

DISCOVER THE AMALFI/POSITANO COAST



Arts and Humanities Enrichment for Adults

March 31 - April 9, 2012

a program sponsored by SPOLETO STUDY ABROAD

A dramatically beautiful coastline, fascinating archaeological sites and a rich cultural history make this region one of the most exciting destinations for any traveler. Our tour will take you up and down the stunning coast, from Naples to Paestum. Our guide, Lorenzo Muti, a native of Spoleto, Italy, and former faculty member at Duke University, is a great connoisseur of Italian art and history; as well, Lorenzo is a professional conductor. Your stay will be enhanced by his intriguing insights into Italian culture and society.



ITINERARY (subject to change)

Saturday, March 31: Depart for Roma from the United States

Sunday, April 1: Arrive Roma, meet group and travel to Massa Lubrense

Meet our group at Rome's Fiumicino Airport and travel via motor coach to Massa Lubrense. Upon arrival in the early afternoon, we will eat lunch, then have time to unpack, rest, or take a leisurely stroll prior to gathering for an overview of the neighboring town of Sorrento and our upcoming tour.

Monday, April 2: Ravello and Amalfi

Ravello is a charming, peaceful town perched on top of a steep slope, covered with vineyards and olive trees, which then dives dramatically into the blue water of the Mediterranean Sea. The incredible beauties of Ravello, such as the hillside gardens of *Villa Rufolo* and the breathtaking views from *Villa Cimbrone*, provided inspiration for some of the sensual music written by the great German composer Richard Wagner. Amalfi, one of the strongest maritime powers of Medieval times, a rival of Venice and Genoa as its architectural treasures still testify.

Tuesday, April 3: Herculaneum and Pompeii

We will explore Herculaneum and Pompeii, two cities destroyed by the wrath of Mount Vesuvius in 79 A.D. Herculaneum, still partially buried under a sea of lava, will provide, with its surviving buildings, a real sense of everyday life in an old Roman town. Volcanic ashes buried Pompeii, thus preserving for later generations a fascinating glimpse into the life of Roman society. Pompeii will dazzle you with the gorgeous frescoes of its villas, the complexity of its urban plan and the harmony of its architecture.

Wednesday, April 4: Napoli

As a natural continuation to the visit to Pompeii, we will tour the archeological museum in Napoli. While Pompeii will give us a wonderful idea of how a Roman city was structured, the museum will allow us to appreciate the artistic wealth of a Roman city. The museum houses the most precious mosaics and frescoes found during excavations in Pompeii. It also comprises the famous Farnese collection of ancient sculptures, an invaluable assembly of Roman copies of long lost Greek artifacts.

Thursday, April 5: Capri and Positano

We will take a ferry to the Isle of Capri. A beloved location for vacationers and nature lovers, this island was described by Alberto Savinio as an "Insula Beatorum, a floating Garden of Eden," due to its colorful environment and fragrant flora. From Capri we ferry to the Amalfi coast town of Positano and take part in the glitz and splendor of the socialite capital of this area.

Friday, April 6: Napoli

In many ways, Napoli is considered to be the most "Italian" of all Italian cities. Founded by the Greeks, embellished and enlarged by the Romans and subsequently the prized booty of foreign invaders, its ancient world flavor has never been completely extinguished. We will visit the *Museo di Capodimonte* located in the former residential palace of the Bourbon Monarchs, as well as Spaccanapoli, the heart of the city, and a true depository of artistic treasures, Neapolitan folklore and history.

Saturday, April 7: Paestum and Vietri sul Mare

We will start the day in Paestum, one of the best preserved towns of the *Magna Graecia*. The Greeks formed colonies in this region of Italy between the 8th and 6th centuries B.C. The temples and architecture in Paestum rival anything one might see on the Greek mainland; then on to the charming town of Vietri sul Mare. This town has been renowned since the Middle Ages for its ceramics and pottery, which form an integral part of the decorations of its buildings and churches. A real paradise for gift seekers and lovers of gorgeous artifacts!

Sunday, April 8: Easter Sunday in Sorrento

Sorrento, a very romantic and picturesque town, is perched on a cliff overlooking a coastline laced with coves. Sorrento's reputation as a holiday resort, which attracted many 19th Century Romantic artists, is well-earned by its pleasant climate, magnificent vegetation and beautiful surroundings. It is no wonder that a famous Neapolitan song recites *Toma a Surriento (Come Back to Sorrento)*. We will have a special Easter Sunday meal on our last day in this beautiful area of the world.

Monday, April 9: Depart Masa Lubrense very early for Roma; depart Roma for the US from Fiumicino Airport



HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

The Bellavista Francischiello Hotel and Spa, located in Massa Lubrense south of Sorrento, offers breathtaking views of Capri Island and the coast of Napoli. This area has fascinated tourists from all over the world. Together with the hotel, for over 100 years, the Francischiello family has turned the art of the “hotellerie” into a refined profession and has kept over all this time a particular attention to the authentic flavor of the coast. The restaurant serves the freshest Mediterranean seafood, prepared daily to perfection. By remaining true to their roots, they never fail to surpass expectations. In addition to a full service spa, the hotel features a bar, an indoor pool, an outdoor seasonal pool, a fitness facility and sauna. Hair dryers are provided and wi-fi is complimentary. A single hotel room is available for an additional \$400 supplement.



Local fish and fresh pasta-based dishes, accompanied by a renowned wine list and exemplary service, all combine to make a unique dining experience.



The magnificent panoramas of the Isle of Capri and the Bay of Napoli are the reasons why a stay at this hotel is rendered unique and unforgettable. Each of the 30 rooms boasts ample-sized terraces from which marvelous views can be enjoyed.

This is an environment of contagious good health. You will feel it the moment you arrive here as your energy expands and spirit soars.



FEES

The fee for THE AMALFI/POSITANO COAST TOUR is \$2800. This includes lunch on arrival day, continental breakfast and evening meal for each day of the stay and all group activity fees. It **does not include** airfare, daily lunches, health and/or travel insurance. The Tour Reservation Form, available by email or from our website, accompanied by a \$375 NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT is due by JANUARY 5, 2012. The BALANCE is due by FEBRUARY 24, 2012. Registrations will be accepted beyond this date on space availability. The price is calculated on 2011 exchange rates and is subject to change based on future international land costs and the strength of the US dollar.

AIRFARE

Please make your air travel plans to arrive at Rome’s Fiumicino Airport between 7:30-9:45 am on Sunday, April 1, 2012. Our group will meet at a pre-determined place at the airport and travel by motor coach to Massa Lubrense, near Sorrento. If you cannot meet us at Rome’s Fiumicino during the above time frame or have other travel plans, please contact our office at ssatours@aol.com. Travel insurance is at the traveler’s discretion; however, it is strongly advised. Our office does not handle travel insurance inquiries though we can recommend travel agents.

CANCELLATION and DISCRIMINATION POLICIES

A full statement of responsibility is available upon request.

JILL and LORENZO MUTI, CO-DIRECTORS

INFORMATION ON THIS TOUR AND OTHER SPOLETO STUDY ABROAD TOURS IS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE OR BY EMAIL
www.spoletostudyabroad.com

Contact Cynthia Landvater, Director of Adult Enrichment, for more information or questions
email: ssatours@aol.com phone: 919.787.0003

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