

the pool

Story

Ferrandou's New Pool

After several years of thinking about it and an abortive effort when our first location turned out to be directly on top of the main water pipe to the village, we finally got going with our biggest project at Ferrandou in October 2003. When the digger first scratched the surface of what had for so long been our beloved barbecue area, we wondered if we had made the right decision! But not for long as can be seen from the following pictures which show how it was all accomplished...



The work gets under way, starting with the demolition of the sacred barbecue area



The laser is used to ensure that everything is level



Getting down to the deep end



After levelling and cementing the support blocks, the reinforcing steel is laid in place. Then the high density polypropylene formers are located

The formers are bolted together and everything is checked for square



All ready for the concrete

CONCRETE

and lots of it!



The first of two lorry loads of readymix concrete are pumped into the pool's shell



Reinforcing bars to support the surround are put in place





These guys may look somewhat inactive but the one on the right is controlling all the concrete pumping operations with a radio-linked control panel strapped around his waist



The sun pops out to endorse the proceedings



Can I call you back?

When all pumping was done, the orange ball was thrown into the mix with strict instructions not to throw it back. It would be sucked up, cleaning the inside of the pipes as it made its way back to the lorry where it would be retrieved.



The lads take a breather whilst inserting the terrace surrounding support pipes



The concrete blocks supporting the Roman steps

Landscaping



After backfilling the formers and levelling the surround - again with a laser device - it was time to distribute and smooth over the remaining soil to landscape the garden on a beautiful autumn afternoon



The Winter Break



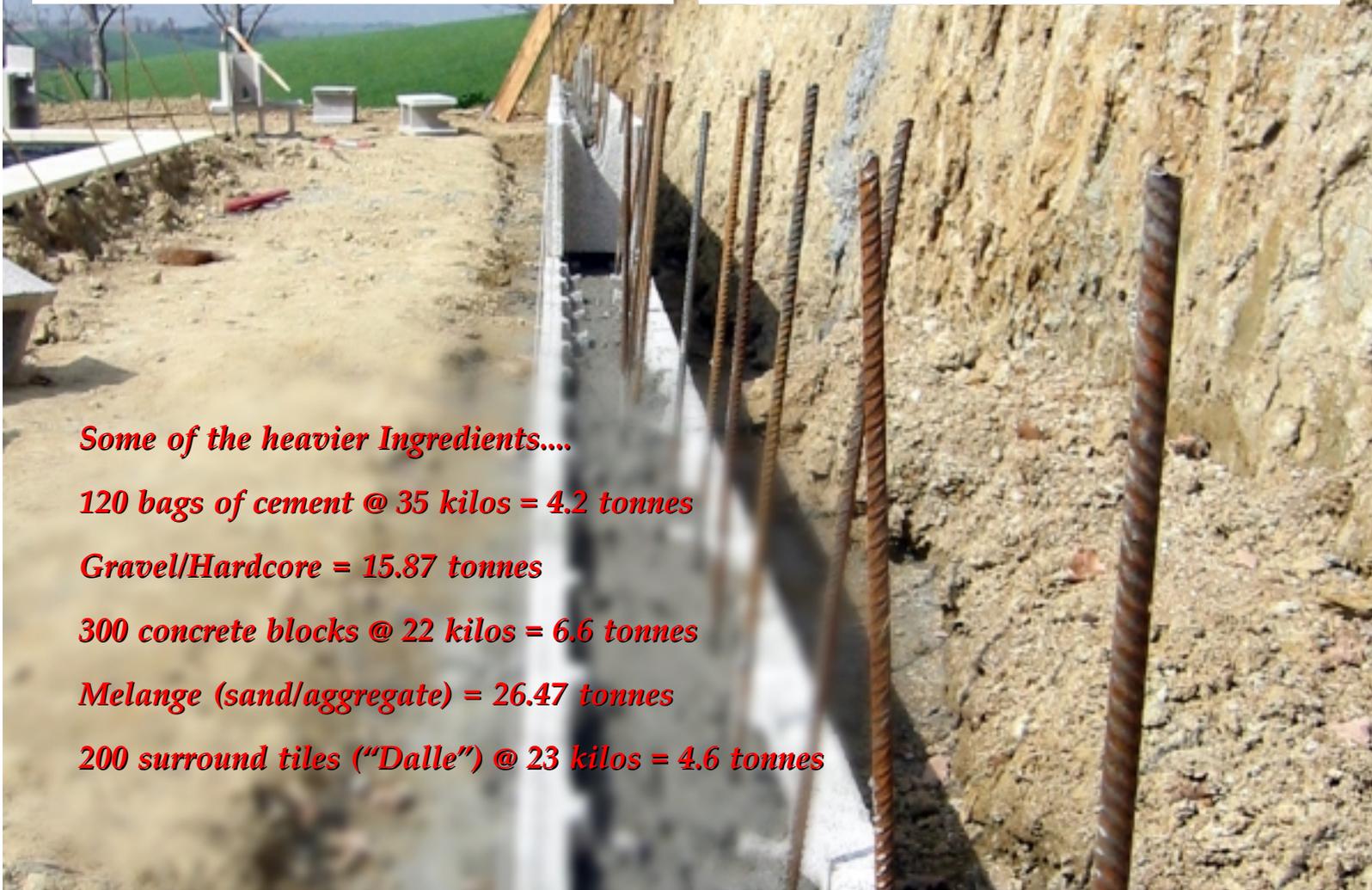
During the winter months there is little that can be done whilst the soil surrounding the pool settles down. Visiting brother Carlos who finds the snow and ice quite a novelty, enjoys the cool break from the tropics.





It is early spring and time to dig the footings for the soil retaining walls. The Volvo mini-digger is the only piece of equipment that will fit between the bank and the pool.

Preparing the mix for the final finish before the liner goes in.



Some of the heavier Ingredients....

120 bags of cement @ 35 kilos = 4.2 tonnes

Gravel/Hardcore = 15.87 tonnes

300 concrete blocks @ 22 kilos = 6.6 tonnes

Melange (sand/aggregate) = 26.47 tonnes

200 surround tiles ("Dalle") @ 23 kilos = 4.6 tonnes





Our new cement mixer worked overtime. Much of the concrete was poured into the soil retaining wall footings directly from the wheelbarrow on the bank above, using a special chute made from corrugated iron. Most of the mix ended up in the right place!



The wall takes shape but overnight rain turns the site into a mud bath so we cut some steel.

Nicholas lays the last brick watched closely by Eva. An enjoyable day!





Eva rakes and tamps the concrete to great effect. Cooking experience was of great help here.



Nicholas and his 'magic sponge' renders the finished wall assisted by Lipton and the boss.



The surrounding tiles in the process of being laid and the terracotta wall capping tiles ready from laying.





The tedious task of grouting was undertaken primarily by Eva but everyone had their own style and all who stopped by was fair game. Here, visiting brother Alan makes a significant contribution.



Whilst grouting was in progress, the unfinished pool had to be periodically pumped dry and kept clean in readiness for good weather and the awaited liner insertion.

LINER TIME



Delayed for weeks whilst groundwater drained into the half-finished pool and by bad weather, the day finally arrived when the liner could be added. An aspirating pump then removed the air from between the liner and the pool wall and base for all of 3 days.



FILL HER UP!

Just two days before the first visitors were due to arrive we were able to turn on the tap - for 18 hours.





Ferrandou