
Italy Tour - Sample



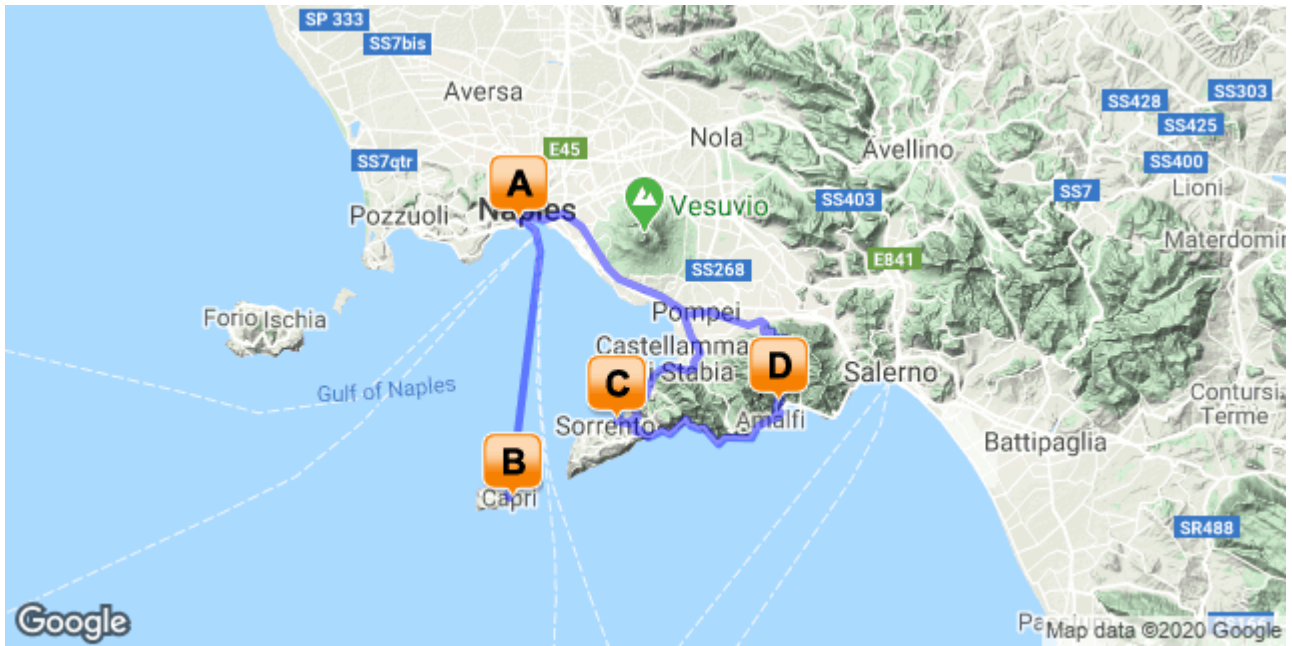


Italy Tour - Sample

Naples - Capri - Sant'Agnello - Ravello

14 Days / 13 Nights

Date of Issue: May 26, 2020



Introduction

Accommodation	Destination	Duration
Romeo Hotel	Naples	1 Night
Capri Tiberio Palace	Capri	3 Nights
Grand Hotel Cocumella	Sant'Agnello	3 Nights
Belmond Hotel Caruso	Ravello	3 Nights
Romeo Hotel	Naples	3 Nights

Day 1: Romeo Hotel, Naples

Naples

Presided over by mighty Mount Vesuvius, with the remarkable archaeological site of Pompeii on its doorstep, the historical Mediterranean city of Naples has a long and fascinating history. Naples predates the Italian state and the Roman Republic by centuries, resulting in a virtually unrivalled bounty of Greek and Roman artefacts. Naples is unlike any other Italian city - it is huge, edgy and disorderly and yet this contemporary mayhem carries on against a backdrop of some of Italy's grandest and most impressive historical squares, world-class museums, and breathtaking Baroque masterpieces. As the birthplace of pizza and home to arguably the most sumptuous culinary scene in a country famous for its excellent food, Naples boasts numerous gastronomic establishments to thrill food lovers with all manner of tasty delights.

