



December 2013



A wanderer meets a shepherd standing with his flock and asks, *“What will the weather be like today?”*

The shepherd answers: *“It will be as I prefer it.”*

The wanderer is astounded: *“How do you know the weather will be as you desire?”*

The shepherd looks into his eyes and answers quietly: *“My friend, in my experience, I cannot always get what I desire. Therefore, I have learned to like anything I get.”*

Whatever happens, every experience is what you make of it.

In Vernazza, we were given a flood and devastation, so we started a non-profit organization to rebuild, restore, and preserve Vernazza’s town and territory. “We were given lemons so...we made lemonade”: our lemonade stand with Vernazza’s children in June 2012 raised over €400 towards the children’s playground swept away by the flood.

5 reasons we’re proud of Save Vernazza:

1. We are a non-profit organization run by women who live in and love Vernazza.

Day after day, we work hard to ensure that the Vernazza we fell in love with will be here to welcome our grandchildren. Save Vernazza is our passion (our husbands and children might say *obsession*) and we do it with a great team (Irene, Chiara, Lelli, Barbara, the Vernazza farmers, summer intern Rachel, newsletter guru Faith, wallbuilder Giuliano, the Vernazza Emergency Management Corps guys, Dana for the website)!

2. The “Renaissance of Vernazza” project is a reality. Construction begins in 2014 for a safer, more beautiful Vernazza. This project is a labor of love for everyone involved (most of whom work for free or at cost) and it has been slow (yes, we are working in Italy!) but our British-American team’s motto is “Keep Calm and Carry On”. In 2014, we continue to need your generosity to rebuild the Fontanavecchia zone, the area of Vernazza that is still a muddy mess.

3. People doubted but we successfully ran 36 excursions for 314 voluntourists to restore and preserve Vernazza’s territory. In 2014, expect more Voluntourism

excursions and new experiences (we're ordering more funky machetes and picnic baskets)!

4. We love what people say about us:

“Two years ago on the 25th of October, heavy floods turned this UNESCO-protected village into a disaster zone. Thanks to organizations like [Save Vernazza](#) and architect Richard Rogers, the spot is back on its feet and it felt truly inspiring to sit in the main piazza on a balmy late October night, and to witness how much its citizens have rebuilt.” - *Ondine Cohane, writer for New York Times, Architectural Digest, Conde Nast Traveler*

5. YOU! We love our Save Vernazza supporters and your donations, posts and emails give us encouragement. “It is a privilege to continue to support your amazing project. Thank you for standing up for a village and a community that could have been lost to us forever. Yes, I will visit soon.” - *Sue Anderson, Austin TX*

Vernazza is a place people dream about, whether seeing it for the first time or returning to visit this treasured friend. Join us with a donation in 2013 and make a difference to keep this dream alive. Your donation will go directly to our efforts to rebuild, restore, and preserve this magical village. All donations made by December 31, 2013 will be included in our Save Vernazza 2011-2013 Donor Book (permanent copies will be on display in Vernazza in 2014).

Auguri e grazie,
Ruth Manfredi and Michele Lilley

Donate today!