



**Information about the romantic little
Pirate's House
in Monterosso al Mare**

Dear guests,

BENVENUTI!!!

Welcome at our "Ca' du Pirata" (Ligurian dialect) in Monterosso al Mare!

This romantic 600-year-old house, built against the city's 12th Century Medieval wall, has certainly borne witness to crusty fishermen, hard-working wine growers and dreaded pirates climbing up and down the narrow streets and stone stairways of Monterosso al Mare.

Was it really a pirates' retreat? Maybe...!

In the 16th Century, the Ligurian coast fell prey to pirates who sacked and plundered towns and villages in the Western Mediterranean, including Monterosso al Mare. While some villagers hid high in the hills during the attacks, among what is now terraced vineyards and olive groves, others were captured as slaves.

One of the most feared marauders was Torgut Reis, also referred to as Dragut. On July 8th, 1545, Dragut and his flotilla of 15 ships plundered Monterosso, which at the time had about 300 inhabitants. The feared pirates torched the light and dark striped 13-century Chiesa di San Giovanni Battista with the residents inside. The church is located just steps away from the foot of our own stone stairway. Gradually, villagers and the government in Genoa built 13 watchtowers, including the bell church's tower, as part of the city's defense system. The Torre Aurora, also erected in the 16th Century, is just a two-minute walk from our Pirate's House.

The name of our little house is dedicated to this dark, but very fascinating part of the history of Monterosso al Mare. Each July, the city also commemorates this episode of their history by celebrating the "Festa Dei Pirati."

For the past centuries our little Pirate's House was inhabited by fishermen families. Until the mid-1960s a local family lived here with five family members, despite its size.

In 1968 my family purchased it and I spent many a summer as a boy on the steps playing and greeting passersby on their way to the monastery.

I renovated the house recently.

During the renovation, we found that the back wall in the kitchen adjoins the 12th Century city wall. We left part of the kitchen wall exposed so one can see the original facade and an archway (built of black rocks) which was used as an entrance gate to medieval Monterosso al Mare.

Hopefully, you'll enjoy our little home, it's romantic views overlooking the roofs and vineyards and the stunning silence (even during high season).

Have a great time in Monterosso and thank you for being here!

Kind regards,

Chris

P.S.

- Check out our website www.piratehouse.it
- Stay informed by becoming friends on **Facebook**. Look for "Ca du Pirata".

Getting there

Monterosso al Mare is located at the Italian Riviera in the area of the Cinque Terre, province La Spezia.

It's recommended to go to the Cinque Terre by train as the train system here is very efficient, not expensive, and you can commute within the five villages of the Cinque Terre easily and fast.

Taking a car to the Cinque Terre doesn't really make much sense as parking fees are very expensive and it's not recommended to drive from village to village as it takes long getting around by car.

Parking

At the street crossing Monterosso/ Fegina drive towards **Fegina**, if you want to use one of the following parking options:

- at the narrow street to Monterosso, that's free, but there are not too many parking possibilities (no guard).
- on the large public parking lot at the very end of the street towards Fegina (guarded, but at a charge).

We always park the car on the street and prefer to walk 10-15min to the house. But that's at your own risk.

To park your car in the small public garage, drive towards Monterosso until you reach the beginning of the village. There you will find the garage (no guard, at a charge).

As the prices for public parking are constantly changing, we can only give you an estimate about the parking fee:

Short term parking about € 20 per night or

Long term parking at about € 85 for 1 week and about € 130 for two weeks.

(Prices are subject to change.)

The entire village is completely closed for car traffic.

We generally recommend not to travel by car during your stay in Monterosso. It's very convenient to only use the public train system.

Arrival

The little Pirate's House is located in the historic center of Monterosso al Mare.

From Fegina / from the train station you will find our house as follows:

Walk along the beach street, through the tunnel, pass the old marina (to your right side), walk towards the church tower, keep left and walk underneath the railway tracks. When you are standing on the village square, keep left of the church, walk through an old arch. You can walk up the stairs RIGHT BEHIND to the old arch (Via Nini Bixio, very steep stairs), or take the next pair of stairs coming on your left side after having passed the church and two small squares (Via Milite Ignoto, stairs not as steep) on the left hand side, which will lead you to our house.

