

**Cosibella Home**  
and  
**Villas and Vines**  
presents  
**Italy's Alluring Amalfi Coast**  
***An Italian Food, Wine, and Shopping Adventure***  
**September 11 – 17, 2009**



**Friday, September 11**

***Rome – Naples - Amalfi***

Arrive at the Rome airport, followed by a group transfer to the village of Amalfi, stopping en-route for a visit to Naples.

The beauties and surprises of Naples have been praised by innumerable poets and writers. The lovely bay, with its horizon bounded by islands, the Sorrento Peninsula, and lofty Vesuvius, is one of the most beautiful in the world. Its fame has also been enhanced by the area's attractive climate and the special atmosphere evoked by the street life, a world of fantasy and superstition, magic and fate.

The city of Naples, and very specifically Pizzeria Brandi founded in 1780, "The Restaurant and Pizzeria of the Queen of Italy", is the birthplace of Italian pizza and the *Pizza Margherita*. We stop for a bite at this classic restaurant tucked away on a lively Neapolitan alley-way. "When in Naples, your first meal must be pizza!"

With our guide we will see the landmarks of Naples, including the Castel Nuovo, Galleria Umberto I, the Piazza Trento e Trieste, and the Teatro San Carlo.

Arriving in Amalfi, the village which has given its name to the beautiful Amalfi Coast, is breathtaking. Witness a rather Moorish-looking little town with its tall houses built on slopes facing the sea in a wondrous setting. Amalfi enjoys a very mild climate, making it a popular holiday resort. For us "foodies", Amalfi boasts delicious traditional cuisine that takes advantage of its abundance of fresh ingredients native to the area, namely lemons and seafood.

Check into the 4-star Hotel Luna Convento, our home-away-from-home for the next 6 nights where every room is guaranteed to have full views of the Mediterranean Sea.

Our “Welcome Dinner” in Amalfi is at one of our favorite restaurants “*Donna Stella*”. Germana and her mother Stella, our hostesses, have been preparing wonderful regional dishes for years and tonight we are lucky enough to enjoy their warm hospitality and delicious cuisine!

**L, D**



## Saturday, September 12

## *Amalfi – Sunset Cruise*

Amalfi is Italy’s oldest republic, founded in 840; by the end of the 9<sup>th</sup> century it came under the rule of the doge and today our guide provides an excellent overview of our village. Amalfi enjoyed its greatest prosperity in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, when shipping in the Mediterranean was regulated by the Amalfi Navigation Tables, the oldest maritime code in the world. Amalfi traded regularly with the Orient, in particular Constantinople, hence you will notice many Turkish and Middle-Eastern styles in the churches, art, and architecture.

Rupert, our guide for the week, is a local favorite and friend to all in Amalfi. This morning he leads us through the village itself and also the secret alleyways, pointing out interesting facts of this historical village as we go.

This morning we have several special treats. Amalfi has a long and passionate history of paper-making. The hills above Amalfi provide the hard wood, and the stream flowing through (and under) the village provides the power to create the finest writing paper in the world! We witness the process, see the mills, and even create our own paper.

Next, on to the famous lemons. *Limoncello* will soon become your favorite digestivo. We will visit the local producer, learn their secrets, and tickle your senses. Of course we will sample, purchase souvenirs (and sample again).

On the way back through Amalfi and to the hotel, we take the “scenic route” through the many secret passageways, arriving at the main square.

St. Andrea (St. Andrew) is the patron Saint of Amalfi. The Basilica is at the heart of the village. Founded in the 9<sup>th</sup> century, relics of St. Andrew lie underneath the cathedral. The staircase alone is one of the grandest in Italy – count how many weddings you see during the week!

*L*unch will be together in one of Amalfi's many colorful cafes, enjoying local specialties.

*A*fter lunch we have the entire afternoon free. You may choose to lounge on the beach, read a book, shop, take a nap – or all of the above! The choices are endless!

*B*efore dusk we gather and board our private vessel for a special cruise on the sea. We meet our personal captain, Andrea, for an extraordinary experience like no other. Be sure to bring sea-faring shoes, healthy thirst, hearty appetite, and sense of adventure (and camera)! **B, L, D**



*Sunday, September 13*

*Pompeii*

*T*oday we discover Pompeii, the opulent town which was buried in AD 79 in one of the most disastrous volcanic eruptions in history (Mt. Vesuvius), provides important evidence on the ancient way of life. The extensive and varied ruins of the Dead City, in its attractive setting, movingly evoke on a grand scale a Roman city at the time of the Empire. Join our exclusive, local, English-speaking guide for an intensive immersion into the Roman way of life.

*L*unch is on the way home in a cozy local restaurant high in the hills between Pompeii and Amalfi.

*R*eturn back to Amalfi in time to explore more on your own, go to the beach or pool, simply relax and soak it all in!

*D*inner is yours to discover tonight amongst the wide array of restaurants in town. **B, L**



### Monday, September 14

### *Vietri sul Mare – Ravello*

*Vietri sul Mare* is the village located at the eastern end of the Amalfi Coast. Since the 15<sup>th</sup> Century, Vietri has been producing exquisite ceramics with the decoration being the typical colors of the coast – blue and green. In the beginning, the trade was limited to Sicily and Calabria, both in Italy. Now these prized objects are shipped all over the world, especially to our beloved “Cosibella Home” shop in Las Vegas!

