



La Serena Newsletter - May 2006

So we're already into May. Lots of frantic activity on the house... More floors finished, yet more tiling and LOTS of painting! Phew! We are also well into the vagaries of getting mains water and gas, plus telephone lines installed, for which we have had loads of welcome help from Caroline Van den Dool, plus Sophie and Michael Avory. Very many thanks to them.



So, as promised an action shot - Derek painting our apartment. Just to set the record straight - I painted lots too!



You've seen our bathroom part-tiled. Here is the finished result - after we've decorated and added light fittings...



This was a very exciting day for us - two concrete mixer lorries, full of cement - just for our house!! Not exiting for the builders though..



This is Darco - risking life and limb to fill in the retaining wall on the west side of the house - all ready for the swimming pool...



Half way...



All finished. A few days later all the boarding was removed... all the wall needs now is a coat of rendering - any offers????



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So, we are really starting to add some effort into our own house. Not least of which on the **25th May...**

WE MOVED IN!!!

Coincidentally, it was exactly 6 months to the day after we left the UK, so as you can see, we decided to celebrate in local style with a lovely refreshing bottle of Prosecco - tired and hot, yet happy to be in our own home at last. Also Happy Birthday to John! (Derek's brother.)



I went for the traditional (glass) approach!

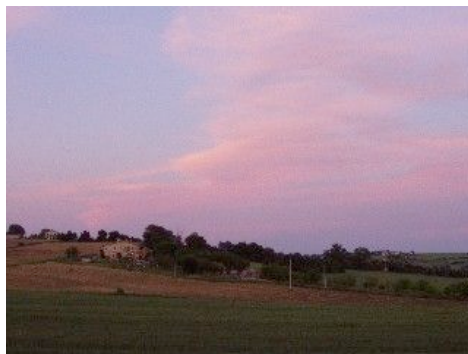


Derek's never been one for tradition!!

We had a bed, two chairs, a 'mini-cucina' (ie., a kitchen in a cupboard), part of a bathroom (which included a bath/shower, toilet and bidet - no washbasins or lighting), windows and doors - oh, plus lighting and electricity. Who needs anything else... Of course, as the days went by, we then added more furniture and gradually got more settled. So what, if the other side of our apartment door is still a building site?!?!?

So, 6 months on, let's look at a summary timeline:

- 25th November 2005: We leave the UK with a car and trailer full of clothes, office equipment and Josie for our Italian adventure.
- 2nd December 2005: La Serena becomes ours at last - the realisation of our dream lasting nearly 3 years.
- 19th December 2005: Work starts on converting the house shell into La Serena - our Country Guest House.
- 28th December 2005: Our family come over to stay, with their first view of our new home-to-be.
- January 2006: Internal walls are moved, taken down and new ones created. We start ordering tiles, tiles and more tiles - oh and some bathroom fittings. We also enjoy stunning winter views over Lake Trasimeno.
- February 2006: Lots of holes appear in all the walls to take plumbing, heating, lighting and power. We make some new friends and take delivery of the largest water tank we have ever seen!
- March 2006: Loads of water and heating pipes laid, planning permission granted (YES), and tiles are delivered - all 3,500 kilos of them!
- April 2006: All the floors are cemented, some with under-floor heating, tiles start to be laid - La Serena starts to really look like a house.
- May 2006: Some of the windows and doors are fitted, we decorate and WE MOVE INTO OUR APARTMENT AT La Serena!



I couldn't resist showing you this lovely pre-sunset photo too... just to whet your appetite for when you come to stay with us!

As ever, more next month.... which will be the last newsletter about La Serena as a building project!