



The Best of the Amalfi Coast

Featuring:

Pompeii, Sorrento, Naples, Ravello, Positano, Amalfi and the Isle of Capri

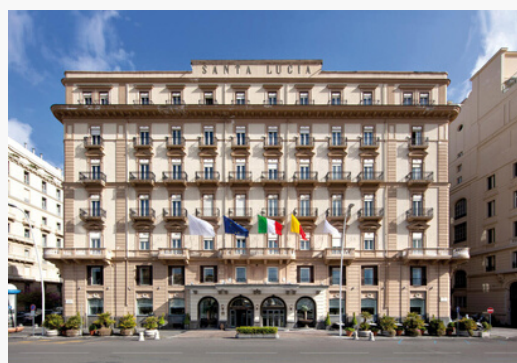


"Along this coast, where one mountain after another plunges sheer into the sea, there is a string of towns that not long ago were accessible only by boat. Today the Amalfi Drive, a spectacular road of "a thousand bends", covers the route... Nature here has created an amazing vertical landscape, a mix of sharp crags and deep green forests... In doing so, she inspired the Italians to add three of their most beautiful towns."

*- Dana Facaros and Michael Pauls in the Cadogan Guides' Bay of Naples and Southern Italy**

DAY ONE - Arrive Naples

When you arrive at Naples International Airport, you will be met by a private driver who will assist you with your luggage and whisk you away to our waterfront hotel in Naples. We'll gather for a "Welcome Drink" and a first opportunity to get acquainted. Then, it will be off to dinner at one of our favorite restaurants with a beautiful view of the sunset over the Bay of Naples!



DAY TWO - Naples and Sorrento

"to see an entire ancient city come to life, the only place on earth you can go is the magic time capsule left to us by the good graces of Mount Vesuvius...Walking down the old Roman high street, you can peek into the shops, read the graffiti on the walls, then wander off down the back streets to explore the homes...Almost everything we know for sure concerning the daily life of the ancients was learned here."

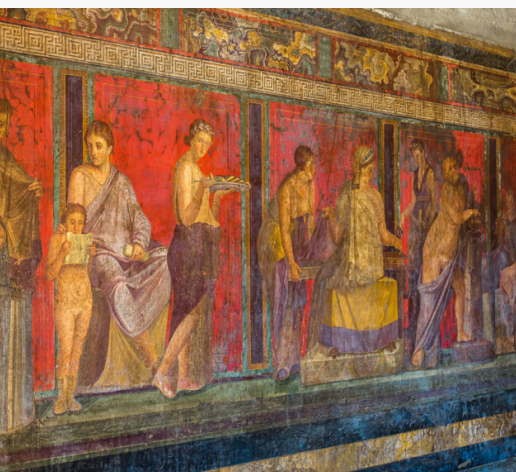
*- Dana Facaros and Michael Pauls in the Cadogan Guides' Bay of Naples and Southern Italy**

We'll begin our day early as we board our air-conditioned bus for a brief ride into the center of **Naples** for a tour of the city's famous **Archeological Museum**. You'll have a chance to see an exquisite collection of mosaics, frescoes and statues from the ancient world of the Roman empire. Many of the treasures of Pompeii have been brought here for safe-keeping. When we visit Pompeii later in the week, this morning's museum visit will give you a richer picture of this ancient city preserved under ashes for nearly two thousand years.

During our lunch break, you'll experience first-hand why Neapolitan pizza has become famous around the world! Then we'll visit the **Naples Underground** where you'll explore the wonders of ancient Naples that lie below layers of volcanic ash and rock. Discover catacombs and caves, ancient Roman roads and markets, early Christian chapels and even hide-outs from Naples' more notorious history.

In the late afternoon, we will travel to **Sorrento** and check into our hotel, formerly a noble palace in the center of town. You will have free time to explore and shop the grid of narrow Roman streets of Sorrento, including shopping for Limoncello!

Tonight we have two special guests for you! Signora d'Esposito, who owns the beautiful palace hotel where we will be staying, is a gourmet chef. She will make a beautiful assortment of savory and sweet delicacies (please do not let Pam eat more than one delizioso limone!) while Antoinette Mazzaglia, an Italian wine and food expert, will introduce you to the wines of the Campania region.



DAY THREE - Pompeii and Sorrento

You'll begin the day by boarding our air-conditioned bus to head to **Pompeii**. We'll have our own private guide in Pompeii who will take us into parts of the ancient excavations not open to the public. Upon return to Sorrento, you'll have some free time to take a nap, sit on the beach, or stroll this beautiful village.

This evening, we'll meet for a drink on a beautiful cliffside terrace with amazing views of Mt. Vesuvius, followed by a group dinner in an orangerie.



