



THE ROMANCE OF
RAVELLO

A week on the Amalfi Coast
staying at the incomparable Belmond Hotel Caruso
with London Festival Opera

24th to 31st October 2019

NOBLE CALEDONIA

No matter where you travel in the world there are some places that will always stand out and make an indelible impression. High on the list for many is that slice of heaven known as the Amalfi Coast, surely one of the most beautiful stretches of coast to be found anywhere in the world. Perched on top of a mountainside with unrivalled views out to the Mediterranean sits the small town of Ravello, the jewel in the crown of the Amalfi Coast.

Ravello is the perfect spot to relax and enjoy the surrounding scenic and historical wonders. Our week long trip has been designed to include some of the best including the marvellous site of Herculaneum, the enchanting Palace of Caserta, Amalfi and the spectacular Naples Opera House. But, because we have chosen the Belmond Hotel Caruso, one of the world's finest hotels it would be a travesty not to allow time to enjoy its many delights. So, a little less sightseeing than usual allowing time to relax and explore the hotel, its romantic gardens, its infinity swimming pool which teeters on the edge of a cliff and the ancient palazzo, replete with original features, antique furniture and a marvellous collection of paintings. Time to wander slowly around Ravello with its stunning gardens, pretty houses, artisan boutiques and restaurants particularly at those quiet times in the early morning and evening when the day visitors have yet to arrive or have departed. Take the time to smell the scent of the lemon trees, enjoy the vistas and appreciate how lucky we are to enjoy these few days in such a paradise.

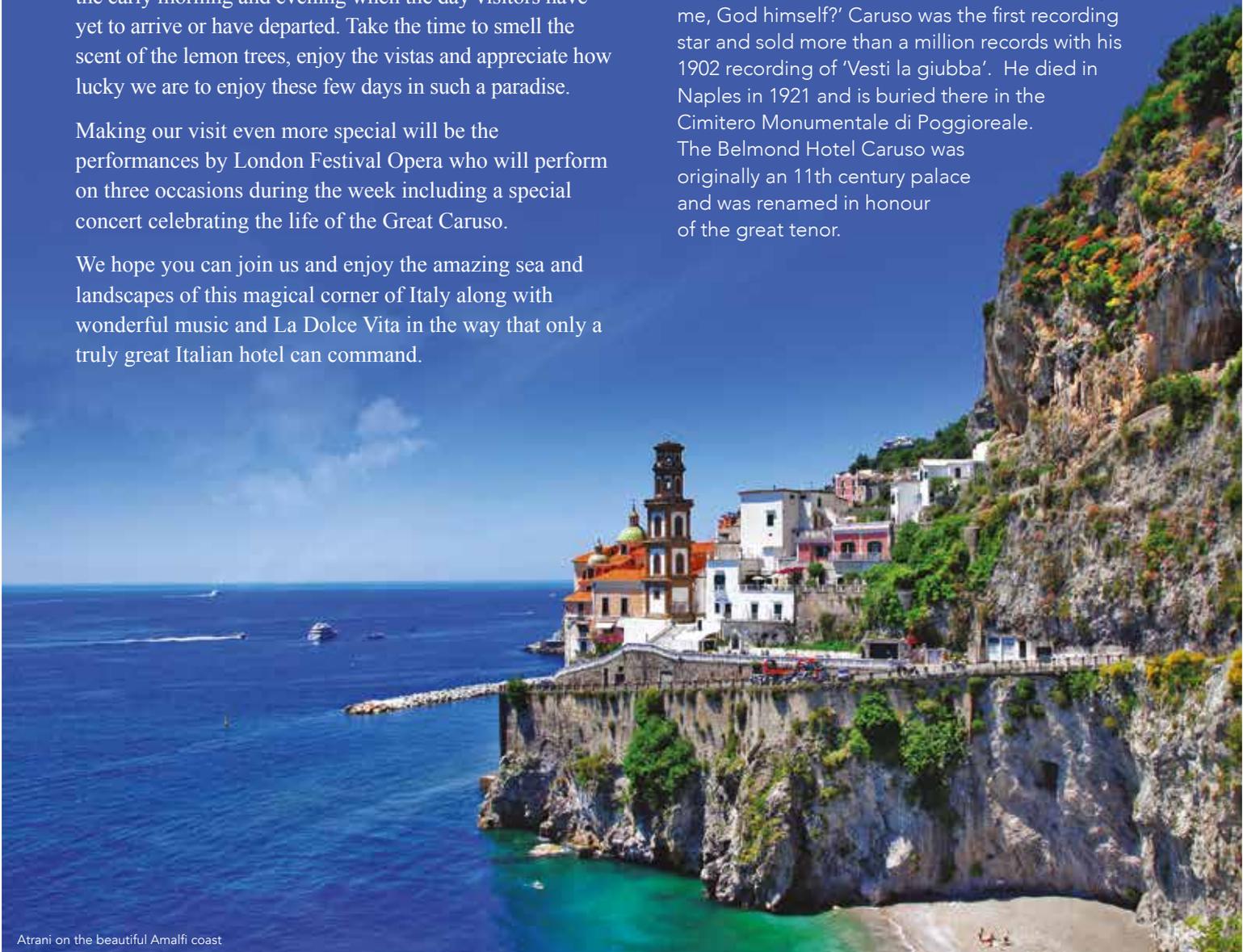
Making our visit even more special will be the performances by London Festival Opera who will perform on three occasions during the week including a special concert celebrating the life of the Great Caruso.

