

ITINERARY
COLUMBUS CITIZENS FOUNDATION
LUXURY TOUR OF ITALY
SEPTEMBER 21 – OCTOBER 04, 2006

Thursday, September 21st

Departure on flights from New York JFK and Newark airports.

Friday, September 22nd

After collecting your baggage and processing thru Customs and Immigration, your tour director Bill Gearhart will meet you at the arrivals area with a sign for “*Columbus Citizen Foundation*”. (Please note: we may also be able to have baggage people in the baggage area so look for the sign there first). You will proceed directly to the awaiting motor coach.

Our VIP transportation today will be on a luxury motorcoach with 1st class seating, refreshment galley and entertainment center. Refreshments and snacks served on board. Luxury transportation to **Stresa**, located on the west shore of Lake Maggiore, northern Italy, about 50 miles northwest of Milan and the **Grand Hotel Des Iles Borromees**.

The Grand Hotel de Iles Borromees sits on the banks of Lake Maggiore in the charming town of Stresa. Facing the Borromeo Islands, this stunning hotel is a perfect example of Belle Epoque architecture with its exterior design and lavish interior decorations. The hotel was built in 1861 and has provided a luxurious stay for many famous guests, including Ernest Hemingway and Clark Gable. A verdant park surrounds the property offering its guests two swimming pools, a tennis court and plenty of space to relax and enjoy the spectacular views of Lake Maggiore.



You may also wish to pre-reserve spa appointments at the hotel's spa facility. (Spa information catalogue included). Please make reservations directly with the spa by email, fax or phone. They do book up early and remember that your free day is September 22nd. There are swimming facilities at all three locations we are staying at during our tour so please bring your swim wear. We also suggest that you either bring Euros with you or convert your US dollars to Euros for incidental expenses. This can be done before at your US bank or at the airport in Milan. Remainder of the day at leisure to enjoy all the facilities of the Grand Hotel Des Iles Borromees or sightsee and shop the town of Stresa.

7:15 PM Welcome **Cocktail Party on the Magnolia Terrace** (off the main terrace just in front of Salle Des Dames, the private dining room). Attire is casual elegance.

8:00 PM Private Welcome dinner in the **Salle Des Dames**.

Aperitif:

Spumante Martini Italic Brut

Fruit juice

Dry snacks

Assorted Canapes

Menu:

Zibello ham with melon

**

Risotto with marrow flower and scampi

**

Broiled sliced sirloin steak with scales of parmesan cheese and rosemary

Thyme potatoes

Spinach with raisins and pine seeds

**

A composition of wild berries, waffle and vanilla ice cream

Raspberries sauce

**

Coffee

Wines:

White: Roero Arneis Pescaja Cisterna d' Asti

Red: Cabernet Vivallis Trentino

****PLEASE NOTE:** You are always free to order your own choice of cocktails or wines throughout the tour (at your own cost). We will often include a choice of local and regional wines and aperitifs included in all your lunches and dinners.

Stresa is an international tourist resort situated in a central but also panoramic and picturesque position along the lakeside roadway, stands just in front of the Borromee Isles. Since the second half of nineteenth century up to the first decades of the twentieth, when the first English tourists arrived, Stresa, whose hotels and villas built in Liberty style make it unique, assumed its peculiar, elegant look. Nowadays it is a renowned holiday resort as well as an important seat of cultural manifestations, meetings and international congresses also thanks to its well-developed hotel system.



Saturday, September 23rd

Breakfast is served in the hotel restaurant or terrace.

9:15 AM Meet in the front lobby for departure and get ready today for a morning of culture and wine. First, guests will board one of the typical private boats of the lake, and start off for a most unforgettable visit to the stunning **Villa Taranto**. Here you will get the opportunity to see some of the prettiest botanical gardens on Lake Maggiore. Gaze at the splendid flowerings of azaleas, camellias, rhododendrons and magnolias set amongst the reflection of the blue Maggiore water

The fame of Villa Taranto is due principally to its gardens. In 1931 the Scottish captain Neil Boyd Mc Eacharn Watson bought the estate, called Crocetta, from the count of Sant'Elia. Mc Eacharn transformed the old Italian garden into a modern park, enriching it with over three thousands varieties of plants from all over the world, terraces, sheets of water and wide meadows sloping down to the lake. Villa Taranto has become an important reference point for contemporary botanists and it is also considered a “museum of rarities” because of some precious varieties.

