



Christmas 2019

Greetings Friends and Family,

This December, Susan and Ken will be home to celebrate. Otherwise, we had a very busy year traveling. After last Christmas' visit to Hawaii, two notable trips - a land visit to Northern Italy: The Alps, Dolomites & Lombardy during June and July; and a small 70 passenger discovery ship traveling Alaska's Inside Passage & San Juan Islands.

In Lombardy, we had an opportunity to taste one of Italy's most well respected and little known sparkling wine - Franciacorta. (Definitely not Prosecco). This area of Italy is very prosperous. Being close to Switzerland, many Italians live in Italy and work in Switzerland. This gave us the opportunity to take a short train trip North into the high Alps.



Susan and Ken in the Swiss Alps



The Alps - as high as you can go!



Franciacorta Grape Growing at Bersi Serlini Vineyard between Milan and Trento, Italy

Before leaving for home, we traveled far North to the Alto Adige Province where grapes are grown and wine is aged using traditional Austrian/German methods. Near by, is the South Tyrol with its towering Dolomites and great skiing!!

During the Summer, we visited relatives in New England to attend Susan's niece Heather Fay's, wedding to Matt Ferrer. We enjoyed a day visiting Aunt Annie - a spry 96 year old Navy veteran of WW2 who was a morse code radio operator in the Pacific Theater responsible for passing battle orders to the Allied Fleet.



The Dolomites (pronounced Dolomeetees)

Off to Alaska in September on the discovery ship operated by UNCRUISES - - *M/V Wilderness Discoverer*. We traveled with a group of eleven friends wandering along the Alaskan coastal wilderness. We made wet landings in tidal marshes, hiked inland primal forests, took Zodiac rides to off the beaten locations, and kayaked every day from the back of our ship. Bald eagles and hump back whales where everywhere - - too many to count!



Susan hiking a tidal marsh at low tide



Bobbie Gould and Susan (in the hat) in a kayak



Susan winning Best Unusual
Container Award

We are still both actively involved with growing and nationally judging African violets. In November, we attended the Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society Convention and Show in Virginia Beach, Virginia, and won several blue ribbons for our exhibits.

Ken continues his exploration of new electronic ideas focusing on the Raspberry Pi computer and new satellite ventures from Othernet.is. He renewed acquaintances at the White House Communications Agency this Summer going to their Open House.



Untouched Alaskan Wilderness

The day after New Year, we fly to San Juan, Puerto Rico, for a 2 week Windstar cruise to the Caribbean.

Best Regards,

Susan and Ken

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