

Lucca and San Martino Cathedral – October 23, 2017 – Lucca, Italy

We arrive in Lucca in mid afternoon. The night before arriving in Lucca I had reserved a room outside the wall – from experience I knew we didn't want to contend with the hassles of narrow streets, parking, and unloading the 4Runner in the old city. We checked into our hotel room and took off to walk and explore the walled city of Lucca.

I don't believe it was five minutes from our hotel door to the time we were standing in front of the walled city.



An interesting side note: Lucca was not bombed during World War II so the city center hasn't been significantly changed for centuries.

It didn't take us but another five minutes to be standing in the plaza fronting the Cathedral di San Martino. This cathedral is of Romanesque architectural design and was begun in the 11th century.

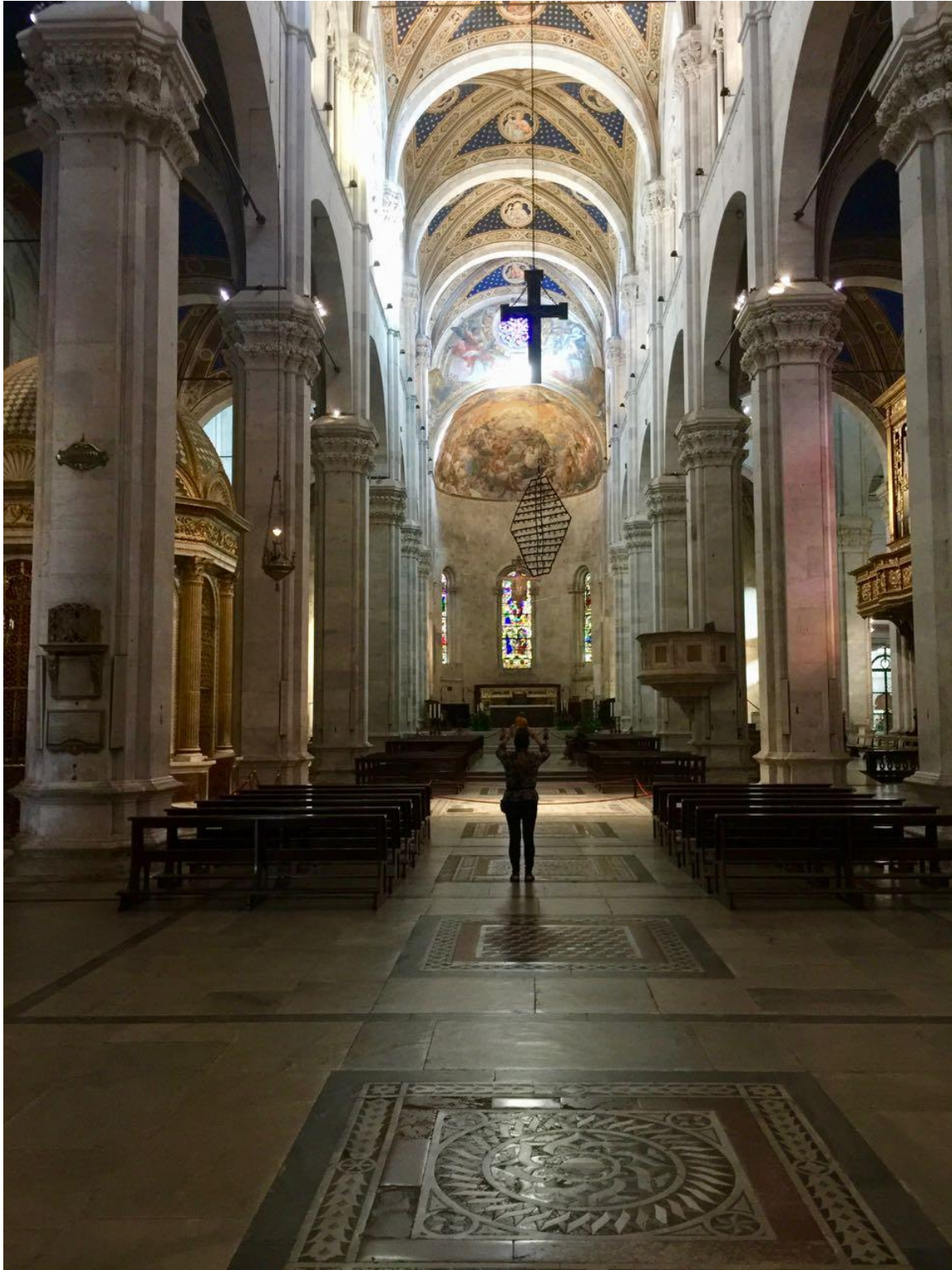


We spent 20 to 30 minutes roaming the outside of the cathedral before entering – so many details to point at and say, “did you see this”.



It is difficult for me to understand but so many Italian building's exterior or interior or both have been totally rebuilt to a newer design, as has San Martino Cathedral's

interior. The Cathedral's interior was rebuilt in the 14th and 15th centuries to reflect the "in" Gothic style of the times.



The ceilings are intricate and beautiful. I never stop marveling at the abilities of the artist architects of 600 hundred or more years ago.



The layers of art/design – natural building material colors, marble, floors, ceilings, paintings, sculptures, stained glass windows, window & door moldings, handrails and so much more -- in the Cathedral are never ending. Look closely at the column in the left of the photograph it is not an ordinary column.



Not all the design details catch our eyes but this one did.



I am a sucker for stained glass windows.



A painting by Tintoretto (and no I have never heard of Tintoretto, but Venice, Italy will celebrate his 500th birthday this year) of the *Last Supper*.



Enough of architectural design and art. It is time for climbing.



Yes, it is bell tower climbing time. Nancy agreed to this climb “because it’s there”.

And when you climb step after step in a bell tower what do you get as your reward but bells.



A quick story – we had been at the top of the bell tower for several minutes when Nancy decided she should reach out and grab the rope to the bells and ring the bells. Just about the time her hand grasped the rope a voice from heaven (or maybe the security camera room) said, “Please don’t ring the bells”.

Looking down our previous ascent of stairs.



From the bell tower you have a city and more views of Lucca.



See the two tent structures on the far side of the fountain – this is where we had a celebratory wine for our conquest of the San Martino Cathedral Bell Tower.

Later that evening I had a very good meal but Nancy got a big plate of fried mystery food that made her less than happy. Nancy knows food and I know how to eat – her review is probably the one to go by.

A night photograph of the city's wall.



May you find light where ever you travel.