The Scottish captain wanted his garden to become an ‘everyman's garden’ and in 1938 he donated Villa Taranto to Italy. When the gardens were opened to visitors, the captain engaged himself in enhancing them further, growing thousands of flowers, especially tulips.



12:15 PM Next we visit, **Agricola Bianchi**, a well-known local biological wineproducer. Experience a tour of the cellars and winemaking plant. You will not leave before having tasted the wine produced in this vineyard, crouton with patè, cheese, salami, grappa and of course a heavenly **lunch** to satisfy your livened taste buds. (Please note that this cuisine is typical food homegrown and homemade served in this region and tends to be quite filling).

Tasting Menu:

Goose pate' crust

Served with white wine: Erbaluce Doc

Antipasti: Traditional salami from Valsesia

Peppery with "Bagna Cauda" sauce

Served with white wine: Eloise

Risotto with Tomato cheese and Sizzano red wine sauce

Goose ravioli with roasted sauce

Served with red Wine: Sizzano Doc

Brasato in Nebbiolo wine sauce

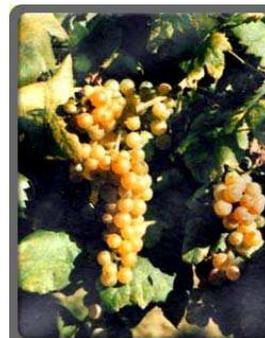
Roasted potatoes

Served with red wine: Gattinara Valferana Docg

Apples and chocolate cake

Served with Passito

At about the end of the XVIIIth century (1785) the agricultural farm BIANCHI was founded by Mr. Bianchi Giuseppe the First. It had a vineyard surface of about 1,75 hectares. At the end of the 19th century, under the leadership of the grandson Pietro, it was developed by new vineyards and better lands, bought from the Earl Torielli, thus reaching a surface of 5 hectares. Thanks to the publicity made by Earl Camillo Benso di Cavour on one of his trips to France and who was also a very devoted customer, people even came from abroad to buy the Bianchi wines. After the second World War, the "BIANCHI" wines were known all over Piedmont, Aosta Valley and Lombardy. In the early eighties there was the highest expansion: new vineyards in Ghemme, Gattinara and a growing exportation even in the USA and Japan. Nowadays the farm is held by the sixth generation, it has 20 hectares of vineyards and exports its own products all over the world.



After lunch we will tour the typical village of Ghemme and then proceed to your choice of either shopping at the world famous Loro Piana factory store or take a private tour of “**Francoli Centre**”, a distinguished local liqueur distillery. Here guests will be talked through the interesting production process and asked to taste a selection of excellent wines and interesting Liqueurs before visiting both the wine cellars and the winemaking plant.

Grappa is the distillation of grape pomace, skins, stems and seeds, the byproducts of the winemaking process. Technically, it is a brandy. The process of creating Grappa was conceived at a school of medicine in Salerno, Italy in the year 1000 A.D.

The Francoli family founded Distilleria Francoli in 1895. In 1951, Luigi Francoli, representing the fourth generation, started a new distillery in Ghemme, Piemonte. His objective was to produce some of the finest Grappas in Italy. He succeeded, for Francoli Grappas consistently win Gold Medals in competition.



After this delightful lunch and tasting at Francoli and shopping at Loro Piana, we return to the hotel for time at leisure.

5:30 PM We will regroup in the hotel lobby to depart and then relax while we escort you through the mountains to your next destination, **Villa Medici Giulini** in Brianza. Refreshments will be served en route. (Jacket and tie for gentleman and casual elegance for ladies). This event will commence with a guided tour of the collection of **antique instruments** inside this gorgeous villa. At the close of the tour, you will enjoy a **private concert**. Due to the heavy nature of our luncheon, we decided to offer refreshments and a light fare after the concert.

Built in the mid-17th century, this impressive Villa still holds the features of the "villa-farmhouse" structure, typical of Lombardy in those days. The Villa boasts two components that are eloquent testimonies to a forgotten past: the typical traditional Lombard kitchen, with its wood-fired oven and the large barrel-vaulted cellar, where the various stages of winemaking were performed at one time. The Villa contains an important collection of musical and keyboard instruments illustrating the history of the modern pianoforte, the harpsichord and the organ, which will be seen on the tour.



Sunday, September 24th

Breakfast is served in the hotel dining room and terrace beginning at 7 AM.