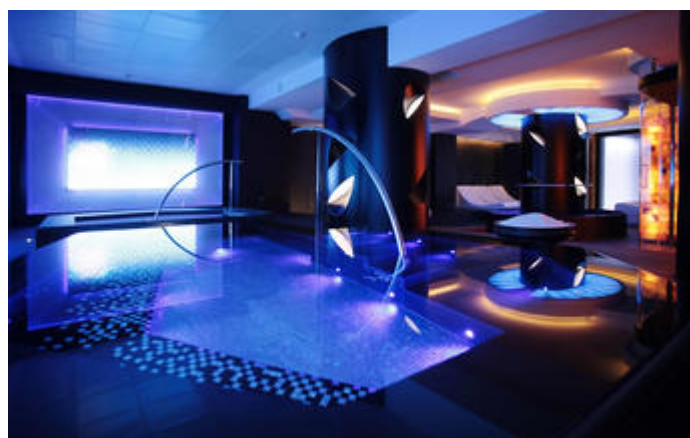
Day Itinerary

07:45 PM - Naples airport Private transfer by minivan from Naples airport to your hotel. Flight BA 2604 arr. at 07:45 pm Service ends: Naples, Hotel Romeo.

At the airport: The driver will be waiting for you outside the customs area and outside the baggage claim area, holding a signboard /iPad with your name on it. IT IS IMPORTANT YOU ARE AWARE THAT THE DRIVERS/ASSISTANTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER THE CUSTOMS AREA. I.D.I. cannot take responsibility for any delay or inconvenience due to clients waiting where the luggage is claimed. If the clients miss the scheduled transfer for any reason, they will not be entitled to any refund. If you do not meet your driver, please call our office at +39 041 5936299. We will be at disposal to help you immediately.

Overnight: Romeo Hotel

Facing the enchanting Bay of Naples, Mt. Vesuvius and the island of Capri, Romeo Hotel is located in the heart of the city of Naples. It offers easy access to attractions such as the San Carlo Theater, Piazza del Plebiscito, the city's vibrant historic centre and the world-famous Spaccanapoli. Accommodation consists of guest rooms and suites, each equipped with air conditioning, heating, a minibar, a TV, hairdryer, an en-suite bathroom, a Nespresso coffee machine and a safe. Guests can enjoy dining at any of the on-site restaurants. Other amenities offered are internet access, a lobby area, a bar, a gym and a spa.



Day 2: Capri Tiberio Palace, Capri

Capri

The small but spectacular island of Capri is located off the western coast of Italy in the Bay of Naples. A celebrated tourist destination, Capri is a beautiful place to visit, with elegant buildings, dramatic cliffs and some unbelievable natural attractions. The Blue Grotto (Grotta Azzurra) is a cave at the entrance to the sea that admits visitors on a rowboat to admire the waters, which are lit from beneath by the sunlight and shimmer in incredible hues of blue. For fans of architecture, the ruins of the 2,000-year-old palace of Villa Jovis are fascinating to explore, while Villa Lysis is an Art Nouveau masterpiece and Villa San Michele boasts tranquil and expansive gardens. Capri's selection of popular upmarket restaurants provides mouth-watering local fare - make sure to try the seafood pasta dishes.

Day Itinerary

10:00 AM - Naples, Hotel Romeo 4-hour private guide service for a tour of Naples highlights, including the renowned Capodimonte Museum, the prime repository of Neapolitan painting and decorative art. Entrance fees are included.

***You might take a cab to reach the further places and Capodimonte museum (rides to the museum takes 20 minutes) cab to be paid on spot.

03:30 PM Naples port is located 300mt from Romeo Hotel. We suggest to take a cab (arrange this service through your concierge) We suggest to take the hydrofoil departing at 04:00 pm (and please, let us know which hydrofoil you'll take, so we can advise Capri hotel to have their staff meeting for you at the pier).

Expert Tips

There was a settlement here as early as the 9th century BC, but it was first given the name Neapolis by the Greeks in 750BC. Since then, it has seen annexations by Normans, Angevins, Spanish and French each adding to its cultural heritage; it was the final stop on the Grand Tour of the eighteenth century. Our tour begins in the Spaccanapoli, one of the main streets of the old centre, followed by a visit to the church of Gesu Nuovo, the most important Jesuit church in Naples, with a lava-stone façade. Opposite is the church of Santa Chiara, a simple Gothic building, in marked contrast to the much more flamboyant Gesu. A short walk from here is the Capella Sansevero, the tomb chapel of the di Sangro family. The centrepiece is a carving of a dead Christ, lying flat and covered in the most incredible translucent veil, carved out of a single piece of marble. After a stop for lunch (not included), stroll down the Via Gregorio Armeno, a street famous for its shops selling Christmas Nativity cribs and renowned throughout the world. Finally, make your way to San Lorenzo Maggiore, a Gothic church but beneath which lie the excavations of the original Greek city of Neapolis which later became the Roman Forum. You will walk down a Roman pavement and pass a bakery and a laundry before arriving at what was likely to have been the town's treasury, bearing a remarkable resemblance to a modern bank, with its double security doors.

