

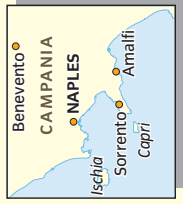
Frommer's™

The Amalfi Coast & Bay of Naples

 with your family

From charming resorts to Roman ruins





- Line 1 Metropolitana Collinare**
 line under construction
 planned
- Line 2 Metropolitana FS**
 Line 6
 Funiculars
 Circumvesuviana
 Circumflegrea / Cumana
 Metrocampaia Nordest



Frommer's™

The Amalfi Coast & Bay of Naples



with your family

From charming resorts to Roman ruins

by **Nick Bruno & Shona Main**



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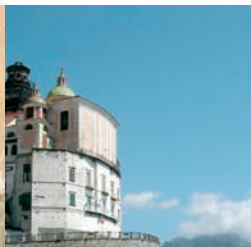
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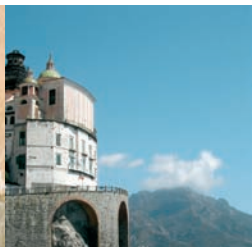
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About the Authors

Nick Bruno is a freelance travel writer and journalist. His dad is Neapolitan and he spent his childhood eating his nonna's fried eggs with mozzarella and following his uncle, the well-known crooner Luciano Bruno, around the piano bars of Campania. He spends lots of time in Italy and the rest of the year trying to lose some weight.

Shona Main also peaked too soon as Pop Editor of *Jackie* magazine when just 20. In a naive attempt to change the world she had short and not quite as interesting careers in law and politics. She has since returned to frippery and now writes about Italy, Scotland, art and popular culture.

They both co-authored the *Frommer's with Your Family guide to Northern Italy*, which came runner-up for the 2007 Italian State Tourist Board's Best Travel Guide.

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An Additional Note

Please be advised that travel information is subject to change at any time and this is especially true of prices. We therefore suggest that you write or call ahead for confirmation when making your travel plans. The authors, editors and publisher cannot be held responsible for experiences of readers while travelling. Your safety is important to us however, so we encourage you to stay alert and be aware of your surroundings.

Star Ratings, Icons & Abbreviations

Hotels, restaurants and attraction listings in this guide have been ranked for quality, value, service, amenities and special features using a star-rating system. Hotels, restaurants, attractions, shopping and nightlife are rated on a scale of zero stars (recommended) to three (exceptional). In addition to the star rating system, we also use 5 feature icons that point you to the great deals, in-the-know advice and unique experiences. Throughout the book, look for:

- FIND** Special finds – those places only insiders know about
- MOMENT** Special moments – those experiences that memories are made of
- VALUE** Great values – where to get the best deals
- OVERRATED** Places or experiences not worth your time or money
- GREEN** Attractions employing responsible tourism policies

The following abbreviations are used for credit cards:

- AE American Express
- DC Diners Club
- DISC Discover
- MC MasterCard
- V Visa

A Note on Prices

Frommer's provides exact prices in each destination's local currency. As this book went to press, the rate of exchange was €1=£0.79. Rates of exchange are constantly in flux; for up-to-the-minute information, consult a currency-conversion website such as www.xe.com.

In the Family-friendly Accommodation section of this book we have used a price category system.

An Invitation to the Reader

In researching this book, we discovered my wonderful places – hotels, restaurants, shops and more. We're sure you'll find others. Please tell us about them, so we can share the information with your fellow travellers in upcoming editions. If you were disappointed with a recommendation, we'd love to know that too. Please email: frommers@wiley.co.uk or write to:

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1 Family Highlights of the Amalfi Coast & Bay of Naples



Campania Felix (*Happy Land to the Romans*) has always been popular with epicureans and families after the good things in life. Its flavoursome mix of relentless life, fabulous food, entwined layers of history and cultural treats is intoxicating. This crater-full of ancient and modern attractions spills out of an Arcadian landscape dominated by the ominous presence of a dormant volcano, Vesuvius (in Italian Monte Vesuvio), a reminder of nature's awesome power and its irrepressible inhabitants' precarious position.

The Amalfi Coast and Bay of Naples have some of the most well-known archaeological sites and natural wonders on the planet. When Vesuvio erupted in AD79 towns and villas were buried deep below volcanic debris. Their discovery provides captivating time capsules of Roman life. A visit to Pompeii and Herculaneum is the nearest thing to time-travel, while Paestum is an unforgettable vision of a lost civilisation.

The Campi Flegrei (Fiery Fields) – an area filled with volcanic craters, eerie lakes and the sulphuric vapours of Solfatara – was the entrance to the mythical Underworld. It was the most fashionable Roman resort, where Brutus and Cassius plotted Caesar's Ides of March. Families can paddle where Cleopatra enjoyed a spa getaway and stand above the underground cages where lions roared into the cauldron of Pozzuoli's amphitheatre.

Family trips to the islands of Capri, Ischia and Procida begin with a sea-breezy glide over azure waters. Each island has its own take on the Neapolitan-style *dolce vita*: Capri has the jet-set glamour, plunging cliffs and hidden marine grottoes; Ischia has thermal springs, tropical gardens and gorgeous beaches; while Procida prospers from its scruffy charm of peeling pastel houses nestled around intimate harbours.

For the ultimate family drive, take the SS163 along the Amalfi Coast – youngsters will gasp at the soaring limestone cliffs above and the limpid greenish blue *Mar Tirreno* way below. The Sorrentine peninsula and Costiera Amalfitana are studded with seaside resorts, intimate beaches and idyllic coves for splashing-good fun. Picturesque hamlets including Positano and Ravello tumble down mountainsides.

And finally, Napoli should not be missed in any lifetime. Families will be mesmerised by its layers of history and atmospheric sights. The dark, mysterious Città Antica – the Ancient City – gets under your skin.

Neapolitans are renowned for their warmth, sense of humour and joy in eating the fabulous fruits of the land and sea together in large and boisterous family groups – sometimes for hours! Eating out here as a family feels so natural – pizza, pastries and ice creams tend to go down well with everyone.

Here is a selection of our favourite family-friendly attractions to whet your appetite for a thrilling journey. *Buon Viaggio!*