DAY FOUR - Tramonti Winery & Ravello

Today we'll make our way to the mountain town of **Ravello** with a stop for lunch and wine tasting along the way. We'll visit an award-winning winery nestled in the hills of the **Monti Lattari nature reserve**. We'll walk through vineyards where the vines are trained to grow along an arbor and the grapes hang down from overhead. Some of the vines are as thick as tree trunks and are more than 100 years old! The winery's specialty is to produce unadulterated organic wines using autochthonous varieties of grapes. Following a visit to the vineyards and the cantina, we'll have lunch at the winery and enjoy several of their top vintages with our meal.

After lunch, we'll continue to our hotel in Ravello. Although Ravello is high up in the hills, it still feels as if you could reach out and touch the ocean. This is one of the most peaceful places we've ever been, and the town has one of the most dramatic panoramic views in all of Italy. You'll have the afternoon to relax by the hotel pool, or hike around the town and explore.

This evening we'll meet for drinks overlooking the **Tyrrhenian Sea**, followed by a fresh seafood dinner on the terrace overlooking the coastline. Regardless of where you've ever traveled before, the spectacular views from Ravello will amaze and delight you.



DAY FIVE - Cooking in Ravello!

This morning, we'll visit the gardens of the **Villa Cimbrone**. Originally designed by an English nobleman as his private retreat from the world, the villa and the gardens have been a favorite of luminaries from the world of arts and entertainment including Ingrid Bergman, D.H. Lawrence and many others. It's hard to find, or even to imagine, a more beautiful place.

The afternoon will be free to spend at your leisure.

Early this evening, you will be off to a cooking class! An interactive, totally hands-on experience where you'll learn to make some local specialties. You'll enjoy the fruits of your labor over a leisurely evening dinner with some wonderful Amalfi Coast wines.



DAY SIX - Amalfi Coast Drive & Positano

"...long flight of steps leads up to what may be the loveliest cathedral in the south of Italy (9th -12th centuries). Not even in Sicily was the Arab-Norman style carried to such a flight of fancy as in this delicate facade, with four levels of interlaced arches in stripes of different-colored stone. ...the open, lace-like arches on the porch are unique in Italy, although common enough in Muslim Spain, one of the countries with which Amalfi had regular trade relations."

*- Dana Facaros and Michael Pauls in the Cadogan Guides' Bay of Naples and Southern Italy**

This morning we'll say our farewells to Ravello and make our way over to **Positano**. On the way there, we'll stop in the town that gave its name to the Amalfi Coast. We'll begin our visit with a fascinating tour of Amalfi's last surviving paper mill, now a museum, where you can see the various technologies that produced paper from the Middle Ages up to the 1960s! Then you'll have time to shop or you could visit the Cloister of Paradise in Amalfi's graceful cathedral.

We'll enjoy lunch together at a lovely restaurant overlooking Amalfi's main square. Later, when we depart Amalfi, we'll drive along the picturesque Amalfi Coast highway to Positano, the "vertical city." You'll see right away how it got its nickname!

Our hotel is centrally located, perfect for exploring Positano's quaint narrow streets with their colorful boutiques. You will have a room with a view of the blue waters of the Mediterranean, and a free evening to explore Positano.



DAY SEVEN - Isle of Capri

We'll start our day early today with a ferry ride to the **Isle of Capri**! When we arrive, our chartered boat will be waiting to take us on a tour of the island. We'll circumnavigate the entire island aboard a traditional Capri boat called a "gozzo". The gozzo has comfortable cushions and pillows and a canopy to provide shade. Our boat tour features light snacks, refreshments, towels, and an external shower to rinse off after swimming. (There is time for swimming during our boat tour: you don't have to swim, but you can if you'd like.)

We'll visit the most spectacular grottoes characteristic of the island, such as the Blue Grotto, Green Grotto, White Grotto, and boat around the famous **Faraglioni Rock** formations. Provided the seas are calm, we will be able to go into the Blue Grotto and to climb up into the White Grotto.

After the boat ride we'll enjoy a leisurely lunch with an amazing antipasto accompanied by wines produced from the grapes growing right outside our windows. There will be time for shopping and strolling after lunch in the village of **Anacapri**. Then, we'll try some lemon granita in **Capri**, ride the funicular down to Marina Grande and hop the ferry back to Positano.

Dinner will be on your own.



DAY EIGHT - Free Day to Enjoy Positano

You will be free today to enjoy the pleasures of Positano. Grab a beach towel from the front desk and take a walk to the water's edge of Positano's Spiaggia Grande (Big Beach!)- Or, soak up the atmosphere of Positano and explore the picturesque contours of this amazing town built on the side of a cliff. Or, shop the quaint boutiques specializing in linen, chenille and wool.

