

## Trip Report – Madesimo

By Barbara Brescian

**B**uon Giorno, Madesimo Italy! Thirty-six Space City adventurers joined other Texas Ski Council clubs on the January TSC Winter Expedition for a snow-filled week in the Italian Alps. Nelson Messenger and Liz Scarborough started their trip early and met us at the Milan Airport after several busy days of sightseeing in Milan, including attending a performance at the La Scala Opera House. Bob and Melissa Frazier, Steve Nickels and Thuy Rocque (on a European business trip) also traveled early to Europe. Thuy texted her husband Richard that shopping, with the favorable exchange rate, was great.

In Milan, travelers boarded the motor coach for the 3-hour ride through quaint Italian



villages, vineyards and rolling hills before we arrived in Madesimo. Tradition calls for a welcome from the mayor, which was easy this year since he owns the Hotel Andossi, where we stayed and enjoyed a huge Italian buffet breakfast and a four-course dinner daily. Enthusiastic skiers hit the slopes early in the morning, while a loyal contingent enjoyed daily tours of northern Italy.

Joan Waddill got off to a great snow start literally, exiting a lift chair right into a snow bank. Richard and Thuy Rocque, Steve

Nickels, and Charles Albright got a real chuckle during a lunch break on the mid-mountain restaurant when Ross Baker bragged on the fast service only to realize he had picked up someone else's pizza! Tom Huzzey and Craig Campbell were regulars on the slopes every day. Hopping on snowmobiles one day were Bob and Marilyn Davis along with Melissa and Bob Frazier, Ingrid and



Bob and Marilyn Davis, Melissa and Bob Frazier & Ingrid and George Dawson

George Dawson and Nelson Messinger who all rode up Spluga Pass right into Switzerland.

Nelson Messinger then showed his athleticism and enjoyed a day of cross country skiing with Laura and Jim Nowicki. The hotel jacuzzi quickly became a gathering spot for skiers. It was soon one of Laura Nowicki's favorite apre- ski spots. A Space City tradition on any European ski trip is a "friendly" game of bridge after dinner. Bob and Myra Whitten and Jim and Laura Nowicki were quickly joined by others, including Ali and Fred Pethick, Ash Moza and Elizabeth and Charles Albright, who alternated playing. The final night pub crawl had Barbara Brescian leading the conga line, egged on by Olga Adair. Melanie Derden couldn't stay off the dance floor, while husband Marty Farrant cheered her on.

**At Lake Corno**



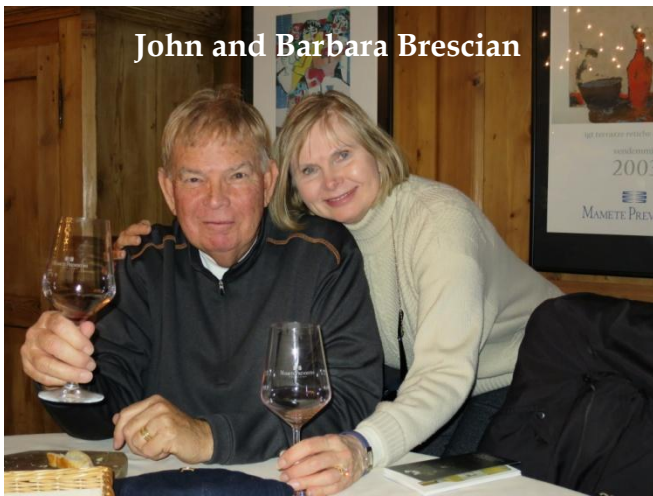
This Italian journey included day excursion adventures. At Lake Como, Sandra Schneider along with other TSC members, made the hike up to the village of Menaggio. Sadly there were no sightings of George Clooney and his new bride. One day in Milan, Shellie Liles, Olga Adair, Pat Musemeche, Myra Whitten and Sandra Schneider walked the roof of the famous Duomo and dined in the first Galleria where fashion is a way of life. Newlyweds Evan and Ginger Howell joined them. During a tour of the La Scala Opera



**Thuy & Rick Rocque, Joan Waddill, Steve Nickels & Ross Baker**



**Nelson, Laura and Jim on cross country skis**



John and Barbara Brescian

House, Olga especially enjoyed seeing a rehearsal in progress there. John and Barbara Brescian and Brent McGibbon took a city tour bus, which apparently shut down early mid afternoon, so they had to hike back to the bus to get back to Madesimo. A highlight for everyone was the St. Moritz, Switzerland

excursion, which included a scenic train ride on the Bernina Express, the highest railway in the Alps, and one with UNESCO World Heritage status. As we traveled through the Italian and then the Swiss Alps, we were mesmerized by the glacial views. Once we arrived in St Moritz, with urging from Evan and Ginger, most had tea at the famous Badrutt's Palace Hotel and then Pat, Olga, Shellie, Joan and Sandy went searching for authentic Swiss Fondue, and ran into most of the Space City group at the same restaurant. Whether skiing or not, we all ended up at the same tiny souvenir shop later that day.

Say "wine," and we're there! Perhaps our most lively excursion was to the wine tasting in Chiavenna at the Mamette Prevostini Winery. On the way back up the mountain to Madesimo, Sandy and Olga started counting



Florence Post Trip

**Bob Davis and Bob Frazier**



the number of switchbacks in Italian – 27 in total. Many joined in, but there was disagreement as to what a switchback was. Mind you, the wine had nothing to do with this!

Fourteen Space City diehards traveled on to the post trip to Florence, arguably Florence's most beautiful city. Everyone stopped by to say "hi" to Michaelangelo's David, who towered majestically above us as we snapped photos of what we thought were clever art shots. The daily market offered irresistible bargains. And museum lovers got their fill of Galileo, DaVinci, Botticelli – the list goes on. No amount of walking could overcome the vast amount of "delizioso italiano" food the entire group consumed each day, beginning with a bountiful buffet breakfast. "Gelato, anyone?" quickly became the group mantra.

**5 Ladies at a frozen fountain**



**Melissa Frazier**



**Elizabeth and Charles Albright**



**Bob Whitten and Laura Nowicki**

