



Bev, Robin & Judy at Palagano Market

RELECTIONS OF OUR ITALIAN PAINTING TRIP TO EMILIA-ROMAGNA AND TUSCANY

(Organised by Janette Garbuio) By JUDY WEBBER

In September Bev Herridge, Robin Dawson and I joined Janette Garbuio on her inaugural Italian Painting Trip to Historical Townships in Emilia – Romagna and Tuscany. We were extremely fortunate to be accommodated in a Monastery (no monks!) in Savoniero – St Germignano’s Church, a wonderful setting in a small country village. The views were magnificent from all directions looking across the luscious hills with glimpses of some of the local villages amongst the dense foliage. Sitting on the Church steps or painting in various places throughout the villages it was wonderful to hear the sound of the Church bells from the nearby villages (they were not all synchronised!).

Visits included Vitriola, Castelgarfagno, Palagano, Buccasuolo, Montefiorino, Lucca, Modena Bolgna and Fui-malbo. Janette who had a tremendous knowledge of the areas provided very entertaining descriptions whilst on bus trips and with her many relations (on both her and her husband’s side) added personal touches and added hospitality to our trip. The Mayor of Palagano organised an informal Civic Reception for us – local paper took our photo and everyone was so kind and very interested in what we were doing. The opportunity to visit and experience these unique areas provides excellent painting subjects and photographs.

The last Saturday night in Savoniero Janette’s family prepared a dinner for the group (15 of us) and we displayed our artwork –it was a fun filled evening. The food, vino rosso, limoncino liquore, conversation, singing and delightful company were wonderful. It certainly was a memorable trip!

Following Savoniero the group dispersed into various directions, mostly for brief holidays prior to their return home. Robin joined her husband to visit other parts of Italy, while Bev and I headed for Venice.



Judy and Janette painting in Buccasuolo

Our accommodation in Venice was in an excellent location staying at the Hotel Algi Alboretti in the Accademia area between the Grand Canale and the Canale della Giudecca.

We had great fun as ‘tourists’ sightseeing, shopping, enjoying many of the cafés and restaurants, in addition to visits to the Islands of Murano and Burano (we wish we were still there – didn’t quite finish our shopping). Then, to Vienna, where unfortunately on our way from the airport to our hotel Bev had her wallet stolen which included her Passport and Airline Ticket. It was such a shame as everything had gone so well until Vienna. Fortunately, Bev was able to get a temporary Passport and replacement Airline Ticket. Our good luck had not returned as on arrival at the Vienna Airport for return to Australia, Austrian airlines had decided to change the flight to a smaller aircraft thereby creating sheer chaos with 70 on standby including us! We were not impressed and I expressed my disgust as we had booked months prior and had designated seats. One of the airline staff ushered us to another area and instead of travelling Vienna/Singapore/Melbourne organised us on Vienna/Kuala Lumpur/Canberra/Sydney/Melbourne. The ‘fun’ did not end there, I was instructed on the last call to board the plane while Bev was held up by the officials. Nearly died when the plane took off and later found Bev was not on board (she did manage a flight the following day!). After losing my husband in Lyon, France railway station three years prior and now Bev – does anyone wish to travel overseas with me?!

JUDY WEBBER

