

# **SUITES NEWS**

**August - October 2010 VOLUME 17 No. 2**



**Telephone number for the Looier Holiday 020-420 69 88**

## **The chic of Panoramique**

The hotel is finally receiving some guests. Despite several special offers, it continues to be difficult to attract them. It was a very long winter this year. At the end of May it was often still wet and cloudy. The temperature continued to be on the low side and, as a result, bookings were cancelled at the last minute. The fact that the San Carlo source would not be opened for guests until the 5<sup>th</sup> of July did not help either. This meant it was often just the two of us admiring the view.



*The view*

Recently, though, things have been looking up and because some of the rooms could not be used as a result of the leaks in the water

system, we were almost fully booked. Reservations are still few and far between, but people do return to our hotel, which is a good sign. We decided to rename our restaurant, to avoid confusion with the Terme restaurant. We are now called Ristorante Panoramique. The biggest advantage is that we will no longer be confused with the Terme restaurant. But an added advantage is that the name clearly points to one of the great features of our restaurant. The view is truly stunning!

## Monument for Лайка

Лайка, (barker or dog) was launched into outer space by Russia for research purposes. Researchers wanted to find out whether mammals would be able to survive the weightlessness outside of the earth's atmosphere. She was sacrificed for the development of space travel.

*Лайка, (Laika) the stray which would meet a certain death in the Sputnik. She was launched into space for research and was the first to complete a full circuit around the earth.*



I was shocked when I was confronted with Laika's history again in San Carlo Terme. Piccolo Bar's dog was named after the Russian Лайка. It gave me a shock because the name Laika did not immediately ring any bells. After a while, the whole said history came back to me and I decided we should have a monument for Laika. It is partly because of her death that Joeri Gagarin was able to be launched into space on [April 12 1961](#) as the first human, on

board of the [Vostok 1](#). A lot of information can be found on the internet, on Wikipedia.

On [November 3 1957](#) the Sputnik II was launched from [Baikonur](#). This spacecraft was not designed to be retrievable and burned up in the atmosphere during re-entry on [May 14 1958](#). Laika had already died long before that time. The plan had been to [euthenize](#) Laika with a poisoned serving of food. In October [2002](#) it was revealed, however, that Laika had already died after a few hours from overheating and [stress](#).

In 2006, the Dutch writer Bibi Dumon Tak has dedicated the gift book for the children's book week to her. The book was called: "*Laika tussen de sterren*" (*Laika among the stars*) and was about *this dog*. Other memorials:

- The [Danish](#) artist [Trentemøller](#) dedicated the song *Moan* to Laika, who was featured in the accompanying music video.
- In the song "Neighborhood 2 (Laika)", the [Canadian](#) band [Arcade Fire](#) compared an adventurous brother called Alexander to the dog Laika.
- In the song "Astrud Astronette", the [German](#) band [de Phazz](#) describes the adventures of Laika from the launch into space.
- The singer Maria Daines, who often sings about animals and their rights wrote the song 'Laika' for her.
- [David Whitehouse, First dog in space died within hours, BBC Online, 28 October 2002](#)
- [Anatoly Zak, The True Story of Laika the Dog 3 November 1999](#)
- Romania also issued a Laika stamp.

Stamp from 1959, featuring the dog Laika.

When you are thinking about creating your own memorial to Laika and you are close to Carrara where the immaculately white marble comes from which Michael Angelo liked to work with, then it's easy to decide which shape the monument should take. A symbolic sculpture of the Laika of San Carlo Terme, who can usually be found on the square in front of the bar, seemed like a good idea.

We have therefore commissioned a sculptor to create a sculpture of Laika, and when she dies, she can be buried near her likeness. This way, we will create a lasting memory of her and the Laika of Sputnik II. The work is almost completed. A few adjustments need to be made to the pedestal, to do the sculpture even more justice. I can already reveal, though, that the result really nice.

### **'Incognito Culinario' gets some reinforcement**

I put my heart and soul into our Friday evening initiative, but it's like pushing water up a hill.



People in Massa and the surrounding area only go out on a Saturday evening and it's not easy to convince them that there might be other evenings in the week that could be nice for going out. People don't easily change their habits over here.

We have been promoting the Friday evenings since February and we've had several "lucky setbacks". Fabio invited Simone Ortoli but she cancelled at the last minute. Wim and I were in Holland, so Fabio had to eat the delicacies by himself. The following week the horse whisperer had been invited, but he came down with the flu and so he couldn't make it either. This time, Fabio and I were the lucky guests.