10:00 AM This morning we will meet in the lobby to board our private boat for an unforgettable sail along Lake Maggiore. You will have the rare opportunity to visit the archipelago formed by the three Borromean Islands- Isola Bella, Isola Madre and Isola dei Pescatori owned by the noble Borromeo family. Marvel at the enchanting lake views, magical gardens and the picturesque lanes and houses known to be regular meeting points for artists and writers

From port of call to port of call enjoy the view of idyllic mountain landscapes and rugged hill sides, where quaint villages, tiny piers and villas in shady exotic gardens succeed one another along the coast of the lake. First stop will be the **Isola Bella**, where it will be possible to visit **the Borromeo Palace** (XVII century) quite particular for its majestic and almost unreal baroque setting. Its park, a masterpiece of Italian-style gardening, is laid out on ten terraces descending to the lake. Next stop will be the **Isola Madre**, famous for being a botanical garden on water. The rare plants and the exotic flowers on the Island create the enchantment of a tropical green house. Back on board to reach **Fisherman's Island**, a picturesque village, home to a small community that still makes a living from fishing.



Lunch will be served at the **Ristorante Casabella** on the Fisherman's Island. This is considered the finest restaurant on the Borromeo Islands famous for its homemade cuisine. We have selected some of their specialties for you to taste and enjoy.

*Assorted fish Lago Maggiore
Noodles with mushrooms porcini
Escalope of veal in black truffles sauce
Soft ice-cream with Grand Marnier of orange
Cafe*

The **Ristorante Casabella** will excite your curiosity with a very high level cooking in an exclusive context like Fishermen Island, tastes of the country together with creativity and softness in the preparation and a cellar with great Italian wines.



After lunch, you will discover Isola Bella and the beautiful Borromean Palace and the famous Italian terrace gardens overlooking the lake.

6:45 PM Meet in the hotel lobby to board the motorcoach to Lake Mergozzo. A wonderful dining experience is planned tonight at the 2-star Michelin restaurant “**Piccolo Lago**” on the lake. Attire: Casual

Aperitif on the Lakeside Terrace:

Prosecco from Valdobbiadene, tasting of typical products from Ossola Valley

Medley of small appetizers

**

“Acquerello” (Carnaroli rice aged three years) with Bettelmatt cheese sauce

**

Fillet of “Fassone” (breed of beef from Piedmont)

Prunent wine sauce, ossolana dumplings, tender-creamy onion

**

Home made nougat with chocolate sauce

**

Espresso coffee

Barbera 2003 “G. Vico”

Monday, September 25th

Breakfast in the hotel Please leave your baggage packed next to your door at 8:00AM. The hotel bellmen will collect your luggage and place it on a private transport directly to Borgo Bernadini in the Lucca countryside.

The time has arrived to leave the banks of Lake Maggiore and head to **Portofino**, your next place of discovery.

We will travel directly from Stresa to Portofino Covo where we will be taken to the famous “**Hotel Splendido**” where a wonderful luncheon of their specialities is planned in the famous *Shufly Terrace* overlooking Portofino.

Classical Buffalo “Treccia”, “Stracciatella”

And mini Buffalo mozzarella cheese

With a selection of Napolitan tomatoes, oregano and basil

*Home made short pasta served with traditional “pesto” sauce
Ligurian ravioli, with vegetable and herbs filling,
Served with walnut sauce
Fresh fruit salad in season and home made sorbets with herbs
Coffee
Chardonnay Oltrepo Pavese, 2005*

After lunch we will proceed into Portofino where you will have some time to enjoy this cosy town for sightseeing and shopping.

This rocky, rugged fishing village offers one of the most attractive landscapes to be seen on the Italian Riviera. The coastline is dotted with small villages in sheltered bays.

A large part of the peninsula has been dedicated to forming a natural park in order to protect its unique beauty. By taking the country roads and numerous footpaths, the visitor can discover the secret charms of the region. Famous all the world over, Portofino boasts a unique natural setting on the inlet of a wooded peninsula separating the Gulf of Genoa from the Gulf of Tigullio. From the town it is possible to take-in breathtaking views of the rugged coastline. Portofino, often seen as a small fishing village with gaily-coloured houses, in reality is a resort for wealthy urban dwellers at the sea. Tourists come every month of the year from all over the world to enjoy the superb climate and the picturesque quality of a seaside resort hidden in the mountains.



