
ITALY 2022



Bliss

Wow upon wow upon wow!!! We finally hit the jackpot. And on the last day too! Today made our hearts sing! Let me explain.

When I got the call to play in the World Cup in Florence Italy I grabbed the chance with both arms (or legs). Its not often one gets to play for your country at my ripe old age! Florence! The city of gems. Unfortunately, those who have followed my journey (our journey) will know how sad that story has become - not because Australia did not make it into the finals but because our experience of Florence and Italy was marred by the

Spoleto, in Italian, translates as “community.”

Spoleto is located in almost the geographic centre of Italy.

terrible organisation by the Italian coordinators of an event that should have been, for us all, a memory of a lifetime. As it turned out every member of our party will remember Florence and Italy with some reservations - the second rate hotel, its ridiculous location, the lack of facilities, the awful, awful food on offer, the rude staff and the lack of anyone taking responsibility for how bad everything was.

Today Heather and I were reminded of how it COULD have been. Our stay in Spoleto over two nights is shaping up to be the most memorable of our short stay in this country. Everything about the hotel has been super. Why in the hell did the organisers choose Florence and not a place like Spoleto? - probably because they had shares in the Delta Hotel and also received generous funding from the Florentine shire offices.

The Delta Hotel in Florence is rated at 4 stars, as is the San Luca here in Spoleto. The differences are like chalk and cheese. The San Luca has literally everything you need for a satisfying stay close to an old city centre. On-site parking, breakfasts to die for, large bedrooms with air cons that work, a pleasant outlook into a courtyard and every cupboard, every door and every tap and toilet cistern that operates as it should!!! And best of all the price is reasonable!! Then the finale is that there is an underground escalator system right next door that takes you up to every level of the town you need to go. For free. And of course the escalator also takes you back down again. This town is super organised.

I imagined the World Cup being held here. Partners/rent-a-crowd members could come and go at will to the beautiful old town above us. Quality shops and restaurants within walking distance everywhere. Grocery store and art and craft places literally on every street. The expansive views from the top of the town were amazing. The churches, like hilltop town churches everywhere, are awe inspiring. Everything is so close. Yes, we would have had to take buses to specialist walking football venues, but hey, we did that in Florence anyway!

Back to the present, it is still hot here, but down now to the low 30s. Spoleto with its the narrow lanes had plenty of shady spots to wander and admire. We actually arrived at the top of the old town via the fabulous underground escalator/lift system. Such a fabulous addition to this town. Heather, personally appreciated that greatly. It did give us much more energy to enjoy exploring the citadel above and the expansive views below. After taking our fill of magnificent views, we walked down to a beautiful church complex and spent some time there admiring the outside and inside of the architecture. We found the main thoroughfare that is the commercial heart of the place and sat down to enjoy a gelato. In our view, a very pretty village, largely underrated by Lonely Planet. A great location of for a future walking football world cup competition!

*Cats can reserve a restaurant table?
Only in Italy!!*



Beneath these squares lie the bones of wealthy churchmen and women who were rich enough to get buried inside the church. Being buried in a vertical position enabled the church to make the best profit per area of land. Unfortunately church patrons would often comment about the stink emanating from the floor. Thus the saying the "stinking rich."