Walk up all the stairs (about 100 steps) until the end. There you will find our house at the

address: Via Milite Ignoto 63.

We recommend to bring a picture of our house, then you will immediately recognize it.

From the public garage walk along the main street Via Roma up to the large church (at the right hand side). Between church and the restaurant „Ciak“ walk towards the small church, then the narrow street to the right onto the small square. At the small *Enoteca* at the left side walk to the left and up the stairs of the Via Milite Ignoto. Our house is at the very top, after the left curve (Via Milite Ignoto 63).

The house

When you have reached our house and you are standing in front of the green entrance door, you will find a **small key safe** on the right hand side of the mail box.

To open it, use the **code "2709"** (also to close the safe), then pull the button down. There you will find the house key.

Turn the key in **OPPOSITE DIRECTION** and unlock it **TOWARDS the lock**. Several turns are possible.

IMPORTANT: To **LOCK** the door, you might have to turn the **key TWICE**, otherwise the door might not be locked!

Entering the kitchen you will see an electric fuse box at the left side on the wall. **Push the BLACK MAIN FUSE up**. During high season the main fuse will be left turned ON.

If you are using several electrical appliances at the same time, it's possible that the fuse gets overloaded and jumps out. In this case, please switch off one of the devices and use them one after another.

In the winter time, the main fuse will get overloaded, e.g. if both heaters are switched on and you're boiling water at the same time.

So in this case, please turn OFF one of the radiators and boil the water...

The **main water tab** is located in the kitchen, underneath the sink and should be turned ON permanently in the summer period.

Bathroom and kitchen ventilation

To avoid mold, please make sure you leave the bathroom window open, at least for a while after having taken a shower.

The same applies when you're cooking: please leave the kitchen window open when cooking and afterwards.

Boiler (located in the bathroom):

The boiler itself must stay ON at all times. Please **DO NOT TURN OFF OR TOUCH ANY SWITCH ON THE BOILER ITSELF!**

Windows

Open windows on the upper floor; attach window shutters at the wall (important in case of thunderstorms).

In case of rain, or when on a day excursion, please close the window facing the village.

Cooking

IMPORTANT: there is a double-induction-heating plate in the kitchen. People with heart related health issues should NOT use these heating plates!

Please note that pots and pans after setting them on the induction plates will heat up IMMEDIATELY! If you are cooking with the temperature-degree-sign-feature, 240°C is the maximum, and about. 80-120°C middle temperature.

The induction cooking plates will only work if you use pots and pans out of right metal material and if they are placed on them. Immediately after you remove them, the plates will cool down.

Electricity is extremely expensive in Italy. Therefore we kindly ask you to switch electricity on/off at the outlet underneath the oven before/after using the heating plate (see light).

To save time when cooking noodles, heat up water in the separate water heater and then pour into the pot.

Your host Chris´ recommendation:

Why not prepare a typical – very easy to prepare - Ligurian dish yourselves?

“Spaghetti al pesto Genovese”:

The ingredients for the delicious sauce you can purchase for little money as follows:

The vegetables in *the little vegetable store on Via Roma (opposite the “Ciak” store, and the rest in the CONAD store just at the bottom of our street in the village center.*

- A large bundle of fresh basil leaves
- Half a hand full of fresh pine nuts
- 2 garlic cloves
- Grated parmesan or pecorino cheese
- Olive oil “extra vergine”
- Some salt
- A 500g pack of spaghetti (healthy choice: whole grain (“integrale”))

Simply put all ingredients into the little blender and mix them (not too long, otherwise the sauce gets bitter).

You´ll have to use quite a bit of olive oil until the sauce gets thick - liquid.

Put the sauce – without heating up – on top of your freshly cooked spaghetti (must be *al dente*).