Say goodbye to Portofino, as we now depart on a pleasant journey to the **Tuscan countryside** outside the medieval city of **Lucca**.

Lucca is a city in Tuscany, northern central Italy, situated on the river Serchio in a fertile plain near, but not on, the Ligurian Sea. It is located 18 miles north east of Pisa and 50 mls west of Florence.

Arrival into your Tuscan residence for the next 5 days at the most beautiful private villa in Tuscany: **Borgo Bernardini**.

Borgo Bernardini was once the haven and wild boar hunting lodge retreat of Count Cosimo Bernardini of Lucca. With many features of the property dating back before the 1700's, Borgo Bernardini today has been restored to its former glory to become an elegant and exclusive Tuscan retreat immersed in a splendid parkland of ornamental ponds and antique fountains, time-forgotten courtyards and lemon scented Italian gardens. ... a place for gatherings and a place for solitude; it is a home of beauty, tranquillity and comfort.



7:00 PM **The Welcome cocktail party and dinner** this evening at the Borgo Bernardini will be an extraordinary selection of Tuscan dishes. We will begin our evening at 7 PM and meet in the Piazza for aperitivo. We are pleased to present live entertainment for your listening pleasure. At 8 PM dinner will be served in the formal dining room. All dining in the villa will be casual attire.

*A warm "cannelloni" salad with cubes of soppressata
Fanucchi's Bufalo mozzarella, fresh tomatoes and basil – Pecorino cheese
Veal ossobuco served on a delicate saffron rice flan
Panna cotta with a warm wild berry sauce*

Tuesday, September 26th

Breakfast is served in the Piazza or on the Terrace at your private villa.

10:00 AM Departure from the main entrance of the villa for a 2-hour private guided tour of the medieval city of **Lucca**.

Lucca is the most wonderful and romantic small town; its famous walls enclose a place that can be strolled or pedalled with ease, yet remains full of secrets. One of Italy's finest medieval treasures, the centre is relatively unspoiled and is sprinkled with palaces, towers and countless splendid churches.



We will then proceed to the famous restaurant **Buca di San Antonio** for a luncheon of local specialties..

One of the oldest restaurants in Lucca, the Buca di San Antonio takes its name from the old Tuscan word for inn, and was once a staging post for horses. The restaurant is now one of the best known in the Lucca area for its antique rustic ambience, meticulous service and the fine standard of cooking based very much on local tradition.



After lunch, there is free time to explore Lucca on your own.

3:30 PM Return to the villa for afternoon at leisure to enjoy all the features of the villa.

6:00 PM Departure for **Concert in San Giovanni Church** in Lucca. (Concert will start at 7:00 PM and finish at 8:00 PM). The concert will feature arias and duets from “*Le Nozze Di Figaro, Così’ Fan Tutte, Don Giovanni, Madama Butterfly, La Boheme, Tosca*”.

8:30 PM Dinner is served in the formal dining room at Borgo Bernardini.
Deep fried shrimps accompanied by a selection of young and fresh crudite
Short Italian pasta with asparagus and prawns
Orata fish baked in oven and selected roasted vegetables
Lemon and vodka sorbet
Assorted “Ciaccolatini”

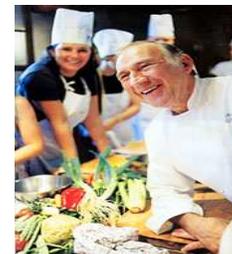
Wednesday, September 27th

8-10:00 AM Breakfast is served in your private villa in the Billiard room and Piazzetta

After breakfast, optional choice of daily activity:

Option A

10:30 AM A **hands-on Tuscan cooking lesson** is offered. The lesson is a 2 hour cooking lesson with Coselli chef. The cooking lesson will be in the kitchen of the villa. A special iron table will be arranged in the kitchen with all necessary equipment. Coselli aprons and recipe books will be provided for each participant in the program.



1:00 PM **Outdoor buffet lunch** at the Peschiera to enjoy your specialty cuisine.

3:30 PM We then suggest a **shopping afternoon** to the top-class boutiques and ateliers in Lucca and the famous designer outlet in Forte dei Marmi. This tour includes the assistance of our personal concierge and professional shopper.

Option B Sightseeing tour of Cinque Terre:
9:00 AM Departure from Borgo Bernardini.

