

ITALY

AMALFI COAST • ROME

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ITALY

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An Unforgettable Journey: Family Vacation to the Amalfi Coast and Rome

Traveling with family can be both a blessing and a challenge, especially when the destination is as alluring as Italy's Amalfi Coast and the eternal city of Rome. Our recent two-week summer vacation was packed with joy, surprises, and some delightful lessons learned. This post will take you on our journey, where we explored breathtaking landscapes, indulged in scrumptious meals, and forged friendships that will last a lifetime.

Sorrento: A Hidden Paradise

Our week-long stay in Sorrento was nothing short of magical. Home away from home was the Grand Hotel Excelsior, where we were welcomed by flower-filled canopies and breathtaking grounds. Whether it was lounging by the perfect pool or cherishing the mesmerizing view of the Bay of Naples, relaxation was inevitable.

A highlight was our one-day adventure to Capri, where we rented a private boat, indulging in the natural beauty of the island, including a natural waterfall we could dunk ourselves under! Sorrento's charm extended to its walkable streets, filled with dinner possibilities, shopping delights, and the ever-present allure of gelato.



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The Charm and Challenge of the Coast

While Sorrento enchanted us, our travels to Positano, Ravello, and Naples offered mixed experiences. The colorful allure of Positano was somewhat dimmed by the summer crowd, and Ravello's beauty was overshadowed by our exhaustion from the heat. Naples was less appealing than expected, and we decided it's a spot we might skip in the future. Instead, we talked about choosing Pompeii instead if we are back in that area.



Coast Town Tips

If you're considering making Positano your home base, I'd recommend securing day passes for a beach club to make the most of your daytime experience. As for exploring the town itself, aim for early mornings or after 6 pm. This strategy allows you to avoid the peak crowds and enjoy a more relaxed atmosphere.

If you have a penchant for Italian fashion—both for yourself and your little ones—prepare to be tempted beyond belief. The shops in the area are a treasure trove of stylish options, featuring abundant lemon-themed attire, as well as a palette of blues and whites that capture the coastal spirit.

I'd also look into boat transportation between villages, as traffic is extremely heavy, especially at high times.

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Rome: History and Culinary Adventures

Rome presented a blend of the familiar and the new. Though it felt different from my previous visit, it still held its charm. Our private pizza-making class was an absolute hit, especially with the kids. The hands-on experience, laughter, and the resulting feast made it an unforgettable part of our trip.

Our private golf cart tour introduced us to unseen corners of Rome, guided by the charismatic brothers, Federico and Valerio. The journey was enriched by their knowledge and passion for the city they call home.

Accommodation: Luxury and Comfort

Our stays in Sorrento's Grand Hotel Excelsior and Rome's Elizabeth Unique Hotel provided contrasting but delightful experiences. While the Excelsior offered abundant space, serene spots, and extraordinary service, the Elizabeth Unique Hotel impressed with its central location and chic boutique ambiance.

Dining: A Symphony of Flavors

The food was an integral part of our adventure. From trusting our server at Inn Buffalito for a surprising and utterly satisfying meal to our daily dinner gatherings as a group of twelve, culinary experiences formed an essential, joyful aspect of our trip.

Traveling with Family: A Bonding Experience

Traveling with two other families turned out to be a blessing. The support, shared joy, and the collective sense of adventure strengthened our bonds, making the entire trip feel like a celebration.

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{ planes, trains, & automobiles }

FROM THE U.S.

We took a private car service from Rome to Sorrento, a journey of about 3.5 hours. One highlight of the drive is the chance to stop at an Autogrill, Italy's upscale version of a rest stop. Unlike typical rest stops, the Autogrill offers clean bathrooms and an impressive selection of fresh food. Besides meals, you can shop for gifts, toys, and groceries, refuel your car, and take a restroom break. However, if your ultimate destination is the Amalfi Coast, I'd recommend flying directly to Naples. If you choose this option, it's wise to book a private car service in advance.

