

Newsletter

Summer 2009

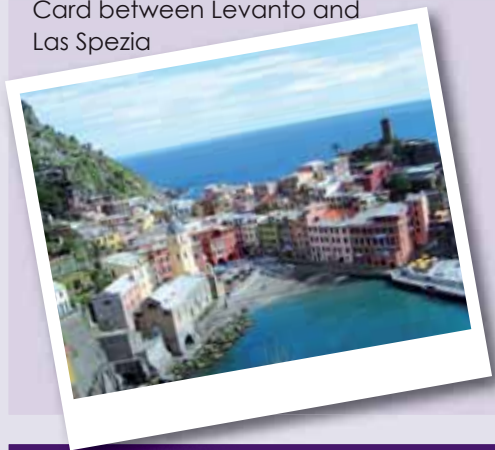
Christmas is almost here! Wishing you a Merry Christmas and we hope you enjoy the festive season with family and friends. If having time off, have a safe and happy holiday. Wishing you all the best for 2010.

DESTINATION OF THE MONTH – CINQUE TERRE

The rise of the Italian maritime empires of Pisa, Genoa, Venice and Amalfi in 1000AD. This made the surrounding seas safe for trading and the coasts safe for settling from marauding pirates and slave traders which used to plague the Italian Riviera. It was then that farmers began to settle along the Ligurian Coast and the Cinque Terre.

WHEN TO GO: The best time to visit the Cinque Terre, is between April and October. The months of July and August tend to be very busy. So if you want to avoid the busy season, then we recommend to go in the spring or autumn.

GETTING THERE: The best way to get to the Cinque Terre is by train from Genoa. There is unlimited Second Class travel using your Cinque Terre Card between Levanto and La Spezia



which trundles along the coast every 15-30 minutes, stopping at each of the five villages along the way.

HIGHLIGHTS: The landscape and scenery are breathtaking. The history and architecture is unforgettable along with enjoying the smells and tastes of Italian food and wine.

MUST DOS:

- Walking the nine kilometre coastal path that links the villages
- Monterosso's huge statues carved into its cliffs such as Il Gigante
- The terraced vineyards and gorgeous wine that go with it (and Lemoncello!)
- The many churches and castles
- Lovers Lane from Riomaggiore to Manarola
- Manarola's 'above ground' cemetery
- Riomaggiore's giant murals of the Cinque Terre farmers situated outside the train station

TIPS: Make sure you try the delicious 'lemoncello', the Italian lemon liqueur made from lemon zest, alcohol and sugar – bright in colour, sweet and lemony and much stronger than you think!

For further information on where to stay come in store to talk to us about this destination.

CHRISTMAS HOURS

We will be closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, 27, 28 December 2009. In the New Year we will be closed 01-05 January 2010 and resuming normal hours thereafter. If you require emergency assistance, contact us on 07 856 9009 and you will be put through to our after hours consultant.

Experience the magic of village life in Italy and live like a local

Discover and be part of traditional Italian village life...

Embrace the warmth of its people and country... experience a path less travelled in central Italy, only three hours east of Rome and a world away. Let Abruzzo Tours take you away on a journey of a lifetime as you discover Abruzzo – Italy's little known and less travelled region in the eastern Apennines, stretching down to the Adriatic Coast. Lead by Luciana Masci, each tour offers exclusive small group travel with the attention to detail and passion for her Abruzzo that only an Abbruzzese can offer.

For more details come instore or call 07 856 9009.



EUROPEAN HIGHLIGHTS – LORIS SOWMAN

I have just arrived back from a three week holiday to Europe. Positano on the Amalfi Coast was stunning, amazing views of the ocean, and great Italian food. Another highlight was a seven night Mediterranean cruise on the MSC Musica from Venice around the Greek islands of Corfu, Santorini and Mykonos. I took this photo from the cable car at Santorini. Cruising is definitely worth considering when planning your European holiday as you only have to unpack once and the ship sails in the late

afternoon/evening for its next port of call. Onboard, the dining and entertainment are first class with opportunities for sport, fitness and relaxation. A balcony cabin is well worth upgrading to, as it allows views of the ocean from your cabin.



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HOUSE OF TRAVEL

STAFF TRAVELS – Judy Harkness

ALL WHITES IN BAHRAIN

Last month I was offered the opportunity to travel to Bahrain to watch the All Whites play Bahrain in their first qualifying round.

