

## Fun in the Sun on Sardinia....

From Corsica we sailed over to the NE coast of Sardinia to meet Clair, Andrew, Mali, Twm and Branwyn from Wales who camped in a very Italian (noisy!!) and very dusty campsite (no grass here!) for 10 days. We anchored in the bay just off the beach and together we filled the days with swimming, kayaking, sightseeing around the countryside, eating pizza, picnics, train rides and just hanging out on Havana. (See what you can do with the kids when they get too noisy! Up the mast (just kidding, Mali! Actually they were really brave!)



We found Sardinia to be rather unspoilt, no mass tourism here, quite poor in parts and quite undeveloped. The scenery is rugged with large areas of rocks and 7000 “nuraghes” the stone towers of an ancient and unidentified people, wild areas with low mountains covered in scrub or cork oak (one of its primary industries is processings cork), small vineyards and a very stunning coast with clear emerald green water. It is less sophisticated than Corsica, with small pastel-coloured low houses and resorts along the coast. However, there are also resorts for the jet set such as Porto Cervo (see below), created in the 60’s by the Aga Khan and where the tourists (including us) go to gape at the mega yachts by day and the wealthy only come out to play at night. Sicilians are proud and friendly but not particularly so to the tourists. They are known for their “vendettas” and bandits- Sardinia has the largest concentrate of Cabinieri (police) in Italy. Most of the ones we saw were giving out parking tickets after Mass.....



Given the large size of the island and the heat , we only managed to visit the northern tip and the island of Maddalena – very charming and lively. Nearby we visited the home of Garibaldi, a much revered revolutionary, credited with uniting Italy. We loved the cheeses, the cheap but light, fruity local wines, the ice cream, and pastries made of ricotta cheese, lemon and eggs! We feel there is more to see in Sardinia and would like to go back sometime.



We had a lovely visit to Castelsardo (above), an ancient town with wonderful views built up the hillside. Here the local women weave basketry and sell it from their homes which is very interesting. Here is Branwyn doing her best to get me a discount...

Among the islands many weird rock formations, is “Elephant Rock”.Below . We took the “trentino verde” or green train to Tempio Pausanio, a town built of granite in the mountains surrounded by cork oak forests. Very different to the coast.



Above are the cork bark “shells” ready for processing. We also saw many unusual and lovely things made of beautiful soft and supple cork including ties, dresses and cushions !

Another outing was by ferry to the Isola della Maddalena (below), the largest island an archipelago of 40 tiny islands, buzzing with life and local colour. (Nearby, another island is the base for a US atomic submarine yet the whole area is a marine nature reserve!).

Again, THANK YOU Clair, Andrew, Mali, Twm and last but not never, ever least Branwyn!!! for coming so far, enduring the dust and making Sardinia and this holiday one we'll always treasure....

