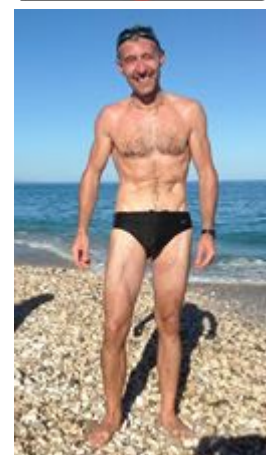




Welcome to The Lemon House March 2014 Newsletter!

We are busy getting the house ready after the winter for our first guests, two Brits in the 2nd week of March and then 4 German [Selvaggio Blu](#) walkers and a [climbing](#) couple, also from Germany, in the 4th week of March. Bookings for 2014 are going well: we have been fully booked at Easter for weeks now and already



have a bookings as far ahead as the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of October.

### Looking back on 2013

2013 was a another record year for us, with bookings in [The Lemon House](#) up by 14% compared to 2012 and (most importantly) many lovely guests with whom we enjoyed spending time. Doing this job, you are never short of conversation: "We met this really interesting couple from...."!

The weather in the autumn was fantastic until we went away, with an Indian summer right into early November, as the photos above of our last guests of 2013, the Sards Francesco, Ignazio, Maurizio and Francesco by Punta Margiani on the mountain bike ride to Cala Sisine and Peter coming out of the sea demonstrate.

It was nice that the last guests of the year were Sards, appreciating one of the best sides to their island. In 2010 23% of our guests were Italian. In the 3 years 2010-2013 the number of Italian guests fell by 80%. Not only for us but for Sardinia in general, the numbers of Italian tourists fell dramatically due the bad economic situation in Italy compounded by the prices of ferries to Sardinia (cartel). In 2014 Italians represented only 4% of our guests, and in October we produced our Newsletter only in English and German. There really seemed to be little positive news for the Italians and especially for the Sards, whose politicians continue to propose populist and poorly-thought-through "solutions" like a "Zona Franca" tax-free area, without explaining if this is would be limited just to ports such as Cagliari or extended to the whole island (as they would have electors believe...) and, in the latter case, how the shortfall in taxes would be made up to fund the health service, education and other services.

However we received lots of protests especially from Sards who said they looked forward to our positive news. So "Sorry" and this Newsletter is produced Italian as well as in English and German.



In 2013 after the 40% of our guests from the UK, the second-biggest group (27%) were German-speaking guests were from Germany, Switzerland and Austria, up from only 7% in 2010-11 before Peter decided to brush up his German and make our website in German. The Lemon House is now the best-known source of information in German as well as in English and Italian on "our" sports on the east coast of Sardinia. Peter is very grateful to guests who correct his German in return for biking and climbing tips, such as Manu, Christian and Grita on the Urzulei plateau (left) and Elise and Katharina climbing at the Porto di Santa Maria (right).



## The flooding in Sardinia on Monday 18 November 2013

High mountains next to the warm Mediterranean sea mean that every winter there are violent thunderstorms in Sardinia with severe flash flooding, landslides and roads closed. The Ponte Sa Barva bridge (photo right) had just been rebuilt when the river came over it and destroyed the railings in October 2010. However when 6 months' rain fell on Olbia in just one night on November 18th 2013, it was the severest storm since 1951 and 14 people died. Over the last half century the town has expanded massively, and houses had been built on land classed as unsuitable for building due to flooding risk and later "condoned" (retrospectively made legal by owners presenting a request and paying a small fine) on 21 separate occasions.



Near to us the [video on the right](#) shows the bad weather but fortunately in Ogliastra no-one died. Although we didn't know him personally, we had worked with policeman Luca Tanzi from Nuoro, who died when he and 3 colleagues were escorting an ambulance to hospital on the Dorgali-Oliena road and part of the bridge they were crossing collapsed. Just before this a school bus had driven across the same spot. The magistrates are investigating why the bridge collapsed and who is responsible....



## Our winter



After such a busy year, we were ready for a holiday. We spent a week in northern Italy with Italian friends then two weeks in Vienna. When Peter saw the Freytag & Berndt outdoor book shop, he rushed to check if "our" Mountainbike Sardinia guide was on sale...Yes, it was ☺ (Photo left). Probably the highlight of the whole holiday was visiting Martin and Doris in Salzburg, who'd come to stay with us for a mountain biking holiday in July 2013 (see [this YouTube video](#), in German). Both are professional musicians at the [Mozarteum](#) orchestra and we wanted to attend a concert when they were playing. But there were none on when we were there, only the orchestra accompanying the [Sound of Music \(in German, with English subtitles\) at the Landestheater](#)...It was brilliant! Violinist Martin even persuaded a colleague to let him take his colleague's place as lead violinist, saying, "My mountain bike instructor is coming, I have to play!!"

