good bathroom.



We immediately decided to celebrate the return of our 4Runner and went back down to the dining area, found an empty table in the garden, discussed the wine selection with the manager – in reality it wasn't a discussion it was a history lesson on the locale wines -- and then had the manager select a glass of wine for each of us.

After returning with our wine the manager spent ten minutes discussing the Alba restaurants that he recommends. He gave us four or five recommendations and all were located in the town center that was about a mile and half walk from the hotel.

The service didn't stop with breakfast the next morning. With the arrival of Nancy's eggs the manager appears with a truffle and grater to give the eggs that extra flavor the area is known for.

This hotel was a couple of dollars more than a hundred dollars a night and therefore at the high end of our budgeted lodging range. It was a great place to lie down and

sleep and the manager provided us with information to make our two night stay/three days in the area a great time.