TO THE U.S.

We concluded our trip in Rome, so it was logical to depart from there. I recommend taking a moment to inform your driver about your airline to avoid being dropped off at the wrong terminal, as we experienced. Italians are exceptionally family-friendly. Traveling with our 3-year-old, we brought along a stroller for easier airport navigation. To our delight, this led to us being fast-tracked through security and customs—a wonderful perk!



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AMALFI COAST

{ where to stay }

AMALFI COAST • SORRENTO

Grand Hotel Excelsior Vittoria

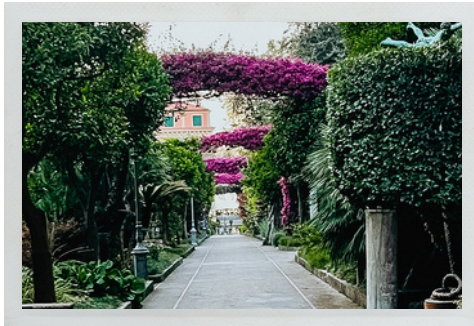
Piazza Tasso, 34 - Sorrento, Italy

E. info@exvitt.it

T. +39 081 877 7111

SPA

- Boutique Spa La Serra



DINING

- Terraza Bosquet
 - Seafont Michelin Star Restaurant
- L'Orangerie
 - Poolside Bar + Restaurant
- Terraza Vittoria
 - Lunch spot with a view!
- Garden Champagne Bar
 - Open in evenings

GROUNDS

The hotel is simply extraordinary. The team was first-class from the time that we arrived until we checked out on our way to Rome. The hotel has a playground, but not one that we are used to in the U.S. No swings or climbing walls, but big open spaces for picnics and running. Hammocks swinging from trees made the perfect spot for a book lover to enjoy! Though I didn't indulge in the spa, its transformation from an old greenhouse to a luxury retreat definitely caught my eye ... and so did a few items to purchase!

Our room was impeccable, accommodating three adults and a child for a week. The four sets of French doors opened up to a wrap-around patio and deck with a scenic view of the gardens. The convenience of a private side entrance, avoiding the main lobby hustle, was a nice touch.

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AMALFI COAST

{ where to stay }

The lobby terrace is a dream, offering a mesmerizing view of the Bay of Naples - a sight I admired daily. Coupled with the pool and its adjoining cafe set amidst lemon trees, relaxation was inevitable. Every staff member, from servers to bartenders, showcased genuine care and attention, making our stay even more delightful.

Common areas, like the intimate bar off the lobby and cozy seating spots, were ideal for catching up with friends. The hotel's private elevator leading to the marina and beach underscored its luxury. All in all, a top-tier experience.



OTHER NOTABLE PLACES TO STAY IN AMALFI COAST

[Imperial Hotel Tramontano](#)

[Grand Hotel Royal Sorrento](#)

[Grand Hotel Capodimonte](#)

I can't personally vouch for the other hotels mentioned earlier, as our stay was exclusively at the Excelsior. However, I trust the recommendations from those who suggested the other options. I'm particularly discerning when it comes to choosing accommodations; a hotel isn't just a place to rest my head for the night—it's my temporary home. In our case, it was home for eight wonderful days. Given that we were traveling with a 3-year-old, and fully aware that not every day goes according to plan, it was crucial for us to have a room that met high standards for cleanliness and comfort.

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ROME

{ where to stay }

ROME

Elizabeth Unique Hotel

Via delle Colonnette 35, 00186 Rome Italy

E: reservation@ehrome.com

T: +39-06-3223633

**This is a Marriott property, so be sure to check if you can use points!*

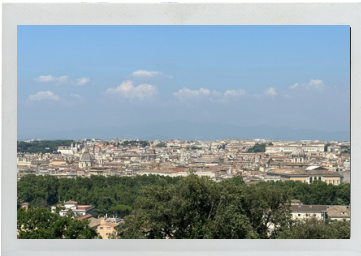


DINING

- Donna E Bistrot
 - Open 7:00AM - 11:00PM

GROUNDS

Set in the very heart of Rome, Elizabeth Unique Hotel is perfectly positioned if you want to be close to the best the city has to offer. The Piazza del Popolo, the Spanish Steps, and countless dining options are all a short walk away. You'll also find a huge number of shops with local and international labels just outside the hotel.