We then spent two months in Rome, where we own a flat from our pre-Lemon House life. Over the winter Anne built a new IKEA kitchen. Peter worked on improving his German and after passing © his [Goethe-Zertifikat C2 exam](#) translated a great new guide to adventurous mountain walking in Sardinia more from Italian to English. Published by Corrado Conca of [Edizioni Segnavia](#), it includes some walks previously only documented in Corrado's guides in Italian as well as new descriptions. Highlights in Ogliastra and the next province, Nuoro, include:

- ✓ the 4-day Grande Traversata del Supramonte, which unlike the Selvaggio Blu doesn't involve any climbing or abseiling. A great walk, some of which Peter has covered by mountain bike (see these videos [1](#) and [2](#))
- ✓ Descent of the Gorroppu Gorge, short climbing sections with fixed cables & ropes
- ✓ A traverse of Serra Oseli (Urzulei)'s crest, for which you need to use ropes to belay and be able to abseil
- ✓ S'Istrada Longa and the Cengia di Plumare near Cala Sisine, Baunei
- ✓ An updated description of the Selvaggio Blu, with updates to the [English translation made by Peter in 2008](#)

The guide "TOP TREKS OF SARDINIA Hikes, multiday treks and vie ferrate to discover the island's unspoiled beauty" ISBN 978-88-88776-41-5 (Hardcover 19x25 cm) should be published at the end of March 2014.



## Looking forward to 2014

As we have got busier and busier in [The Lemon House](#), it has meant that our "personal" space has reduced. We had considered buying a house in nearby Santa Maria Navarrese where we would live and come to work at The Lemon House, but this didn't work out, so we have decided that we will live in our flat in Porto Frailis, at least for the start of 2014 to see how it goes. So for the time being our flat is not for rent.

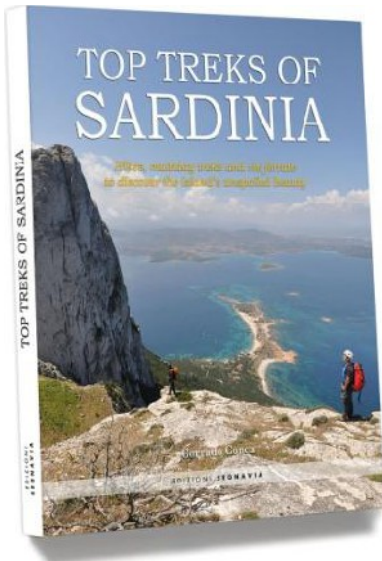


Sardinia is now firmly on the map for [road cyclists](#) who can ride directly from The Lemon House to enjoy very well-surfaced roads, good steady climbs and carrot cake and tea after their rides like Rebecca and Jen in the photos from October. We seem to be benefiting from the boom of interest in cycling in the UK and with the Tour de France starting in Yorkshire this year, this effect is set to keep growing. We also have.



lots of road cyclists from (flat) northern Germany

For [climbers](#) it is good to see Maurizio Oviglia's news articles available in English on [Planet Mountain](#). Recent developments in Ogliastra were reported in our last Newsletter and of the recent news the most relevant for visitors are probably the [new routes at Surtana](#), the best place for easier multi-pitch routes. In the north of the island but important for putting Sardinia on the map is the bouldering trip organised by Pietro dal Prà to Gallura's granite boulders in the autumn. See the [report on Planet Mountain](#) and [this video](#).



For [walkers](#): Peter had for a long time wanted to make the walk to Cala Biriola (Biriola) and when Graham from Switzerland arrived off they went together. Some sections of the walk involved exposed scrambling and it's nice to go with someone else. Also, if there are two of you, it's better for photos...and of course good company. Armed with a vague description from "Andalas 'e Caminus", a note in the Selvaggio Blu book and a GPS waypoint for the start of the descent path, they had a fine sporting day! The route is not always obvious, has some exposed sections and you need to be surefooted on



the ladders and sections equipped with cables. 3 hours return trip from Ololbizzi where you leave the car, we can lend you the description and a GPS with the route.

See you soon! Peter & Anne <http://www.peteranne.it/>

News and photos [facebook: The Lemon House](#)