Directions - Romeo Hotel to Capri Tiberio Palace

Distance: 35.59km **Travel Time:** 1:46 hours

Overnight: Capri Tiberio Palace

Capri Tiberio Palace is a 5 star hotel located in the heart of Capri's Mivida just a short stroll away from the famous Piazzetta and is still a private getaway with its intimate and privileged position. This precious gem is filled by worldwide travelers and bon vivants who savour splashes of multi-ethnic and contemporary design, yet are fully attuned to the myth of the island, appreciating its essence and values topped by warmth and excellence.

The suites and rooms offer expansive views over the Mediterranean Sea and white roofs that illustrate the heart of Capri. State-of-the-art and vintage items from around the world offer a personalized touch, allowing every single space to tell its own story. All rooms are equipped with satellite TV with LCD screen, individually controlled air-conditioning, electronic safe box, complimentary WI-FI internet access and complimentary minibar.

The in & out heated pool features funky art installations by Giampiero Panepinto and vast views over Capri and the Mediterranean Sea. Terrazza Tiberio, the property's on-site restaurant has magnificent views over Capri and the sea and shines with an updated-chic atmosphere. The menu is based on a strong Caprese and Mediterranean identity, aiming for quality and seasonal use of ingredients with local recipes. Alongside with signature proposals such as caprese ravioli and spaghetti with clams and parsley, dishes such as lemon scented seabass escalope can be savored.

Besides the traditional cuisine, Kosher-Glatt (meat only) dishes certified by the Orthodox Union are served in a reserved area, proposing an innovative menu which blends Kosher rules and typical Italian recipes for lunch, dinner and Shabbat. Halal meat - rarely found in such international dining context, is also available on request. The extensive wine list offers a selection that highlights best labels from each region of Italy as well as a variety of Kosher wines from Italy and Israel.



Day 3: Capri Tiberio Palace, Capri

Day Itinerary

10:00 AM - Capri, Hotel Capri Tiberio Palace Private walking guided tour of Capri highlights You will meet your English speaking guide in the lobby of the hotel. Entrance fees and transportation not included. Service ends: 01:00 PM - Capri

Expert Tips

You will be met at your hotel by your private guide, who will take you on a walking tour of this unique island, which has been welcoming tourists since the reign of Augustus. Its setting at the entrance to the Gulf of Naples, its grottoes and its beautiful natural vegetation will not disappoint. Your tour will start at the Piazzetta, Piazza Umberto I, the very heart of Capri which is ringed with elegant cafes where you might well spot a few famous faces. Having got a bit of a

bad name, when the Emperor Tiberius retired here and made it the centre of his debauchery, Capri started its resurgence in the early nineteenth century, with the discovery of the Blue Grotto and has not looked back since. Anybody who was anybody in the early twentieth century flocked here, including DH Lawrence, George Bernard Shaw and Graham Greene, even Lenin came here for a brief sojourn after the failure of the 1905 revolution. Another distinct feature of the island are the three rocks, known as the Faraglioni, which are featured in all photographs of Capri. You will be returned to your hotel at the end of the tour.

Activities

Capri

Capri

The small but spectacular island of Capri is located off the western coast of Italy in the Bay of Naples. A celebrated tourist destination, Capri is a beautiful place to visit, with elegant buildings, dramatic cliffs and some unbelievable natural attractions. The Blue Grotto (Grotta Azzurra) is a cave at the entrance to the sea that admits visitors on a rowboat to admire the waters, which are lit from beneath by the sunlight and shimmer in incredible hues of blue. For fans of architecture, the ruins of the 2,000-year-old palace of Villa Jovis are fascinating to explore, while Villa Lysis is an Art Nouveau masterpiece and Villa San Michele boasts tranquil and expansive gardens. Capri's selection of popular upmarket restaurants provides mouth-watering local fare - make sure to try the seafood pasta dishes.

Day 4: Capri Tiberio Palace, Capri

Day Itinerary

Day at leisure on your own.

Day 5: Grand Hotel Cocumella , Sant'Agnello

Sant'Agnello

Located in the Italian region Campania, the town of Sant'Agnello forms part of the Metropolitan City of Naples. Idyllically set on the world-renowned Sorrento Coast, the town is surrounded by incredible unique beauty. It is perched on steep cliffs overlooking the Gulfs of Naples and Salerno and boasts a rich history dating back to the Quaternary Age. Visitors can explore the beautiful volcanic landscape formed by Mount Vesuvius, with its characteristic burnt ochre colour of the rocky coast. Other highlights in the area include hiking the network of trails that traverse Sentiero degli Dei, boating along the scenic coast, and renting a Vespa scooter to enjoy a coastal road trip.