The major had promised to join us with his wife, but he let us know, through his secretary, that all his appointments were suspended. He had also come down with the flu. Because nobody had made any reservations, it meant our guests of honour didn't have to spend the evening with just Fabio, Wim and myself.

It is now June and the band which helped us celebrate the New Year was very keen to perform here again. We found an affordable solution because the costs for live music are high. We decided to hold a Café Concerto. The kickoff was on Friday July 2. They had been testing the sound system and tuning the instruments all afternoon, because at 9.30 sharp they had to start playing. None of that nonsense of tuning instruments for half an hour before playing this time! On my birthday when we had also invited them to play, I had complained to them about this. The guests were already seated and they just kept on tuning their instruments and checking whether everything sounded right. I was furious.

But this time, when the band started playing, only a handful of guests had arrived. Some guests to the Incontro Culinaria and a number of full-board hotel guests. The seats on the square were full, however, and this filled me with hope. After about 10 minutes, the first concertgoers came trickling in. The evening turned out really well. My optimism had been founded this time, because we didn't even get any complaints from our hotel guests, who often turn in early. People were very enthusiastic! Perhaps the Culinary Encounter can reap the benefits of the cheerfulness of the band (Melinda) and we can finally have one busy evening in our restaurant.

## Jan

*(From the book Buon Natale in Antona)*

*part 33*

My mother rented out a room to a student, a sturdy, popular guy whom I adored. I remember one evening - I had just turned 15 - when I decided to take my chances, got out of bed, knocked on his door and tried to chat him up. I must have got him out of bed and he had obviously put his pyjama bottom on in a hurry before he opened the door. He was very hairy and his limb

pushed forward against his pyjama bottom. He was embarrassed and told me to go to sleep. I couldn't help thinking that I had disturbed him while he was wanking himself off. But he didn't let on at all. I don't give up very easily though and even when I was young I was not easily taken aback. One afternoon, when we were alone in the living room, I told him about my experience at the Amsterdam Rijnkanaal, hoping he might want to try to same thing with me. That wasn't how things turned out, unfortunately. He told my mother. She was beside herself, of course. I don't know whether she also told my father, but one week later my father and I were fighting, and it may have been partly caused by this.

### **AFTER THE DANCE**

I took ballroom dancing lessons at Wildschut, and Saturday evening was 'freestyle dancing'. I loved this, so I was always there. My father demanded that I be home by twelve, even though the dance continued until half past twelve. In my opinion this was a dictatorial decision, and I didn't want to take any notice of it. This one hour wouldn't make any difference, as far as I was concerned, and straight talking as I am, I told him so. He was furious and we got into a fight. Thankfully, I was seated in an armchair so my back was protected. He didn't manage to pull me out of the chair and in his anger he grabbed an aluminium kettle and hit me on the head with it. I curled up and as a result, his crotch was just in front of my face. I suddenly knew how I could hurt him, opened my mouth wide, pushed my face into his crotch and closed it with as much force as I could muster. The fight was immediately over. He walked back to his armchair, sat down and didn't say a word after that. The week after, it was freestyle dancing again. I was planning on staying

until the end, but I couldn't help myself and at 11.30 I went on the binge. In the urinal near the exhibition centre, which happened to be a well-known meeting point for homosexuals at the time, I met a student. He knew of a small park where we would not be seen and I went with him.

We had hardly started before we were disturbed by the headlights of a police car. We quickly pulled up our trousers. "Police! What are you doing here?" "We are on our way home." "Where do you live?" "In the Rijnlaan." "Aren't you a few blocks out of your way?" Well, I didn't know what to say to that. We were taken to the police station and each put in a different cell with a wooden bed. What can you do? I lay down on the wooden bed and tried to get to sleep. There was no hope of getting to sleep of course, but I kept my eyes closed and pretended to be asleep. At 3.30 in the morning, they came back. I still pretended to be asleep and I can still remember the policeman saying: "That boy is a tough."

They took me home where I went straight to bed. The next morning at 11 a.m. my father put me on the back of his motorbike and took me back to the police station. He no longer wanted me in the house.

*(To be continued)*

## Some fireflies after all

Apart from humidity, fireflies also need warmth. When the jasmine flowers, they start to make their nocturnal flicker flights. This year, we had a warm spell in June and it was exactly in this period that Sabine Bezuijen had invited her family to spend a week with us in Italy. Sabine's grandfather had never been to Italy and he was really enjoying himself. One evening, after a warm day, we were having our evening meal on the terrace. The

jasmine smelled sweet, the sun was setting behind the mountains in a spectrum of red and gold and the darkness slowly set in.

