

# Torna a Surriento! 🍋

with **Franco Corso**, *The Voice of Romance!*

**OCTOBER 11-18, 2018 INCLUDING POSITANO & THE AMALFI COAST**

**“RETURN TO SORRENTO” ENCORE WITH FRANCO CORSO  
FOR HIS 6<sup>TH</sup> CONCERT TOUR TO ITALY AND STAY WHERE  
“TORNA A SURRIENTO” WAS COMPOSED!**



- ♪ 6 GLORIOUS NIGHTS AT THE LEGENDARY IMPERIAL HOTEL TRAMONTANO
- ♪ BUFFET BREAKFAST DAILY
- ♪ TRANSFERS BETWEEN NAPLES AIRPORT & HOTEL
- ♪ 5 GOURMET DINNERS WITH WINE
- ♪ 2 COCKTAIL RECEPTIONS
- ♪ SORRENTO TOUR & HISTORICAL LECTURE
- ♪ EXCURSION TO POSITANO & AMALFI COAST WITH LUNCH
- ♪ **FEATURING FRANCO CORSO PERFORMING TWO PRIVATE CONCERTS** ♪



[Italy@LexTravelWorld.com](mailto:Italy@LexTravelWorld.com)  
561 512-7333



## EXCLUSIVE LUXURY RETREAT OVERLOOKING THE BAY OF NAPLES

Divine Dining with Exceptional Regional Wines, Customized Gourmet Menus by Renowned Chefs!

Degustacion Dinner Experiences at CARUSO & Famed 2-Star Michelin Restaurant DON ALFONSO 1890

Cocktail Receptions with Views to Paradise \* Sensational Sightseeing to Breathtaking Locations

2-Night Optional Extension to Rome, or personal arrangements to Tuscany, Venice, or anywhere in Italy or Europe.

**With Special Guest, FRANCO CORSO, world acclaimed Italian singing sensation,  
who will travel with our tour members and perform TWO private concerts for you!**

Personally Organized and Escorted by Lexye & Gianni Aversa,  
Principals of PTI Associates and Professional Touch International.  
Lexye is Host of LEX TRAVEL and international travel guru whose  
love and knowledge of Italy, with Gianni, will enhance your journey!



# Torna a Sorrento with Franco Corso!

## October 11~18, 2018



This exclusive travel journey features **Franco Corso**, *“the Voice of Romance”*, who will perform two memorable concerts during the tour. He accompanies you, along with **Lexye & Gianni Aversa**, organizers of this amazing journey. Lexye is a consummate travel planner, and media host of *“LEX TRAVEL”*.



Gianni hails from Sorrento and Rome, where he was a hotel manager. For the past 35+ years, Gianni has been at the helm of PTI Associates, reservations center for exclusive hotels in Italy, orchestrating travel arrangements for individuals, families and special groups to his homeland! **Gianni grew up with the owner of your hotel and each restaurant you will experience, so the RED CARPET awaits you for true “La Bella Figura” hospitality, service and exquisite gourmet meals customized just for you personally. The #1 Chef in Italy, Don Alfonso (also dubbed a knight AND Commendatore!), welcomes you to his 2-star Michelin restaurant, and he oversees the cuisine operation at the Imperial Hotel Tramontano!** Lexye, Gianni and Franco will share their love and passion for Italy, with many insider experiences and unforgettable moments that will make this a uniquely memorable trip, *an exclusive gathering of friends*, to cherish for a lifetime. Here is a message from Franco:



*Dear Amici,*

*My passion for Italy draws me back, and I look forward to being with you in Sorrento, where I hope you enjoy my performances as much as I will be touched to sing for you in my native country.*

*Days and evenings will be full of discovery and extraordinary dining adventures, as only Italy can offer. I look forward to seeing you in ITALY..... from my home to your heart!*

[FrancoCorso.com](http://FrancoCorso.com)



### SPECIAL EVENINGS IN SORRENTO:



- TWO PERFORMANCES BY FRANCO CORSO OF ITALIAN FAVORITES AND HIS OWN ORIGINAL SONGS IN HISTORIC PALAZZOS
- Hear Franco sing *“Return to Sorrento”* at your hotel, where it was composed!



### TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- 6 NIGHTS ACCOMMODATIONS at the LUXURIOUS IMPERIAL HOTEL TRAMONTANO
- FULL BREAKFAST BUFFET DAILY AT THE HOTEL RESTAURANT
- EXQUISITE RECEPTIONS & DINING with REGIONAL WINES, including:
  - 2 Special Receptions with Wonderful Hors D'Oeuvres
  - 5 Gourmet Custom Dinners with Wine including CARUSO and 2-Star Michelin DON ALFONSO 1890!
  - Lunch with Wine in Positano on the Amalfi Coast Touring Day
- TWO SPECIAL CONCERTS PERFORMED BY FRANCO CORSO, the VOICE OF ROMANCE!
- ROUND-TRIP GROUP DATE TRANSFERS between Naples Airport and the Hotel
- SIGHTSEEING OF SORRENTO & LECTURE BY NOTED HISTORIAN
- FULL DAY EXCURSION TO THE AMALFI COAST with AMALFI & POSITANO VISITS
- SURPRISES GALORE & VIP ATTENTIONS & EXPERIENCES
- Service Charges, Gratuities and Taxes for Included Features
- *Travel with Special Guest, FRANCO CORSO, world acclaimed Italian singing sensation, who spends the week with our tour members and perform two concerts for you!*





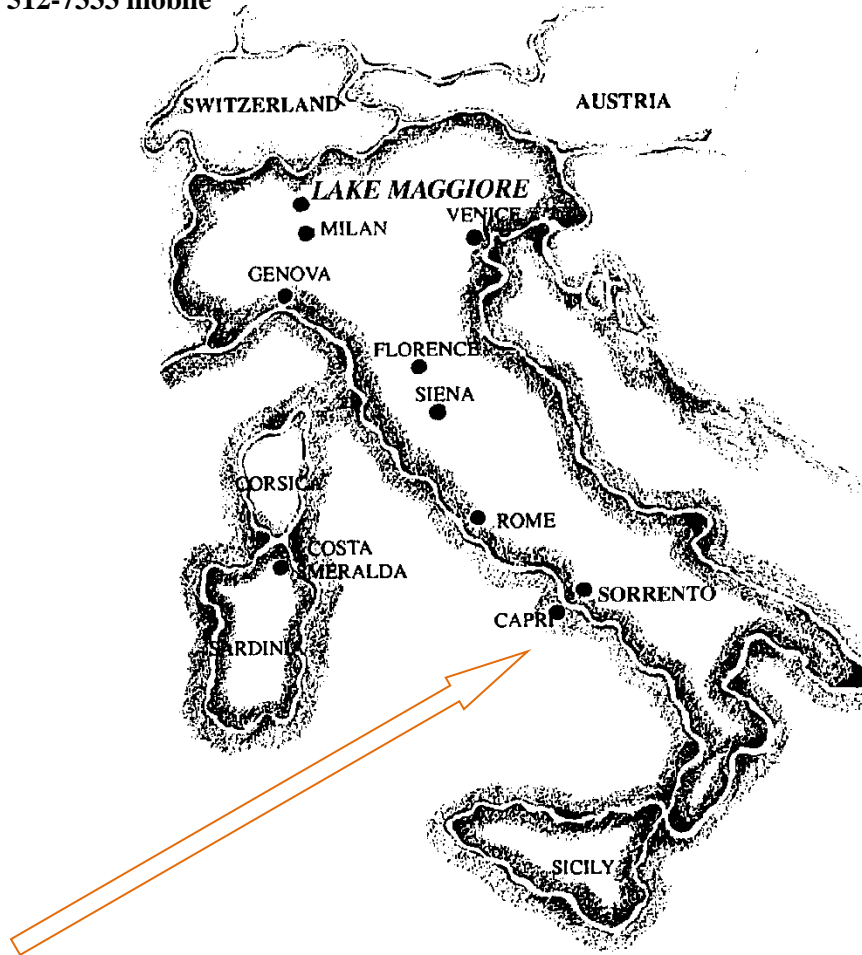


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**Your Hosts**  
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**561 846-1150 US & Italy**  
**+39 334 1615713 Italy only**



*Personally Organized and Escorted by Lexye & Gianni Aversa, Principals of PTI Associates and Professional Touch International. Their love and knowledge of Italy will enhance your trip with Insider Insights to make this an extraordinary "life-tasting" unforgettable experience!*  
[www.LexTravelWorld.com](http://www.LexTravelWorld.com)  
[www.PTIhotels.com](http://www.PTIhotels.com)  
[www.ProfessionalTouchIntl.com](http://www.ProfessionalTouchIntl.com)



Here are some informative websites for your perusal:



[www.italiantourism.com](http://www.italiantourism.com)  
<http://www.italia.it/en/home.html>  
[www.sorrentotourism/en/index.php](http://www.sorrentotourism/en/index.php)  
[www.surrentum.com](http://www.surrentum.com)



# Italy

There is no country which can offer the wealth and diversity of images and realities quite like ITALY. Each little village bespeaks the name(s) of famous personages, from the beginning of ITALY's origins: artists, scientists, engineers, historians, philosophers, vintners, farmers, designers, humanitarians, statesmen, and so many others throughout the years. The list of artists and their masterpieces in painting, sculpture, mosaics, monuments, buildings, frescoes is endless. One captures this extraordinary heritage in every glimpse of ITALY, if only by seeing it in the lives and on the faces of those who carry on the traditions today. The pride and appreciation the ITALIAN embodies in daily life is a testament to the genius of these proud origins.