The inside of the building is every bit as fascinating as its surroundings. Each of the 33 rooms is entirely unique, featuring one-of-a-kind decor, exclusive lighting created just for the hotel, and views of the city's cobblestone streets.

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{where to play}

I highly recommend consulting a local travel expert to help plan your dream vacation. We traveled with a group of friends, and coordinating activities—both shared and separate—became a bit overwhelming, even for someone as organized as Jul and me! Below you'll find a sample of our daily itinerary, but note that we've included plenty of free time, both full and half days. You never know when you'll need a rest or discover a spot you simply must revisit.

We partnered with KimKim Travel Agency for our trip. Our agent, based in Rome, was incredibly helpful, and our on-site concierge was nothing short of amazing. Before leaving, be sure to download WhatsApp, as it's the most efficient way to communicate while in Italy.

**Valeria Arcangeli • [Kim Kim Travel Agency](#)
notification@kimkim.com • Valeria.a@yourcustomjourney.com**

Day	Highlights	Location
Day 1	Arrival in Rome, Transfer to Amalfi Coast	Rome to Amalfi Coast
Day 2	Free Day on the Amalfi Coast	Amalfi Coast
Day 3	Visit of The Amalfi coast Villages Full Day	Amalfi Coast
Day 4	Free Day on the Amalfi Coast	Amalfi Coast
Day 5	Transfer, Street Food Tour in Naples, Naples City tour	Amalfi Coast
Day 6	Sorrento coast and Capri boat tour (12 people on board) free time in Capri	Amalfi Coast
Day 7	Amalfi Coast to Rome	Amalfi Coast to Rome
Day 8	Private Pizza-making class, Private golf cart tour	Rome
Day 9	Self Guided Visit to the Colosseum & Roman Forum, Free Day in Rome	Rome
Day 10	Early morning private Vatican Tour	Rome
Day 11	Depart Rome	

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SORRENTO • AMALFI COAST

{ where to eat }

We're excited to share our dining experiences, complete with notes on our favorite spots. Although there were a couple of places we might not suggest, the bottom line is that we had some truly exceptional meals! If you're traveling with kids or a large group like we were, advance reservations are a smart move to cut down on wait times. That said, most establishments seemed flexible and did their utmost to seat walk-ins promptly. We opted for reservations due to the size of our party, but many travelers seemed to be having luck finding dining spots spontaneously as they explored.

● AMALFI COAST ●

LUNCH

- **19 giugno** • 12:30 • Ristorante L'Orangerie Sorrento Poolside Cafe
 - Located on the property of Grand Hotel Excelsior Vittoria. I thought this might be a good option on arrival day. Check out poolside snacks and lunch.
- **20 giugno** • Eat at leisure while out and about. If at pool, poolside cafe is available and another restaurant on site.
- **21 giugno** • We will be touring the different Amalfi Villages, and figure everyone can stop and eat at their leisure.
- **22 giugno** • Eat at leisure while out and about. If at pool, poolside cafe is available and another restaurant on site.
- **23 giugno** • Naples Food Tour • We will be sampling food most of the morning, not planning to make a reservation so people can eat at leisure. I would not pick to do this again, personally.
- **24 giugno(Capri)** • 13:00 • Ristorante Panorama Traversa Lo Palazzo, 2 80073 Capri • Check out the menu! Beautiful views, gorgeous little play area for the kiddos, be prepared to hike down some paved paths to get there!

