

## Lens 27<sup>th</sup> letter from the Via

Date: 03/08/17

Location	Pavia	KM's to Rome	863	Steps	71,490
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We are experiencing some hot weather, expected to be 40 degrees for the next four days. The good thing is though it generally doesn't reach peak temperature until around 4 pm in the afternoon. So early starts mean that you get most of the walk done by lunchtime and can take it easy in the afternoon. The Hotels are sympathetic to the walkers and generally have breakfast available before seven.

On my way out of Garlasco I met another walker from Switzerland who started the walk at St Bernard's Pass. He said I was the first walker that he had come across since he started. Only about 12,500 do the walk or part thereof each year which means except for the honey pots in Tuscany you won't encounter many fellow walkers.

I felt very positive about today's walk as from the maps I could see that we would be off the roads quite a lot and hopefully enjoy some shade. But we weren't done with the rice paddies just yet. I thought I should include a photo just to demonstrate the uniformity of the

countryside when it is mono planted with rice. The mosquitos were bad today. I purchased an insect repellent shirt from Rohan's a UK based company. I was a little sceptical but they really do work. I was only bothered by mosquitos around my head. We just need Rohan's to make a hat out of the same material. Once I got through the rice fields the walk was a very pleasant ramble through country lanes and tracks. There was only a short four hundred meters on a busy road. Some of the cars are a bit scary as they

belt past at 130 kph, but overall, I have found most motorists very courteous particularly the truck drivers who by being courteous to strangers, show they are citizens of the world. The only time a truck driver doesn't move across is if there are any cars coming the other way.

Came across this bridge on the track, bit of a comedown from bridges I have encountered so far on the walk. The last stage of the walk was a six km stretch along the Ticino river. I came

around a bend in a small creek and encountered this rather large river. It is fast flowing and provides a great recreational place for the

people of Pavia. All along the river there were people enjoying the water, and there were little cafes along the river bank which provided welcome relief from the heat, and I must admit I did enjoy the ice-cream.

Travelling Bookclub I have nearly finished Hotel du Lac

so need another recommendation.

