

CULINARY

# AMALFI COAST

Positano & the Isle of Capri



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“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

## Food & Wine of Southern Italy

Our friend Sergio, is passionate about food. (And anyone who's traveled with him as a guide on our Amalfi Coast tour will chuckle at that understatement.) So when we set out to plan a special itinerary that combines beautiful walks with an emphasis on cooking and culinary traditions, whom did we ask to join us as we sampled our way through the kitchens, gardens and vineyards of the fabled Amalfi Coast? Imagine it: There you are, settled into a lovely hotel in a fishing village on the steep and sunny coastline. You take walks that reveal Positano, Ravello, the Isle of Capri, and even Pompeii with an archaeologist friend of ours. And oh the seafood, the lemons that grow on trees lining the streets, the cheeses. We've arranged informal cooking sessions in the home of one of our favorite cooks as well as some hands-on tutoring with professional chefs. Like a great Italian meal, this week is a long, happy, satisfying event that you'll wish would never end.

## DAY 1

### POMPEII

- Explore Pompeii with an expert archaeologist guide
- Toast the week ahead over a festive welcome dinner

Meet in Naples at your hotel overlooking the bay and the fortress. Your afternoon is dedicated to perhaps the greatest treasure of Roman antiquity: Pompeii. You know the story of how it was buried by an eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD and of the centuries-long process of excavating the ruins – a process that's still yielding remarkable discoveries. That story comes to vivid life as you explore with your own expert archeologist. You'll see the details and nuances of the city as your guide takes you to a favorite villa and hidden parts of the site.

Late afternoon, you return to Naples. Your hotel is located right on the waterfront, is an ideal location for a leisurely walk on your own, before or after a festive welcome dinner.

**OVERNIGHT: NAPLES**  
**MEALS: D**

## DAY 2

### CAPRI

- Hydrofoil across the Bay of Naples to Capri
- Settle into the renowned Grand Hotel Quisisana
- Cooking Instruction

After breakfast, you board a hydrofoil for a brief skim across the bay to the Isle of Capri, where you'll have the incomparable luxury of calling it your home away from home for the next two nights. From the dock, convertible taxis whisk you up to the piazzetta, the little square that is the heart of Capri's pedestrian village and just a few steps from the Grand Hotel Quisisana. The Quisi is the island's most iconic hotel, where "grand" takes on a whole new meaning.

In the days ahead, you'll have plenty of time to explore and shop in the charming, boutique-lined streets. (Any designer label that comes to mind when you think of haute couture has a boutique on Capri). You walk to one of Capri's hidden gems, a family-run restaurant secluded amongst the trees where we have our first cooking experience of the week. After enjoying our lunch, we stretch our legs on a footpath that follows along the coast. Our walk includes jaw-dropping views of the faraglioni, three enormous rocks that emerge dramatically from the deep blue sea, the highest one of which was used as the base for a lighthouse hundreds of years ago. After returning to the hotel, you have time to relax or shop, and enjoy the quaint atmosphere of Capri at night.

**OVERNIGHT: CAPRI**  
**MEALS: B, L**

## DAY 3

### CAPRI

- Marvel at the views from the top of Monte Solaro
- Back at sea level, lunch at an elegant marina
- Stroll the quiet streets after the day-trippers leave

One of the most unexpected and unforgettable experiences on Capri is making the ascent to Monte Solaro. From Anacapri, the island's other main village, a chairlift

takes you up to the terrace on the mountaintop. On the chairlift you're close to nature and culture - your feet almost graze the small fruit trees in the gardens of the homes we glide over. Once at the top, remarkable views come into focus. You can see the arc of the bay and Naples at its edge with the inevitable profile of Vesuvius. There's also a view to the Amalfi Peninsula where you're headed in the coming days and the blue-as-blue-can-be Tyrrhenian Sea.

