

A walk around Acquaseria village

Easy, about one and a quarter hours (going slowly). A good way to get to know the village.

Turn left out of the house and follow Via Battisti to the piazzetta with the little church of Sant'Abbondio. He was a local bishop who did much to spread Christianity around the Lake Como area. This was the only church in the village before the big church was built. It has been whitewashed but here and there



you can see traces of frescoes, so it must have been all painted at one time. Carry on straight and cross over the bridge that spans the *torrente*. Acquaseria means 'reliable water' and so perhaps this torrente was and is a source of water that never lets the village down. You can see houses that were once mills, before they were converted.

The road rises up steeply past a couple of new build houses and then suddenly becomes a narrow footpath. This is the Via Regina and once brought pilgrims through the Sasso Ranchio, the big rocky promontory that separates Menaggio from Acquaseria. It is nice to think that the pilgrims would stop to have a drink at the well next to the church and go in to give thanks for getting through without being attacked by bandits.

The path skirts between terraced vegetable gardens, some cultivated now and some not, until it turns downhill over the entrance to the road tunnel, and goes down to meet the old road that once was the main road before the tunnels were built. You then head back towards the village. You'll see a house with a beautiful garden on the right. Last summer we saw a wild boar paddling just here.

Stay on this side of the main road and take the road that leads down towards the lake, before the main road crosses the *torrente*. This will lead you to the entrance to the little park above the beach. If you get a chance one day please come down here with a basket or bag and collect some kindling wood. From here cross over on the footbridge and follow the lanes through staying as close to the lake as you can. You will pass a large red apartment block that used to be the site of a big hat-making factory. The block was built as holiday apartments to be sold to Dutch visitors. Then you will come out by the Bar Ristorante Crème Caramel. Passing this, take the next turnoff that goes parallel with the lake, and you will come to the *Moletto*. Here you will see the remains of an ancient tower, now almost unrecognizable as it has been incorporated into a new apartment complex, with a bar. From here, go back up to the main road and carry on a little way to the north until you see some steps on the other side of the road. These lead up to the Via Regina again. When you get up to it, turn left and head back, passing the big church on your left. If you just follow this road you will come back to the piazzetta and the little church. Otherwise turn right up the cobbled path and pass underneath the arch with our house above.