As if enchanted, we stayed where we were. We were enjoying the view, the peace, the twinkling lights of Massa, the regular flashes of light from the lighthouse on the Palaria island, and the full moon which appeared to the left of the terrace after the sun had set behind the mountains. This evening all the beauty this place has to offer revealed itself at once. We couldn't believe our luck.

The previous evening I had already seen a few fireflies from my bedroom window. There is a house behind the hotel which is rarely used. The garden is neglected and the grass is almost one metre high. This, however, is an ideal environment for fireflies. As a cherry on the cake, I decided to show our guests the fireflies. We have recently built a gallery behind the hotel, which borders on our neighbour's garden. This passage way is used by the chambermaids to access the linen-room. Now, Sabine, her parents, her friend Danny, both grandmothers and grandfather climbed the dark steps leading to the passage way between the hotel and the neighbour's garden. The fireflies did not like to be disturbed and for a while you couldn't see any. But when we had stood there quietly for a short while, we could suddenly see flashing everywhere. Even I had never seen anything like it. You usually see one or two, five if you're lucky, but there were at least a hundred here! Gerrie's father, in particular, was deeply moved. "I feel so privileged that I live to see this at 83." That remark made my day. I have previously also been deeply moved by this spectacle. Back on the terrace I read the story about the fireflies to them, which I had written for Looier News 15-3.

## **BASIC RATES ITALY 2010**

Single room, including breakfast	€ 40 per night
Double room, including breakfast	€ 70 per night
Supplement for half board per person	€ 25 per night
Supplement for full board per person	€ 40 per night
Discount for singles using a double room	€ 15 per night

Rooms with a balcony and sea view are slightly more expensive, also depending on other features.

## **RATE HOLIDAY APARTMENT AMSTERDAM 2010**

**Bridge Suite Lijnbaansgracht 186 C, Amsterdam 2/4 persons.**

01/01/2010 - 31/12/2010 € 480,-

Additional single bed + EUR 71.50 including linen.

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## **Special Events Programme 2010**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>1 August</b>
Auction	11 a.m. – 5 p.m. <b>Viewing day</b>
Market	11 a.m. – 5 p.m. <b>Flee Market</b>
Bridge	noon – 5 p.m. <b>Talking or Rubber Bridge</b> (informal gathering)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>15 August</b>
Market	11 a.m. – 5 p.m. <b>Antique Market</b>
Bridge	noon – 5 p.m. <b>Talking bridge with Barry</b> (informal gathering)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>29 August</b>
Market	11 a.m. – 5 p.m. <b>Flee Market</b>
Bridge	12.45– 5 p.m. <b>The 'Master Points Drive'</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>30 August</b>
Market	11 a.m. – 5 p.m. <b>Antique Market</b>
Bridge	7.15– midnight <b>The 'Looier Cash Tournament'</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>31 August</b>
Market	11 a.m. – 5 p.m. <b>Flee Market</b>
Bridge	7.15 – 9.30 p.m. <b>Looier System Exam</b>

- Wednesday 1 September**  
 Bridge 7.15 – 10.30 p.m. **Start of the comp. Gay Prize Bridge** Membership fee € 94.25 until 31.08.11
- Thursday 2 September**  
 Bridge 12.45 – 4.45 p.m. **Start of the Tea Drive Competition (NR)**  
 Bridge 7.15 – 10.30 p.m. **New competition 'The Smokers' Club'**  
 Membership fee € 94.25 until 31.08.11
- Friday 3 September**  
 Bridge 7.15 – 10.30 p.m. **Start of the Patton comp. No smoking**  
 Membership fee € 51 until 31.08.11
- Saturday 4 September**  
 Auction 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Viewing day**  
 Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Flee Market**  
 Bridge noon – 5 p.m. **Talking bridge with Barry**  
 (informal gathering)
- Sunday 5 September**  
 Auction 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Viewing day**  
 Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Flee Market**  
 Bridge noon – 5 p.m. **Talking or Rubber Bridge**  
 (informal gathering)
- Monday 6 September**  
 Auction 2 – 4 p.m. **General auction**
- Friday 10 September**  
 Bridge 7.15 – 10.30 p.m. **The L.A.R.T. pair competition**
- Saturday 11 September**  
 Bridge 7.15 – 10.30 p.m. **The L.A.R.T. Patton competition**
- Sunday 12 September**  
 Bridge 12.45 – 4.30 p.m. **L.A.R.T. Individual players - presentation of prizes.**  
**DISCOUNT APPLIES WHEN REGISTERING FOR THE ENTIRE TOURNAMENT**  
 Please visit [www.bridgereis.nl](http://www.bridgereis.nl) for further information.
- Sunday 19 September**  
 Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Antique Market**  
 Bridge 12.00 – 5 p.m. **Women's Bridge**
- Sunday 26 September**  
 Bridge 12.45 – 4.30 p.m. **Master Points Drive**

