

The Lakes – October 15 & 16, 2017 – Orta San Giulio, Piedmont, Italy

By Tom Allin

Following our time in Alba we spent the next week and a half traveling, eating and sleeping in the Lake region of northern Italy. We fell in love with the autumn changing of tree leaves, the farmlands, the small towns, and the lakes. Everything was stunningly beautiful.

Our first stop was Orta San Giulio. As we approached the small town Nancy called Locanda di Orta and yes they had an available room. Dialed the hotel into our GPS and Darn the streets are getting very narrow!

OK, time to stop. I told Nancy to stay with the 4Runner while I go find the hotel. It isn't much more than a five-minute walk and no there is no parking because you can't drive to the hotel because of the narrow streets. I go back to the 4Runner, Nancy and I grab what we think we need for the next two nights, back to the hotel, leave Nancy at the hotel, back to the 4Runner, back out and eventually turn around, back to the outskirts of town and a pay parking lot, lock the 4Runner, and less than ten minutes later I am reunited with Nancy at the hotel.



The entrance to our hotel. Yes, that is a Michelin Star rating sign to the left of the entrance. We took advantage of the hotel's star rated restaurant on our second and final evening.

Because Italy is a hilly when not a mountainous landscape many of the hotels ramble. Ramble as in there is no direct route from one location to another.

However, all you have to do is look and help is available. For instance, our elevator:



-SLEEP



-SLEEP



-SLEEP



to STREET



to HALL and BAR



The main plaza and primary street has various shops and restaurants.





As in all of Italy you are never far from a church.



And wine stores are sometimes easier to find than churches.



Because I had to pay the parking meter before 9:00 in the morning I found several routes during the next two days.





The largest church in Orta San Giulio was only a five-minute walk from our hotel. The church is at the back of the photograph.



The church's pastel color goes with the building colors of all the buildings in town.



It wasn't a large church but the insides were similar to the cathedrals we had visited in layout and artistic religious sculptures and paintings.



Every angle gives a different view.



There is no ugly in Italy. And the colors of Italy are breathtaking whether they are buildings, lakes, leaves, flowers, paintings or the sky.

May your days be as colorful as Italy.