

InterPark

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Recession proof?

How has the attractions industry fared in 2011?



Legoland joins the Florida set

Park Life
Dollywood,
US

Secondary spend-
more than just
a sideshow

Open to Question
Ross Magri,
Sarner

New rafting slides help seal Acqua Village's success



THE recent installation of two rafting waterslides from Polin Waterparks and Pool Systems has resulted in a doubling of visitors to a leading Italian waterpark.

Hugging Italy's picturesque western shoreline, Acqua Village in Cecina, Tuscany, was created in 2004 through the fusion of two beleaguered

waterparks, Cecina Waterpark and Follonica waterpark. Since that time - and increasingly so over the last three years - Acqua Village has been renewing its ride estate with first-class attractions.

The park's ambitious investment programme culminated this year with the installation of two rafting waterslides from Polin of Turkey. Working in partnership with Italian group Piscine Castiglione, Polin installed Intrigo, a huge waterslide plant consisting of a Family Rafting Waterslide (as pictured on the front cover of this issue of *InterPark*) and a Rafting Waterslide, with a conveyor belt in-between the two attractions.

"In 2004, both the Cecina and Follonica waterparks seemed very close to bankruptcy," said Matteo Ferrarini, manager at Piscine Castiglione. "Both the parks were very old and, like many of the Italian parks from the 1980s and 1990s, lacked innovation.

"The new management was brilliant in changing the image of these parks, increasing the number of visitors year after year. The brand new Intrigo area has almost doubled the number of visitors in the season. Particular attention was given to the aesthetical result - the fibreglass has a natural brown and ivory cover, the tower has got a wooden roof and the splash pool is surrounded by palm trees and wood perimetral coping. All these details give the park a fantastic Caribbean atmosphere."

Sohret Pakis, marketing manager for Polin, added: "Both rafting slides at Acqua Village start from a 13m-high tower. The Family Rafting Slide is 135m and the Rafting Slide is 124m. Both are produced by closed moulded RTM production technology and offer a superior shiny finish on both sides."