Have a glass of red wine with this delicious dish and enjoy a simple, but authentic delicious dinner outside in front of the house.

Features

Our house is completely equipped for two, max. 3 adults. Blankets, pillows, hair dryer, kitchen equipment incl. water heater, toaster, blender, coffee machine. Also cleaning equipment you will find in the house.

We offer a **hotel style laundry set** which includes: 4 single bed cotton bed sheets (US-style) to put over the two mattresses, 2 pillow cases, 2 large cotton shower towels and 1 bathmat. Also 1 kitchen towel is provided.

Eating table

The table on top of the stair-rail should only be used from the inner side (barstool). Use of the outer barstool which is mounted below the window **-> at your own risk!** It´s dangerous to sit here, because you could fall down the stairs.

Heating the sleeping room

If you´re using the house during winter / heating periods, please note:

As the house is very small, don´t turn on the maximum heating level.

➔ A medium heating level will be enough – otherwise the house is getting too hot

➔ **DON´T COVER the heating radiators! FIRE HAZARD!!**



Recommended heating level

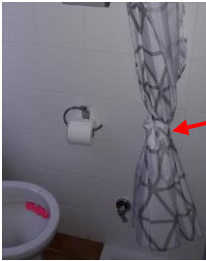
Bathroom / taking a shower

It might sound ridiculous to you, but the bathroom is so small, that a little hint might be helpful how to take a shower in a relatively comfortable way:

- The best way is to stand with your back against the back wall, so that you look at the door
- Close the shower curtain
- To have more space, leave the bathroom door open while showering, and place the bathmat into the open door (onto the kitchen floor).

This way you have plenty of space while moving around inside the shower, and the bathroom and kitchen won't be flooded.

We recommend to wrap the shower curtain (as long as it's not in use) around the plastic handle – this way you'll save much space:



During the *winter / heating period* we recommend to leave the bathroom door open at all times and put the small mobile heating radiator in between the door so it heats the kitchen & bathroom at the same time (medium heating level is sufficient):



Recommended heating level

Safety deposit box

We have never experienced any theft in our house, but we do recommend not to leave any of the following items in the house:

- Valuables, such as watches or jewelry
- Pieces of identification or credit cards
- Cash
- Cellular phones, computers, tablets, etc.

We do offer a mounted safety deposit box in the house as a service, but we will not assume responsibility or liability for any brought in lost or stolen items.

You should find the safety deposit box open and **please make sure you leave it open after use.**

Instructions how to use it you will find on the safe door.

Garbage/waste

Strict waste separation laws apply. Please dispose your garbage by separating acc. to the signs on top of the divided trashcan.

Smoke detectors

The house features high quality smoke detectors to ensure your safety. **OPEN FIRE IS NOT ALLOWED** in the house (please **no candles**, no cigarettes etc.). For romantic atmosphere we feature a nice LED candle upstairs.

In case the smoke detectors go on without an emergency, you can turn them OFF by simply pushing the light button on the down side. In the kitchen you can reach it from the stairs, in the sleeping room please CAREFULLY step on the bar chair. We do not assume liability in case of an accident.

Water

Monterosso has an antiquated water supply system. During EXTREMELY hot days in the summer it's possible, that water might not be available in the elevated areas of the village for several hours. This has not happened in the past years, but it's possible.

If this happens, please use the public water faucet, located about 50 meters from the house (walk down the broad stairs until you reach the platform). A shower can then be taken at the public showers at the beach, which are also used by the locals.

WiFi

We offer free WiFi to our guests. To use it, you will have to enter a password.

To get the password, our guests are required to sign a written agreement which regulates the use of WiFi, liability etc.

- Open the browser
- Choose the WiFi net "Monterosso Pirates Net"
- Enter your password (the one we sent you)
- JUST IN CASE you are being asked for the 8-digit router code, enter "08445377"

TV

The TV features international satellite programs.