The way down is on a nature trail path that wanders through meadows and past a 14th century monastery. The walk and the amazing air are ideal appetite stimulants, which is a lucky thing as your next destination is the beach, for lunch, if you wish, at Marina Piccola. From Jackie O to Julia Roberts, it's been a magnet for the isle's celebrated visitors, and it's a perfect expression of Capri style.

Back in the village of Capri, sip a Negroni on the hotel's elegant front terrace, take advantage of the many different amenities of the hotel. And, by all means, do some shopping in the elegant shops that stay open late into the evening. The day-trippers are gone, and this peaceful face of Capri is a wonderful way to bring your day to a long, lingering end. Dinner tonight is at the exclusive restaurant of the Quisisana hotel.

**OVERNIGHT: CAPRI**  
**MEALS: B, D**

## DAY 4

### SORRENTO HILLS / POSITANO

- Cooking instruction in charming organic farm
- Toast your new Amalfi friends at a limoncello factory
- Explore and have dinner in Positano

After a sumptuous breakfast wave goodbye to the Quisisana and Capri to return to the mainland. Tracing the perimeter of the bay, arrive in Sorrento. From here, driving up the rolling hills, you head towards our hosts' organic farm, located in the countryside of a town called Sant'Agata sui due Golfi, for a delicious and truly southern Italian hands-on cooking class. Immerse yourself in the experience of learning how to prepare the iconic dishes that have made this area famous worldwide. Watch and discover (and try it yourself!) how to make the freshest-ever mozzarella and then prepare, course after course, and with the friendly help of a member of the family that welcomes us, our Mediterranean farm lunch. To cap the experience, join our hosts and visit the farm's very own small factory that creates some of the region's finest limoncello. You'll see how the giant local lemons are condensed down to the gold liqueur and then sip an icy, citrus-y toast to your journey so far.

From the farm, the sinuous Amalfi Drive traces the peninsula's edge. A remarkable work of engineering, it is carved out of the side of a mountain, with views down to the Tyrrhenian Sea and up to the cliffs above. At the farthest point, you can see back to Capri. In the afternoon, you arrive in the seaside village of Positano. When John Steinbeck lived here, he wrote that "Positano is a dream place that isn't quite real when you are there and becomes beckoningly real after you've gone." But don't worry. Your guide will see to it that you have plenty of opportunities to enjoy the reality of Positano during your visit. And that starts with the pinch-yourself views from your cliffside hotel. The town stretches from your window and the pastel-colored villas cling almost to the steep slopes down to the sea.



**DAILY ITINERARY**  
**AMALFI COAST | POSITANO & THE ISLE OF CAPRI | CULINARY**

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Shortly after arriving in Positano, we will have time feel the local flavor of the famed Amalfi Coast. Join your guide for an exploration of Positano, where you have time to soak in the unique atmosphere while walking down the colorful and meandering little streets at sunset, before reuniting with your travel companions again for dinner in town.

**OVERNIGHT: POSITANO**  
**MEALS: B, L, D**

## DAY 5

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### **RAVELLO / AMALFI**

- Wander in the sky-high gardens of Ravello
- Cooking instruction in Ravello
- Explore the beauty of Amalfi

Your morning opens with a scenic drive (there is no other kind of drive in Amalfi) to Ravello. Perched high on a ridge, the town has a lovely historic center with colorful ceramic shops and bustling sidewalk cafes. All sidewalks end at the literal edge of gardens where you can see miles and miles of coastline from a single spot. Upon arrival in Ravello, we are welcomed into a local kitchen for another unforgettable cooking experience.

In the early afternoon, we drive down to Amalfi, Italy's oldest maritime republic. Here we walk through its streets and squares, passing by the cathedral with its golden façade. The area owes its renown to the many foreign writers and artists who depicted the wild beauty of the town and the surrounding valley, made even more charming by the presence of medieval buildings and visible traces of a glorious past of seafaring and trade, which made the

Amalphytani some of the most successful merchants around the Mediterranean.

