

Len's 40th letter from the Via

Date:17/08/17

Location

Camaione

KM's to
Rome

559

Steps Today

51,425

Hotel logistics meant that I had a walk of 39 kms. today, the guidebook suggested I take a train for part of the walk. The distance was too great and I didn't want to take the train so I worked out another route along the coastal path. It dropped the distance down to 30 kms. which is manageable even on a hot day. I also thought it would be enjoyable to walk along and look at the sea while getting the benefit of a sea breeze. But my planning did not consider that Italy has privatised its beaches in the main tourist spots. There was very little publicly available free sand and water. In most instances I wasn't high enough to see the sea as the view has been built out by low rise day holiday resorts which include beach access.

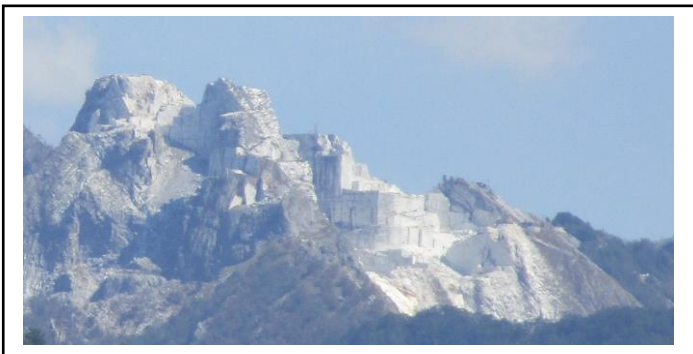
Occasional views of the sea occurred as in this photo and I still got the sea breeze, which hasn't been privatised yet. Even without the sea views it was an entertaining walk as it was interesting to observe the natives in holiday mode, they sure know how to get a good tan. All ages were represented not just the body beautiful although there was a fair sprinkling of good bodies, shown off to their best advantage.



Many of the beach goers arrived there by bicycle, the humble bike is used as a transport vehicle much more than being used as a mode of exercise., Though the "beach road warriors" have been imported to Italy, the usual groups of lycra clad men who refused to recognize traffic light signals. An advantage of all this bike riding is that a lot of bicycle tracks have been built which is great for us walkers. Today I walked into the village for four kms. on a bicycle track along a canal, an easy way to get into the village.

Over the day I could see up into the mountains from where they extract the marble, if you

look at this photo closely you will see that parts of the mountain are square. On a bridge I crossed there was a display of old photographs, the heavy grunt work was done by oxen. It is obvious that the community is proud of its heritage in respect of extracting marble from the mountains and the beautiful uses it was put to. When we think of the past it is the beautiful things we



pick out. We want to believe it was all like that.



On the beach route, I also passed this car advertising one of the resorts, it seems a waste of a beautifully restored old car. After leaving the beach I wound my way up to the lovely village of Pietrasanta whose inhabitants had a novel way of decorating their streets

