

NEWS of ACQUALORETO for the Wider Circle



Acqualoreto from San Bartolomeo in March

More and more foreigners are coming to Acqualoreto. Some come for brief or long stays at the growing number of holiday accommodations, others come looking to buy a house in the area, but most show up for one of the international happy hours at the Circolo.



Lubos Malina entertains



A Happy Hour in July

Some people keep returning. For example, our friend Lubos

Malina, a bluegrass musician from Prague, returned to the area in May, for at least his fourth visit, making everyone within earshot very happy.

In the warmer months, in addition to the Wednesday afternoon Happy Hours, we gather at the Circolo after the 11:30 mass on Sundays for the weekly Holy Hour. For those who enjoy a more integrated gathering, the piazza is filled by local residents, much of the foreign community, and even a number of Italians from elsewhere who have homes in the area.



: Pasquarella entrance

The Pasquarella is a medieval sanctuary built into the mountainside in the territory of Acqualoreto near the Tiber. It is opened about four times a year for pilgrimages and mass, with the most important event being on the Sunday after Easter, when masses are held throughout the day and people stay for picnics in the valley below the sanctuary. This year the Pasquarella celebration was cancelled due to work on the river road and the traffic problems it entailed. It was rescheduled in July, but the crowds were much reduced.

During the annual August festa, the programmed events include a long hike through the woods from Acqualoreto to the Pasquarella and back for energetic types, with refreshments along the way. Some clever people arrange to be picked up by car for the mostly uphill return trip.

As usual, this year's festa will run from August 10th through the 15th,



The side of the Pasquarella and its approach.

with the possibility of a musical event on the 16th. The grand opening of the festa will be on Wednesday, August 10th. In addition to the opening of the mercatino and the “pesca” booth, our annual art exhibition will open in several cantine inside the old village, including one for photography, one for theater related items and the main gallery for a group show of paintings by twenty-five or more artists with ties to the area. The opening will be accompanied by traditional costumed drummers from Narni and by wine from the Cardeto winery. That night will also see the traditional “cena sotto le stelle”, i.e, the big supper in the piazza for a gathering limited to 180 diners. Reservations should be made at least the day before.

The mercatino sells donated items to benefit the Circolo and we remind those of you in the area that items you were thinking of discarding, from clothing to housewares to books, will be welcomed prior to the start of the festa.

Over the following five days, the exhibits will remain open and a different pasta will be served each night in the piazza. At present the tentative schedule of other events is as follows:

- Thursday August 11th- A children’s art workshop conducted by Carolyn Int’Veld and a children’s play center, followed by the opening of the children’s art exhibition.
- Friday August 12th- At 18:30 There will be a special Opening of the Shakespeare and Danilo Donati Exhibition with wine and snacks in the galleries, followed by Ida Di Benedetto reading from Shakespeare. After supper, Zefferelli’s film, *Romeo and Juliet*, will be projected in the piazza..
- Saturday August 13th- Pilgrimage to the Pasquarella in the morning, an artists’ demonstration in the afternoon, with a Briscola Tournament in the evening.
- Sunday August 14th- Theater in the piazza with the *Gli Instabili di Acqualoreto* in the evening; music in late afternoon by our resident jazz guitarist, Paolo Patrignani.

- Monday August 15th- music and dancing in the piazza with the traditional fireworks display.

For updates of the festa schedule, you can check the Acqualoreto page of the website www.punditalia.net.

Other news to report about Acqualoreto regard improvements to the village. The ex-scuola is still being renovated and the building, for years something of an eyesore, has been restuccoed in a warmer and far more attractive color. Two families live on the upper floor. The ground floor, which still belongs to the Comune, is being renovated into a series of much needed public spaces. It is hoped that the local doctor will have an office there to restore the former schedule of weekly office hours in the village.



Another badly needed improvement is underway. The five kilometer road from Acqualoreto down to the river road has been in desperately bad shape for a long time. A few years ago one section of the pavement heaved so badly that it formed a wall, which had to be torn up, leaving a dusty patch of dirt road since then. The problem was due to ground water undermining the road.

The ex-scuola in its new colors.

Work has gone on for several months to channel the water and regrade the areas affected. Several areas remain to be repaired but one of the worse has now been smoothed out and repaved. It's a good start and we anticipate that the entire stretch will be restored to the same smooth condition now visible in the first tract to be repaved.



Newly paved road with cones and signs not yet removed.

We hope that some or all of you will return to enjoy the beauty and the idyllic life of Acqualoreto.

At least it will be easier to get to.