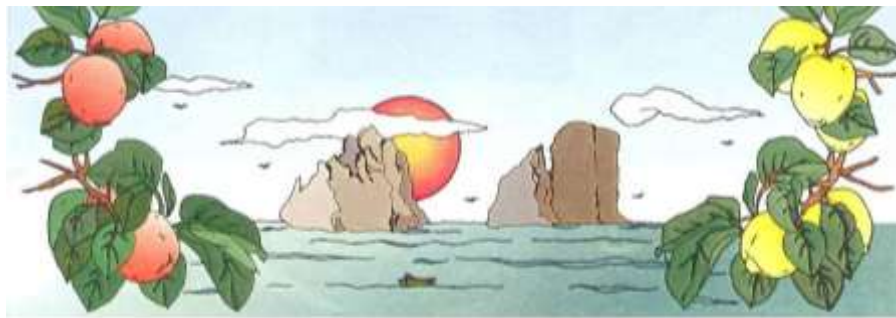
ITALY is an experience for all the senses. Visually, it offers no compare. Beyond the artistic joys, one is enthralled by the variations in geography throughout the country. From tranquil lakes, to majestic mountains, to fertile farmland, to pure and endless beaches, to coastal cliff formations, to intimate caves, to winding rivers, this land has proven bountiful and beautiful. One is tantalized by the aromatic fragrances of the vegetation and by the dazzling array of gourmet specialties which are a daily occurrence.

The largest (and finest!) producer of wine in the world, ITALY knows no equal in this field in the quality and variety of wines. Its cheeses are sublime, and range from mild and sweet to pungent and strong. Its agricultural production includes olive oil, succulent fruits bursting with flavor, fresh nuts, chestnuts, truffles, artichokes, tomatoes as they are meant to taste, and an excellent beefsteak in Tuscany. The seafood industry has evolved from generation to generation, as has nearly all of agriculture and industry, and the traditions remain strong and intact. Pasta is prepared the way it is meant to be served, and it is created in unlimited shapes and sizes, all tender and delicious, with each region proud of its own specialties. Shopping is done daily, everything fresh; even day old bread or vegetables are unacceptable for any ITALIAN table.

**We present ITALY.....**

*enjoy its unique blending of color, culture and cuisine,  
formulating evocative ingredients which make this  
travel adventure a "life tasting" experience.*

*This is ITALY as it was meant and deserves to be experienced!*

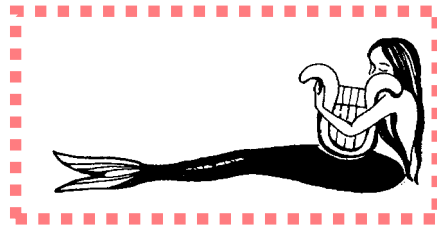


# *It's Time to "Return to Sorrento"!*



## Sorrento

You are about to embark upon a journey to a special spot, to one of our planet's most treasured locations. Sorrento is an idyllic place, nestled along the coast of a magnificent peninsula, combining the best of nature's gifts... the sea, the mountains, exotic vegetation and flowers of every hue imaginable. Truly a mosaic of colors and sensory delights, there is a visual dream evident from every perspective. Sorrento and its environs form a collage of natural beauty and geographical wonders, unlike anywhere else on earth. With a stunning panorama above the sea, here stood once the villas of ancient Romans, even where the Emperor Augustus once lived. This earthly paradise enjoys an ideal microclimate where the sun smiles with pride on an oasis of kindness – a perfect complement to its radiance, with folks who genuinely delight in the simple pleasures of life and a profound appreciation of nature's generous bounty. They will share with you the music which is Italy in song and life.



**The "Syrene" or "Siren" (mermaid) is the symbol of Sorrento and the Amalfi Coast region.**

Recalling the "Song of the Sirens" from the days of Ulysses in *The Odyssey*, this is the magical land where Ulysses bade his seamen tie him to the mast for fear of being lured by their haunting melody. *Do not despair....* mythology still lives here and the melody lingers, awaiting your arrival to this land of enchantment!





# SORRENTO, Historical Treasure



Sorrento, land of colors

Sorrento, land of the Mermaids

Sorrento, the city of orange and lemon groves

Each of these definitions so aptly describes the jewel known as Sorrento, where kindness and hospitality are handed down from one generation to the next. Sorrento is indeed the land of colors, brilliant and delicate hues, depending on the variations of season. Each sunset is a lingering memory of beauty, above the shimmering seas which change color from moment to moment.

