

Dear

Thank you for expressing your interest in our Guest House – 'La Serena' – in Umbria, Italy. Here is the first of our monthly newsletters which will keep you in touch with the progress we make during the next few months. We hope to be open in time for July / August 2006.

So, what do we need to do?

Basically, to turn this high-potential shellinto something like this *:



* An artist impression, from an original by Kristie Lake (sunshinekid89@hotmail.com)

We are now resident in Umbria, staying in an apartment belonging to friends of ours – and work starts in earnest on our Home and Guest House *next week!!!* We are really fortunate in that we didn't think work would be able to start until January. This newsletter describes what we plan to offer you in our luxury Guest House.

Firstly, why 'La Serena'? Well, it roughly translates to 'The Serenity' – which hopefully conjures up the feeling you will have when you come to stay – together with tasting Derek's good home-cooked, high-quality food.

Accommodation:

We will have 3 Guest Suites with luxury bath/shower rooms and 3 Guest Rooms with luxury shower rooms – most of which have their own private balcony or terrace, with splendid views of hills and fields, with villages in the distance. There will also be lounges with TV and music facilities, a library and dining room for use by guests, plus ample garden seating areas. In phase two, we will also have a secluded swimming pool.

A varied breakfast will included in the price of your room, plus optional pre-booked evening meals will be available on certain days of each week (usually the days when local restaurants tend to close). Truly home-from-home.

Services:

Information on all sorts of places of interest and activities will be easily available. In addition, we will to help you get the most of your holiday time should you so wish. For example, we will happily book restaurants, etc., for you either before you arrive or once you are here. We have already started investigating local towns, activities, restaurants, cantinas (wine cellars), shops, etc., to help with recommendations and/or reservations. There is so much to see and do here that we need the next few months to explore it all!

In the longer-term, we will also be offering special interest, or hobby, holidays. Perhaps you would like to cook and sample some traditional Italian or Umbrian food. Derek will teach you some techniques and dishes that you can use back at home, plus hosting you on visits to local markets and restaurateurs. Instead, maybe you would like to learn a new skill, such as dressmaking, Italian embroidery, eg., Assisi work, or Italian language, etc., etc..

From You:

Let us know what you think so far... À presto!

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