



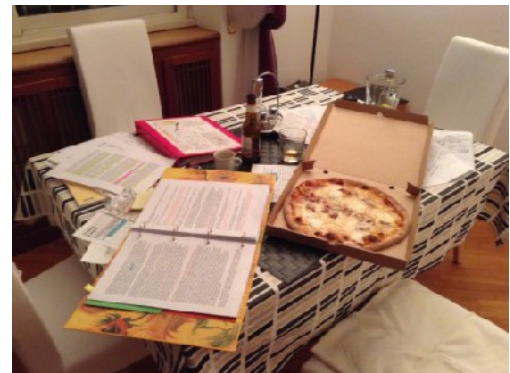
We have been back in Sardinia for just a week since our winter break and before the house is full again from 29 March, we have time to write a newsletter to update people on what we did over the winter, news from The Lemon House and new developments in Sardinia and in our area in particular.

### **Our winter**

Our season ended in mid-November and we spent most of the winter in Rome, where we own a small apartment. Peter had decided this winter to study history. As guests in October learnt, when we was already getting stressed, first when the course material didn't arrive and then when it did (!). He had dropped history aged 14 at school to concentrate on sciences but over the last couple of years had become more and more interested in European History, not least because of the mix of guests we have at The Lemon House and the current debate over the future of Europe. He had enrolled in the Winter Semester for the introductory history course [G1, Geschichte 1](#) (in German) from the Bachelor's degree at the [Fern Uni in Hagen](#) (link in English), Germany's largest university and only state-supported distance learning university. After growing up in the UK and having lived in Italy for 17 years, Peter was particularly interested to study history from a German perspective. The Fern Uni gave him the chance to do this and with his usual application studied hard most of the winter (below right: Anne was away for a week, Peter lived on pizza and beer and course notes ☺). Peter would thoroughly recommend the Fern Uni. Good supervision (one homework submitted at 19.00 on Friday was marked by 07.00 the following Saturday morning!), Facebook and Skype study groups.



We spent time travelling to visit friends and family in the UK and in the north of Italy and having friends and relatives visit us in Rome. Peter kept reasonably fit spinning and climbing in the gym twice a week. Anne did lots of knitting, including making the jumper in the photo on the left for Peter. Advanced mohair ☺ . Also she took advantage of the many exhibitions in Rome and in London, where we both went to see "[Germany: memories of a Nation](#)" at the British Museum.



### **News from [The Lemon House](#)**

From September onwards we start getting bookings for the following season. When we returned to Lotzorai on March 9<sup>th</sup>, we already had bookings from mid-March until the end of October, with the house fully booked on several dates in April and May and towards the end of August (see our "booking sheet" on the right). Pink and blue means booked.

One innovation this year is that Anne will write a weekly blog about what running a guesthouse on Sardinia actually involves and what it feels like. Her first post is [here](#).

When we bought the Lemon House in 2006, what to do "after The Lemon House" never entered our





minds. We were too busy developing the business from nothing and seeing it grow to become a tangible success has been very satisfying. But there is a point where it is time to move on, and we had identified that point as Anne's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday which we celebrated last August (see photo left with her dear friend Judith). Anne is now eligible for some pension income and after this, our ninth season, she would like to work less and spend time doing other things, travelling and visiting friends. As she explains in [this blog entry](#) her knees don't work as well as they once did and this is another reason for her decision. To run the Lemon House needs two fully-committed people, Peter knows it wouldn't be the same without Anne, so together we feel it would be best to look for another couple to take it over from the start of the 2016. Since last summer we have been talking this over with guests and friends. The reaction has been overwhelmingly positive, because people recognize that at some point you "retire" but that we want to support the new owners: "This must be like a child for you, we're sure you would want to find someone who can take on the house and the business and

continue its success story!".

If you are interested in taking over a well-established "outdoor lifestyle" business, this could be your chance! You don't have to be sporting superstars or do basic research on the sports – by now most of the activities are very well documented. You meet loads of interesting people and have lots of free time. You make enough money to live but not enough to take on a mortgage (unless you have another source of income). You need marketing skills, basic Italian and a food hygiene qualification. It may be obvious but you also should be someone who likes people, sunshine, the sea, some walking or cycling or climbing and Italian food.

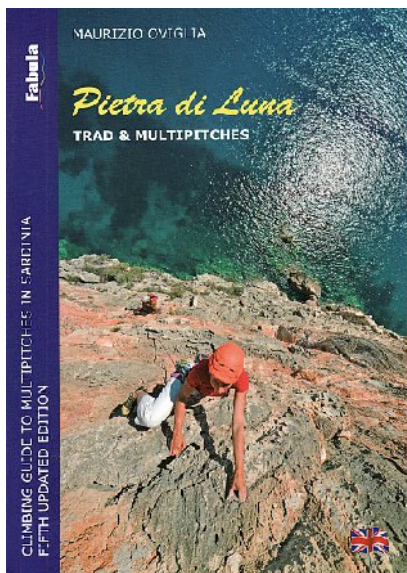
We want to sell the house, website, furniture and fittings and other equipment such as our van to cover our initial investment. Our aim is to fully support the new owners so that past and future guests such as [Cicerone guide](#) author [Paddy Dillon](#) writing [in this post](#) continue to have "a bed and a friendly welcome, with lots of good outdoor advice". We would continue to be on hand for support, since we'd live a lot of the time from spring to autumn in the Porto Frailis flat we own 10' drive away and which up until 2013 we rented to guests. Maybe Peter would still go [climbing](#) and [biking](#) with guests in The Lemon House if the new owners were cool about that. He would like that ☺ .