Think back to its origins, when Roman ships laden with merchandise and busy sailors sailed these waters, and when the Roman emperors built splendid villas along its coastal shores. And imagine the times when the Turks commanded fully-armed ships in search of wealth and bounty, sacked Sorrento in 1558.

Many civilizations have left their mark as they passed through here: the Etruscans, the Greeks (who gave the city its urban layout, still clearly visible today in the historical centre), the ancient Romans. Sorrento was subject to the domination of Byzantium, sack of the Longobards, conquest by the Normans, and beneficial influence of the Aragonese. The beginning of the 1700's saw a period of cultural, economic and social rebirth, reaching its climax during the 1800's when the town's tourism heritage began, **as an essential stop on the so-called "Grand Tour", a journey through the most important Italian sights that every noble European son of the time had to make to complete his cultural, historical and literary formation!** Thus distinguished guests such as Byron, Keats, Scott, Dickens, Goethe, Wagner, Ibsen and Nietzsche came to stay in search of sun and inspiration. And, Sorrento was the favorite of Caruso, who sojourned often here; memorabilia of his operatic genius are evident throughout town. Sorrento is native city of the poet Torquato Tasso, born here in 1544, whose legacy is remembered with a commemorative statue in the central square which also bears his name, Piazza Tasso.

Today Sorrento is a modern city with its heritage evident in every charming niche. The rich Correale Museum of Terranova contains important testimonies of both the history of Sorrento and of the purest craft tradition of inlaid wood. Sorrento hosts important events in the fields of culture (International Prize "City of Sorrento" Award for science), music (Sorrentine Summer Musical Festival), cinema (International Film Festival), as well as being the ideal starting point for visiting all the tourist sights of the region (Capri, Ischia, Naples, Ercolano, Pompei, Positano, Amalfi) and so on!

Sorrento has always been a favorite retreat of celebrities, such as Sophia Loren, Enrico Caruso, Princess Margaret, Luciano Pavarotti..... and today tourists flock there to experience that unique enchantment only Sorrento can offer. The hotels are exquisite, reflecting architecture of a bygone era and an opulent style which has been preserved for decades, housed in former mansions and palazzos perched atop ancient Roman caves! Service is not just gracious; it comes from the heart.



Restaurants abound, offering fresh seafood, an infinite amount of pastas, and an unimaginable assortment of anti-pasto delectables. Fruits and vegetables are abundant and cooked in an infinite variety of delicious preparations!



# YOUR HOTEL

<http://www.hoteltramontano.com/en/>

[www.tramontano.it](http://www.tramontano.it)



IMPERIAL  
HOTEL TRAMONTANO  
SORRENTO dal 1852

Six glorious nights at the most glamorous hotel in Sorrento, perched above the Bay of Naples, with a panoramic backdrop of Mt. Vesuvius! This historic property dates back over 200 years as a former palazzo, birthplace of the famed poet Torquato Tasso, who is as beloved today in Sorrento as he was throughout Europe decades ago. The classic song "Torna a Surriento" was composed on the terrace above the sea. The rooms are lovely with period furnishings and rich fabrics. The public areas are spacious and diversified with many views and lavish appointments. The food is beyond exquisite, under the "toque" of Don Alfonso (2-star Michelin Chef), and served with love by staff that feel like extended family. Breakfast is a buffet feast for the eyes and palate! Tropical gardens and pool area are stunning, and the private beach club is accessible by hotel elevator. Visit the website NOW and imagine yourself in this lap of luxury with us!







Within this precious enclave of Sorrento, there are wonderful views above the Bay of Naples with Mt. Vesuvius as a dramatic backdrop.



Venture out to explore Sorrento – your walking tour includes wonderful insights!

Step inside the beautiful Cloisters and nearby church.

Visit the Cathedral along the Corso – it is amazing!  
Stop into the Yellow Church (Carmine) on Piazza Tasso.



View the Antiche Mura (old walls)  
Go see the old mill (to the right of Piazza Tasso).

On a leisure day, visit the compact but precious museums:  
Museo de Legna - the one with ancient inlaid wood Intarsia)  
Villa Fiorentino for Sorrento Fondazione  
Museo Correale







***YOUR INCLUDED  
FULL DAY TOUR  
ALONG THE AMALFI  
COAST WILL BE  
UNFORGETTABLE!***

The other side of the *Sorrentine Peninsula* reveals the *Amalfi Coast*,

an awesome gift from nature and an even greater drama in its geographical formations and vistas..... which only the seagull can describe!

You will explore the awesome Amalfi Coast, one of the most exquisite places on earth as you follow the curves of the famous Amalfi Drive, excavated from cliffs which plunge dramatically into the Gulf of Salerno. Much of the region's undeveloped virgin terrain is now declared a "Heritage of Mankind"! Enormous cliffs plunge dramatically into the Bay of Salerno, and terraced vineyards, gardens, and olive trees kiss the hillsides. Small fishing villages are found inside every inlet and seem untouched by time.