10:50 AM Arrival at “Cinque Terre” in the Northwest of the gulf of La Spezia. The old customs of the Ligurian fishermen survive in the setting of a steep, rugged coast, wild but hospitable where famous vines yield a strong, sweet wine known to the natives as “Sciacchetrà” all the area of Cinque Terre became today a national park. Visit of the first village “Riomaggiore”, walking tour to the second village “Manarola” through the famous “Road of Love” (half an hour), stop in Manarola. Then by boat we reach the fourth village “Vernazza” which is probably the most characteristic. Lunch in Vernazza in a typical local restaurant with fresh seafood and white local wine. In the afternoon we will do the panoramic road in the mountains with breathtaking landscapes on the way back. Return to Borgo Bernardini around 6:30 PM.

Option C:

Sightseeing to San Gimignano and the Etruscan village of Fiesole.

7:00 PM Wine and cheese tasting will commence in the living room close to the formal dining room. A selection of local and regional cheese will be tasted with three different kinds of Tuscan wines.

8:00 PM Outdoor dinner in front of the Fishpond.

“Papa al Pomodoro” Tuscan tomato bread soup.

Great barbecue with the glorious Grilled Chianina Steak

Grilled vegetables like peppers, eggplants, zucchini, and white beans

Tiramisu.

Thursday, September 28th

7:30-9:00 AM Continental style buffet breakfast in Billiard room and Piazzetta.

9:00 AM Departure for short tour of American War Memorial which remembers America’s contributions to Italy in past wars. Then we continue thru the Chianti countryside to Monti di Sotto and the **Castello di Cacchiano** for **private wine tasting** and **luncheon** hosted by **Baron Giovanni Ricasoli**.

Castello di Cacchiano is a flourishing agricultural estate on which the original family residence and winery are located, while the aging cellars are installed in rooms under the building. The vineyards completely surround the castle, providing the perfect panorama for outdoor meals and wine tasting.



We continue with our panoramic tour of Chianti to visit the charming villages of Greve, Castellina or Radda and Montefiorale.

7:30 PM Aperitivo in Piazzetta. Lyric singer and piano player during cocktails.

8:30 PM Dinner is served in the formal dining room.

Farro soup

Crepes with ricotta and spinach

Roasted baby pork with sweet onions glaze

Potatoes with rosemary

Crème Brule

Friday, September 29th

7-8:30 AM Breakfast will be served on the Piazzetta and Billiard room.

8:30 AM Departure from villa to Florence. Today will be dedicated to exploring **Florence**. Florence is famous all over the world for its unique beauties. For hundreds of years it has been the cradle of culture and art: many of the most famous artists of the Renaissance were born here and thanks to them thousands of tourists choose Florence for their holidays.

You will visit the famous **Corridoio Vasariano** adjacent to the Uffizi Gallery, and the **Palazzo Vecchio**. This area is not open to the public and are only ever visited by dignitaries of the state.

Guests will start their discovery in the Uffizi Gallery, which covers an area of about 8.000 sq.m. and contains one of the most important art collections of all time, including classical sculpture and paintings on canvas and wood by 13th to 18th century Italian and foreign schools. Its four centuries of history make the Uffizi Gallery the oldest museum in the world. As part of this tour guests will enjoy a private visit to the ornate and artistically splendid Vasari corridor. This venue is not open to the public. Giorgio Vasari built the Corridor in 1564 in only five months. It served to link the Pitti Palace, where the Grand Duke lived, with the Uffizi (or 'Offices') where he worked. It has a covered walk almost a kilometre in length, and an overhead passageway that begins in the West Corridor of the Gallery and heads towards the Arno River. It is then raised up by huge arches following the river



as far as the Ponte Vecchio, which it crosses by passing on top of the shops. Vasari thus created a monumental urban "footpath" that allowed him to pass directly to the historic heart of the city. The visitor can enjoy some magnificent and little-known views over the city from its round windows. The passageway contains over 700 paintings, all dating from the 17th and 18th centuries, as well as the important collection of self-portraits by some of the most famous master painters of the 16th to the 20th century.



After our exclusive sightseeing visit ends at approximately 1:30, you will have free time to explore Florence and to enjoy a lunch on your own at your leisure.

4:00 PM Departure for return to villa to refresh yourselves before **dinner at the Villas.**

7:00 PM Farewell dinner this evening beginning with cocktails on the Piazzetta with special live entertainment

8:00 PM Outdoor dinner in front of the fishpond.