Day Itinerary

10:00 AM - Capri, Hotel Capri Tiberio Palace Private boat-38 ft transfer from Capri port to Sorrento port, sailing along Amalfi Coast and Around Capri Island - 8 hours Towels, soft drinks, fresh fruit and snacks are provided on board. You will be given best suggestions for a super lunch on spot.. there's a stunning restaurant located right on the sea, accessible with your private boat. If you want also to take a bath in the gorgeous blue water the captain will recommend the best place and nice beaches. Lunch and fees not included, to be paid on spot.

*Transfer from your hotel to Capri port and in Sorrento are included Service ends: Sorrento, Hotel Cocumella Amalfi Coast and Capri by private boat

Expert Tips

So spectacular is this coast that it is almost worth seeing twice, once from the winding road above and once from the blue, blue sea, by boat. The whole coastline is a UNESCO world heritage site, for its undisputed beauty and the uniqueness of its natural landscape. Capri is perhaps the jewel in the crown and no visit would be complete without taking in this stunning island, once the favorite home of the emperor Tiberius.

Activities

Amalfi Coast
Capri

Amalfi Coast

The Amalfi Coast is a remarkably beautiful 48 kilometre-long stretch of mountainous coastline in the Italian southwestern region of Campania. It is known for its historic ruins, its breathtaking natural views and, of course, its iconic pastel coloured, medieval fishing villages which cling to the side of steep cliff faces, towering above the glistening Mediterranean Sea. The vertical landscape of Amalfi features a continuous succession bays, fjords and public gardens, interspersed with lovely little pebbled beaches. For decades this UNESCO World Heritage Site has been one of Italy's major tourist attractions, offering visitors excellent restaurants, hotels, bars, boutiques, and boat trips. The area is also famous for its sweet and zesty limoncello liqueur (owing to its abundance of lemons) and its colourful, exquisitely-decorated handmade ceramics.

Capri

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Directions - Capri Tiberio Palace to Grand Hotel Cocumella

Distance: 81.88km **Travel Time:** 2:37 hours

Overnight: Grand Hotel Cocumella

Welcome to Grand Hotel Cocumella luxury hotel in Sorrento and Amalfi Coast. A garden overlooking the sea in Sorrento. An ancient residence that throughout the centuries has been the destination of many travellers from all over the world. A place in the myth, where every spot has a story to tell or a secret to reveal to the lucky few. The Grand Hotel Cocumella of Sorrento, is an island of peace and beauty in the heart of the Sorrento Peninsula on the Amalfi Coast. The first five star luxury hotel on the Coast of the Mermaids, a shelter beloved by artists, scientists, statesmen and nobles, welcomes you in an embrace of history and timeless legends, splendour and Mediterranean scents. From here, effortlessly, you will discover the Amalfi Coast, the ruins of Pompeii and Herculaneum, the Islands of Capri and Ischia, and all the facets of Naples.



Excluded

The highlight of the trip will be a visit to the famous Blue Grotto, subject to sea and weather conditions (to be paid on spot).

Day 6: Grand Hotel Cocumella , Sant'Agnello

Day Itinerary

Day at leisure on your own.

Day 7: Grand Hotel Cocumella , Sant'Agnello

Day Itinerary

08:30 AM - Sorrento, Hotel Cocumella

LET'S DO TODAY AN AMAZING ENOGASTRONOMIC TOUR: met at the hotel, you will be driven not far from Sorrento where your experience will start with: - olive & lemon making demonstration. - provolone & mozzarella making. - pizza making with lunch. - limoncello time afterwards.

Back to hotel by around 03pm. Get ready to have lot of fun! Experience to be shared with other people.

Day 8: Belmond Hotel Caruso, Ravello**Ravello**

Perched high in the mountains overlooking the glistening Mediterranean Sea, the peaceful little town of Ravello is famous for its exquisite gardens and its wonderful classical music concerts. The town is also known for its medieval religious buildings, ancient palaces and noble mansions which rest alongside extraordinary contemporary structures, such as the Auditorium designed by the renowned Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer. The village slopes gently down the hillside from a central pedestrianised piazza dominated by a remarkable 11th-century cathedral and its 13th-century bell tower. With its unforgettable views, its cobbled and stepped streets lined with elegant villas, and an almost total ban on cars, the town has long been popular with travellers seeking a tranquil and romantic haven away from the bustle of the outside world.