The journey takes you past fishing villages, churches perched above the sea, stunning villas, charming coastal towns, and the remains of fortresses dating from the days of the Saracens. Next stop, **AMALFI**, which offers so much history and pageantry to the visitor. Visit the unique Cathedral, with its opulent mesmerizing interior. Amalfi is known for its handiwork in ceramics and ancient craft of making parchment-like paper, much like the rice paper of the Orient. The marine-blue of Amalfi is found in its crafts everywhere. Its seafaring history dates back to the era as one of the original four ruling **REPUBLICS OF ITALY** (along with Venice, Pisa and Genoa), with many relics relating to those proud traditions.

**COVER KNEES & SHOULDERS** for the Cathedral.



Then head into **POSITANO**, nestled cozily into a curvaceous cove and has become a chic jet set retreat, sparkling like the waters of the sea reflected below. There will be ample time for exploring the terraced levels of the town, with its curio shops, street artisans and posh boutiques – peasant designs galore!



**ENJOY A LUNCHEON FEAST WITH WINE IN A SEA VIEW RESTAURANT!**

From Positano, you can view the nearby islands, LI GALLI, where Ulysses bade his seamen tie him to the mast, for fear of the temptation of the Song of the Sirens! Perhaps you too will hear their lilting song or feel the tingling of centuries passing before your eyes. The world-famous Russian ballet dancer, Rudolph Nureyev, was also charmed by the islands and purchased them in the 1980's as a retreat for himself and other luminaries. Today, the islands are once again back in Italian arms; their mystery and spellbinding secret continue to enchant all who see them.



*These islands were in the possession of Massine, who sold them to Nureyev, and Gianni's childhood friend secured them from the Nureyev estate! HERE IS WHERE HISTORY AND MYTHOLOGY MERGE – YOU DECIDE !*







**On a free day, visit Capri on your own or with an optional tour:**

Just a quick jaunt from Sorrento by hydrofoil to the legendary Island of Capri.

A fairytale Funicular whisks you to the central Piazzetta for some marvelous sightseeing and panoramic views.

A stroll will acquaint you with the area, and do not miss the beautiful gardens of Caesar Augustus and the amazing panoramas. Circle “up up and away” on hair-raising little roads to explore the other side of the island, and the “highly” situated Anacapri! And, of course the famous Blue Grotto awaits with its awesome glow.

**An optional tour will be offered to Pompeii**, tracing its ruins to the amazing civilization buried in moments, in the shadow of Mt. Vesuvius. Your included excursion is insightful with a wonderful guide to share astounding historical information about the ruins and former bustling City!



*Gain an in-depth look at one of Italy's most famous chapters from its past. Today's journey traces historical events of this ancient civilization and its destiny, as VESUVIUS presides nearby - a constant reminder of its omnipotent power. The amazing architectural achievements of POMPEII are revealed, with a sophistication in city planning and engineering to match the most technologically-advanced metropolis of our time. The art and creativity of the people of Pompeii shows a glimpse into their daily lives and their exhilarating zest for life! What is revealed are the remains of what was a thriving cultural and vital city as you walk through pages of history.*



## ONE SPECTACULAR DINNER at *DON ALFONSO 1890* - Two Michelin Stars!

Located in Sant'Agata Sui Due Golfi, Gianni's home town, between Sorrento and Positano atop the Sorrentine Peninsula! If you sail around the Sorrentine Peninsula passing ancient Roman villas, you view its very tip at Punta Campanella - this is the precious UNESCO Heritage of Mankind, and bordering it is the farm of DON ALFONSO 1890, where they produce so many of the ingredients used in their recipes! The world renowned restaurant has 2 Michelin Stars and is member of Relais Chateaux . The owner Chef Alfonso is Gianni's childhood friend, and his son Ernesto has taken up the "Toque" and is President of Young Chef Association of Europe.



**DON ALFONSO 1890 is one of the most famous restaurants in Italy and in the world. Chef Proprietor Alfonso Iaccarino was named #1 Chef in Italy in 1999 and one of the top three Chefs in the World in 2001! He is quoted daily in the press, lectures often and is a noted authority on the purity and preparation of food. Don Alfonso also operates a cooking academy, and chefs from all over the world study under his mastery. Chef Iaccarino has been featured in virtually every culinary publication and has earned countless awards in the Hospitality Industry. He has earned every accolade in the Hospitality Industry and has been featured in "Town and Country", "Wine Spectator", "The New York Times", "Gourmet" and countless other publication. He was designated a Knight AND Commendatore, the highest honor bestowed by the President of Italy!**

**Don Alfonso also opened restaurants in Capri, Rome, Dubai, Macau and La Mamounia in Marrakech! They have catered to the Royal Family of Monaco and handled a private event where "Sting" performed on a Li Galli island near Positano! They oversee the food and kitchen of your hotel, Imperial Hotel Tramontano!**



The wine cellar is one of the most revered in the world, housing priceless vintages in an ancient Roman tunnel, which you can view. Your evening here will be imbued with sublime memories! Enjoy an exquisite dinner and wines paired with the courses.