*Branzino filled Ravioli with delicate fish ragu
Fish "Catalana Style" and a selection of young fresh crudite
Puff pastry tart with cream and chocolate*

Saturday, September 30th

7-9:00 AM Breakfast will be served in the private villa. All luggage will be taken at this time and placed on the private transport from your Villa to your next accommodation at the **Hotel Caruso** in Ravello. We would like to collect your luggage by 8:00 AM from your room. Your luggage will be taken by private transport to Hotel Caruso and placed in your room.

Ravello is a village of Campania, in the province of Salerno, about 3 miles north east of Amalfi, 1227 feet above sea level. Situated on a rocky spur it commands a magnificent view.

9:00 AM After breakfast we board our awaiting luxury motorcoach for transfer to the Florence Train Station where we have reserved first class seating on the **Eurostar Fast-Train** from Florence to Naples arriving in the early afternoon. A 3-course luncheon is planned in the dining car of our train #9429 as we depart from Rome. Upon arrival in Naples, we will proceed for a visit to the **Naples archaeological museum**. A private "Medallion" Guide will join us for an interpretation tour

The National Archaeological Museum is the direct successor of the Royal Bourbon Museum, one of Europe's oldest and largest museums. Founded in the second half of the 18th century by Ferdinando di Borbone, it brought together two separate royal collections: one in the palace of Capodimonte comprising the paintings and antiquities acquired over more than two centuries by the Farnese family and inherited by Ferdinando's father Carlo from his mother; the other in the Museo Ercolanese in Portici, created for the finds emerging from the excavations of Herculaneum and Pompeii, begun in 1738 and 1748 respectively. At present, with radical restoration work on the building almost complete, a comprehensive reorganization of the collection is in progress.



We then proceed along the Amalfi Coast to our final destination of Hotel Caruso, considered by many the most luxurious hotel on the Amalfi Coast. The hotel has just been voted to have the most beautiful pool in the world by the Robb Report. Make sure you bring your swim wear!

Located on the stunning Sorrento Peninsula, widely regarded as one of Europe's most beautiful and enchanting coastlines, in the heart of Ravello, a romantic Cliffside village, Hotel Caruso has reopened its doors after undergoing a complete renovation. This enchanting residence is set in an 11th-century palazzo, widely known as a small pension since 1893, and host through the times to many rich and famous and renowned writers and artists. Narrow alleys carved between stucco-fronted houses and a deluge of steps, mellowed by the years, lead the way to the stone lions guarded entrance of the Hotel Caruso, perched on a hilltop 350 mts above sea level which enjoys panoramic views of the famed Amalfi Coast.



7:30 PM **Welcome Cocktail Reception** this evening will be at the famous Caruso Pool. Attire: Casual Elegance.

8:00 PM **Welcome Dinner** at Hotel Caruso **Terrazza Belvedere** with live entertainment for your listening pleasure.

Sunday, October 01st

Breakfast is served on the Belvedere Terrace or the main dining room at the hotel

9:30 AM We will depart from the main lobby of the Hotel Caruso for our tour of the Amalfi coast; visit the quaint town of Positano where you will have free time for sightseeing and shopping.

1:00 PM A private luncheon has been planned at the exclusive **Il San Pietro di Positano** beginning with a cocktail reception on the main terrace followed by a luncheon.

Tropical Salad
Zucchini 'alla scapece'
Caprese salad
Selection of Mozzarella
Specialty local fish in salt crust and crispy salad
Cannelloni of almonds and cacao beans with chocolate mousse
White wine: Falanghina del Taburno, Cantinoa del Taburno

The classic dishes of the traditional cuisine harmonize with an International selection to satisfy a wide range of requirements, in a gentle Mediterranean setting. The view is superb in a romantic atmosphere.



After lunch, return to Ravello for afternoon at leisure to enjoy the hotel facilities or the quaint town of Ravello. This would be a good day to see Villa Ruffolo and Villa Cimbrone. Please request a guided tour if you wish.

Villa Rufolo, built in the 13th century by one of the wealthiest families in Ravello, the Rufolo family. This villa has wonderful gardens overlooking the sea with the inclusions of exotic and rare plants. It was in this villa that Richard Wagner found the inspiration for the scenography of the Parsifal second act.

Villa Cimbrone which was built at the beginning of the last century by the English noble Lord Greenthorpe. At the entrance walk there is the “Terrace of the Infinity” which according to the American writer Gore Vidal who wrote “The visitor can enjoy the best landscape in the world”.