Day Itinerary

10:00 AM - Sorrento, Hotel Cocumella

Private transfer from Sorrento hotel to your hotel in Ravello including a stop in Positano. (around 5 hours) You will be met by your driver in the lobby. Service ends: 03:00 PM - Ravello, Belmond Hotel Caruso

Expert Tips

Dramatic, deluxe and more than a little dashing, Positano is the Amalfi Coast's front-cover splash, with vertiginous houses tumbling down to the sea in a cascade of sun-bleached peach, pink and terracotta. No less photo-worthy are its steep streets and steps, flanked by wisteria-draped hotels, smart restaurants and fashionable retailers. Look beyond the facades and the fashion, however, and you will find reassuring signs of everyday reality: crumbling stucco, streaked paintwork and even, on occasion, a faint whiff of drains. There's still a southern-Italian holiday feel about the place, with sunbathers eating pizza on the beach, kids pestering parents for gelato and chic signore from Milan browsing the boutiques. The fashionista history runs deep – moda Positano was born here in the '60s and the town was the first in Italy to import bikinis from France.

Activities

Positano

Positano

Perched up on a steep hill with panoramic views of the stunning Amalfi Coast, the small romantic town of Positano attracts thousands of visitors year round. Tourists flock here to enjoy the remarkable natural beauty of the town's excellent beaches. These include the smaller, secluded and laidback Fornillo beach with its charming little beach

bars; and the larger bustling ferry port and the main beach of Spiaggia Grande. The town's premier attraction is undoubtedly the lovely church of Collegiata di Santa Maria Assunta, which boasts an impressive majolica dome and the famous thirteenth-century Byzantine icon, the Madonna di Positano. With its rich historical and cultural heritage, its upmarket hotels and boutiques and its pleasantly mild climate, Positano is an ideal base for exploring the string of picturesque towns along the Amalfi Coast on the narrow but scenic Amalfi Drive.

Directions - Grand Hotel Cocumella to Belmond Hotel Caruso

Distance: 36.91km **Travel Time:** 1:23 hours

Overnight: Belmond Hotel Caruso

The Belmond Hotel Caruso is located in Ravello, Italy, set on a cliff overlooking the Amalfi Coast. The hotel has 50 rooms which are elegant and uniquely decorated. The rooms are equipped with king-size or twin beds and spacious marble bathrooms. Guests can experience Italian cuisine at the on-site restaurant and relax in the Piano and Cocktail Bar for a nightcap. The wellness centre, designed to nourish mind, body and soul offers guests time to relax and rejuvenate.



Day 9: Belmond Hotel Caruso, Ravello

Day Itinerary

11:00 AM - Ravello, Villa Maria Shared cooking class experience - Around 3 hours Cooking class and lunch with your just-cooked dishes are included.

***Reach the cooking class place by a nice stroll on your own, area is pedestrian and full of shops Cooking Class

Expert Tips

Cooking courses are held in the stunning garden of Villa Maria restaurant in Ravello. Participants are directly involved in the preparation of the entire menu: it is expected that each participant consumes the meal that he prepared with his own hands under the supervision of the chef. The lesson begins in the organic vegetable garden where the participants, together with the chef, harvest the vegetables that will then use in the preparation of dishes.

Lessons include the preparation of a starter, first course, main course. The dessert will only be served (not prepared).

Day 10: Belmond Hotel Caruso, Ravello

Day Itinerary

10:00 AM - Ravello, Belmond Hotel Caruso Private full day tour to Paestum-around 6 hours.

You will meet your driver in the lobby of the hotel. Light lunch at a local mozzarella producer is included. Service ends: 04:30 PM Mozzarella Cheese factory

Expert Tips

How is the real, unique buffalo's mozzarella cheese made? Entering in a local cheese factory, you'll have the pleasure to see with your own eyes how this inimitable cheese is made, following step by step its production. The visit will be followed by mozzarella tastings.

Day 11: Romeo Hotel, Naples

Naples

As previously described

Day Itinerary

09:00 AM - Ravello, Belmond Hotel Caruso Private transfer from Ravello hotel to your hotel in Naples including a full day tour of Pompeii, Ercolano and Vesuvio Area-Around 8 hours You'll meet your driver in the lobby of the hotel. On arrival in Pompeii, your driver will coordinate the meeting with your private English speaking guide for a 2-hour tour of each Site. Pompeii and Ercolano Archaeological Sites entrance fees are included.

