

VERSILIA (Textbook: Travel Mate)

Read this text taken from a brochure

Forte dei Marmi, **Marina di Pietrasanta** and **Viareggio** are pretty, cosmopolitan seaside resorts situated along the striking coastline of Tuscany. In this area the promenade is flanked by ancient pine groves, where elegant private villas and hotels stand shoulder to shoulder, surrounded by their own luxuriant gardens and immersed in cool tranquillity.

Forte dei Marmi, built around a fort commissioned by Archduke Leopold I in 1788 and still standing, is one of the most elegant seaside resorts on the Tyrrhenian coast.

Marina di Pietrasanta has the unique attribute of being divided into four charming areas, **Focette**, **Tonfano**, **Motrone** and **Fiumetto**, each with its own bustling, picturesque centre.

Viareggio, characterised by art nouveau façades all along the seafront, is a typically Italian resort with a lovely promenade lined with cafés and restaurants.

Marina di Pietrasanta, which has 10 kilometres of coastline, does not lack scope for brisk morning walks along the sea, or for more languid afternoon strolls along the promenade itself. The elegant tree-lined avenues of the residential area provide a quiet, cool spot for evening walks, and the centres of each of the four villages are traffic-free at this time.

Approximately three kilometres inland, the historic town of **Pietrasanta** can be reached by bicycle for those with energy to spare, or by bus for those who are content just to wander through the cobbled streets of the town.

Giacomo Puccini's villa in **Torre del Lago** is worth a visit. Bicycles can be hired, and this flat area lends itself particularly well to cycling, whether along the wide beach promenade or through the cool roads of the pine woods where traffic is limited.

Many beaches have sports facilities such as beach volleyball, Italian bowls or table tennis, which are usually free to customers paying for the hire of sunbeds. (Two deckchairs and a beach umbrella can cost anything between 50 € to 100 € a day depending on the season). Some people also hire out paddleboats and windsurf. Further afield, there is an 18-hole golf course in Forte dei Marmi and water-skiing in Torre del Lago, a little further up the coast.

VERSILIA

Forte dei Marmi –Marina di Pietrasanta, Viareggio , Torre del Lago

- Pretty seaside resorts
- On the Tuscan coastline
- Avenues –pine groves –private villas-hotels with gardens

Forte dei Marmi

- Seaside resort
- On the Tyrrhenian Sea

Marina di Pietrasanta

4 areas :Focette, Motrone, Tonfano, Fiumetto

- Picturesque/lovely centres
- Walks along the promenade/ seafront/tree-lined avenues

Viareggio

- Art nouveau façades along the seafront
- Promenade with cafés, restaurants, bathing establishments, hotels....

Torre del Lago

- G.Puccini's house
- Lake Massaciuccoli

Pietrasanta

Medieval /historic city

Artistic centre: museums, churches, sculptures...

On a hill

Cobbled streets

FREE TIME ACTIVITIES-SPORTS FACILITIES

- Cycling in the pinewoods/along the promenade , surfing/swimming/sunbathing/sailing/water skiing/playing beach volleyball/golf/table tennis...

PRICES

2 deckchairs-1 sunbed, 1 beach umbrella /tent 50-100 euros per day

GLOSSARY

wide
elegant
striking
charming
bustling
cobble
cool
shady
beautiful
picturesque
historic
famous for
tree-lined
flat
hilly
plain
hill
Tuscan
Tuscany
pinewood
area

town
city
village
seaside/ski resort
promenade seafront
beach
seaside
sea
road
street
avenue
path
coast
along
through
along with
together with
each
such as
flanked by
lined with
surrounded by

characterized by
divided into
built
depending on
immersed in
provide
offer
cost
pay
buy
include
hire
stroll
book
reach
sports facilities
free time activities
wander through
..is worth a visit
situated
located

Using information from the text above complete this phone conversation between a customer (C) and a travel agent (TA). Act out this conversation in pairs.

(C) Hello, this is Jane Wilson. Am I speaking to Crystal Holidays agency?

(TA) Hi, Mrs Wilson. Can I help you?

(C) Hi. I'd like to spend a few days on the Tuscan coast this summer. Can you suggest a place where I can stay? Which are the most popular seaside resorts there?

(TA).....

(C) What cities can we visit? Is there anything interesting to see?

(TA).....

.....

.....

.....

(C) Which sports can I play in Versilia?

(TA).....

.....

(C) My wife and children will surely spend most of the time on the beach. What can my teenage children do?

(TA).....

.....

.....

(C) What can we do on the beach?

(TA).....

.....

(C) Are all activities free?

(TA).....

.....

.....

(C) How much is a beach umbrella with two deckchairs and a sunbed for one day?

(TA).....

.....

.....