***The degustation menu will be created especially for our group members!***





*One evening, enjoy a magnificent feast for the eyes, ears and palate, at the beloved restaurant CARUSO!*

This is a living museum in tribute to the great Tenor, who adored Sorrento and sojourned in paradise over the course of many years. You will be surrounded by pages of history with memorabilia of his life, his music and performances. The exquisite food preparation and service complement the music ambiance which echoes from ancient walls!

The owner Paolo is Gianni's childhood friend, and takes great pride in this unique and precious emporium he has created. A manifest from the ship of Caruso's first arrival in the US hangs on the wall, donated by Gianni! A delicious custom menu and wine pairings await our special friends, and whenever you then hear Franco Corso perform "Caruso", your memories will have a new dimension of rapture!





# Your Itinerary

Thursday, October 11

Flights to Italy



Friday, October 12 ~ **WELCOME TO ITALY!** \* **DINNER AT CARUSO**



**ARRIVAL:** Transportation to Imperial Hotel Tramontano

Balance of the day at leisure to enjoy your hotel and stroll around the area or into town. Take advantage of the gardens, swimming pool and magnificent views!

**WELCOME DINNER** with WINE at **CARUSO** Ristorante Museum!  
Your eyes are dazzled by the memorabilia covering the walls.....  
your ears succumb to the classic recordings of Caruso... and your palate awakens (after a long flight) with sublime creations and luscious wines!

*Suggested Attire: Informal - Jacket Optional for Men; Resort Attire for Women*

Saturday, October 13 – **SORRENTO TOUR \* COCKTAIL \* DINNER \* CONCERT**

**BREAKFAST BUFFET** at the Hotel

**WALKING ORIENTATION TOUR OF SORRENTO.....**  
A Leisurely and Informative way to truly appreciate this unique locale.

**COCKTAIL RECEPTION** at your **HOTEL**  
in an ornate **HISTORIC SALON** with a  
**PRIVATE CONCERT** featuring

**FRANCO CORSO**



Then enjoy a magnificent **GOURMET DINNER**  
accompanied by **REGIONAL WINES** with  
service from the heart, prepared by the culinary  
experts under the jurisdiction of Don Alfonso!

*Suggested Attire: Elegant - Jacket for Men;  
Cocktail Dress or Ensemble for Women*





## Sunday, October 14 – LECTURE \* DON ALFONSO DINNER



### BREAKFAST BUFFET

**DAY AT LEISURE** – Schedules will be available for Mass at the Cathedral or Services at local churches

**Time for Optional Tour Excursions**

**IN-DEPTH LECTURE ON THE ORIGINS AND EVOLUTION OF SORRENTO, FROM ROMAN TIMES TO THE PRESENT, BY RENOWNED LOCAL HISTORIAN**

**GOURMET DEGUSTACION DINNER with WINE PAIRINGS at DON ALFONSO 1890, 2-Star Michelin Restaurant, personally customized by Chef Alfonso Iaccarino for your pleasure! Savor a welcome aperitif and magnificent evening to please your palate and all the senses! Explore the ancient Roman tunnel, now their world renowned wine cellar!**

*Suggested Attire: Elegant - Jacket for Men; Cocktail Dress or Ensemble for Women*



## Monday, October 15 ~ AMALFI COAST TOUR with LUNCH

### BREAKFAST BUFFET

**FULL DAY EXCURSION TO POSITANO & THE AMALFI COAST**  
Be ready for an extraordinary day, with insights of the Sorrentine Peninsula and Amalfi Drive, bringing history and Mythology to life!  
Enjoy a LUNCHEON FEAST in Positano, overlooking the sea.  
Return to Sorrento late afternoon, with dinner at leisure on your own.

