



The Grand Hotel Excelsior Vittoria in Sorrento boasts a private elevator, allowing guests easy access to the resort's private beach club and the Port of Sorrento.

Absolutely Amalfi

TOURING THE ITALIAN PROMISED LAND BY PRIVATE YACHT

Beyond bustling Positano, the shops of Sorrento, and ravishing Ravello glitters the Gulf of Naples. With 50 miles of UNESCO World Heritage protected playground to explore, there is no better a way to capture the beauty of the Amalfi Coast than by private yacht charter.

The Port of Sorrento is a gateway to the Italian promised land. Arriving via the Crystal “Serenity”, we anchored 200 yards offshore, across from the prestigious Grand Hotel Excelsior Vittoria. An advantage of sailing Crystal Cruises is the ability to tuck into smaller ports not easily accessed by larger cruise lines.

We tendered from the “Serenity” to the Sorrento docks where our yacht captain and tour escort greeted us. Procured by Virtuoso award-winning Italian onsite IC Bellagio, our group of 12 fit comfortably on the “Iko Mare”, a 60-foot power vessel.

The dazzling scenery of the Amalfi Coast is 360-degrees of panoramic paradise. In addition to the staggering backdrop, the privately-owned islands and mega-yachts of the Amalfi Coast exude glamour and opulence, reminiscent of the Italian Riviera’s Golden Age. This nautical playground allows one’s mind to escape, disconnecting from everyday reality to embrace the “Who’s Who” summer culture of European holidaymakers.

Spending an hour or so in picturesque Positano is a formidable prerequisite to conquering the Amalfi Coast. Purchasing a souvenir from a local street artisan, stopping for coffee or gelato, escaping to the bluffs of Le Sirenuse for a cocktail, and taking in the renowned vistas of the Positano architecture are all absolute-musts, as Positano is the heartbeat that encompasses the spirit of the Italian coastal villages.

The ride over to the island of Capri is a 35-minute jaunt from Positano on a calm day. Once on Capri, IC Bellagio reserved private cars and drivers for the journey up from the Bay of Capri to Ana Capri for lunch at Relais & Chateaux Resort Hotel Caesar Augustus. Advanced reservations are recommended, as the cuisine and views are unmatched, and quite popular during the summer and fall months.

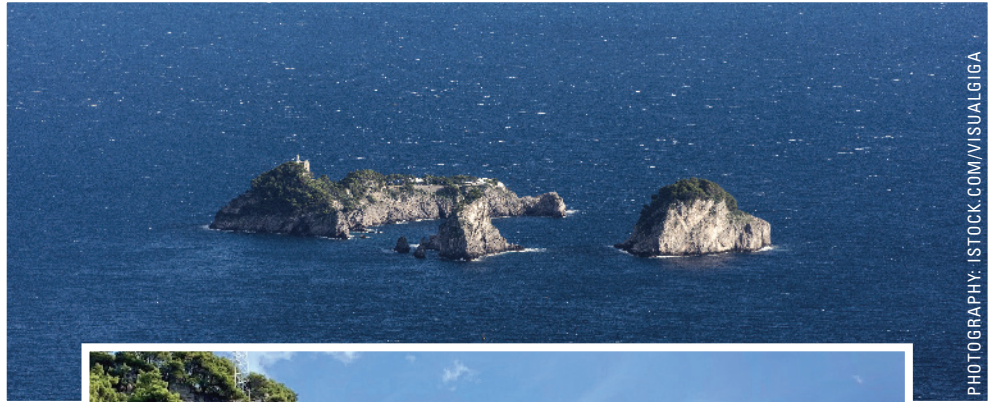
Dining at Restaurant La Terrazza di Lucullo at Hotel Caesar Augustus is as pleasing gastronomically as it is aesthetically. No detail overlooked, from the private herb and vegetable gardens to outdoor lavender steam showers and bicycle chain sculptures from Korean artist, Seo Young Deok, nothing prepares the senses for the extraordinary majesty of the Hotel Caesar Augustus. Complete with endless gardens, winding cliffside paths, treetop tables for two, and many comfortable seating areas hidden away from the world,

the Hotel Caesar Augustus is a peaceful hiatus, separated from the hustle and bustle that often comes with the territory when visiting this part of the world.

After finishing lunch on Capri, our captain suggested touring the Green Grotto and White Grotto, as opposed to the infamously hectic Blue Grotto. Thirty-five-years-old and a lifelong resident of the town of Amalfi, he was instrumental in orchestrating a flawless day. He had answers to all of our questions and was attune to the personality of our group. He knew we wanted to experience the rest of our time “as the locals do”, and did not hold back in exceeding our expectations. IC Belagio is truly the “best of the best” and in a league of its own, recommending local guides with years of expertise in creating bespoke, immersive, and culturally engaging experiences.

No Amalfi Coast yachting experience is complete without diving in for a swim. We navigated to a secluded cove, affording us the opportunity to jump into the warm tranquil waters of the Tyrrhenian Sea—the grandest of finales to an already unforgettable day!

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PHOTOGRAPHY: ISTOCK.COM/VISUALGIGA



The private Li Galli Islands were purchased by Sorrento hotelier Giovanni Russo in 1994. Complete with a staff and a launch, transporting guests from the island to the mainland, this private Amalfi utopia is closed to the public. Available from 250,000 EUR a week.



The Relais & Châteaux Hotel Caesar Augustus, the most panoramic five-star hotel on Capri.



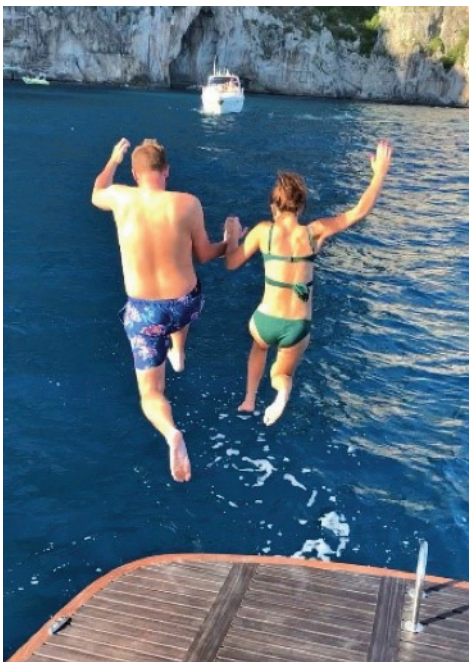
The patio at Michelin-starred La Sponda at Le Sirenuse Hotel in Positano.



Tasting with a view at Restaurant La Terrazza di Lucullo at Hotel Caesar Augustus.



Mighty Caesar Augustus, the great-nephew of Julius Caesar, overlooking the Bay of Capri.



Alexandra Khoshaba and William Smith take the plunge in the Tyrrhenian Sea.



A Mediterranean Masterpiece at Restaurant La Terrazza di Lucullo.



Korean artist Seo Young Deok's installation on the patio of Hotel Caesar Augustus on Anacapri.



Can you spot the natural rock formation of the Virgin Mary at the top of the White Grotto?