

This is how our adventure began: We fell in love with the landscape

The protagonists of this adventure is Our family Amber (our daughter), Nico (my husband) and Wendy (me.)

The start of a long journey

Everything started in 2018, we made the decision to start looking for a house in Austria. This idea changed very quickly into searching for a guest house that we could buy.

After searching for a while, going to Austria a few times to look at properties and even being on the verge of buying something were the sale fell through at the last minute, our daughter found an old farm that was already partly operated as a guest house in Carinthia (We had never heard or even been in Carinthia but there just was a feeling that we needed to go and visit the house.

So we made an appointment with the broker.

When we saw the house in real life for the first time, all 3 of us fell in love immediately. Yes there was still a lot of refurbishment work, but we immediately felt at home. When we went to explore the region we were soon convinced that this was the place for us.



It was the raw nature, the mountains, the many lakes, the proximity to Italy, Slovenia and above all the hospitality of the people here that convinced us even more.

Can we realize our big dream?

Then came the financial picture, we never thought we could do this financially, because when we asked the Belgian banks we were simply laughed at that we dared to ask for a loan. Then our broker jumped in and after less than a month we had an agreement for the loan from the Bank in Austria. It was with a sacred heart that we signed the deed of sale (the fear that we will be able to sell our house in Belgium in time, will we be able to do this financially, will we be able to do this at all, we have absolutely no experience in this sector,...). After fear came the feeling of excitement, challenging, new, instructive,...

The official documents were ready in October 2019 and we would receive the keys on April 12, 2020.

It all went a little differently than planned. We thought we had thought of everything. We had made a nice schedule for the move, the helpers, the removal vans and the renovation work.

Probably the most emotional car ride of our lives.

But then Covid 19 came and completely messed up our plans.

On April 10, 2020, Amber and I left Belgium with only a few things in the car (with all the papers as proof that we had bought a house) and hope that we could cross the border. Fortunately, the Customs officer was understanding and after submitting some documents we were allowed to drive on (you don't want to know what an emotional ride this was).

After we received a message from the Customs officer that it was no problem for our truck with all the stuff in it, Nico showed up the next day alone with the truck. Which meant that we had to empty

a 45t truck filled with kitchens, bathrooms and our own household effects with the three of us instead of 6.

While Amber was home schooling, I unloaded everything that had been taken out of the truck and put it in place because we had put everything under our carport because it had to go quickly.

The renovation works could partially continue, as not so many people were allowed to be in the same room at the same time, it was decided to renovate only the first floor.

New friends and helpers

Two weeks after arrival we started the renovation work, exciting because you don't know the people and you don't know what to expect (you see so much on TV that things go wrong). But what a nice bunch really, they have done such a good job and also helped with the emigration and integration here in Austria. I got to know their wives and yes they have given me so much advice and support, I am really grateful to them for that (meanwhile they have also become friends).

Fortunately, our parents came to Austria for a longer period of time, so that I was not all alone all the time, for which I am very grateful.

Our very first season

We received good news in June, we were allowed to open for the summer season and the borders would open on July 1th. Yes, the first bookings came in and the summer season was unexpectedly a success. Worked hard, had a lot of fun with the guests and also learned a lot from them, because it was all new to us.

After the summer season, we started the 2nd part of our renovations (the 2nd floor), these were larger works than the previous ones, but everything went according to plan and the works were finished as planned by December 15, so that we could start with the winter season.

Not so, on December 17, 2020 we were told that the borders were closing again. We didn't know until when and every 2 weeks, the closure of the borders was extended until the end of the winter season.



We don't give up, we keep dreaming

This period was very difficult and emotionally and this was the reason that we decided that Amber and Nico also came to live permanently in Austria, because the lack of our family to be together became too great.

And yes, at the end of June 2020 Amber moved to Austria and we could start the summer season together. This season was again a succes.

So wonderful to make people happy, by letting them enjoy nature again, with the sheep, chickens, Buddy (the dog), the 3 cats, a campfire once a week and of course breakfast in our beautiful garden. The guests also loved that they could take vegetables from our vegetable garden and the children enjoyed feeding the animals. All those great reviews can only make you super happy and especially get a lot of energy.



Finally the three of us are together again

Now it was counting down until Nico finally came to Austria, now the roles were reversed and he was alone in Belgium, luckily for not long because he lived with my parents for the last few months.

On December 12, Nico moved permanently to Austria. Our family was reunited and we could finally enjoy each other again and start our first winter season together, which was not too bad despite the many covid rules.



We now hope for many more successful years together with many guests.

To our beloved daughter

Take a moment to reflect on our daughter throughout this period. It must not have been easy for her either, mom and dad no longer under the same roof, not seeing each other much, Covid 19 that weighs very heavily on the youth, then the final move to Austria, which meant leaving her friends behind and go to a new school and this while she did not speak the language. Congratulations and a lot of admiration that you do all this for us.

We miss our friends and our family

We also want to thank our family and friends for supporting us through thick and thin, each in his own way. As well as the people of our village (Regitt and Weißbriach) who really welcomed us here and were ready to help.

It was a very bumpy road to get to where we are now, but still it has been worth it so far and we certainly don't regret our decision, which doesn't mean we don't miss the closeness of our family and friends.

Lots of love

Nico, Wendy and Amber