*Touring Attire: Comfortable Clothes - EXCELLENT Walking Shoes*



## Tuesday, October 16 – COCKTAIL \* DINNER \* CONCERT

**BREAKFAST BUFFET**

**DAY AT LEISURE**

**OPTIONAL TOURS TO BE OFFERED**

**SPECIAL NIGHT!**

**COCKTAIL RECEPTION in a HISTORIC VENUE**

**PRIVATE CONCERT featuring FRANCO CORSO**

**with an unforgettable GOURMET DINNER accompanied**

**by REGIONAL WINES! An evening created for you in a special venue!**

*Suggested Attire: Elegant - Jacket for Men; Cocktail Dress or Ensemble for Women*



## Wednesday, October 17 – GALA DINNER

**BREAKFAST BUFFET**

**DAY AT LEISURE**

**OPTIONAL TOURS TO BE OFFERED**

**Glorious final night FORMAL GOURMET DEGUSTACION DINNER with WINE PAIRINGS at your hotel. The perfect pinnacle to your week in paradise!**

*Suggested Attire: Elegant - Jacket for Men; Cocktail Dress or Ensemble for Women*



## Thursday, October 18 – DEPART SORRENTO

**BREAKFAST BUFFET**

**Departure details provided on site**

**Please check out and settle your incidental charges.**

**Transportation to the Airport, pending your flight times**

**Transfer to Rome for those on the Rome Post Extension, via**

**Caserta for sightseeing of the famous Palace!**



*NOTE: above itinerary sequence is subject to revision for operational purposes. All inclusions remain constant.*





## TRIP TIPS



### CLIMATE & ATTIRE

The climate in autumn is warm, with brilliant sunny days and temperatures ranging from high 60's into the 80's. Evenings can cool down somewhat. Rain is unlikely, but not out of the question, so an umbrella is good insurance. The people of Italy are proud and fashionable, yet they rarely "dress up". You will find a casual tone in attire during the day, both with the local folks and with tourists. For daytime touring, casual attire is appropriate with excellent walking shoes. For women, slacks or a casual skirt are appropriate, and jeans or long pants are suitable for men. During tours, you will encounter towns with extensive cobblestones..... these protrude and are very bumpy and require thick rubber-soled shoes or sneakers. A sunhat is essential for sightseeing days. **For Churches and Cathedrals.... Knees and Shoulders must be covered – men and women! Sandals are fine.**

Most of our evenings will take place in historic characteristic restaurants that call for "resort casual" attire- never fancy, but what you would wear to a similar restaurant back home. For the two evenings with our dinner and concert by Franco Corso, you may wish to dress up a bit, but these are not "formal" nights. Ladies may wish to wear a cocktail dress, long skirt suitable for a garden party, dinner suit or evening slacks ensemble. For men, a suit or jacket (and tie optional) would be appropriate – sports jacket would be appropriate.

### ELECTRIC CURRENT & APPLIANCES

Electric current is 220 volts, different than in the U.S. You will require transformers or dual-voltage appliances, along with 2-pronged round adaptor plugs. Most luggage stores or appliance sections of department stores carry these items. There are hair dryers in most rooms at the hotels. Irons *may not* be available at the hotel to use in your room, due to local fire regulations.

### TIME ZONES & PHONE CALLS, INTERNET

Italy is six hours ahead of New York/Eastern time. Communications are as accessible in Italy as in the US, but it is expensive to phone or fax back to the US, so you may wish to establish a pre-arranged time for the folks back home to call you. Contact your cell phone provider to determine if your cell phone/Blackberry account can be extended overseas during your trip. Internet is available at the hotels for your laptop or ipad – there may be a minimal access charge. Note that laptops and most portable computer products do NOT need a transformer to plug in and recharge – all that is needed is a simple 2-prong plug adaptor to fit into the sockets. Those are easy to find in the US or on arrival in Italy!

### CURRENCY

The current practical exchange rate is approximately 1.3 Dollars = 1 Euro.

There are Euro coins, denominated in 2 Euros, 1 Euro, then 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

There are Euro notes in different colors and sizes, denominated in 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10, 5 Euros.

You can change money at banks, the hotel, or at money exchange bureaus (*cambios*), but ATM machines are most convenient and are available every few blocks. Be sure to bring your passport if changing money at a bank, but it is a hassle. Bank hours vary, usually 8:30AM-1:30PM and 3:00-4:00PM, Monday – Friday. Afternoon hours are subject to variations.

Credit cards are accepted in most shops and restaurants. Bring plenty of small bills, since you don't want to get caught at the end of the trip with only large bills and a small purchase in Euros to make. When you change dollars, you will receive Euros; you would not be able to obtain part Euros and part dollars.

## GRATUITIES & TAXES

It is advised to tip as you would at a hotel back home, for doormen, bellmen, room maid, etc. If the hotel Concierge performs any special service for you, it is appropriate to leave a nice gratuity. A VAT tax is added to all restaurant checks; a service charge is sometimes added to restaurant checks but it is customary to leave some change as well at modest restaurants, and a 10% tip at finer restaurants. Taxi drivers should be tipped 10%, and it is customary to leave some change for bathroom attendants. Guides and Drivers may be tipped at your discretion – more details will be communicated on site.

