

Rhodes in the Med June-September 2019

Well a new season for Enosis has begun. After arriving on the island of Ischia, in the Bay of Naples on the 28th of May. I found the boat to be fine if a bit dusty with a combination of volcanic dust and Sahara sand that comes in on the winter storms from the south.

By the 8th of June most of the things on the list were done and the boat was maneuvered out from under the shed and placed on a flatbed truck that had a heavy lifting crane. Sounds good but the actual bed wasn't even 14' long so more than a third of the length of the boat was hanging out in the air. The boat was strapped down and most of the weight rested on big blocks of wood stacked on top of each other and then wedges driven in to lift the boat. This is the way they do it and the whole thing looks precarious. Turns out it was.



See what I mean? So, she sat there over the weekend and on Monday morning the 10th, as planned, the journey began from mountain to sea. Click (or download) [here](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BH280LjAdOd1R055AXjsL5pvxzqO8cEr?usp=sharing) for some videos to see what fun it was to move a Rhodes in this manner on this little island:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BH280LjAdOd1R055AXjsL5pvxzqO8cEr?usp=sharing>

As most of you know this year and month mark the 50th anniversary of my first big sailing trip. It started on this same island, in fact this same dock. From time to time I will pair a photo of the first voyage on an old 18' wooden Lightning class sailboat in 1969 with that of the Rhodes 22 in 2019.



Lightning under repair, Ischia late spring 1969



Rhodes on a flatbed truck Ischia, 10 June, 2019

As you can see a lot hasn't changed, but there are a few details. The Rhodes is 3 ½ feet longer and 2 feet wider with more than double the freeboard. Oh, and it doesn't leak! At the time we sailed the Lightning to Greece it was 21 years old. The Rhodes on the other hand, is 36 years old. We were really pushing the capabilities of the Lightning and were a bit crazy some would say. With the Rhodes we are not pushing its capabilities I don't think, but we probably are still a bit crazy this time around too. I left on the first trip with my best friend Doug Hayes.



I think that now would be a good time to acknowledge what a great friend Doug Hayes was. He was such a sharp funny guy who was always looking for the interesting, exotic or just different places, experiences and lifestyle. Sadly, he died in his mid-forties. He is missed by a lot of friends from all over the world. I couldn't have made the first trip without his encouragement and out-of-the-box-and-the-room-it-is-in kind of problem solving. Thanks Doug, the second time around you will never be far away from our thoughts.

On this trip I still get to go on an adventure with my best friend for the last 46 years, my wife, Alice.



11,12, 13 June So I had the boat in in the water, just needed the wife. She was due in Rome late this afternoon, so I needed to get up early and head up to Rome. I caught the 6:10 am ferry to Naples and was rewarded with a dramatic sky and seascape of Capo Miseno the headland that protected the ancient Roman military port of Misenium. Behind it, 17 miles away, is the double mound of Vesuvius with a few historical connections to Rome also. Arrived and found Alice and then headed back to Rome train station to a nearby AirBnB called Moshi-Moshi, run by a Japanese Italian. I would totally recommend this very nice reasonably priced AirBnB right across the street from the train station in Rome.



Gianncarlo caulking an old wooden fishing boat.

We arrived in Ischia in the late afternoon and then picked up a car and drove over to the place I had rented from in Panza on the SW part of the island. It was the same one I mentioned in my "Prequel" Rhodes in the Med, just a nicer room. Had a wonderful, extravagant dinner and a restful night. The next day it was prep the boat, pack the boat and do some shopping. Another nice meal at the restaurant and repeat the next day, with an interesting twist. Gianncarlo the retired sea captain who owns the yard where Enosis spent the winter, was very traditional, and one of the few people around who could wield a caulking iron on a wooden boat. He insisted on doing something "special" for us. He wanted to have us over for dinner, but his wife was out of

town so instead, he arranged for us to meet him at the yard at 7:30 pm. There he presented us with the quintessential traditional Ischiatano dish, Ischiatano rabbit. He made a wonderful sauce and cooked each piece of the rabbit separately, I have only eaten rabbit a few times, and this was wonderful. Wonderful for the taste, but more so, wonderful for the heart and feeling he put into the dish. Our last night in a real bed and then tomorrow we leave Ischia and start the 2nd part of this great adventure.

After some last-minute food shopping we said good by to Franco, who runs the marina there in Porto. He is the son of the original owner at the time I first made the journey and was there to see us off the first time little kid and now for the second time as a grandfather.



**The start of a grand adventure 1969
Doug Hayes, Don Lanier and I**



**The start of another grand adventure 2019
Just Alice and I**

From this viewpoint not a lot seems to have changed along the waterfront of Porto D'Ischia. Uh, no, that is not the same ferry boat in the two pictures. The first picture did suffer from the camera being tossed to us as we left and bouncing off the boat and into the water. Made the film kind of weird. So now the trip really begins. Our next destination Baia, around Capo Miseno and east to the head of the Bay of Pozzuoli.