



# ITALY 2022



## In the heat of the day

It's easy to get lost in the countryside. It's easy to get lost in a town. It's easy to get lost anywhere in Italy at the moment, as long as it does not get you down.

It's hot in an open bar and hot in our house. It's particularly hot in the outside cafe. Let's face it, its literally hot everywhere you go in Italy, especially if you'r silly enough to travel by day.

The temperature reaches 42 degrees and then it rises again. If you want any respite from this frigen heat then you need to finish touring by 10.

Some people will try to tell you that, like cathedrals, hilltop fortified towns all look the same - "once you have seen one, you have seen them all!"

I can tell this is definitely not true!!

## Todi

Todi has been a settlement for about four thousand years. Suggested as one of the nicest hill-top villages in Italy, it did not disappoint.

Waking this morning to a cool breeze was so up-lifting that we quickly departed for our visit to Todi. After a 30 minute drive through lovely rural countryside we arrived by nine at which time it was still cool enough to even enjoy our saunter up the steep street. There was hardly any people about. We parked our car outside the walls (free) and walked up a pedestrian ramp and through the wall into the town. Our chosen avenue sloping steeply up, though full of interesting features to spy (wrought iron work, carvings indecipherable in their old age and strange language, little openings to nowhere, plants decorating some entrances) still required us to seek some shelter by hugging one wall. The many side streets were actually cool and therefore inviting. We were obviously on a ridge, because these side streets, tended downhill. None-the-less, we ventured down many. Many were flanked by high buildings either side and a large majority revealed sights of farmland below.

A pleasant square eventually offered a cafe serving a surprising number of people. Where had they all come from? Maybe the church - the bells of which we had heard chiming above us. We sat down to a refreshing fruit drink and were cooled by one of the big fans. Watching the antics of other patrons is always interesting to pass the time. By this time it was past ten o'clock and some of the little shops were opening. Some quality ceramics and wood inlay were Heather's favourites. Siggy kept taking photos. Like other Italian gems, Todi has many churches to admire and every one of them were located uphill.

By eleven we were at the highest point and it was getting too hot to continue, so we made our way down to the car. A supermarket visit and a lovely ride home via looping, unmade roads was enjoyable (because we were in air-con!!)

Now last night was a different matter. Unfortunately, there is no air conditioning and in this 200 year old house, with its low ceilings, the heat of the evening is very uncomfortable. Sig seemed able to sleep on without interruption, but I abandoned the bed room and made for the lounge where the only fan is available. I dismantled the 2 seater couch, using the base to make a mattress for myself. I raided the cupboards and found some doonas (put away for colder time no doubt) to extend the length so that my feet did not dangle over the edge. Well, at least I slept there for a few hours before awaking early this morning and going for a cooling swim in the pool. Assisi tomorrow. This hot weather is becoming a pain.

*You are in Italy  
now - get on tour  
scooter*



Italians take recycling to a whole new level - self service recycling bins to be seen absolutely everywhere - city and countryside.

Todi is located on a hill top. Both tourists and residents without cars are forced to walk uphill. Little wonder there are defibrillators distributed all around the town!!



Garibaldi - Italy unifier

Massa Mantana - walled town near us



All of Todi's laneways and roads have four consistent features: they are dark (and cool), they are narrow (and cool), they are incredibly steep (and difficult) and they are all paved with concrete/tiles (and would get very slippery when wet).

The major issue I kept thinking about was what happens when there was a huge downpour of rain - the runoff would be dramatic and the lowlands below would certainly flood.





Chiesa della Nunziatina