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{ where to eat }

• AMALFI COAST •

DINNER

- **19 giugno** • Pizzeria Aurora • Piazza Tasso 10/11, Sorrento - Italy
- **20 giugno** • 18:00 • Inn Bufalito • Do not miss the mozzarella bar! it looks amazing! Check out the menu! Vico I Fuoro, 21, 80067 Sorrento (NA) • Tel. +39 081 3656975 • We didn't even order here, the server took care of it, and it was AWESOME!
- **21 giugno** • Ristorante 'o Parrucchiano la Favorita • Corso Italia 71, 80067 Sorrento NA - Italy, Tel: +39 081 8781321 • WOW! Literally dining amongst the lemon trees is insane! A must!
- **22 giugno** • 18:00 • Ristorante Pizzeria Tasso • via Correale 11d, 80067, Sorrento • +39 081 878 5809 • This would not be on my list to go back. Dinner was totally fine, but not a favorite.
- 23 giugno 18:00 • Ristorante Bar Ruccio • Piazza dei Marinai d'Italia, Sorrento, NA. • On the water at the marina below our hotel. Food was good, atmosphere was cool, we were tired, and it ended up being perfect for what we needed!
- 24 giugno • l'Abate Sorrento • Piazza Sant'Antonio 24, Sorrento • We sat upstairs, close to our hotel, and perfect for our last night!

OTHER NOTABLE OPTIONS

- Ristorante Bagni Delfino • Via Marina Grande 216, Sorrento - Italy

ITALY

ROME

{ where to eat }

● ROME ●

Everyone's schedules were a bit different during the day, so lunches were on your own wherever you were!

LUNCH

- 25 giugno • Donna E Bistrot • Totally fine, it was in our hotel!
- 26 giugno • Al Grottino • via Orvieto, 6, 00182, Tel +39 06 702 4440 • This is where we made pizzas ... what a blast! Tony and Elsa were fantastic!

DINNER

- **25 giugno** • Il Ristornò Del Patriota • 76 Piazza Accademia di San Luca, Rome, LA 00187, Tel +39 06 678 0414 (near Trevi Fountain)
- **26 giugno** • Ristorante Laganà • via Dell'orso 44, 00186, Tel + 39 068 217 084
- 27 giugno • Il Barroccio • Via dei Pastini 13/14, 00186, Roma, Tel +39 06 679 3797, WhatsApp +39 348 918 7206 (near Pantheon)
- 28 giugno • Antica Hostaria Al Vantaggio • via Del Vantaggio 35, 00153, Roma, Tel +39 06 323 6848

OTHER NOTABLE OPTIONS

- Osteria da Fortunata • Via del Pellegrino 11, Rome, Italy, Tel +39 06 6066 7391
- Felice-A-Testaccio • via Mastro Giorgio 29, 00153, Roma, Tel +39 06 574 6800 (*cancel 24 hour ahead)
- Il Ristornò Del Patriota • 76 Piazza Accademia di San Luca, Rome, LA 00187, Tel +39 06 678 0414 (near Trevi Fountain)
- Ristoro Della Salute • Piazza del Colosseo, 2/a, 00184, Tel + 39 067 0494 653, Mobile + 39 092 857 45 (near Colosseum)

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Reflections and Lessons

While we had our share of highs and very few lows (heat, lots of walking, kiddos, and a whole lot of personalities can do that!), this vacation stands out for many reasons. Sorrento's unexpected charm, our chosen companions, the moments spent dancing in the streets, and the conscious decision to slow down and immerse ourselves in the local culture made this trip uniquely ours.

If there's one thing to take away, it's this: **TAKE THE TRIP**. Even with a young child, our adventure turned out to be one of the best experiences our family has ever had. From the planning process to the unexpected delights, our Italian vacation was a beautiful medley of discovery, connection, and celebration!

Feel free to dive into my recap of this amazing journey, and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions whatsoever!

xoxo,
Jeannine

