

Lens letter from the Via

Date 6/07/17

Location

Gy

KM's to
Rome

1,363

Steps Today

37,506

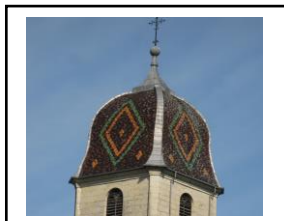
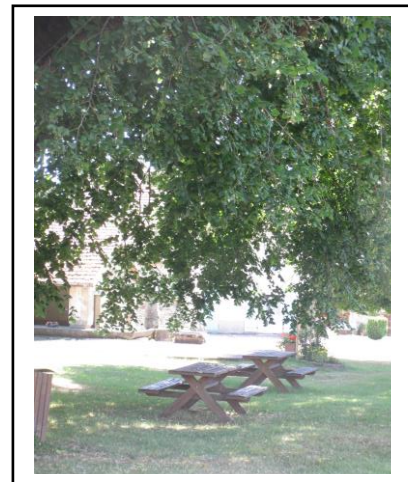
Last night we were taken to a little village outside Dampierre-sur-Salon called Le Tuille, which is also sur-Salon. Even the small villages have their own castle. We had a lovely stay in this village as the accommodation was a very tasteful renovation of an old farmhouse. The hosts were also very accommodating and helpful. I don't know why the French sometimes are regarded as being not very polite to tourists; we have had nothing but thoughtfulness and assistance.



Today's walk was again through forests and minor roads. The forests are all replanted but well established so you do get a sense of being in the bush even though it is extensive mono planting. The trees appear to be mainly grown for firewood. There's a lot of bird life inhabiting the trees but not much evidence of any animals, a few scats but nothing like the prolific scats you get in the Australian bush. I guess when a country's population gets hungry the native animals become a delicacy.

I had lunch in the small village of La Chapelle-St-Quillain in the local park. It had several linden trees which had huge canopies and provided lots of shade. You can see how big they are from this photo. We have a linden tree in our back yard - yikes.

In the background, you can see a stone building. This is an example of another common building in this area. A bathhouse. They are beautiful buildings with large openings in the side walls and inside the bathhouse is an oval pool about 50cm's deep by about three metres long. There is constant running water (froid) but not that cold that you couldn't lie down and give yourself a good



wash. Apparently, you are also able to wash your clothes in the pool as well. These would make great party rooms for the more adventurous amongst us.

For those on the hunt for the meaning in the spires (referred to locally as clochers contios) here is another fine example. I loved the colours in this one.

The first suggestions for books have come in from Steve.

Victor Hugo was born at Besancon. From Steve's suggestions, I have chosen *The Last Days of a Condemned Man*. Steve's other suggestions were *Les Misérables* and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Good one Steve.