We hope you can join us and enjoy the amazing sea and landscapes of this magical corner of Italy along with wonderful music and La Dolce Vita in the way that only a truly great Italian hotel can command.



London Festival Opera

We are delighted that London Festival Opera will be joining us for our stay and their repertoire will include 'Caruso Celebration', a performance tracing the great singer's life through the operas he performed, including L'Elisir d'Amore, Rigoletto, La Bohème, Tosca and Pagliacci. Enrico Caruso, arguably the greatest tenor of all time, was born in Naples in 1873. Following his audition for Puccini in 1897 the composer is reputed to have asked 'Who sent you to me, God himself?' Caruso was the first recording star and sold more than a million records with his 1902 recording of 'Vesti la giubba'. He died in Naples in 1921 and is buried there in the Cimitero Monumentale di Poggioreale. The Belmond Hotel Caruso was originally an 11th century palace and was renamed in honour of the great tenor.





The stunning Italian Gardens of Belmond Hotel Caruso



Wall mosaic at the ancient Roman city of Herculaneum



The waterfall and fountain of Diana and Actaeon in the Royal Palace garden, Caserta

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Naples, Italy. Fly by scheduled flight to Naples and transfer to the luxurious Belmond Hotel Caruso in Ravello for a seven night stay.

Day 2 Ravello. Enjoy a leisurely breakfast at the hotel with wonderful views of the Amalfi Coast. This afternoon there will be a guided walking tour through Ravello village to the nearby beautiful gardens of the Villa Cimbrone. Transformed in the early 20th century by Lord Grimthorpe and Vita Sackville-West, it is an essentially English style garden perched high above the sea offering "the most beautiful panorama in the world". The fabulous views from the delightful gardens are best admired from the Belvedere of Infinity, an awe-inspiring terrace lined with classical-style statues and busts. The villa was something of a bohemian retreat in its early days and has had many illustrious former guests including Greta Garbo, Virginia Woolf, Winston Churchill, DH Lawrence and Salvador Dalí. This evening we will enjoy a welcome dinner at the hotel.

Day 3 Herculaneum. Today we visit the remarkable ruins of Herculaneum at the foot of the awesome Mount Vesuvius. When Vesuvius erupted on 24 August AD 79, it engulfed the two flourishing Roman towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum, as well as the many wealthy villas in the area. Herculaneum is smaller but better preserved than Pompeii and has a wealth of archaeological finds such as inlaid marble floors, mosaics and paintings. While hot ashes consumed the wood of Pompeii structures, Herculaneum's destruction was due to a flood of hot mud which sealed and protected entire buildings. During our visit to the site we will discover ancient luxurious properties and villas. After our visit we will have lunch in a farmhouse overlooking Sorrentine Peninsula before returning to Ravello in the afternoon and spending some time at leisure. This evening we will enjoy dinner in a local restaurant.