This was a fantastic experience with the added bonus of two nights in Bangkok and Dubai.

Travelling Thai Airlines, I was lucky enough to be in business class in one direction which certainly makes a difference arriving feeling relatively refreshed after a 13 hour flight.

Time in Bangkok to do a little shopping and get caught up in the hustle and bustle of this wonderful city. The new airport is running very well and now has a very modern Novotel minutes from the airport which also offers day rooms for people in transit. The Sky Train will soon be operating from the airport to the city and this will also make a huge difference, avoiding the inevitable traffic.

This was my first visit to Dubai and I was actually pleasantly surprised. It is a good stopover option for a couple of nights. There are great day tours to consider, but we opted for a taxi, which took us around all of the highlights for a nominal cost. This also gave us the freedom to stop when we wanted and was at our own pace. Taxis are one of the cheapest things in Dubai. A highlight was the desert safari with barbecue; well run and loads of fun. Bahrain was, of course, all about the soccer, but quite a contrast to Dubai, more traditional, particularly in the architecture and had a much more laidback feel about it. They are passionate about their football and the game was a wonderful event, one which I will never forget.



TRAVEL INTELLIGENCE

e passport turns black

New Zealand's new ePassport, which features new security features and artwork, has begun rolling out. Both the new ePassport and the previous ePassport will be issued over the coming months as the new one is phased in. There is no price increase for the new black passport but it includes security measures such as a secondary photo window, increased use of intaglio print and embossing and different artwork on each page. Photos in the new passport appear in black and white, though the electronic chip image is in colour. The new ePassports work with Smartgate, the automated border processing system being officially introduced next month, but doesn't provide any additional advantages for passport holders.



Trans Tasman Smart Gates

From December, all NZ and Australia ePassport holders (aged 18 and over) who fly from Australia into Auckland International Airport can process themselves through NZ passport control using SmartGate.

SmartGate uses electronic information in your ePassport and face recognition technology to perform customs and immigration checks usually conducted by a customs and border protection officer. All Australian passports issued after 24 October 2005 and all NZ passports issued after November 2005 are called ePassports. Australians and New Zealanders who apply for a new passport or renew an expired passport will be issued with an ePassport.

SmartGate is a simple, two-step process. **1:** the kiosk, checks if you are eligible to self-process. **2:** the gate, performs the identity check and clearance.

Already in place at Australian international airports, Smartgate will be available at Auckland International Airport from December and will also be introduced at Wellington and Christchurch airports by mid 2010.



SPECIAL EVENTS

IMAGINE IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO EARN THE JERSEY TO GO ON TOUR

Get some mates together and head to the NZI Sevens in Wellington, February 2010 for a weekend of fun, excitement and vibrant night life.

2 NIGHTS ACCOMMODATION AND MATCH TICKET PACKAGES –

- 2 nights twin/dbl accommodation at selected inner city hotels
- Official seated match tickets to both days of Sevens action in the infamous 'Red Zone' party area

Our selection of hotels are:

Bolton Hotel 2 bdrm apartmt \$840*
West Plaza Hotel Standard room \$875
Bolton Hotel Premier Studio \$895
Duxton Hotel Deluxe room \$940
Bolton Hotel Classic Suite \$945
Cophorne Oriental Bay from \$965
*Based on four people sharing a two bedroom apartment

Ask your House of Travel consultant for nightly accommodation rates.

GAME-SET-MATCH – Australian Open

This year's Hospice Waikato Tennis Tournament is fast approaching. The excitement is building and everyone is preparing and practicing their backhand for another 'ace' day.

Given this event is such a hit and as a dedicated supporter of Hospice Waikato – Calder and Lawson House of Travel is excited to sponsor the 2010 event.

However, March is a long time to wait for great tennis, so why not experience the next best thing at the Australian Open in Melbourne?

See the very best tennis players in the world in action... we are holding seats to the semis and finals, plus we have great accommodation options to choose from – centrally located, making shopping or a visit to art galleries, cafes and restaurants a breeze.

Interested? Like more information? Come instore or phone 07 856 9009 – we're happy to help.

WINNER OF GOLD COAST HOLIDAY from our World Expo

Congratulations to Rebecca Maher who won a return trip to the Gold Coast flying Pacific Blue, accommodation at Freshwater Point and Red Spot Car rental for attending our World Expo.

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