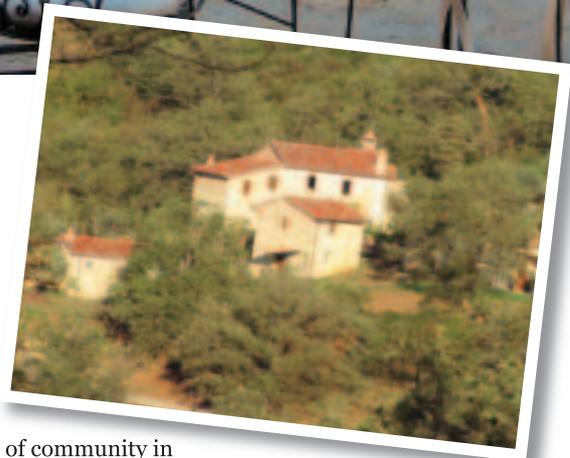




Hills and mountains fill the view from the Casa San Gabriel's pool.



Guests can sit on their own private terrace and sip local white wine.



The Casa San Gabriel is nestled in the middle of an Umbrian valley 20 minutes from the capital of Perugia.

For the rest of the time the Langs are usually the only non-Italians in a community they now feel a part of a recent gift of freshly shot wild boar from their mechanic was one more sign of acceptance, according to David.

They relish their tranquil lifestyle, the spirit of community in which they live and the fun of the countless traditional local festivals that David says are held weekly for nearly six months in their nearby village Pierantonio or in the larger town of Umbertide.

The celebrations usually have a locally-produced ingredient as a theme. Villagers open their homes to offer an array of dishes flavoured by wild asparagus one week, or duck, porcini mushrooms, black truffles, wild boar, snails and even celery.

Eager to show off Elisabetta to his 94-year-old Colac grandmother, David and Chrissie will visit Australia this Christmas.

David says he's looking forward to eating anything but Italian food and trawling through Lorne's rock pools with his daughter in the town where he first honed his hospitality skills as a 15-year-old dishwasher.

David doesn't imagine his family will be in Umbria forever but he says they'd be crazy to walk away too soon after all the finance and hard work they've invested. And of course there is always those nights on the terrace.

Weekly rates at the Casa San Gabriel in the tourist high season (July to September) are from \$1000 to \$1350, in the mid season (April to June) \$875 to \$1150, and in the low season (October to March) from \$650 to \$875.

For more information on the Casa San Gabriel log on to www.casasangabriel.com or email David and Chrissie at chrissie@casasangabriel.com

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