Service ends: 05:00 PM - Naples, Hotel Romeo

Expert Tips

To visit Pompeii is probably as close as we can get to travelling in a time machine, to ancient Rome. In August, 79 AD, Vesuvius had been rumbling for some days and it is estimated that a large part of the population of 20,000 had been evacuated; those that were left were as if suspended in time, as the plaster casts made of the bodies that were found shows. Excavation started in the 18th century and continues to this day. The first impression, on entering into the Forum, is just how massive Roman structures were; they really dwarf revered Medieval or later sites. You will get to walk Roman streets, look into bars, stroll into Patrician villas, complete with frescoes and mosaics, there is even a mosaic doormat, saying 'beware of the dog'. Even graffiti (an Italian word) is written on some of the walls, reflecting a forthcoming election. When you see the baths, the central heating systems and the gentle fountains in the courtyards of the villas, you really feel it wouldn't be too much of a hardship to live there

Herculaneum was a much smaller city than neighbouring Pompeii and is therefore far more manageable to visit. Pompeii was buried by volcanic ash, Herculaneum by mud, which means that even wooden furniture has survived; it is quite mind blowing to walk into a house and see a bed and a screen dividing a couple of rooms. In the baths, you will even see the lockers where they left their clothes, exactly like a modern health centre. You will emerge with a real feel for what it was like to live in Roman times.

As you drive south from Rome to Naples, you will very soon observe the brooding presence of the volcano of Vesuvius, its eruption in 79AD being responsible for the destruction of Pompeii and Herculaneum. This tour will take you to the very summit, and stunning views across the Bay of Naples. Looking down on the lower slopes, you will see vineyards and olive groves, for this reclaimed land is very fertile. Near the summit, you will see the lava flows from the last eruption in 1944.

Activities

Pompei
Mount Vesuvius

Pompei

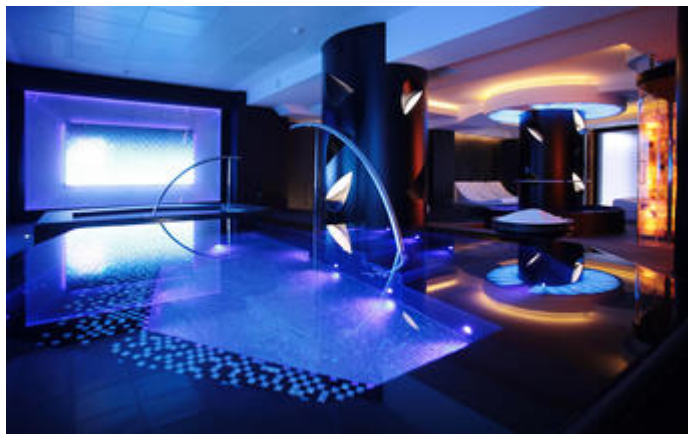
Resting at the foot of the legendary Mount Vesuvius lies one of the world's most treasured archaeological sites, the ancient Roman town of Pompeii. The town was buried under ash and pumice in the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 A.D, leaving a well-preserved ruin that offers unprecedented insight into Roman life two centuries ago. Clustering alongside its ruined predecessor, the modern-day town of Pompei is often overlooked by tourists. However, for many Italians, it is a sacred place to which millions of pilgrims travel to congregate at Santuario della Madonna del Rosario, the 19th-century basilica in the centre of the new town. The modern town serves as a practical base for exploring the ruins and offers some excellent restaurants specializing in delicious and historically accurate ancient Roman dishes.

Directions - Belmond Hotel Caruso to Romeo Hotel

Distance: 56.31km **Travel Time:** 1:07 hours

Overnight: Romeo Hotel

Facing the enchanting Bay of Naples, Mt. Vesuvius and the island of Capri, Romeo Hotel is located in the heart of the city of Naples. It offers easy access to attractions such as the San Carlo Theater, Piazza del Plebiscito, the city's vibrant historic centre and the world-famous Spaccanapoli. Accommodation consists of guest rooms and suites, each equipped with air conditioning, heating, a minibar, a TV, hairdryer, an en-suite bathroom, a Nespresso coffee machine and a safe. Guests can enjoy dining at any of the on-site restaurants. Other amenities offered are internet access, a lobby area, a bar, a gym and a spa.



Day 12: Romeo Hotel, Naples

Day Itinerary

10:30 AM - Naples, Hotel Romeo Private 4-hour tour by four Fiat 500: Food tasting tour in Naples Tastings are included.

Discover Naples in a fun and exciting way on this private 500 tour discovering the local culinary excellence! Take the chance to taste a selection of real Neapolitan food in a tasteful, cultural and historical itinerary, guided by our professional tour guides. We'll take you on a ride far and wide of Naples on a real vintage Ape Calessino, guided by our city trainers. You will have access to the best pizza places, fry places, taverns, confectioneries and bars. You will fall in love with Naples, before you know it. Buffalo mozzarella with Salame Napoletano, Taralli (small bagles) with almonds and black pepper, a good glass of typical red wine from Campania, "Cuoppo" di frittura (a "cone" of fried food), Pizza Margherita, Parmigiana eggplant (eggplant Parmesan), ice cream, Sfogliatella, Neapolitan espresso and handmade chocolates will accompany the most tasteful day of your vacation. Be Neapolitan for one day!