**Saturday 2 October**  
Auction 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Viewing day**  
Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Flee Market**  
Bridge noon – 5 p.m. **Talking bridge with Barry**  
(informal gathering)

**Sunday 3 October**  
Auction 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Viewing day**  
Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Flee Market**  
Bridge noon – 5 p.m. **Talking or Rubber Bridge**  
(informal gathering)

**Monday 4 October**  
Auction 2 – 4 p.m. **General auction**  
Bridge 7.15 – 10.30 p.m. **Start of the Bridge Bidding Course**

**Wednesday 6 October**  
Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Antique Market**  
Bridge 5.30 – 6.30 p.m. **General Meeting**  
7.15 – 11.30 p.m. **“Blind Date Drive”**

**Monday 11 October**  
Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Antique Market**  
Bridge 7.15 – 10.30 p.m. **2nd Relay + Looier Stayman**  
7.15 – 10.30 p.m. **Individual Players Club Looier System**

**Tuesday 12 - 19 October**  
Holiday Apartments **Chestnut Bridge trip to Tuscany**

**Thursday 14 - 21 October**  
Holiday Apartments **Bridge clinic in Tuscany, Italy**

**Sunday 17 October**  
Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Flee Market**  
Bridge 12.00 – 5 p.m. **Women’s Bridge**

**Monday 18 October**  
Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Antique Market**  
Bridge 7.15 – 10.30 p.m. **The intermediate overcall with ‘Logjes’**  
7.15 – 10.30 p.m. **Individual Players Club Looier System**

**Monday 25 October**  
Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Antique Market**  
Bridge 7.15 – 10.30 p.m. **The 2NT opening+Niemeijer**

**Sunday 31 October**  
Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Flee Market**  
Auction 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Viewing day**  
Bridge noon – 5.15 p.m. **The Master Points Drive**

- Monday 1 November**  
 Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Antique Market**  
 Auction 2 – 4 p.m. **General auction**  
 Bridge 7.15 – 10.30 p.m. **Lesson 5 The 2♦; 2♥ and 2♠ opening**  
 7.15 – 10.30 p.m. **Individual Players Club** Looier System
- Saturday 6 November**  
 Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Antique Market**  
 Bridge 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Bridge on the Water**
- Monday 8 November**  
 Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Antique Market**  
 Bridge 7.15 – 10.30 p.m. **Lesson 6 The 2♣ opening bid**  
 7.15 – 10.30 p.m. **Individual Players Club**  
 Looier System
- Monday 15 November**  
 Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Antique Market**  
 Bridge 7.15 – 10.30 **Lesson 7 Slam Conventions**  
 7.15 – 10.30 p.m. **Individual Players Club**  
 Looier System
- Friday 19 - Sunday 28 November**  
 Bridge **A bridge holiday to San Carlo Terme**  
 Please visit [www.bridgereis.nl](http://www.bridgereis.nl) for further information.  
 7.15- midnight **The Patton Club**
- Sunday 21 November**  
 Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Antique Market**  
 Bridge 12.00 – 5 p.m. **Women's Bridge**
- Monday 22 November**  
 Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Antique Market**  
 Bridge 7.15 – 10.30 p.m. **Discussion of System Card**  
 The Looier Bidding system explained in one evening.  
**A nice opportunity for experienced bridge player to get to know the Looier system! Costs for this single evening EUR 15.**  
 7.15 – 10.30 p.m. **Individual Players Club**  
 Looier System
- Sunday 28 November**  
 Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Antique Market**  
 Bridge 12.45– 5.45 p.m. **The 'Master Points Drive'**  
 members EUR 4.15. Other participants EUR 8.30.

**Monday 29 November**

Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Antique Market**  
Bridge 7.15 – 11 p.m. **Students play in the lesson line**  
7.15 – 10.30 p.m. **Individual Players Club**  
Looier System

Play regularly – preferably once a week – then you will retain your knowledge. If you are a new member of the Monday evening club and you play regularly on Monday, you can participate in the Looier Cash Tournament at the end of August. This is a tournament with EUR 5,000 in prize money. In addition all members of the club are offered a Bridge Week in hour hotel in Tuscany. This would be on a half-board basis, and would not include flights/transport, excursions and drinks. You are always welcome at:

**Albergo Ristorante San Carlo.**

Via Nicola Zonder 3, San Carlo Terme

54100 Massa (MS)

Tel: 0039-0585 43193

**www.looiersuites.nl**

## A week in the Looier without any special events

### Monday

- Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. the Art & Antiques centre is open  
Auction 14.00 - 4 p.m. Auction 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month.  
Preceding Saturday and Sunday Viewing day  
Bridge 6.45 p.m. – 7.15 p.m. Registration (players & stand-by players)  
7.30 – 10.30 p.m. Looier Individual Players Club.  
Participation free.  
7.30 – 10.30 p.m. Bridge lessons and practice

### Tuesday

- Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. the Art & Antiques centre is open  
Auction 11.30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Drop-off, pick-up and payments  
Bridge 12.00 p.m. – 12.45 p.m. Registration (players & stand-by players)  
1 – 5.30 p.m. The Egnog Drive. Participation € 5.

### Wednesday

- Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Flee market. Free entry.  
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. the Art & Antiques centre is open  
Auction 11.30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Drop-off, pick-up and payments  
Bridge 6.45 p.m. – 7.15 p.m. Registration (players & stand-by players)  
7.30 – 11 p.m. Gay Prize Bridge. Participation € 5

### Thursday

- Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. the Art & Antiques centre is open  
Auction 11.30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Drop-off, pick-up and payments  
Bridge 12.00 p.m. – 12.45 p.m. Registration (players & stand-by players)  
1 – 5.30 p.m. 'The Tea Drive'. Participate for € 5.  
6.45 p.m. – 7.15 p.m. Registration (players & stand-by players)  
7.30 – 11 p.m. The Smokers Club. Participate for € 5

### Friday

- Bridge 6.45 – 7.15 p.m. Registration for The Patton Club  
From September until March.  
Magic 6.45 – 7.15 p.m. Registration for 'Friday Night  
Magic.' From September until March.

### Saturday

- Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Flee market. Free entry.  
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. the Art & Antiques centre is open  
Bridge 1 – 5 p.m. Practise with Barry.

### Sunday

- Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Flee market. Free entry.  
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. the Art & Antiques centre is open  
Bridge 6.45 – 7.15 p.m. Play with Barry

## **Weekly programme of 'Bridge Club The Looier'**

Monday evening: Individual Players Club Registration open until 7.15 p.m. Free participation. Obligatory use of The Looier Bidding System. 21 boards played until approx. 11 p.m.

Tuesday: The Egnog Drive; Registration open until 12.45 p.m. The barometer drive. Prizes for each round. Approx. 16 pairs.

Wednesday: Gay Prize Bridge. Registration open until 7.15 p.m. A Butler night with a bottle of good wine to win. Approx. 14 Pairs, 24 boards played until approx. 11. p.m.

Thursday afternoon: 'The Tea Drive Club'; registration open until 12.45 p.m. One area reserved for smoking. Bridge area non-smoking. Free tea provided.

Thursday evening: The Smokers Club: Registration open until 7.15 p.m. Busy evening. Approx. 24 pairs. The strongest line plays a complete Howell.

Friday: 'The Patton Club'. Registration open until 7.15 p.m. Plays from September until March. Relaxed atmosphere - evenings can last until approx. 24 p.m.

Sunday: Women's Bridge Registration open until 12.45 p.m.  
**Please note!** Only held on the last Sunday of the month. Doors open at noon.

Sunday: The Master Points Drive Registration open until 12.45 p.m.  
**Please note!** Only held on the last Sunday of the month. Doors open at noon.

**Looierbridge.nl** The website for Bridge Club The Looier with information on: Bridge lessons, bridge clubs, bridge partners, bridge trips and the results and scores for our club.

**Looier Auction.nl** Art, Silver, Jewellery, Collectables, Earthenware, Antiques, Jugendstil pieces, etc. often with a very low starting price, and with a 'Buy Now Price' as well. You can snap the item up at the 'Buy Now Price' until the end of the viewing day. You can also bid on items during the Limited Time Auction held on the first Monday of the month at the Looier, Elandsgracht 109 in Amsterdam, in a cheerful atmosphere.

**Looiernieuws.nl** This is where we keep you up to date with new initiatives and developments (time allowing).

**Looier Suites.nl** Information on our apartments and holiday homes in Amsterdam, Callantsoog and Antona/Tuscany/Italy. Photographs, prices, availability etc.

**Looierantiek.nl** The Antique Market at Elandsgracht 109 in Amsterdam. For over 34 years this has been *the* haven for collectors, browsers, dealers and antique lovers alike. Open Saturday to Thursday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. It has approx. 70 stands and 110 display cases. Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays are flea market days. On those days, you can rent a table for € 10, plus a deposit of € 5 (which will be refunded at 5.15 p.m.).