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IS FOR LOVERS:

EXPLORE MEXICO, BELIZE & COSTA RICA

An aerial photograph of a rugged coastline. In the foreground, a dark, rocky cliffside meets the ocean. The water is a deep blue-green, with white foam from waves crashing against the shore. In the distance, a long, low cliff extends into the sea, with a small structure visible on top. To the right, a prominent sea stack rises from the water. The sky is a clear, bright blue with a few wispy white clouds.

# CASTLES, CRUISES COASTLINES

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Beyond our obvious amorous affair of alliteration, there's plenty of appeal when it comes to castles, cruises and coastlines (see what we did there?). There's truly something for everyone amongst these honeymoon and destination wedding locations. Whether you're considering a castle in Ireland, the Italian coastline or a cruise through Greece, prepare yourself for lovely options galore.





# Celebrate Romance on the Amalfi Coast

WORDS BY CAROLYN STEERE

Photo courtesy of: Casa Angelina

Some dreams are best experienced awake, and winding along the Amalfi Coast of Italy was a dream come true. It has long been on my bucket list and there was not one moment when I experienced disappointment. Each morning, the rising sun would burn off the fog to reveal dramatic cliffs that seemed to disappear into the clear blue Mediterranean waters and every evening we would retire to the terrace to take in the warm hues of the Amalfi sunset. It doesn't get more romantic.

Our home for our Italian getaway was the exclusive boutique resort, Casa Angelina in the small coastal town of Praiano, located between Positano and Amalfi. The resort is tucked away down a winding driveway and, once you arrive, it feels like you have entered an oasis of tranquility.

Light, airy and inviting best describe this unique property. Washed in stark Mediterranean white, there are pops of color throughout, such as whimsical Venetian glass sculptures inspired by Cuban artist Alfredo Sosabravo and the work of other contemporary artists. The dramatic sea views from almost every vantage point of the resort are awe-inspiring, including the elevator!

Casa Angelina affectionately refers to itself as a "lifestyle" where "relaxation is effortless, design is a given and style and elegance are omnipresent." Nestled on a seaside cliff, this romantic 39 room, adult-only boutique hotel is a hide-away where the staff pride themselves in pampering their guests, allowing them to escape the everyday. The concierge services were amazing, right from the start. Even before our arrival, we were provided a concierge guide who assisted with everything from recommendations for transportation

to and from the airport to every activity we might consider during our visit.

The white-on-white décor of the guest rooms and comfy beds dressed in pristine white Etro cotton sheets may entice you to spend your time inside, but you would not want to risk missing all the region has to offer. Easy excursions include strolling the narrow passageways and shopping in the quaint shops of nearby Positano, sailing over to the island of Capri or soaking up the sun at La Gavitella Beach.

The Campania region is definitely for "foodies." It is the birthplace of pizza, of which we indulged frequently and enjoyed immensely, but the region is also known for Amalfi lemons and specialties such as mozzarella di bufala, capers and all manner of seafood. We seemed to eat our way through the day, starting with strong European coffee and a scrumptious breakfast on the terrace where we could take in the amazing views and plan our day (and next meal). Of course, dinner was a highlight when Chef Leopoldo Elefante provided inspired, locally sourced cuisine in Casa Angelina's fine dining restaurant, Un Piano Nel Cielo, which translates as "a floor in the sky." The views are awe inspiring and it is "love at first bite" to the last sweet taste as you experience the rich flavors of the Mediterranean region.

Peak season on the Amalfi Coast is June through mid-September, but I would highly recommend visiting in the fall and spring when the temperatures are still pleasantly warm, but there are fewer visitors sharing the narrow, windy roads. Tailor-made for romance, Casa Angelina is a truly unique place to unlock romance with an unforgettable proposal, destination wedding, honeymoon or romantic getaway. **ido!**



Photos courtesy of: Casa Angelina



CASTLES, CRUISES & COASTLINES