On remote control

- push "LIST" to get access to the alphabetically sorted international program list
- push the "HEART" pictured button for some English speaking and a music channel

SAFETY INFORMATION

Emergency doctor	112
Fire department	112
Police	112

Location fire extinguisher (bottle): 1 kitchen - underneath staircase
2 sleeping room – next to staircase

Location fire extinguishing blanket: kitchen - underneath oven

Location smoke detectors 1 on sleeping room ceiling
2 on kitchen ceiling

Location first aid case kitchen – underneath staircase

Location fire extinguishers 1 in sleeping room, below window facing the village
2 in the kitchen / below the staircase

Location emergency exits:
- 1st (ground floor) main door
- 2nd floor window facing the village
(step on neighbor's house roof)

Cleaning

Below the sink there are cleaning utensils and detergents.

We recommend to clean the floor and stairs with a broom, mop and rag.

Please clean dirty dishes immediately after use to **avoid ants**.

Mosquitos (in the summer/early fall)

It's nature's treat: mosquitos!

We recommend taking a mosquito spray when travelling in summer/early fall.

Grocery shopping, Internet cafe, laundry mat, banks

In Monterosso you can buy most everyday groceries and utensils. But the local shops are relatively expensive.

We recommend the large grocery market (weekdays until 1pm open) in La Spezia (go there by train). Also in Monterosso there's a small market every Thursday. On Wednesdays there's also a fruit sale (directly from a truck) on the main square next to the railroad tracks.

Monterosso features the infrastructure of a small town: Internet cafés, laundry mats, pharmacy, banks etc. are available.

Breakfast

It's very nice to enjoy breakfast outside of the house: there is a bench and underneath the stairway you will find two small folding tables you can set in front of the house.

It's a public area, but you can use it just as a terrace. There are very few people walking by (most tourists are too lazy to climb up the stairs! 😊)

Your host Chris' recommendation

A special morning treat! 😊

Take your coffee cups and a breakfast snack and walk the 2min up to the **San Francesco statue** (simply walk UP the few steps left of the house and walk down the few meters to the statue) and enjoy the sunrise with a spectacular Cinque Terre panorama!

(Also highly recommended for a romantic evening drink.)



Nice **breakfast places** are e.g.:

- directly at the beach on the terrace of the Bar „Cigolini“ at the new part of Monterosso “Fegina” (on the other side of the tunnel).
- on the terrace of Bar Centrale on the main square next to the children's playground (but expect a small typical Italian style breakfast offer only)

Restaurants

There is a large number of restaurants in Monterosso. They all offer Italian cuisine; most of them are relatively expensive, but offer good food and typical Ligurian atmosphere.

Our suggestions:

- Monterosso Fegina: **Your host Chris' recommendation** our favorite restaurant is "**La Barcaccia**" (in FEGINA, Via Molinelli, 6). Great value: super pizza & pasta dishes, large portions, owners really take care of their guests. If you have dinner here, take one of the "**Ca' du Pirata**" **business cards** you will find in the kitchen and they will give you a 10% discount and a free limoncello drink after dinner. \$
- Monterosso: **Your host Chris' recommendation** "**da Ely**" next to the main church serves pizza, pasta, pizza, meat and fish in good quality. Family run, very nice atmosphere and good service. \$\$
- Monterosso: **Your host Chris' recommendation** "**Belvedere**" right underneath the railroad tracks and by the beach in the historic village center. Just seafood. Try to get an outside table and enjoy the view and atmosphere! \$\$
- Snack bar: Monterosso Fegina: **Your host Chris' recommendation** directly at the beach on the terrace of the Bar „**Cigolini**“ at the new part of Monterosso “Fegina” (on the other side of the tunnel). Try the DELICIOUS sausage & cheese platter or the “ciabatta”. Highly recommended for a light dinner or afternoon snack! \$
- Snack: Monterosso: **Your host Chris' recommendation** "**La Pia**", Piazza Garibaldi 13, opposite the children's playground. **A little take away pizza place**, serves regular size, family size and pizza slices in good quality at decent prices. Recommended for a take away pizza or a light lunch. Just opened in the summer months \$

For other recommendations, please check out "TripAdvisor.com".

