

## 2017 Dolomites Tour 27 May – 3 June

Nine years after our last visit, 34 members and guests pitched up for a week's stay in the Gran Paradis Hotel at Campitello di Fassa, Italy. Everyone arrived on two wheels except for the Taplins in their car and Deborah and I in our motorhome with our scooter on the back.

We were fortunate to have good weather on the run down and this persisted for most of the week; hot sun, blue skies and temperatures between 29 and 34°C! There were some loud thunderstorms in the afternoons during the latter part of the week and while a few of us were relaxing with a beer, sheltered from the rain under the canopy on the verandah, we observed a spectacular lightning strike on the top of the mountain opposite the hotel. About the same time and much to the delight of the rest of us, Tony Hall suddenly leapt from his seat and ran when a huge flash from the copper downpipe next to him arced across to the metal fittings of the canopy!!

Each day small groups set out on differing routes to ride the twisty mountain roads and some ventured down to Lake Garda for lunch. On Wednesday, hotel family member Bernd led most of our group on a day rideout over a number of the picturesque mountain passes in the area with stops for coffee and lunch; unfortunately our little 125cc scooter precluded Deborah and I from this experience. We did venture out on our own however and were very pleased our Honda PCX made it up all the very curvy steep roads to the tops of the passes we tackled - albeit slowly! On different days, some of us rode the 16km to the Passo Pordoi then took the cable car to the top of the mountain (elev. 2950 metres) to stand in the snow admiring the view and have a coffee in the café; our small group was very surprised when 5 climbers complete with ropes, etc. suddenly appeared over the wall by the viewpoint!

Since our last visit the hotel had been refurbished to a high standard both inside and out. Rooms were very comfortable and the new outdoor hot jacuzzi became well patronised. Food was good with an extensive continental buffet breakfast plus cooked options to order and choices available for dinner. All the staff were very friendly and looked after us splendidly.

An enjoyable week with everyone agreeing we shouldn't leave it another nine years before returning. Our group's thanks to tour leader Dave Macey for organising an excellent tour!