7:00 PM Departure from the hotel lobby for a pleasant 10-minute journey to the town of Amalfi to the seaside restaurant “**Lido Azzurro**”. Our host Antonio Pisoni, the chef patron has a wonderful journey into cuisine served on the dining terrace overlooking the sea.

Aperitif: Sparkling wine
Homemade “fusilli” with eggplants, mozzarella and fresh tomato
“Paccheri di Gragnano” in fish sauce and light tomato
Fillet of catch of the day in “acqua pazza” (cuoccio, local sea bream or sea bass in vegetables broth)
Mixed Salad
Lemon Cake
Limoncello liqueur
Wines: Greco di Tufo – Feudi di San Gregorio
Fiano di Avellino – Feudi di san Gregorio

Monday, October 02nd

Breakfast is served at the hotel on the Belevedere Terrace or in the main dining room.

9:00 AM Departure from the main lobby of the hotel to the Port of Amalfi. (Please dress comfortably for a day on the water). Bring sun protection, swimwear if you wish to swim in the grottos. You might want to bring a windbreaker or jacket; dress for the day. Please remember that this vessel has 6 state rooms below which are air conditioned and can be used for changing (brochure enclosed).

We will begin our journey from the Port of Amalfi and sail North on the Amalfi Coast to Positano stopping at interesting sites and grottos along the way. We then proceed to Li Galli Island and onward to the Isle of Capri where a very deluxe luncheon is

planned on the upper deck dining area. We are overlooking the “Fragoloni Rocks” in the Port of Marina Piccolo. Our private chef will prepare our personal menu:

Neopolitan specialties
San Daniele Ham
Buffalo mozzarella cheese
Pasta with marrows
Lemon flavoured shrimps
Baked fresh fish with stewed vegetables
Fresh fruit salad and homemade dessert
Sparkling wine; local red and white wines, fresh juices

A short excursion is possible to the Isle of Capri while we circumnavigate the island. We will return in the early evening to the Port of Amalfi after a “Once in a lifetime journey” on the Amalfi Coast. Remainder of the evening will be at your leisure back in Ravello.

Tuesday, October 03rd

Breakfast is served at the hotel on the Belvedere Terrace or in the main dining room.

9:30 AM Departure from the main lobby on a journey to visit the Herculaneum excavation with archaeologist guide and then visit the Oplontis excavation “**Villa di Poppea**”. An optional excursion would be to go to the site of Pompeii to see one of the most famous and highly admired house in Pompeii because it is the finest and most complete example of a large suburban villa; its various rooms are decorated with artistically superior paintings.

Visit the ancient city of Pompeii, situated at the foot of Mount Vesuvius. Take a revealing trip back in time to the year 79 AD, wandering among Ancient Roman streets, homes, baths, theatres, shops and temples. Excavations were only started in the mid 1700s, uncovering one of Italy's most important archaeological sights. The discovery of this fossilized city and the many studies that have followed, have led us to understand Roman everyday life much better. All around, buildings have survived, often replete with paintings and sculpture. Graffiti is still on walls, streets are paved; the ghosts of that distant past are almost tangible on the site.



Two groups will be formed – those wanting to see Pompeii and the others who have seen Pompeii. Both groups will continue in separate coaches to the town of Sorrento for shopping and sightseeing. This is a wonderful place to purchase ceramica, handmade linens, leather goods and inlay furniture and boxes. Luncheon will be held at **Ristorante Caruso**.

The Restaurant Museum Caruso, in the historical center of Sorrento is known for its refined and delicious cuisine and for its reputation as a small "museum/temple" devoted to the great tenor Enrico Caruso. The owner Paolo Esposito, thanks to the help of the historian Guido D'Onofrio, another carusiano fanatic, has picked up numerous and interesting elements that recall the best of the life and career of the great tenor. These objects, together with the music of the famous tenor that spreads through the rooms.



After lunch, we will return for an afternoon at leisure in Ravello or the Hotel Caruso in Ravello

7:30 PM Farewell cocktail reception on the “Area Loggiato”.

8:30 PM Farewell dinner on the famous Caruso Terrace overlooking the sea. Wonderful local entertainment tonight.

Wednesday, October 04th

Farewell breakfast at the hotel

Morning departures from hotel to Naples Airport for flights back to New York and Newark and Venice will be announced.

We at Classic Travel wish you a safe trip home or on your continued journey to Venice and the Isle of Capri. We created wonderful memories together...