Laundry mat

There's a laundry mat we recommend in the center of Monterosso: Lavanderia Luetu, Via Roma, 86.

Train station

Located the new part of Monterosso „Fegina“. There are train connections to La Spezia, Pisa, Genova and the other 4 villages of the Cinque Terre, almost every hour.

It's extremely convenient to use only the train system to move around, and it's not expensive at all (most of the times a few minutes late, though).

Aktive holidays

Monterosso is the perfect place to stay and to explore the Cinque Terre!

These are some, what you could undertake:

- Check out the other 4 Cinque Terre villages; enjoy some glasses of wine in the local "enoteche".

Your host Chris' recommendation

"Enoteca da Eliseo": Just down the stairs from the little house on Piazza Matteotti 3

- Many wonderful pathways through the beautiful wine terraces along the coast are inviting you for unforgettable hiking tours (some at a charge of about € 7.50 per person for the use of the pathways, e.g. Monterosso – Vernazza). Still free of charge (as of summer 2014) is the pathway to Levanto.
- 2 beautiful beaches in Monterosso with boat and kayak rental
- Boat- and train excursions to the other villages of the Cinque Terre
- Day trips to
 - La Spezia (about 15 min)
Check out the pedestrian area, walk along the palm fringed marina (beautiful!), and stroll along the yacht marina (walk across the large white pedestrian bridge)
 - Genua (about 1 h)
 - Toscana/Pisa (about 1 h)
 - or simply along the marvelous Ligurian coast by train; e.g. Bonasola, Sestri Levante etc.

On a rainy day you could visit a museum in La Spezia or Genova....

Your host Chris' recommendation

Monumento a San Francesco d'Assisi (Monterosso al Mare)

This is my personal favorite place in the 5 Terre!

A beautiful, very romantic place, right by the sea, about 50m above Monterosso marina. From here you have a breathtaking view onto the village and the whole 5 Terre coast. In fact you can see all villages from here.

This place is located only about 3min walking distance from the little Pirate's house:

Simply walk of the LEFT stairs in front of the house and walk down the little Medieval cobblestone street for about 3min.

Tourist Information

- On the small square in front of the city hall (behind the Bar Centrale) or
- on the street to the railway station in "Fegina".

Ask for the „Carta Cinque Terre Card“, which includes train and boat rides up to La Spezia and some also the entrance fees for the hiking pathways within the Cinque Terre.

The history and additional pictures of our Pirate's House

you will find on our website www.piratehouse.it under „History“



Problems / Questions?

This is my mobile phone number: (0039) / 331 757 2301

Departure

When you are terminating your stay, we kindly ask you to leave the house the way that this information sheet still is in effect.

**Please use the attached
„DEPARTURE SHEET” (for your own use) and
put back the key into the key safe, where you have found it.**

**THANK YOU for having stayed at our little Pirate´s House.
We hope to have you back soon again!**

To avoid damage

How to properly use the mounted mosquito nets

The two upper windows are equipped with mounted mosquito nets.

To avoid damage, please use them accordingly:

- The nets can be pulled up or down with the white plastic string.
- Please make sure the *white plastic string* does NOT get stuck into the closed window.
- Always **fasten the *white plastic string* into the MOUNTED LITTLE HOLDER** between the window and the net.

THANK YOU!

NO! 😞



YES! 😊



To avoid damage

How to properly fix opened window shutter

on outside wall, below window shutters



**Don't leave like this!
During strong winds
wooden shutters will flutter
and BREAK**



PERFECT!

**Lift metal head and
then push down to
fix it**

DEPARTURE SHEET

Only for YOUR personal use, no need to return

- Induction oven turned OFF
- Please do mix used linen with mattress covers and blanket
- Upper back window - facing the neighbor's house - to be tilted
- Kitchen & bathroom windows tilted
- Main door locked
- **House keys back in key safe outside**

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Is there something you have missed in our little Pirate's House?
We are thankful for ideas for improvement!