**OVERNIGHT: POSITANO**  
**MEALS: B, L, D**

## DAY 6

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### **POSITANO / SORRENTO**

- Explore and discover Sorrento
- Make your own pizza in a real wood-burning oven
- Gaze at unrivalled views of the bay of Naples

This morning we say "arrivederci" to the Amalfi Coast, and travel to Sorrento where we discover the town that has enchanted generations of travelers, starting from the wealthy Roman senators to the artists of the Grand Tour. While strolling through the bustling little streets, why not indulge and try one of Italy's favorite gelato? After having admired some of the charming beauty of the area, we are welcomed by our friends in their family-run pizzeria, which has been serving the locals since 1953.

After having quenched our appetite and curiosity with a delicious tasting of seasonal antipasti, you'll toss pizza dough, dollop on your favorite toppings, and tend to the perfect baking of your own masterpiece, in an original wood fired oven.

After lunch (and possibly an invigorating espresso or a smooth cappuccino), we bid farewell to our hosts, and return to Naples to part company.

**MEALS: B, L**

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## Tour Hotels



### Grand Hotel Vesuvio

Built in 1882, the Grand Hotel Vesuvio is centrally located on the waterfront, overlooking Santa Lucia Harbor and the Bay of Naples. The atmosphere of an old-world hotel gracefully combines with all the modern comforts and personalized services.

**OVERNIGHT: NAPLES | NIGHTS: 1**



### Grand Hotel Quisisana

The 'Quisi' is THE hotel in Capri. Grand and gracious, it's been named one of the World's Top 100 Hotels by both Condé Nast Traveler and Travel + Leisure. Its staid façade on the town square gives way to a hugely glamorous pool overlooking the sea.

**OVERNIGHT: CAPRI | NIGHTS: 2**



### Villa Franca

From one of the best settings on the hillsides of Positano, you'll enjoy million-dollar views of the sea and the pastel town. Gleaming rooms capture the lovely Amalfi light. The property also boasts a sea-view pool, as well as a fitness center and spa.

**OVERNIGHT: POSITANO | NIGHTS: 2**

## Tour Dates & Prices

Tour Dates	Price per Person	Price per Person
	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy
April 18-23, 2021	\$5,095	\$6,590
September 19-24, 2021	\$5,395	\$6,890
April 17-22, 2022	\$5,195	\$6,690
September 18-23, 2022	\$5,495	\$6,990

Want a different date? Or your own date? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about private journeys.

## Trip Essentials

**TRIP LENGTH:** 6 Days, 5 Nights

**START:** 1:30 PM lobby of Grand Hotel Vesuvio, Naples, Italy

**END:** 6:30 PM Train Station, Naples, Italy

**TERRAIN:** Easy to moderate on good trails and coastal paths. On average, a couple of hours of walking per day.

## What's Included

- Memorable accommodations for 5 nights
- All breakfasts, 4 lunches (cooking instructions), 4 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to tastings, historic sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

## Above & Beyond Benefits

- **Wine on Us**
- **Invisible Check-In**
- **Perfect Pairings Dinners**
- **Privileged Access Events**

**READY TO BOOK?**  
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

## Or give us a call

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## AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to a [whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

## ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

\*\*Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

# THE Classic Journeys Difference

## HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.



At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

President & Founder



## You can expect the highest standards:



### Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



### Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



### Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



### Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



### Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



### Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

## You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in the Amalfi Coast and Capri...

- Participating in a hands-on cooking instruction in a cliffside kitchen and with one of Positano's top chefs
- Touring Pompeii with an archeologist guide, who happens to be your new friend
- Walking the glorious coastal trails in and around Positano, Ravello and the isle of Capri
- Luxuriating in knockout hotels like the Quisisana, one of The Leading Hotels of the World
- Gaining exposure to the local food and wine through local guides who love food as much as life itself

*"What I enjoyed most were the personal aspects that Sergio arranged for us, mainly cooking lessons in private homes. As a tourist I would never be able to be inside a local's home and see their lifestyle, so this was very unique and valuable to me."*

—Yvonne B., Seal Beach, CA

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# Capri and the Amalfi Coast:

