48 HOURS ON THE AMALFI COAST

Fly into Naples and cruise the intoxicating curves of the Amalfi coastline, says Nicole Trilivas.

DON’T MISS

DIVINE The epic hiking trail that extends from Nocelle to Agerola isn’t called the Path of the Gods for nothing. With super views at every turn (and plenty of quaint villages to rest in along the way), this is a real stairway to heaven – or at least to more pasta. Download the hiking app Komoot to stay on track.

HARMONIOUS Every summer from July until the end of August, the peaceful town of Ravello is swept up in music. With more than 2,000 performances that span classical to current, the Ravello Concerts have been a summer tradition since the 1930s. (Various locations, +39 089 842 4082; ravelloarts.org)

SPLASHY Most people don’t realise that the majority of the beaches along the Amalfi Coast are less than dreamy. Instead of hitting the tiny, rocky shoreline, splash out on a private excursion with Blue Star boats and dive into sea coves, mermaid-at-the-beachside Brasserie at Il GUSTO DELLA COSTA farm. (24 Via Carusiello, Ravello, +39 089 875 655; ilgustodellacosta.it)

EAT

BITTERSWEET Scoop up some icy lemon sorbet served in famous sfusato di Amalfi lemons at the beachside Brasserie at Il GUSTO DELLA COSTA. Though the photogenic fruit can be found across the Amalfi Coast, this is one of few places in Positano that serves the treat in real, scooped-out lemons. (Via Regina Giovanna, Positano, +39 089 875 400; covo.deisaraceni.it)

NEIGHBOURLY Praiano is still filled with Italians - not just tourists - and Kasai feels like a neighbourhood secret. Dine on catch of the day and sip on a dewy glass of dry, local Falanghina white wine. (84 Via Umberto I, Praiano, +39 089 813 1333; covo.deisaraceni.it)

SHOOTING STAR With its glitzy reputation, it’s not easy to stand out on the coast, but the hilltop Li Galli Restaurant is high above the competition - literally. With jewel-box interiors and mesmerizing dishes, like a quintet of sweets masquerading as pasta and silver-leafed lemony risotto, Michelin stars are surely in the forecast. (Via Pasitea, Positano, +39 089 875 655; vilfanfranchotel.it)

DRINK

TART Summary and sour sweet, the Amalfi Coast is the birthplace of limoncino, the aromatic after-dinner digestif crafted from the peels of Amalfi lemons. See how it comes to fruition and do a tasting at the organic Il Gusto della Costa farm. (Via G. Capriglione, Praiano, +39 089 813 048; ilgustodellacosta.it)

SMOKY With some of the very best vistas on the coast, Casa Angelina’s Seascape Bar is purpose-built for long summer nights making your way down the cool cocktail list and sophisticated cigar menu. Finish the night off with a Smoky Spritz made with cigar-smoked Aperol, orange bitters and prosecco. (Via Capriglione, Praiano, +39 089 813 1333; casaangelina.com)

EARTHLY Overlooking Capri’s famous café-strawn piazzetta next to the majestica clock tower, the pretty and petite Pulalli Wine Bar pours out earthly delights from the Campania region and beyond. Try the multilacquered Tauris. (5 Piazza Umberto I, Capri, +39 081 837 4108)

Sleep

BYGONE Dating back to 1533, Villa Scarpariello Relais is a rustic seaside castle that makes regal living affordable. Book the Melograno room in the fairytale tower surrounded by fragrant gardens or the dainty pink Moresca room with a stone balcony. There are also apartments sleeping up to six. Rooms from €100. (Via Carusiello, Ravello, +39 089 871 996; villascarpariellorelais.it)

BELLISSIMA Posing elegantly (but unassumingly) on the quiet side of the enchanting island of Capri, the refined JK Place Capri is a welcoming, well-dressed bastion of good taste with some of the best service you can find. Expect to be warmly embraced like family. Rooms from €320. (Via Provinciale Marina Grande, Capri, +39 081 838 4001; jkcapri.com)

SKY-HIGH Two words: rooftop pool. With a curious collection of contemporary art that pops off the air white backdrops, the gallery-like Hotel Villa Franca bucks tradition on the cliffs above the pastel hones of Positano. But it's the sapphire pool terrace set in the clouds that steals the show. Rooms from €500. (Via Provinciale Marina Grande, Positano, +39 089 875 655; vilfanfranchotel.it)

Smart Fliers

AERLINGUS FLY from Dublin to NAPLES daily