Excluded

Any possible entrance fees to be paid on spot.

Day 13: Romeo Hotel, Naples

Day Itinerary

Day at leisure on your own

Day 14: End of Itinerary

Day Itinerary

09:00 AM - Naples, Hotel Romeo Private transfer by minivan from your hotel to Naples airport. You will meet your driver in the lobby of the hotel. Flight BA 2607 dep. at 11:40am

Service ends: Naples airport

Transport

Flight Information

Date	Flight	Airline	Departure Airport	Time	Arrival Airport	Time	Class	Ref
	2604 (Scheduled)	British Airways [BA]	Gatwick Airport [LGW]	15:55	Romeo Hotel	19:45		
	2607 (Scheduled)	British Airways [BA]	Romeo Hotel	11:40	Gatwick Airport [LGW]	13:30		

Urgent Contact Numbers

Company Name	Telephone	Email Address	Contact Person
Campanile Luxury Travel	650-436-2650	estone@campanileluxurytravel.com	Elizabeth Stone

Service Provider Directory

Service Provider	Ref. Number	Telephone	Address
Belmond Hotel Caruso		39 089 858801	Piazza San Giovanni del Toro 2, 84010 Ravello (SA), Italy
British Airways [BA]		1-800-AIRWAYS	
Capri Tiberio Palace		+39 081 978 7111	
Grand Hotel Cocumella		+39 081 878 2933	Via Cocumella, 7 - 80065 - Sant'Agnello di Sorrento Italy
Romeo Hotel		+39 081 017 5001	Via Cristoforo Colombo, 45 80133 Naples - Italy

Travel Information



It is easy to understand why Italy is one of the world's most celebrated tourist destinations. This is a country that truly does have it all: exquisite landscapes, an abundance of art and architectural treasures, world renowned museums and a national obsession with decadent food and fine wine. Not to mention the country's sun-kissed olive groves, glacial lakes, fiery volcanoes and snow capped peaks. Dive the clear green waters of the Mediterranean, browse the market stalls in Naples or experience the diverse wildlife inhabiting the country's national parks. And if you find the vast range of choices overwhelming, take some advice from the locals: sit back, relax and take a moment to indulge in the "bella vita" (the good life). As they say: when in Rome!

Banking and Currency

Currency

Italy uses the European monetary unit, the euro (€).

Euro bills come in denominations of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, and 500; coins are worth 1 cent of a euro, 2 cents, 5 cents, 10 cents, 20 cents, 50 cents, 1 euro, and 2 euros. Local merchants may refuse to accept €200 and €500 bills due to the prevalence of counterfeit bills.

Traveller's cheques, cheques and foreign money can be changed at banks, railway stations and airports and very often at major hotels (albeit usually at a less advantageous exchange rate). It is expensive to change foreign currency in Italy, exchange bureau fees are high. Banks will only exchange currency for their own customers.

There are no restrictions on the import or export of local or foreign currency. However, amounts exceeding €10,000 or equivalent must be declared if travelling from or to a country outside the European Union.

Banking

Bank opening hours are regulated by law, they open at 08h30 and close at 13h30 for lunch. They open again in the afternoon at 15h00 and close at 16h00 from Monday to Friday. There are banks that open on Saturdays.

ATMs in Italy are known as Bancomat, and can be found anywhere in large cities as well as in small towns. Using a credit card, or even better, a debit card or your local bank (ATM) card is very easy. One must first locate either the Cirrus, Plus, VPay, or BankMate symbol (on the Bancomat and on your card), to ensure the card is usable at that particular unit. If you are unsure about the compatibility or the banking systems, contact your credit card company or local bank.

Travel, Transport and Getting Around

Alitalia (AZ) (www.alitalia.com) is the main domestic carrier. Other local budget operators are Meridiana (www.meridiana.it), Air One (www.flyairone.it), Windjet (www.volawindjet.it) and AirAlps (www.airalps.at). For the best deals on flights to Italy, travel out of season. Otherwise book ahead at peak times such as Easter week, the summer holiday period of July and August, and Christmas.

Italy has many regional airports offering good coverage of the whole peninsula. While flying may be the best option when travelling the length and breadth of the country, shorter routes are better served by the high-speed train network.