We don't have a fixed deadline, though it would be nice to have agreed things by the winter, before bookings start arriving for 2016. If you are interested in becoming the new owners of The Lemon House, with handover perhaps at the end of our 2015 season (usually mid-November), please get in touch and we can send you some more information (financial aspects, work pattern, things like that).

### **News from Sardinia and from our area in particular**

Thanks to the internet we stay in touch with what's going on in Lotzorai and Sardinia during the winter. When you live in northern Europe, you perhaps don't realise what winter weather is when you live by the sea in the Mediterranean. THERE ARE TURTLES like this one which Alfiero helped when it was in difficulty on the beach at Lotzorai. In this [article \(in Italian\)](#) Alfiero recalls how as boys over 50 years ago they would find turtles' eggs on the beach and eat them, not realising the environmental impact of their actions. Alfiero is the uncle of our good friend Christian who is Peter's climbing partner and who runs the [pizzeria Il Castello](#) in Lotzorai.

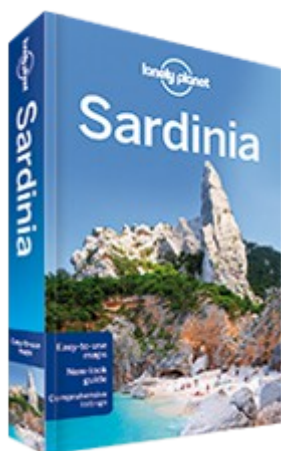




For [climbers](#) the most important news this winter was the publication of the second volume of Maurizio Oviglia's climbing guide book "Pietra di Luna" covering 1400 [modern multipitch](#) and trad routes. The areas with some of the most famous MP routes in Sardinia – **Baunei** and **Urzulei** – are literally on our doorstep and of the 63 areas in the guide, over half of these areas are accessible from The Lemon House in 90 minutes' drive or less: 16 - Ussassai (Ogliastra); 17 - Punta Giogadorgiu (Ogliastra); 18 - Villagrande (Ogliastra); **Baunei** 19 - Pedra Longa; 20 - Punta Argennas; 21 - Punta Giradili; 22 - Amor de mi vida; 23 - Monte Ginnircu; 24 - Monte Santu; 25 - Abissi; 26 - Cala Goloritzè; 27 - Oronnoro; 28 - Punta Plumare; 29 - Codula Sisine; 30 - Monte Andau; **Urzulei** 31 - Donneneittu; 32 - S'Orcu; 33 - Gorropeddu; 34 - Serra Oseli; 35 - Punta Cocuttos; 36 - Sa Foradada; 37 - Punta s'Iscoargiu; 38 - Monte Oddeu (Dorgali); 39 - Surtana (Dorgali); 40 - Monte Gutturios (Oliena); 41 - Badde Pentumas (Oliena); 42 - Monte Uddè (Oliena); 43 - Punta Cusidore (Oliena); 44 - Bruncu Nieddu (Oliena); 45 - Jacu Ruju (Oliena); 46 - Ortu Camminu (Oliena); 47 - Punta Carabidda (Oliena); 48 - La Poltrona (Cala Gonone); 49 - Biddiriscottai (Cala Gonone); 50 - Margheddie (Cala Gonone);

The guide will shortly be on sale at The Lemon House, €48, or buy it from [Cordee in the UK](#).

As mentioned in this [Planet Mountain news article](#) our Czech friends Jan, Slavek and Thomas were busy bolting over Xmas with the [400 m 9-pitch Saratoga](#) (on the right, Maurizio making the first repeat). In addition the Czechs bolted an 80m 2 6c pitch route SAMO & SETO 50m left of [Dinopark](#) and some easier routes at the new [Uttolo sector](#) of Monte Oro (the furthest to the left, overlooking the bar).



Also published recently was a new edition of the [Lonely Planet Guide to Sardinia](#). We were pleased to once again to give feedback and suggestions to author Kerry ([@kerrychristiani](#)) and husband Andy, including restaurant tips and going mountain biking with Francesco of [mtbsardinia.com](#). Weather conditions unfortunately didn't allow them to go kayaking with Francesco and [Cardedu Kayak](#) – that will have to be next time ☺).

Follow The Lemon House on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) to keep up with our day-to-day news and don't miss [Anne's blog](#).

Peter & Anne <http://www.peteranne.it/>