

March e-postcard

Ciao.....

Hope this finds you all well and with your thoughts turning to sunnier climes! Salò has had a distinct holiday feel to it this last couple of weeks as shops begin to stock brightly coloured costumes for the children as *Carnevale* approaches. *Carnevale*, also known as carnival or *mardi gras*, is celebrated in Italy and many places around the world 40 days before Easter, a final party before Ash Wednesday and Lent. *Carnevale* is one of Italy's biggest festivals and events often last for two to three weeks. Many Italian towns celebrate the weekend before the actual carnival date and because the date of Easter changes every year, so does the date for carnival festivals which can be anywhere from February 3 - March 9.

We have begun to notice more boats on the lake and the traghetti which faithfully transport tourists and locals alike will be starting their Springtime schedule shortly. Last weekend there was a boat race here in the gulf of Salò and we joined the crowds on the lungolago enjoying the sight of the colourful sails and speculating who would be the winner!

Afterwards, we headed off to lunch to our new favourite restaurant, Trattoria Ristorante La Tana. One of the joys of living in Italy is finding the hidden gems and this one is tucked away in a back street, just out of sight of the main road beside Maderno Bay. Toscolano-Maderno are 2 towns joined together on a headland which offers wonderful lake views. Maderno, being our favourite, is backed by steep hills covered with evergreen cypress trees and has a lovely sweeping beach which we regularly enjoy in the summer months as it gives easy access to swimming in the lake.

On the way home we stopped off at Gardone to meet a friend for coffee and took advantage of a last stroll lakeside in this small, laid back town with its candy striped harbour just as the sun was going down.

This truly is the place to recharge the batteries and find out how to enjoy life to the full and we hope that everyone who visits us takes a little bit of that home with them.

Ci Vediamo

Lesley & Gordon

