

**Property reference number: - A61-141**

**(near ASTI in the central Piedmont Region of Italy)**

Home to a couple who are mostly offering their home to house/cat/chicken sitters, but may very occasionally be able to house-swap in the late summer.

**KEY INFORMATION**

Bedrooms available:-	1 double room with queen-size bed; 1 twin room with single bed, & a pull-out bed if required; 1 room with 2 bunk beds (3 sleeping places only). (6 people in beds, but more space available for sleeping bags on floor!) Max:- 6+++!
Children welcome	All age groups welcome, though best suited to ages 5+.
Pets that live here:	They have 2 house cats & a small cattery, as well as several chickens. They will all need feeding please! Instructions will be left in forms of video explanations. (It's not difficult) And chickens will reward with fresh eggs every day!



This English-speaking missionary family live near Rocchetta Tanaro, a village near Asti, in the centre of the Piedmont Region of north-west Italy.

This is a beautiful, rural area with wonderful countryside and vineyards; their home is about an 1.5 hour's drive from the Italian Riviera in Portofino and Camogli. About the same distance is the regal metropolis of Turin. There are also many other lovely places to visit at short distances. They live down an unpaved road, near a slow-moving river with sandy banks, great for sunning and picnicking. No neighbours except for the occasional wild hog, pheasant, badger, deer, or fox. Gentle wooded hills

rise literally from their front yard to the Natural Park of Rocchetta Tanaro.

A one hundred year-old ruin is near the house and another across the slow-moving brook. The village centre is about 5 minutes away by car (25min by brisk walk) and is home to an ancient family of nobility (Incisa della Rocchetta) that has called this area their home since the 1200's. ASTI, the city about 25 minutes away by car, has a colourful and vibrant open-air market Wednesdays and Saturdays. Asti is world renowned for foods and wines, and just south (25-30 minutes by car) are the famous vineyards of Barolo and Barbaresco. Public transport is not great here, so a car is rather important.



There is a large, private, hedged garden. They grow a lot of plants in pots, so daily watering is a must in the heat of the summer. This is a wonderfully peaceful garden with trees, nearby brook, fields and forest, hills & rolling countryside. Al fresco eating in the cool of the evening is a joy. They have a small & large barbecue for house swappers or house sitters to use, and plenty of seating areas.





LaRocca Vineyard Church meets in the family's home, and services are in Italian, but often translated into English or German when necessary. The church closes in August for summer.



<https://visit.asti.it/en/>

[www.wanderlustingk.com/travel-blog/asti-italy](http://www.wanderlustingk.com/travel-blog/asti-italy)

[www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attractions-g187852-Activities-Asti Province of Asti Piedmont.html](http://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attractions-g187852-Activities-Asti%20Province%20of%20Asti%20Piedmont.html)

Sport and Leisure	Our village has what is called a "circolo" with tennis and football courts. Becoming a member of the circolo allows you to rent them. Swimming pools are about 25-30 minutes either to the east near Alessandria or to the west in Asti. <b><i>It is possible to swim in parts of the river nearby.</i></b>
Local places of interest	Our strongest points are that we are not far from the Italian Riviera (1 hour south) with its clusters of villages, palm-lined narrow streets and restaurants along the sea and Turin – a majestic city of the kings of Italy – with grand avenues, buildings, the old residences of the Savoy dynasty as well as the largest Egyptian museum outside of Egypt. Milan is 1.5 hours away. Florence is 3.5 hours away (by car, but we also have good train connections to a few destinations here in the north.)
Entertainment/Arts	Asti has a vibrant theatre community as well as the conservatory for music, with concerts all over the province.

**2023 from Charlotte and Graham in the West Midlands ref:- 0-620**

Italy is beautiful and we really fell in love with the place and people! We appreciated being in a non-touristy area but thanks to Mark & Denien's local recommendations we found plenty to do. As a couple they are warm, welcoming and encouraging! The house is right next to a forest so we could walk, cycle and run from the front door, but also very close to two villages with plenty of local amenities and only 20 mins from the town of Asti where we spent some magical evenings enjoying pizza, gelato and soaking up the atmosphere (our children even joined an informal football game in the main square at 11pm one evening!). It's in a stunning wine-growing region so some (hilly!) cycles and drives rewarded us with breathtaking views. Mark & Denien shared lots of ideas of places to go and things to do, including introducing us to a local vintner where we spent a very special evening tasting some of her wines (we may have brought some home...!), as well as spending an evening with their friend a local b & b owner who hosted us for 'Aperitivo' and a dip in his pool! Speaking a small amount of Italian definitely helped in this area but could be learnt on the go. We drove from England via the Dover-Calais ferry, breaking our journey in France each way. It made for a hefty amount of driving but was a wonderful adventure for the whole family! Our 16 year old said it was his 'favourite holiday ever' which is truly praise indeed!



Central plaza - Asti at night.