

The Wedding of Brian and Stefania

For those who cannot read Italian, **the wedding will be held on the 30th of July at 11:30 AM in the small village of Mozzanica**, where Stefania grew up.

A few Italian traditions:

It is tradition to deliver the invitations or “Partecipazioni” (participations) in person. The invitations are accompanied with a pouch of Confetti (Italian candy covered Almonds). As the invitees receive the invitations they take a few confetti and say “Auguri” (best wishes) and they are always sure to take only an odd number or “dispari”, for good luck.

The invitations themselves were provided by a charitable organization in Italy that helps out blind and deaf individuals. More information can be seen at www.legadelfilodoro.it (there is also an English version).

Logistics for the Wedding:

A chartered bus will take all participants from the Hotel San Marco in Bergamo on the morning of the wedding and drop them off at Mozzanica, at the town square, where we will meet beforehand and have an apero. Again, this is the Italian tradition where the family hosts an open house where guests can stop by and socialize prior to the wedding. (I think the tradition was created to ensure that all the invitees get to the church on time as Italians are known for not always being punctual!).

As the time nears for the beginning of the ceremony, we will collect outside the church, that is located in the same square, and await the bride. We will then move into the church.

The service will be in Italian, but an English translation handout will be provided. After the service, we will once again gather outside the church for some photos and the chartered buses will take everyone to the reception. The reception will be a full on Italian feast – come hungry, as we will be eating and celebrating for hours!

Hotel Information:

I have reserved rooms at a hotel in Bergamo, the largest city in the area, about 30 mins from Mozzanica. The Hotel is San Marco and located in the center of the city and a perfect place to walk around and explore the city. Bergamo Alta – is one of the oldest cities in Italy and located at the top of a hill which can be reached by taking the Funiculare (Cable car) up the side of the hill. The Funiculare is very close to the hotel and I highly recommend making the trip up to the old city.

Please contact Brian at vieri@comcast.net to have your hotel room reserved. A special price of 99euros was set up for the room and he will have the list and confirmations for everyone staying at the hotel.

Other Information

The nearest airports to Bergamo are in Milan. Linate-LIN (the closest to Bergamo) and Malpensa-MXP. An express train from Malpensa (Malpensa Express) can be taken from the airport and will take you directly to Cadorna or Centrale (Milan Central Station) for roughly 9 euros. From Centrale, you can take a train directly to Bergamo.

Another option is to take the bus from Malpensa/Linate to Milan central station. There, you can also take another bus to the small airport of Orio al Serio (very close to Bergamo), and from there another bus to Bergamo city.

Surrounding Sites:

Milan – I recommend at least a full day, maybe two. Da Vinci's **The Last Supper** is a must see, but requires reservations (book early – soon). **Il Duomo** in Milan is spectacular, it took 500 years to complete. Some favorite restaurants in Milan: **Santa Marta** – my favorite, very nice and very good. Look on line, it is down an alley, but awesome. **Luini** – Try the 'panzerotti' (a great snack); it is located just around the corner of the Duomo, this is a small pizza snack, it is heaven!

There are many pizza shops and gelaterias, too many to list, explore and enjoy!

Caravaggio – a very small village near Mozzanica is home to a great renaissance artist by the same name. It also is the location of the Sanctuary where a vision of Mary occurred. A young woman, while working in the fields, saw a vision of the Mary and later a spring arose from the exact spot. A train can be taken from Bergamo and a leisurely walk from the station can take you to the beautiful sanctuary.

Important translations/Cultures:

A **Pepperoni Pizza** – is a cheese pizza with green peppers, if you want American pepperoni you want a Diavola (devil) or Salame Piccante – hot salami.

A **Latte** – is straight milk, if you want a **cappuccino**, you need to ask for a cappuccino.

You absolutely do not need to tip anyone in Italy. There is a bill for sitting at the table which covers the waiter fee (coperto). Feel free to leave a little tip, but a couple few euro is enough, certainly not 15-20%.

Keep wallet and passports in a safe place, not in the back pockets and not in purses. Pickpockets are abundant, but we have never had problems, they go after easy targets, put your cash in front pocket or in a carry pouch. You will be fine as you as long as you don't leave it out in the open.

We look forward to see you at our wedding!

Brian & Stefania