Italy has well developed public and private transportation options. The Italian rail network is extensive, especially in the north, generally eclipsing the need for an alternative such as bus or air (both of which, however, exist to some extent). While a number of private railroads exist and provide mostly commuter-type services, the national railway, Ferrovie dello Stato, also provides a sophisticated high-speed rail service that joins the major cities of Italy from Naples through northern cities such as Milan and Turin

Self-drive car hire services are available in most cities, airports and resorts. Many international and Italian firms operate this service. Booking online, in advance, generally yields the best prices. The minimum driving age is 18. Speed limits are 50kph (31mph) in urban areas, 90kph (55mph) on ordinary roads, 110kph (68mph) on dual carriageways and 130kph (80mph) on motorways. Dipped headlights are compulsory outside built-up areas during the day. All vehicles must carry a red warning triangle. Seat belts are compulsory. Note: Fines for driving offences are on-the-spot and particularly heavy.

All EU member states' driving licenses are recognised in Italy. In practice, many car hire agencies also accept many non-EU licences such as those from Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the US. Drivers from other countries will need an International Driving Permit. Visitors must carry their log-book, which must be in their name as owner, or have the owner's written permission to drive the vehicle. A driving licence or a motorcycle driving licence is required for motorcycles over 49cc.

There is a very efficient inter-city bus service. The buses are modern, comfortable, fast and well equipped. They also provide a very economical way of traveling around the country.

There are a lot of islands off the coast of Italy, including the major ones of Sardinia and Sicily, so naturally there are a lot of ferries traveling backwards and forwards.

Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice

Standards of hygiene, in relation to food health and safety in Italy, are generally high in hotels, restaurants, pubs and nightspots. Restaurants are subject to food safety control legislation, which is implemented by local government. Regulations include certification and regular inspections by health inspectors to ensure hygienic standards are maintained.

It is safe to eat fresh fruit, vegetables and salads, and to put ice in your drinks. Italy's fish, meat and chicken are of excellent quality, so there is no need to limit yourself when enjoying the local cuisine.

There are two cardinal rules of Italian cuisine - eat locally and eat seasonally. Imported foods are changing this picture, but faithful Italian cooks would never eat asparagus, tomatoes or artichokes out of season. Food is part of the rhythm of life, and so Italians eagerly await the arrival of seasonal ingredients from mushrooms in the fall to wild strawberries in the spring.

Tap water throughout Italy is safe to drink and to cook with when taken from taps in urban areas. Not all tap water in rural areas is safe for consumption, so take precautions if necessary.

Climate and Weather

The climate varies considerably from the north to the south of Italy. In the north of the country - the area between the Alps and the Tuscan-Emilian Apennines - the climate is harsh, with very cold winters and very hot, particularly humid summers. In central Italy the climate is milder, with a smaller difference in temperature between summer and winter and a shorter and less intense cold season than in the north; summers are longer, but the sultriness of the

northern cities is mitigated by the sea. In southern Italy and the islands winters are never particularly harsh, and spring and autumn temperatures are similar to those reached in the summer in other areas of Italy.

Clothing and Dress Recommendations

Summers can be steamy, but shorts are still regarded as resort wear by most Italians. Cotton slacks or capri pants for women are a stylish alternative. The appeal of jeans is universal, and a quality pair matched with a sports shirt or blouse is acceptable casual wear in Italy. Pack a sweater or light jacket for travel in spring or early fall. Winters, even in the south, can be chilly, and a wool jacket or coat is a wise choice. Italians tend to regard down jackets and vests as ski resort wear. A small raincoat or travel umbrella is a smart accessory to have year-round.

Women should dress modestly in Italy, churches and some museums often require it. Signs outside many churches detail clothing that is not permitted: usually shorts, bare arms, low-cut dresses and short skirts for women; and shorts, bare arms and tank tops for men.

Electricity and Plug Standards

For the most part, electrical sockets (outlets) in Italy (Repubblica Italiana) are their own standard, the "Type L" Italian CEI 23-16/VII. Also reported to be in use is the "Type C" European CEE 7/16 Europlug. If your appliance's plug doesn't match the shape of these sockets, you will need a travel plug adapter in order to plug in. Travel plug adapters simply change the shape of your appliance's plug to match whatever type of socket you need to plug into. If it's crucial to be able to be able to plug in no matter what, bring an adapter for both types.

Electrical sockets (outlets) in Italy (Repubblica Italiana) usually supply electricity at between 220 and 240 volts AC. If you're plugging in an appliance that was built for 220-240 volt electrical input, or an appliance that is compatible with multiple voltages, then an adapter is all you need. If your appliance is not compatible with 220-240 electrical output, a voltage converter will be necessary.
