

# The 2014 Yodis Yacker


Merry Christmas everyone. We're back after a year or two hiatus. Quick summary of what's changed... Carolyn is no longer the "sugar mama", Bruce is back in hi-tech, and Josh had a job, quit the job, got it back, quit again, and is now living with the grandparents. Now on to this year.

Carolyn is still working at Silver Peak Systems and doing well. Carolyn is still a huge San Jose Sharks fan and gets to as many games as possible and watches the rest on tv wherever we are... and of course, every game must start with a Sharkarita. Needed some extra ones after they disappointingly lost in the playoffs to LA Kings, after being up 3 games to none.

After working at the restaurant a couple years and then searching for something else in the field, Bruce decided to go back to the hi-tech industry and started working at Cisco in May as a contractor/consultant. He got to enjoy a little more golf this year but the game isn't as good as it was back in 2009 when he was playing 3 times a week.

In February we celebrated our 17th anniversary. Since 17 is not an exciting number (just a prime number) we just spent 3 days down in Monterey. We used one of the days to do some wine tasting in the Santa Lucia Highlands. Had some beautiful weather, great wines, and a good time. Since it was our anniversary we got some perks - a taste of a 1984 Pinot Noir and a free bottle of wine of our choice (of course we chose a \$50 bottle of Pinot Noir). The hotel also threw in some free stuff.

There's a lesson there for you all: If you're celebrating a special occasion (birthday, anniversary, etc) let people in the restaurants, hotels, other hospitality company know—many times they will throw something free at you.



After that, we didn't do a whole lot since we were preparing for our big trip in June/July. Quick trip to Clear Lake with some friends, Sharks and Giants games, local wine tasting, yada yada yada. Nough said, you want to hear about the big trip... to Italy... to help Julie celebrate her 50th birthday.

On June 19th we boarded our plane to Rome and arrived Friday morning and immediately set out to explore the city. The next day we got our rental cars and headed to Villa Diana in Umbria that would be our home for the next 2 weeks. It really was in the middle of nowhere but it allowed us to visit the touristy places (Florence, Assisi, Vatican City, Orvieto, Montepulciano) and come back home to escape the crowds and enjoy relaxing and cooking our Italian dinner. There were also many places that were smaller and lesser known that we could visit and avoid the crowds—these places were nice because it allowed you to really experience Italy better.

We were very close to a small town of a couple hundred people (if that) where the owners of the villa lived. Everyday they would come by to let the chickens out and do some work around the grounds. The first week we had them prepare a pizza party for us—that was so delicious and plentiful that it left us happily in a food coma. The 2nd week they did a cooking lesson for Julie's birthday which was also delicious (much of it prepared from food right from the villa grounds). Then they surprised Julie with a beautiful homemade cake.

After that we headed back to Rome for a couple of days to explore more of the city (Coliseum, Forum, Pantheon, etc—you know, all the "crumbly bits" places). We would have loved to stay another week but we had to head home... back to reality.

In August we spent a weekend in Half Moon Bay for Bruce to play in a golf tournament. We found a new restaurant called Via Uno that reminded us so much of Italy. The owner spent a lot of time with us talking about Italy—and being jealous that we had gone there since he hadn't been back for a while.

Our last trip of the year was to Arizona for Bruce's niece's wedding. We spent a few days there and were able to see most of his family and also friends that he had not seen for many years. Just wish they hadn't scheduled during all the Giants World Series home games. :)

Thanks for all the great times we had with family and friends during the year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Bruce and Carolyn (<http://bcyodis.com>)