## SHOPPING

A shopper's dream, Italy offers a vast selection of silks, perfumes, cosmetics, antiques, leather goods, ceramics, glassware and truly extraordinary fashions. Some shops close for a couple of hours each afternoon, then reopen into the evening. In Sorrento, many shops remain open until 10:00pm!

Credit cards are widely accepted, but shops are not likely to accept dollars or travelers checks. If you spend a large amount in one shop, ask if they participate in the "Tax Back" form, which gets you the VAT funds back, either at the airport or as a credit to your credit card statement. You will need to show the goods at the airport Customs office before departure.

### GENERAL ITALIAN SPECIALTIES:

silks / hand-blown glassware / leather goods & clothes  
designer clothes & shoes / religious articles  
inlaid wood items / furniture and game tables /ceramics & tiles & decorative plates  
Capri perfume /cameo & coral jewelry / gold / Capodimonte figurines  
Linens / hand-embroidered tablecloths / linen bedsheets



SHOPPING HOURS USUALLY Monday through Saturday

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM / 4:00 PM - 7:30 PM or later

Some shops are closed on Saturday afternoon or Monday mornings.

In Italy, when fashion speaks ... the world listens!!

Whether you seek high-style designer items or early Christmas crafts or unique treasures in art and jewelry, you'll find it all in Italy! Pack light and bring an extra suitcase for all your purchases and gifts – There are so many affordable and high quality items to bring home!

On site we will make suggestions of specific areas and shops to find your Italian treasures, as well as advising you directly on site. We have our special spots for everything from gorgeous pashminas to inlaid wood furniture to leather designer purses to magnificent linen sheets and table cloths!







### **SORRENTO SHOPPING:**

Shopping is quite endless. Sorrento is known for its exquisite inlaid wood articles, fine linens, cameos and coral jewelry, capodimonte figurines, and leather products! The ceramics and pottery from the Sorrentine peninsula are world famous.

In Sorrento, shops are open forever, so plenty of time to do shopping in the evening. From the main square, there are 2 main streets with all the shops. As you face the seafront, the streets are to your left. One is the *Corso Italia*, (or just “*the Corso*”), the main thoroughfare. The other is *Via S. Cesareo*, which is a cobblestone walking street parallel to the Corso. (There are plenty of shops in the other direction, but the concentration of the most desirable are these.)

Stroll along both for a dizzying array of shops. Most incredible selection is right on the main square (*Piazza Tasso*) at “*Gargiulo & Jannuzzi*”. They have music boxes, furniture, gorgeous linens, ceramics... great furniture downstairs of inlaid wood, and you can ship back stuff very easily.

For shoes, purses & wallets, enter *Via S. Cesareo*, and on the left side just a few shops in is a store just called “*Gloves*”. It has 3 entry doors. The owner’s wife designs all the purses, which are then sold in other stores throughout Italy, at higher prices.

**YES..... when you're in Italy, it's all about the food.....  
.....but especially in Sorrento!**



## **WATER**

Tap water in Italy is fresh and safe to drink, (after all, Italy is where the largest selection of mineral waters originate!). Since many of the waters from health spas are bottled, bottled water is very fashionable and available everywhere. You can feel free to drink tap water in most places unless you see a sign reading *Acqua Non Potabile*. *Acqua Natural* is normal bottled water; *Acqua Frizzante* is carbonated bottled water.

## **DINING: RESTAURANTS & CUISINE - Buon Appetito!**

### ***Italian cuisine is a continuous celebration of delicious diversity!***

Cuisine is superb with recipes dating from ancient times preserving Italian heritage and keeping traditional dishes alive, especially pastas! Any Italian will proclaim that dining and breathing are synonymous in Italy! Dining is not just a treasured ritual, it is truly sacred. Italians cherish their cuisine and prepare it with love, personal pride, gusto and great respect. Regional specialties are found which differ significantly from dishes in other parts of the country. Except for a few obvious intruders, there is no such thing as fast food or franchise restaurants in Italy!

A proper restaurant is called a RISTORANTE, whereas a more casual bistro is known as a TRATTORIA. An affordable cafeteria-style spot is a TAVOLA CALDA, and PIZZERIA is an establishment serving not just pizza but other light fare. Most dangerous is a PASTICCERIA, where pastries and gelato are utterly irresistible!

In the little cafes and highway rest stops, you decide what you would like to munch and drink, determine the cost, pay the cashier first, present the receipt at the food counter and ask for what you wanted in the first place! Also, if you sit and order, it will cost you more than if you sip at the counter.

***Remember on any menu, "GR" means you pay by the gram, (100 grams is approx 3 ½ ounces), "K" means by the Kilo (approx 2.2 pounds). "S.Q." means "according to quantity" – like for an antipasto buffet, you pay for the amount you pile on your plate!***

These notations are especially customary for prices on steaks, seafood and antipasto displays.