Lunch will be on your own.

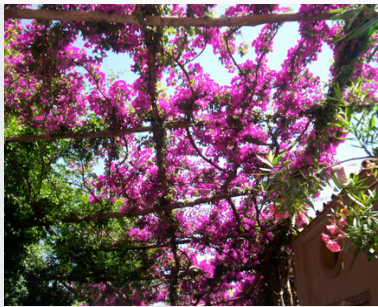
We'll have our farewell dinner this evening to reminisce over our week together and say good-bye to our new friends!



DAY NINE - Fly Home!

Departure will be at 9 AM via a group shuttle. We'll be taking everyone to either the Naples airport or the Naples train station depending on your travel plans. Until we meet again:

Arrivederci!



Tour Specifics:

- **Cost:** The land cost of the tour is **\$5,150** per person, based on double occupancy. Cash discount cost is **\$4,925** per person for payment by check or wire transfer. You may make your registration deposit using PayPal and/or your credit card and still be eligible for the cash discount cost if your final balance is paid by check or wire transfer. Single rooms are available for a supplementary charge of **\$850**. Airfare is not included.
- **Accommodations:** 8 nights lodging in carefully restored, historic properties; (1 night Naples, 2 nights in Sorrento, 2 nights in Ravello, and 3 nights Positano) All rooms have private baths and air conditioning.
- **Meals:** All breakfasts, plus one full-course meal daily (either lunch or dinner). All meals-after breakfast!-include regional wines. We carefully choose the restaurants based on ambiance and quality of cuisine.
- **Wine Tastings** of various Amalfi Coast area varieties (including small local producers and famous well-known producers).
- **Transfers:** All ground transportation during the tour including transfer from Naples airport or train station to the tour hotel on tour start date and a scheduled group shuttle from Positano to the Naples Airport or train station on tour end date (about 90 minutes).
- **Luggage:** Please be sure to have a luggage tag attached to the top handle of your luggage with your name printed clearly on each piece of luggage.
- **Guided Tours with local authorized expert guides:** Naples, Pompeii, Ravello, Amalfi and Capri
- **Admissions:** Entrance fees for all planned visits to monuments, galleries and museums are included.
- **Small, Intimate Group:** We limit the number of participants to a maximum of 16.

Tour Specifics:

- **Arrival and Departure:** On the tour start date, a transfer is included from the Naples airport or train station to our hotel in Naples. We will group all guests together within 90 minutes of arrival time as much as possible. On the final morning of the tour, there will be a group shuttle departing at 9:00 am going to the Naples airport or train station. We would suggest that departure flights be no earlier than 1:00 pm, or departure trains be no earlier than 12:00 noon. If you require other transfer services upon arrival or to other destinations after the tour ends, private transfers can be arranged for an additional fee.
- **Early Arrival/ Late Stay Options:** Depending on hotel availability you may be able to arrive early or extend your stay. We'll be happy to help you make these arrangements. For trip extensions of 2 nights or less, we provide planning assistance on a **complimentary** basis. For extensions of 3-5 nights, there is a nominal fee of \$150 to assist with trip planning including booking hotels, guides, drivers, etc.
- **Accessibility:** Guests should consider their personal fitness and medical history when determining whether this tour is appropriate. Full participation may require periods of walking over uneven pavement, cobblestone surfaces, up and down stairs or vertical pavement (particularly in Positano), extended periods of standing, and riding in boats. Guests with any physical limitations should take these elements into account.
- **Tour Exclusions:** Airfare, hotel city tax (usually €2-5 per person, per night; payable onsite) and gratuities for your local guides and driver. On the Amalfi Coast trip you will have a local guide on five days and it's customary to tip 5 euro per person per day. Your driver will appreciate a 3 to 5 euro tip per person per day. Tuscany Tours tips at all group meal restaurants.
- **Experienced Tour Leaders:** Our Tour Leaders will be Pam Mercer and Toni Mazzaglia. Pam has been leading small group tours in Italy since 1997. Toni, who was raised in North Carolina, came to Italy in 1997 to discover her Italian roots, and she knew immediately that she'd be back to live and eat her way across the country. For the past 10 years, Toni has been hosting food and wine tours in Florence and all over Italy.

Registration:

To reserve your place and register for this tour, please click the button to jump to the Registration Page.

 [Register Here](#)

There is a non-refundable deposit due of \$350 per person at time of registration to secure your spot on the tour.

Please feel free to contact us via email or call us at (800) 634-3460 with any questions you may have about the tour or about traveling to Italy.

Note: Tuscany Tours reserves the right to make changes to tour venues and guides as circumstances may require.