*With* our own Kathy Scimeme, expert in Vietri ceramics and owner of “Cosibella Home” as our guide, she leads the way to her favorite producers where we witness the production and painting of these individual treasures. This is truly a very special treat!

*Ravello* clings to the steep slopes of the Dragon Hill. Suspended between sea and sky the views are unforgettable and the blue hues of sky and sea are almost indistinguishable. The road from Amalfi climbs in hairpin bends up the narrow Dragon Valley, planted with vines, olive groves and lemon orchards. We discover this captivating village on foot with our guide Rupert, visiting the Duomo and the Villa Rufolo.

*Just* off the main square, tucked away on the hillside is the restaurant *Da Salvatore*. With the wood-burning pizza oven fired up, we have a lesson in classic Italian pizza-making. Everyone creates their own pizza for lunch! Oh yes, I forgot to mention the restaurant has incredible Mediterranean views!

*After* lunch we stroll through the passages to the Villa Cimbrone and its stunning gardens. On entering the grounds, a wide promenade leads through the garden to the belvedere, adorned with marble busts. Here is an immense panorama over the cultivated terraced hillsides, the dramatic coastline, and the entire Gulf of Salerno.

*Return* to Amalfi for time on your own to relax before dinner.

*Dinner* this evening is yours to discover among the vast array of restaurants and trattorias in Amalfi.

**B, L**

### Tuesday, September 15

### *Capri*

*Capri*, the Isle of Dreams, has always been an enchanting place, with its beautiful rugged landscape, mild climate and luscious vegetation. For the past 200 years the island has attracted numerous celebrities amongst artists, writers, musicians and actors. Today is our lucky day to visit such a paradise!



*The* entire day is yours to enjoy here on this magical Isle, which is like a stage setting for an operetta due to its small squares, little white houses and its quite Moorish-looking alleyways. Capri boasts the most upscale boutique shopping on the coast. The enjoyable walks curve along flowery and shaded promenades. Discover lunch in a quiet café, in a very chic restaurant, or on the bustling main piazza. Check out Ana-Capri far from the tourist crowd and on top of the island, where you may opt for a spectacular chair lift ride to the highest point on the island! Board a boat to the Blue Grotto, the most famous among the many marine caves on the island. The light enters, not directly, but by refraction through the water, giving it a beautiful blue color. The possibilities are endless!

*Late* afternoon return to Amalfi.

*Dinner* this evening is a special treat, as we are welcomed to the most interesting and special restaurant in Amalfi – an ambience you will surely remember for years to come! Hidden under the stairs of the St. Andrea Cathedral, you will find a treasure of local art and creative food created by the next generation of Amalfitanians. **B, D**





### Wednesday, September 16

### *Sorrento - Positano*

*O*ur first destination today is the town of Sorrento. This important southern Italian resort, known for its many beautiful gardens, enjoys a particularly interesting spot, perched on a plain above the Gulf of Sorrento. Enjoy the abundance of orange and lemon groves in the surrounding countryside and even within the city limits itself! This morning we travel to Sorrento on the stunning Amalfi Coast cliff-side drive!

*S*orrento is known for the fine craftsmanship of inlaid wood-working. We will visit the shop and discover the detailed process at the most famous of them all, namely Januzzi. This tradition has been handed down in the Januzzi family for over 3 generations.

*A*fter free time in Sorrento, our next destination is beautiful Positano, which we reach by boat.

*P*ositano was once a sleepy fishermen's village, and is now one of the busiest resorts on the coast. The small white cubic houses which reveal a strong Moorish influence and set in lush gardens, are dotted on the slopes.

*L*unch today is on your own, as there are so many options in this picturesque village.

*T*here is ample free time this afternoon to wander through this colorful village, explore the shops and galleries, or simply enjoy the beach scene.

*R*eturn to Amalfi via boat for time on your own to relax and dress for dinner.

*T*his evening brings our final Farewell Dinner in Amalfi. We'll enjoy the exquisite cuisine of the seafront *Marina Grande* restaurant with the gentle waves washing up to the terrace. Ahh, Paradise!

**B, D**

### Thursday, September 17

### *Rome*

*A*fter breakfast, we transfer back to Rome in anticipation of your flight home, or to enjoy several days on your own in the Eternal City.

**B**



**Italy's Alluring Amalfi Coast**  
**September 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell Phone** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Fax** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$3,295 per person, Superior room double occupancy**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **\$3,495 per person, Deluxe room double occupancy**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **\$3,795 per person, Junior Suite double occupancy**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **\$4,195 per person, Suite double occupancy**

**Single Supplement is \$800**

**Deposit of \$500 per person due NOW to reserve space.**  
**Final Payment is due by July 13, 2009. (60 days prior)**

**Personal Checks accepted and please make payable to:**  
**Villas and Vines**  
**2450 Iroquois Avenue**  
**Detroit, MI 48214**

**This tour includes all hotels, ground transportation, activities, meals, and wines as outlined in the program. Air is NOT included to/from Rome**

**CANCELLATION: If cancelled up to 60 days prior, there is a \$500 cancellation fee. If cancelled between 60 – 30 days prior, the penalty is 50% of the total cost of the trip. The trip is non-refundable if cancelled within 30 days of departure. Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended.**

**If you have any questions at all, please feel free to contact Villas and Vines at (800) 593-6350, [www.villasandvines.com](http://www.villasandvines.com) or [david@villasandvines.com](mailto:david@villasandvines.com)**