

Hotel Accommodations

Restaurant
Riccardo di Francischiello
&
Hotel and Spa
Bellavista

This hotel's breathtaking view of the Capri Island and coast of Napoli has fascinated tourists all over the world. Together with the hotel, for over 100 years, the Franceschiello 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. By remaining true to their roots, they never fail to surpass expectations.



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 your spirit soars.



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 attached tour reservation form accompanied by a \$500 deposit is due by **December 19, 2008.**

The balance is due on **March 1, 2009.**

Make checks payable to:

**Ashley Hall
Alumnae Tour 2008
172 Rutledge Avenue
Charleston, SC 29403**



For more information and questions regarding the tour,

contact:

**Stephanie Whitener
at Ashley Hall
whiteners@ashleyhall.org
or
843-965-8462**

Celebrate
ONE HUNDRED YEARS
1909 • ASHLEY HALL • 2009

**Ashley Hall
Centennial Tour 2009**

**Discover the
Amalfi /Positano Coast**

*Arts and Humanities
Enrichment for Adults*

**This program is 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 Positano. Our guide, Lorenzo Muti, a native of Spoleto, Italy and former faculty member at Duke University, will share his insights and knowledge of the art, history, and culture of this distinctive region of Italy.

Discover the Amalfi /Positano Coast

April 3 - April 11, 2009

ITINERARY

Friday, April 3
Depart for Roma

Saturday, April 4
Arrive in Roma

Travel via bus to Massa Lubrense. Upon arrival in the early afternoon, there will be time to unpack, rest, freshen up or take a leisurely stroll prior to gathering for an overview of the neighboring town of Sorrento and our upcoming tour.

Sunday, April 5
Pompeii and Herculaneum

We will explore Pompeii and Herculaneum, two cities destroyed by the wrath of Mount Vesuvius in 79 A.D. 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. 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.

Monday, April 6
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. 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. *Spaccanapoli*, the heart of the city and a true depository of artistic treasures, Neapolitan folklore and history will be the focus of our afternoon.



Tuesday, April 7
Amalfi and Positano

Our drive along the Amalfi/Positano coast will be one of the unforgettable experiences of this trip. Built on a precipice, the road offers some of the most spectacular vistas in the world while winding from one little village to another. We will visit Amalfi, one of the strongest maritime powers of medieval times, a rival of Venice and Genoa as its architectural treasures still testify. We will then descend to Furore, a poor fishermen's village located in one of the most beautiful bays on the Amalfi coast, and we will take part in the glitz and splendor of Positano, the socialite capital of the coast.

Wednesday, April 8
Sorrento and Capri

We begin our day in Sorrento, a very romantic and picturesque town 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. From here, 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.

Thursday, April 9
Napoli

This second visit to Napoli will take us to the *Museo di Capodimonte* located in the former residential palace of the Bourbon Monarchs, one of the most important art collections in Italy and to the Certosa of San Martino. Nested on top of the hill overlooking the Bay of Napoli the Certosa was built in the 14th century as an ideal place for contemplation and spiritual retreat. Refurbished during the Renaissance and the Baroque period it offers a spectacular window into the achievement of Neapolitan art. Its church and its cloisters reverberate with the color of marbles; and the paintings housed in the building are a veritable collection of works by the greatest masters.

Friday, April 10
Ravello and Vietri

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 waters 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 most sensual music written by the great German composer Richard Wagner. From here we will move 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!

Saturday, April 11
Depart for the United States

Tour Fees

All participants must be 18 years of age or older. The tour fee for "DISCOVER THE AMALFI/POSITANO COAST" is \$2500. This includes the hotel accommodations, bus transportation, continental breakfasts, all dinners, and all activities scheduled as part of the tour (museum entrance fees, etc.). **It does not include lunch, health and travel insurance, or airfare.** We have a special group tour round trip airfare priced from Charleston to Rome. **The total airfare is \$1,290.00 per person and a \$25.00 Direct Ticketing Charge. The Direct Ticketing Charge is subject to change.**

Transportation

Donna Hill of Abbott & Hill Travel handles our travel reservations. You are responsible for contacting her at (800-535-0956) or by email: donna@abbottandhilltravel.com to arrange your own airfare at our special group rate. Please call her and identify yourself as an Ashley Hall Alumnae Tour participant. **It is mandatory that all participants travel on the same international flight (originating in Atlanta) to Rome on April 3, 2009, and on the return flight on April 11, 2009, or be subject to a \$125 fee. Travel insurance is at the traveler's discretion; however, it is strongly advised.**