The Watermill at Posara

CREATIVITY IN THE TUSCAN COUNTRYSIDE

Lois Breckon lives with her family in Florence, but her heart and work lie in Lunigiana, in northern Tuscany. Together with her husband Bill and their daughter Lydia, she runs The Watermill at Posara, a special place where creativity, nature and hospitality come together around a centuries-old watermill.







Bill and Lois



The landscape is magnificent.

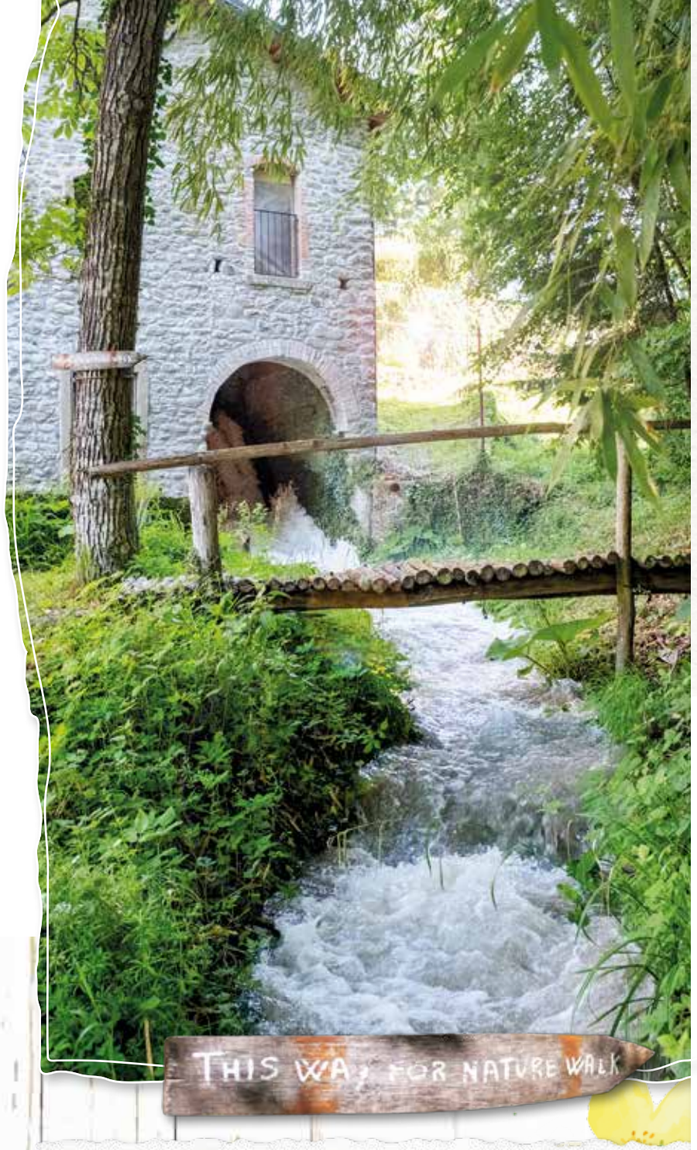


The Watermill at Posara

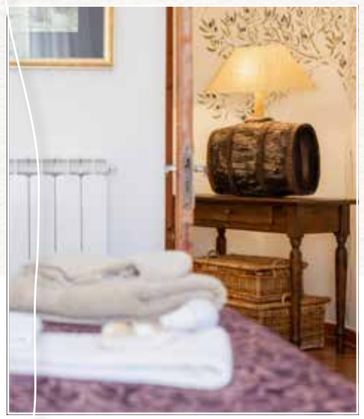
Lois and Bill bought the mill in 1989. What started as a plan for holiday apartments slowly grew into creative holiday weeks. In 2010, the family moved permanently from England to Italy to run the mill full-time. They now organise more than twenty creative weeks a year, supplemented by culinary retreats and online courses in the winter. Guests at The Watermill can participate in warm, social and creative courses ranging from painting and knitting to Italian language lessons. Lois and Bill offer complete freedom to immerse yourself in a hobby, guided by expert teachers and in the company of nothing but creative people.

The watermill dates back to the 17th century. It has a sunny courtyard with an overgrown veranda, a rose pergola and a walled garden full of tables, chairs and sun loungers for relaxing in the sun. From the gardens, footpaths lead to the river, where you can walk in a fairytale setting.











The rooms at The Watermill are so cosy and comfortable!

An unspoilt part of Italy

The watermill is located on the Rosaro River in the small village of Posara. The location is quiet and secluded. The complex is surrounded by the Tuscan-Emilian Apennine National Park and the Apuan Alps Regional Park, famous for the marble mountains of Carrara. The coastal villages of the Cinque Terre are only a forty-minute drive away, and Lucca, with its city walls and winding streets, can be reached within an hour. Just a few kilometres away is the walled medieval town of Fivizzano, with cafés, restaurants and shops. This area forms the heart of Lunigiana, one of the most unspoilt regions of Italy. is breathtakingly beautiful and rich in protected wildlife.



Fivizzano, worth visiting.

From watermill to creative destination

Bill purchased the mill in 1989, several years after it had ceased to function as a working mill. Initially, he intended to convert it into self-catering holiday apartments, but soon added painting holidays in May and September to extend the season. These creative weeks proved so successful that they expanded naturally.

Lois and Bill met, married in 1993 and ran the mill remotely for a long time while working in London and raising their family. In 2010, they took a big step and moved to Italy with their daughters Lydia and Lara to manage the mill full-time.

Today, they organise more than twenty creative weeks a year, focusing mainly on painting and knitting. In addition, there is an Italian language week and a carefully curated Taste of Tuscany retreat, in which guests discover the best of Lunigiana in terms of cuisine and culture.



You can find the solution on page 150.





It seems wonderful to me to do this, it looks so relaxing. Thank you for sharing your story, Lois and Bill.