

PERRON FAMILY TRAVELS

Toussaint 2006 :

Stayed at the Westin **Marbella, Costa del Sol.**

It's actually outside Marbella, on a golf course. Nice hotel but nothing within walking distance. Beautiful & large swimming pool. Hotel was not full (low season). Weather was nice but not always warm enough to swim, even for a Canadian! The pool was heated, rare in south of Europe. Travel to Ronda or Granada is long because roads are very hazardous. Those are not highways!

Christmas 2006:

Left for **Kitzbuël, Austria** on Dec. 22. Got a few days of skiing before the crowds started arriving. The majority arrived on Dec 26th, after Christmas. It's not a very high mountain but the terrain is grass, not rock. So they need very little snow to be able to open the runs. Kitzbuël is a nice little village, medieval looking. It can be very pricey. We stayed in a 3* small family run hotel called hotel SEEBICHL, a 10 min walk outside the village. It was very quaint; like Heidi!! Would go again. It included breakfast & dinner; good food, not gourmet. Very welcoming staff. Kitzbuël is your typical Christmas village. We even had a Christmas tree lighting celebration during Christmas Eve diner at the hotel.

February 2007:

Went to **London**; lot's of fun. Stayed at the Mariott Grand Residence Club, in Mayfair. Great location, spacious apartment. Went to Oxford street, a few steps away, to get meals, when eating in apartment. Booked theatre through www.londontheatrebookings.com. Offered good tickets with a reasonable commission. Saw Wicked & Blue Man Group. Excellent shows.

April 2007:

Went **skiing at Les Arcs 1950, France**. We chose this station because it was high (starts at 1950 m to over 3000 m). It is NOT a concrete jungle, like so many other stations. The land was bought by Intrawest (owners of many resorts, including Whistler) where they built a nice village. The accommodation is condos, with outside hot tub and heated pool. It is a ski in ski out village. There were a few restaurants, all fine, nothing grand (expensive, not excellent French food). Very nice resort. Very similar condo accommodation to Tremblant or Whistler. A more North American style ski resort.

Mai 2007:

Amsterdam. Make sure you book your Ann Frank museum tickets on the internet, before you go.

Mai 2007:

Mont Saint Michel. Stayed on the Mont, at La mere Poulard. Very basic hotel, overpriced. But it was very special to spend the evening on the Mont, as all the tourists left at dinner time. Would not recommend the “world famous” omelette at la mere Poulard; not worth it! We loved visiting the abbey & walking in the town in the evening.

Mai 2007:

Amboise, Loire. Stayed in lovely little château / B&B. It's big enough that you don't feel you are in someone's home. The owners actually live in a cave, on the property. Nice location, just outside Amboise. Nice grounds & pool.
www.chateaudesormeaux.fr They are part of: www.bienvenuachateau.com. This organisation has certain standard that must be met before joining. Were very pleased with the two we stayed at.

June 2007:

Saumur, Loire. Again, stayed in lovely chateau outside of Saumur. Had more of a B&B feel. The owner was VERY nice and she wanted to make sure you were very well taken care of. This is a well preserved 15th century chateau. The price is very reasonable. www.chateau-de-naze.com , also a member of www.bienvenuachateau.com

June 2007:

Mykonos, Greece. Stayed at the Mykonos Grand. Wonderful resort. Has nice but small private beach, beautiful views from room balcony, nice restaurant, beautiful & big pool and very friendly staff. Would return. There was a major heat wave so we did not go into Delos, a very interesting island facing hotel. The town of Mykonos was interesting but very busy. We would go in for dinner. Took bus or taxi from hotel.

October 2007:

Tuscany, Italy. Went with a group of lady friends. Beautiful area of Italy. Went for 3 day cooking classes. Would highly recommend it. www.tutti-a-tavola.com

Toussaint 2007:

Went to **Rome** during Air France strike! Did not get off to a good start; delayed flight, lost luggage. Would like to go back... start over again! Stayed at Sofitel hotel. Nice rooms, beautiful view from roof terrace, a little out of the way. Need to book "hop on / off" bus tour ahead of time.

We then went to **Positano**, on the **Amalfi Coast, Italy**. Beautiful drive but do it BEFORE sun goes down. Stayed at nice little hotel: Hotel Poseidon. Beautiful views from large room balcony. Breakfast served on room terrace or in dining room. Very friendly staff. Would return. I would not recommend Positano during busy summer season, it would be too crowded. Did day trip to Pompeii. I would recommend a guide to tour it; it's very vast. We got lost walking and there are no info panels by the ruins, so a commentary would be appreciated. The area around Pompeii is not pretty; it was not a very nice drive, except for the coastal road.

We got mix weather on this trip; sunny days followed by colder rainy days.

April 2008

Booked a catered **ski chalet in Val D'Isère**. www.vip-chalets.com The skiing was great, even so late in the season. Val d'Isere offered a nice village, a very short walk to the lifts, great ski terrain. We enjoyed our stay but were a little uncomfortable with having someone in the chalet with us; would have been great with a group of friends. Lovely chalet.