



Women's Rugby Austria

"Bella Fontana" Road Trip to Romanga 7's from 29-31 May 2009

We loaded up our shiny blue 9 seater VW van from Hertz (Thanks Eva) and headed to Italy. We enjoyed a scenic journey though the Austrian country side, into the Alps and tunnels, and into Italy. Eva drove the first leg, then Zita took over through the mountains, tunnels, and then into Italy. She even yelled at a car and said "stay on your thing, you!" The Navi TomTom led us almost all the way there until Eva realized that Navi he was a bit behind on his studies and did not know the Italian roads. We encounter "Go to the left, then take the left, then the 3rd right at on the round -a- bout". We also visited a bridge three times before deciding to ante up and pay the 0.70 cents to get to the road that was not recognized by Navi and ultimately after a few more round-a-bouts we found the hostel. We arrived at "Dante Hostel" in Ravenna, Italy.

The hostel was clean but smelled a bit like baby poop in the lobby. The rooms were spacious and clean. We had an added bonus that all of our rooms were grouped together. In the morning, we had a delightful breakfast that for Italy was significantly better than most, which included an assortment of many marmalades, fruit, cereal, bread, cake, coffee, tea, and juice. The hosts had a big smile and so did we after filling out bellies.

We loaded back up into the van and headed for Lido di Savio for some 7s rugby. There were four women's teams including "Bella Fontana". The weather was sunny, warm, with a nice breeze off the Adriatic Sea.

Our 1st match was against Modena (blue) we gave them a good whipping. We played well as a team; we gave each other great support, made good passes, and found and created gaps. The 2nd match was against another Italian team, they wore white jerseys. Our style and level of play only got better as the day went on. We pounded on the second team gaining the respect of the spectators. The third match was versus another team, they wore red and white striped shirts. Our scrums were unstoppable and we played a nice clean game of rugby 7s. Our mistakes were minimal and we gained confidence in our ability and were victorious. We breezed though the semi-finals and into the finals. We made it look easy with another victory.

The sun and heat was draining us throughout the day. We played with unfamiliar and different lineups. Many of our players played in positions that they normally do not play putting them out of their comfort zone and they did an outstanding job. We truly played as a team and our ability to play together only got better as the day progressed. Our beginners also got a chance to play and gain more experience. The girls truly had fun and the evidence of this was the grins on each of their faces from ear to ear throughout the day.

Another important note to make about the day was our ability to turn ourselves on for the next game with a short warm up, especially in the sun and heat. We had little rest between the semi-final and final, and between the earlier matches we had a long break. Our captain did an excellent job of leading warm ups for us both physically and mentally without draining too much of our energy.

After the final match we had about an hour so we headed to the beach and took a quick dip and frolicked around in the sea. Some of us even went topless to the manager's pleasure. The water was warm and wonderful. We headed back to the pitch to watch the men's thrilling and exhilarating final. The air had gotten a bit cooler at this point in the day and we huddled up as a team to keep each other warm while enjoying some pasta. Then came the awards ceremony and we sang part of



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our "Rugby Ladies" song after accepting our first place trophy. Then we showered and went to the third half "Après-Ski" party at the beach club bar "Club 78" where we met several colorful and animated characters, none of which were rugby people. One of these unique individuals decided to make friends with us, especially Eva..."I saw her butt coming closer and closer and suddenly, I found myself of the floor." We all got a good laugh out of this situation. We sang, danced, and had a drink to cheer our success of the day and then headed back to the hostel where we made our own 3rd half, where we killed a rabbit and bottle of vodka.

Morning came again; we enjoyed breakfast together and departed for another 8 hour journey back to Vienna. The voyage was once again very amusing. A hammock was constructed; we were given a random house, trance, club music CD by a neighboring car at the toll booth in Italy. We waved at a dog that waved back. We saw two car loads of nuns, one of which Zita observed "the nun has her thing suck in the door". Countless kilos of gummies were once again consumed, but on the way back Geli was not concerned for Nadine losing any sausages in any of the bags. A stop at the lake for some ice and a break kept the passengers' spirits up. We dropped Stephie off in Graz, saw Eva's Valley, Nadine's Lower Austria, and then we arrived safe and sound back in Vienna! KS

