

Our 2016 Journey

“ISCHIA”

Dino Fioravanti's Report



On 1 May, a group of about 30 ‘differently young’ members (aged from 68 to 90) accompanied by our President, Franco, and his Vice, Dino, left for Ischia.

It was 7.00am when we got on a reserved Imperatore Travel coach, accompanied by a hostess.

We arrived at the port of Naples at about 4:15pm after a pleasant journey with a lot of stops. About half an hour later we got on board the ferry. At about 6:15pm we got off the boat and soon after we reached our hotel: the Cristallo Palace in Casamicciola.

The hotel was very nice: it had several pools with thermal water, a beautiful garden and fantastic views of both the sea and the port of Casamicciola.

Soon after getting their room keys, some of us went straight to pass the medical examination to be allowed to do the treatments (thermal and mud baths). The woman doctor, who was a little 'pissed' (perhaps at that Sunday hour, she would have liked to be doing something else....), rejected several of us not allowing them to do the treatments.

The following days some started the treatments (mud, thermal baths, aerosol) offered by the hotel.

The weather was fine and we had to contend for the deck chairs around the swimming pool to sunbathe comfortably.

After lunch we split going on different excursions: Mortella Gardens, the Aragonese Castle, Citara and Maroniti beaches, Sant'Angelo, the sources of the Nitrodi, etc.).

Many of us got bus weekly tickets, in spite of the fact that buses run when they want and are always crowded.

On Wednesday afternoon, we all went on a sight-seeing tour of the island by coach. We stopped for an hour at Ischia Ponte (to visit the Castle) and at Sant'Angelo. So, we saw all the most beautiful resorts. The ones who were in Ischia for the first time were fascinated by the views

Almost every morning, Maria Rosa and Franca went for very long walks to visit places they could not get to by bus.

Maria Rosa and Rosanna got up twice at dawn to visit Naples the first week and Vesuvius the following week.

Almost everybody went on a boat trip to Procida and many went with Dino on a boat tour round Ischia so as to see it from the sea.

Monday, Thursday and Saturday were dancing nights. Our President, his wife Paola, Angela, Vilma, Giorgio and Anna never missed a dance.

On Monday 9 and Tuesday 10, we celebrated the respective birthdays of George and Eugene (90 years!) with cakes with candle offered by the hotel and champagne offered by celebrated guys.

On Thursday 12, the first clouds began to appear and the weather became unstable and a bit colder. Cough and colds started spreading.

Saturday night, at dinner, the hotel management offered a goodbye cake with the inscription "Ex Nautico San Giorgio" and our President offered champagne.



During the night there were several thunderstorms.

Next morning (it was Sunday 15) we left at 8.00 on a smaller coach was than the one we had arrived on (42 places instead of 52) and here was no hostess.

Anyway, we enjoyed the journey and the readings by our President and by Enrico teasing Armando, the organizer, who quite enjoyed it.

We were back in Genoa at 6.15 pm

Here is a poem by Mrs Maidé, Com.te Aldo Baffo's wife, written during our stay in Ischia.

TERRA DI MARE

**Punge nell'aria l'odor del rosmarino
con la piperna da' sapore al cibo
la zagara stordisce i sensi e il cuore
sale dal mare la salsedine amara
Terra di Mare
ad occhi chiusi posso ritrovarti
per la tua gente che naviga lontano
Tu sei come Itaca**

Maidè Ai cardi Baffo