Day 4 Ravello. This morning we take a boat trip on the traditional wooden boat Ercole, the perfect way to discover the hidden creeks and bays along

the coast and the stunning scenery of the Amalfi Coast. In the afternoon we will meet at our hotel for our first concert by London Festival Opera – Caruso Celebration, a performance tracing the great singer's life through the operas he performed, including L'Elisir d'Amore, Rigoletto, La Bohème, Tosca and Pagliacci. After the concert we will take a short stroll to a local restaurant for a traditional Italian dinner.

Day 5 Royal Palace of Caserta & San Carlo Opera House, Naples. Today we head north from Ravello to the Royal Palace in Caserta which was intended to rival Versailles. We will take a detailed visit of the palace with its marble steps and rooms, a master work of Vanvitelli, which was erected by the Bourbon kings in the 1700's and is one of the most colossal edifices in Italy. There are artefacts galore to be seen, gilded panelling, paintings, canopied royal beds, chandeliers, inlaid furniture and silk padded walls. A grand royal park with cascades and ornate fountains surrounds the palace. Later we will drive to Naples. Lunch will be followed by a guided tour



Cathedral of St Andrew, Amalfi



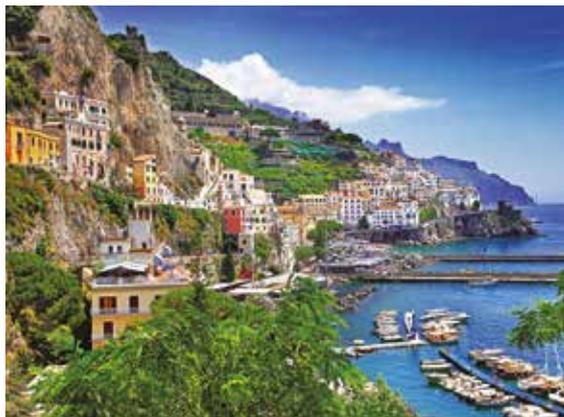
Lemons for sale in Ravello market



Interior of Amalfi's Duomo



Belvedere of Infinity at Villa Cimbrone, Ravello



Amalfi



San Carlo Opera House, Naples

of the spectacular San Carlo Opera House. Founded in 1737, it is the oldest opera house in Italy and all of Europe. Illustrious composers such as J.C. Bach, Joseph Haydn, Gioachino Rossini, Gaetano Donizetti, Vincenzo Bellini, Giuseppe Verdi, Giacomo Puccini and many more have all graced the theatre with their immortal music. After some free time in the main square we will return to Ravello for an evening at leisure.

Day 6 Amalfi. Morning at leisure to relax. This afternoon we will take a scenic drive along the beautiful Italian Riviera to Amalfi. The narrow road winds along the side of rocky cliffs overlooking the sea, each twist and turn offers new and breathtaking views. During our visit we will have some free time to stroll along the impressive marina of Amalfi, one of the oldest maritime republics of Italy and discover the picturesque shops and cafes grouped around an old fountain in the heart of the village. The highlight will be our visit to the impressive Duomo, the Cathedral of St. Andrew, a mixture of Moorish and early gothic influences. It is the religious, historic and cultural heart of Amalfi and its role in the daily life of the Amalfitans is just as important now as it has been for centuries. The Cathedral is home to the relics of Sant'Andrea, or St. Andrew, who is the patron saint and protector of Amalfi. Adjoining the Cathedral is the Basilica of the Crucifix dating back to 596 AD where London Festival Opera will serenade us with a Neapolitan Soiree in a programme of popular Italian songs and arias. We will enjoy dinner at a nearby restaurant before returning to Ravello.

Day 7 Ravello. A full day at leisure to enjoy the wonderful facilities at your hotel or explore

Ravello further. This evening we will meet for our farewell concert by London Festival Opera in period costume at our hotel. A Gala Romantica – with celebrated romantic arias and ensembles from the operas of Vivaldi, Mozart, Rossini, Verdi

and Puccini. The performance will be followed by our farewell dinner.

Day 8 Naples to London. Transfer to Naples airport for your return scheduled flight to London.



