

upgrade by a local Association promoting and renovating it with new handrails, a few benches and some wooden plaques with quotes and a painting too.



The path, approx. 5 kms. leads along the Sasso River overlooking the valley. Walkers are never bored, passing an imposing 66 yr old cactus, lounging cats, farmers' plots with vegetables and fruit trees, stone walls, a palm tree garden, a horse farm, ruins of a flour mill and big views down to the sea and up to the Autostrada. All the while the rambler is accompanied by the stream Sasso below, trickling down the mountain, falling into small cascades here and there.

As Hares we had our trail planned and timed. Walkers would go up the path with Contessa, taking a short cut up to the Autostrada bridge, then to Sasso. Runners made a loop at the start towards the gardens and seafront, then followed Beodo, all the way to the end, and then detoured on some long-distance hiking trails, meeting eventually in Sasso.

But Lonely told Contessa, "Don't tell anyone in your Hash Directions that we're going up to Sasso". So, it was a secret until that morning. As I realized later, not everyone even knew the history about this path, and Monet.

The 2nd Challenge: Plagues, Tempests, Far Distance, an Early Start

Now lets consider what was going on around the planning of the Hash. Plagues (Covid) and Tempests (Alex) were as serious as anything the Hash has ever encountered. Could we drive across the border into Italie without getting stopped? Would the catastrophic weather eliminate the possibility to set the Hash on Saturday? Would our flour blow away? Would

anyone show up?

We already had to compromise with the Restaurant Valdisogno, to start our meal at 1PM, which meant an especially early start driving in from France. Logistics of organising a Hash this distance meant In total, I drove 680 kms to find & set this Hash, between Antibes and Bordighera/Sasso with several trips back and forth.

Hoping for the best, the two Hare risk-takers carried on setting our trail on a sunny, high-wind Saturday; the sea had a level of brown over the blue, with mud run off from the mts. Oh no! a local cleaning crew out with trucks were sweeping up some of our flour on Sunday morning. But the cleaning did not bother our trail on the Beodo path, only in the Parking and the Old Town.

The Trail

We were 15 Hashers at the Start. A good turnout considering all the elements against us. With threatening skies above, I overheard the comment, we would be running in the rain by 11 AM. We were off at 10 AM, dressed in rain gear.



As I anticipated, the Walkers were enjoying every step. They kept up a good pace and admired the views, got into the history, and just as Duchess was translating an Italian saying on a plaque, here comes the Runners thundering by. Later we veered off to the Left, and took a steep shortcut up the road to the Autostrada, then in 10 minutes we were in Sasso.



Contessa self portrait over the Rivier Sasso

The Beerstop

was behind the church in the old square of Sasso. Picturesque, protected from the wind, with stone tables and benches. A perfect place! And not only that, the sun came out! As prayed for by Contessa, 24 hrs previous. No kidding! God helped with the trail, and I saw Sadist sitting there happy in a spot of sun. Lonely had brought gin and tonic for Fallen Woman and Pullit. Maggie got her peanuts opened at the café. No Satz told me about the time she walked up to Seborga from Bordighera. We refueled and retook to the road.

Runners Hare, Lonely reports:



"This exclusive group left the walkers from the start at the old town. Running towards the commercial centre that sprang up when the railway arrived 180 years ago, they glimpsed the harbor and sea still agitated from Storm Alex two days earlier before being diverted by the statues of Queen Margherita of Savoy and Garnier's Villa, the designer of the Paris Opera House. They had done all this before catching up with the walkers on Via Beodo 30 mins into the run."

"Before the drink stop the runners once again left the walkers to explore the upper reaches of the stream, now in a somewhat excited condition. They ducked falling cane, balanced on boulders, clung to wet walls before finding the inspiration for some of Monet's paintings, notably the waterfall. About 65 minutes into the run they arrived at Sasso courtyard to find only the fast walkers had already arrived. After the drink stop, they returned within an hour for the circle at the original car park."

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The Way Back

With rain threatening we headed down the paths from Sasso, walking over the Autostrada bridge, to via degli Inglesis. Big view to the sea with rain in the distance. When we reached the steep tiled red paths leading into the old town, a light rain was falling, and walking was slippery over wet pine needles. But this time everyone had the meal on their minds! We thought we may not have enough time for the Circle, but we did and so here it is!

The Circle *(contributed by Jobsworth)*

"Here is the definitely inaccurate list.

Down Downs to: Hares Contessa and Lonely

Returner Philippe

Visitor Fallen Woman

Mug Check but I can't remember who except for Cumalot

Lonely for proposing not to self isolate when he returns to England

Karen naming as Corona Mona

Cumalot for girlfriend abuse

Sadist for proposing Farty Bum as Beer Meister for life

SoW should have been Lonely by a long stretch, with Sadist as the "dummy" candidate for the above. Unfortunately, Cumalot and Heavy Pants took over at this point with their virtual shenanigans and won by a landslide. (probably not the term to use after the storm)".

PS to the list above: Contessa nominates Pullit and Fallen Women for a 2nd SOTW, for seducing Hare Lonely to leave for six days prior to the Hash, to hike and bike in the Var, thus leaving Contessa with most of the Hash preparatory work!

**And Sadist reminded us we were standing in the same place where Bordighera Hashing originated many years ago!*



The Restaurant

A Hash in Bordighera means a copious meal at Valdisogno, as in 2009 and 2018. This time we sat at a long table indoors, cozy from the falling rain outside. The Menu 'Cerimoniali' lasted about three hours, with plates of Antipasti Salad and cold meats, Pastas (two different ones), Fish Ligurian Style, Beef stew, more



vegetables, Dessert, wine, water, coffee, and digestive. Even Biggles was satisfied! In fact so happy, he told some jokes at the table...and called to thank me the next day!

And the Hares thank YOU! Everyone who made the effort to come all the way to this Hash in dangerous weather! On the way home, we saw Ventimiglia was severely damaged by the storm, as well as Sospel, Breil sur Roya, St Martin la Vesubie, La Brigue, Saorge, Fontan, Tende. Even wolves are running free in Boreon's Alpha. We were only kms away from colossal damage, but our Hash was saved! Thank God we got through it, not too wet and On On!

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If you print it out and heat it with steam... the paper will go soggy.