



The Italian job

A decade has passed since former Lorne resident David Lang traded in the towering gums of the Otways to revive a rambling farmhouse in the “green heart of Italy”, but now he gets the best of both worlds.

Perched atop the Umbrian hills in central Italy, Mr Lang and his British wife, Chrissie, have converted a rundown, historical farmhouse into a home for their family and a thriving accommodation business.

As lovers of Italian food, wine and culture, the couple were engaged and travelling through South America when they chose Umbria as the base for their new home, Casa San Gabriel. The complex comprises of the main house and three cottages, all decorated in traditional Italian style, which are available for rent.

“We decided that it would be unfair to live in either England or Australia initially as we would

be so far away from the other person’s family and we thought we should go for middle ground,” Mr Lang said.

“Obviously, Chrissie won.

“We started researching, trawling the internet for properties and reading everything we could get our hands on.

“We soon realised that Tuscany would be too expensive and Le Marche seemed to have minimal airport access for guests as well as less of the beautiful hill towns which everyone loves, so we focused on Umbria.

“Perugia, the capital of the Umbrian region, boasts a famous university and so I was confident that I could find work teaching here to provide extra income in the off-season.”

After cutting his teeth in the hospitality industry at the Lorne Hotel and Lorne Milk Bar as a teenager, Mr Lang now hosts guests from across the UK, USA, Canada, South Africa, Scandinavia, New Zealand, Asia and Australia.

“CHRISSIE FIRST VISITED THE PROPERTY WITH HER AUNT AND SAT IN THE RUBBLE – IT WAS VERY MUCH A RUIN – AMONG THE BLACKBERRIES, THEY LOOKED DOWN THE VALLEY AND CHRISSIE SAID ‘THIS IS IT’.

It’s a dream come true for the globetrotting couple, who envisioned a simple and more



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