A LOVE STORY

BY: KELLI KUEHNER

Before I joined Classic Journeys, I spent seven wonderful years guiding tours in Europe, and I always started my tours with the same speech: "At the heart of every travel story," I would tell my guests, "is a love story." The story you tell your friends and family about your trip will be that love story." As both a veteran guide and a frequent traveler to Italy, I can safely say that nowhere is this more true than on Italy's stunning Amalfi coast. Love is certainly woven

into the region; it's said that it was named after a nymph who was romanced by the legendary hero Hercules. For the sake of love, it seemed like the perfect place to take my husband. We had gotten married the previous spring. I've been all over Italy. And the Amalfi region holds a special place in my heart. This would be Jason's first time in Europe, and we were both excited to have our first Classic Journeys adventure together.









During the drive up to the rim of Mount Vesuvius, the most infamous volcano in human history, my husband Jason had a huge grin on his face. "It's not going to erupt, is it?" Our guide Sergio, who's no doubt heard this question hundreds of times over his guiding career, paused. "Probably not." Another pause, and then a laugh from Sergio. Still, there's a gravitas to Mount Vesuvius, destroyer of Pompeii, and its power is almost tangible beneath your feet. Jason devours history books; he'd told me that this was the part of the trip he was the most excited about, and reiterated that as we were getting ready for the walk to the summit that morning. The guide in me wanted to advise him that our jaunt to Vesuvius was just day one of our Classic Journeys Amalfi coast trip, and that he should pace himself, because as awesome as Vesuvius is, all sorts of wonderful things lay ahead. This was his first trip to Italy, so I decided to not give him any advice, and to let everything be a surprise.

The trip to the island of Capri almost made me regret that decision. There's nothing quite like zipping across the placid Mediterranean in a high-speed ferry; The Alsicafo provides a very smooth and very fast ride across the Gulf of Naples, and my husband would have been very happy riding around in it all day. Once we got to the island, he didn't need any convincing to stay. Capri has been called the world's most beautiful island, and this isn't Italian pride talking: with its warm blue waters, stunning peaks, and vibrant villages, it's unlike any other island we'd ever been to. Staying at the Grand Hotel Quisisana certainly added to the experience; the five-star accommodations and incredible staff made us feel like royalty. "Tiberius had

the right idea," Jason observed on our second day there, referring to the ancient Roman emperor who made Capri his seat of power. "Rule the Roman Empire from paradise, eat great food, swim in that warm water; it'd make the job much less stressful."

After two days in paradise, it was back to the mainland — hardly a letdown. Le Agavi Hotel in Positano looks like it came with the cliffs; that somehow, millennia ago when the rock formations were rising from the sea, a resort eventually just grew out of the sheer granite face to overlook the ocean. When you stay at Le Agavi, the only way to get a bad view is to close your eyes. We'd be here for the next three days, the resort serving as a stunning home base for our adventures in the Amalfi region.

As I learned as a guide years ago, reinforced by my current role with the Classic Journeys team, it's the people you're with that make the trips worth taking. Of course, as with everything in life, pizza helps. We were invited to join pizza maker Luca and his family for a lesson in how to create the wood-fired pies that have become a global favorite. Sipping wine that the family had aged in their own barrels, flour up to our elbows, sneaking bites of delicious fresh buffalo mozzarella, and laughing with our hosts over our amateurish struggles with the dough, I exchanged a happy glance with Jason, and I knew that it was here that my old introduction to my travel groups once again proved to be true.







**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:**

Kelli Kuehner is a Senior Tour Operations Coordinator for Classic Journeys, overseeing operations and logistics for France, Iceland, Ireland, and Cuba. Prior to joining Classic Journeys, Kelli spent seven years in Europe and the U.S. as a cultural travel guide. In addition to her passion for travel as a vital transformative experience, Kelli's favorite pastimes include hiking, running, cycling, writing, snowboarding and — solidified by a year spent working for a cooking school in Paris — cooking. She lives in north San Diego county with her husband Jason and two step-children.