Panoramic view from the "Caimano Terrace", Belmond Hotel Caruso

PRICES PER PERSON

based on double occupancy

CATEGORY

DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

Double Room with Village or Garden View	£3895
Double Room Deluxe with Sea View and Balcony or Terrace	£4195
Junior Suite Superior with Sea View	£4795
Junior Suite Deluxe with Sea View and Balcony or Terrace	£5495

SOLE OCCUPANCY

Double Room with Village or Garden View	£4795
Double Room Deluxe with Sea View and Balcony or Terrace	£5295

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Seven nights hotel accommodation on bed and breakfast basis • Dinner on days 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7, lunch on days 3 and 5 • Excursions with local guide • Three music performances by London Festival Opera • Entrance fees • Tour Manager • Transfers • Airport taxes • Gratuities.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas, meals not indicated.

BELMOND HOTEL CARUSO

Perfectly situated above the picturesque town of Ravello, the Belmond Hotel Caruso is steeped in history and offers uninterrupted views of the Amalfi Coast. A former 11th century palace, the hotel is a triumph of the restorer's skill. Its ancient walls and fresco-covered ceilings have been carefully preserved to make it a work of art in itself.

Your Room

Belmond Hotel Caruso offers 50 air-conditioned rooms and suites, all very spacious and each with its own unique style. The furniture reflects Neapolitan style and tradition; some rooms also feature antique 18th and 19th century pieces. There is 24-hour room service and all rooms feature satellite television, in-room safes, complimentary Wi-Fi access, mini-bar, tea and coffee making facilities, bathrobes, slippers and luxury bathroom amenities.

Double Room with Village or Garden View: Comfortable and spacious at 35m², these rooms offer a delightful village or garden view. Bathrooms are large featuring separate shower cubicle, bathtub and beautifully furnished double vanity basins. The king-size bed can be changed for two single beds on request.

Double Room Deluxe with Sea View and Balcony or Terrace: Full of light, spacious at 35m² and beautifully decorated, they afford a spectacular sea view and a terrace or balcony and king size bed (two single beds on request). They have exquisite marble bathrooms with separate shower and are beautifully decorated throughout.

Junior Suite Superior: Charming, elegantly furnished and spacious at 45m², Junior Suites offer a beautiful sea view (no balcony). Bathrooms are large and feature separate shower cubicle, bathtub, bidet and beautifully furnished double vanity basins and king size bed (two single beds available on request).

Junior Suite Deluxe with Balcony or Terrace: These Junior Suites measure 55m² command a breathtaking view of the sea and the coast below from either balcony or terraces and equipped with sun-beds, table and chairs. Bathrooms are large and feature separate shower cubicle, bathtub, bidet and beautifully furnished double vanity basins.

Your Space

The hotel's Belvedere gardens are a heavenly terraced retreat featuring typical Mediterranean plants such as lemon and orange trees, an olive terrace, jasmine flowers, vines and strawberry trees. A full range of spa and fitness facilities are offered at the Wellness Centre and swimming in the spectacular heated infinity pool is like being suspended between sea and sky. The two elegant restaurants Caruso and Belvedere both offer traditional Neapolitan cuisine and regional Italian dishes, incorporating fresh ingredients from the herb garden and vegetable plot. The al fresco restaurant Belvedere, surrounded by the hotel's gardens, is a splendid setting and the Poolside Bar offers buffet-style appetisers, brick oven pizza, pasta and salad bar. Atmospherically lit with magnificent frescoes from the 18th century and awe-inspiring views of the Amalfi Coast, the Cocktail and Piano Bar offers an extensive list of innovative cocktails, a wide range of wines, champagnes and the delicious local Prosecco.



Belmond Hotel Caruso



Fresco "Il Tuffatore" from a Deluxe Suite bathroom



The Belvedere Restaurant at sunset



Junior Suite Deluxe with private terrace and sea view



Double Room Deluxe with private terrace and sea view



Bathroom of a Junior Suite Superior



Breakfast on your private terrace



Cocktail Bar featuring frescoes from 18th century



The Belvedere Restaurant terrace



View from the Chef's Garden



The Piano Bar



The spectacular infinity swimming pool

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Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
Cover image: The Amalfi Coast and Gulf of Salerno from Villa Rufolo gardens in Ravello