



Barrington Community School

presents

A Return to Sorrento

The Art & Culture of Southern Italy, Part II

September 26 - October 5, 2011

Following the success of our tour *The Amalfi Coast* in 2009, we are pleased to present Part II, *A Return to Sorrento*. For some, the hotel Tramontano in Sorrento will be reason enough to go back!

The region of Campania has been a center of Mediterranean culture for thousands of years and we are fortunate to be working again with local guide, Pierluigi Cascella. Pierluigi is a native of the region and is keen to take us “off the beaten path” and show us parts of his beloved Campania that visitors don’t usually get to see.

The wonders of nature, from Mount Vesuvius to the island of Ischia; classical landmarks from both Greek and Roman eras; villas and gardens of delightful villages of the cliff-hung Amalfi Coast; the splendid cuisine of the region; and coastal cities suffused with art and architecture all await.

The Sorrento Peninsula and the Amalfi Coast have long been a playground for the rich and famous, and with very good reason. The mountains tumble down into the azure waters of the Tyrrhenian Sea providing breathtaking views around every bend in the road. You may have been here before, but if you have, the chances are you’ll be keen to return.

BCS Director, Sandi Tinyk, will lead you through scenic landscapes, ancient towns, and sculpture-filled gardens on this 10-day discovery of southern Italy, designed exclusively for Barrington Community School.



The Sorrento Palace Hotel



Pompeii and Mt. Vesuvius

The cost of this itinerary, per person, double occupancy is:

Barrington departure:	\$3980
Land only (no airfare included):	\$2990
Single supplement:	\$750

The following services are included:

- Airfare:** Round trip air to Naples.
All airport taxes and customs charges included.
- Hotels:** 8 nights accommodation in a first-class hotel.
All hotel taxes and service charges included.
- Coaching:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary, inc. transfers from Barrington to Logan Airport.
- Meals:** Buffet breakfast daily, 4 dinners (with wine), 1 lunch.
- Guides:** Sandi Tinyk and English-speaking local guide, Pierluigi Cascella for all excursions and sightseeing.
- Expenses:** Porterage of one large suitcase per person.
- Entrances:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary.
- Insurance:** Complete travel insurance including cancellation coverage.

For further information & registration please contact:
Sandi Tinyk at the Barrington Community School
(401) 245-0432



Monday, September 26. This afternoon you depart Barrington by private bus to Boston and board your overnight transatlantic flight. **Overnight: Plane**

Tuesday, September 27. Late morning arrival in Naples, where we will be met by our local guide, Pierluigi Cascella, who will introduce the city of Naples, the intellectual capital of the south. A panoramic tour will conclude at the majestic Palazzo Reale (Royal Palace), built in the 16th century in anticipation of a visit by Philip II of Spain. We then drive to Sorrento and check into our hotel, beautifully situated on a high cliff overlooking the Gulf of Naples and Vesuvius, and steps from Piazza Tasso, the vibrant center of town. Dinner at the hotel this evening welcomes us “back to Sorrento.” **(D) Overnight: Sorrento**

Wednesday, September 28. A day devoted to the ancients’ “home away from Rome.” A brief orientation acquaints us with the Roman Campanian town of Pompeii, forever preserved in volcanic ash from the eruption of Vesuvius in AD 79. Special arrangements have been made for our group to visit recent excavations, as well as the House of Menander, a beautifully appointed dwelling belonging to a kinsman of the Empress Poppaea, and reopened after 30 years of extensive restoration. We’ll also visit the Villa of the Mysteries, with a remark-

able series of paintings likely connected to the initiation rites into the Dionysiac mysteries. The soil around Vesuvius, recognized by Pliny the Elder for its suitability for the growing of vines, produces excellent wines, which we’ll sample at a wine-tasting on the slopes of the volcano. We complete our exploration of the area with visits to other vestiges of the Roman era, at Boscoreale and Oplontis (the Villa of Poppaea). We return to Sorrento for a free evening. **(B) Overnight: Sorrento**

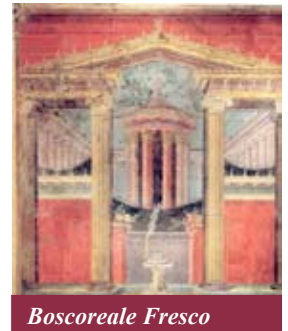
Thursday, September 29. Today we board a hydrofoil to cruise to the volcanic island of Ischia for a full day of exploration. We’ll visit La Mortella, a splendid garden designed by Russell Page for Sir William and Lady Susana Walton. The garden contains fountains and pools creating constant humidity to support a wide variety of plant material. We’ll spend time in the quaint village of Forio as we circumnavigate this island, viewing colorful harbors and craggy fortresses, pine woods and sandy beaches. Return to Sorrento for a free evening. Dinner at a local restaurant. **(B, D) Overnight: Sorrento**

Friday, September 30. The grandest royal palace in Italy, Caserta’s Reggia, was built for Charles III of Naples in 1752. It is one of the most impressive buildings in Europe, with 1200 rooms served by 43 staircases around a monumental courtyard, sumptuously decorated royal apartments, and enchanting gardens crowned by a Grand Cascade. On the way back to Sorrento, we’ll pay a visit to the nearby medieval town of Caserta Vecchia. **(B) Overnight: Sorrento**

Saturday, October 1. Today we return to Naples for an extensive exploration of the Certosa di San Martino, a wonder of decoration, with important paintings, frescoes and sculpture. Its *sezione presepiale* holds a renowned collection of Nativity representations with hundreds of figures. We’ll lunch at Michele, one of Naples’ most famous pizzerias in a lively neighborhood, where we’ll also visit an important workshop where *presepe* (nativity figures) are created using centuries-old methods. We return to Sorrento for a free evening. **(B, L) Overnight: Sorrento**

Sunday, October 2. Traveling through the green landscape of the Alburni Mountains, a unique excursion awaits, as we explore the immense cave system of Grotta de Pertosa. Recent research dates the origin of the cave to 37 million years ago; numerous traces show that they were lived in until the Stone Age. The Greeks and Romans used it as a seat of cults and early Christians consecrated them to St. Michael Archangel. Characterized by the beauty of their stalagmites and stalactites, alabaster and waterfalls, they are unique in Italy. We’ll also visit the intensely spiritual Carthusian Monastery of San Lorenzo in Padula, declared a UNESCO Heritage site. The monastery is the second largest charterhouse in Italy after Parma, with 320 rooms and halls, and although it dates to 1306, the principle parts of the building are in ornate Baroque style. **(B, D) Overnight: Sorrento**

Monday, October 3. This morning we’ll drive south to visit the most spectacular of the Greek temples in Italy at Paestum. Founded by Greek colonists in the 7th century BCE, the Romans took over the site in 273BCE, enlarged it and added an amphitheatre and a forum. This magnificent Doric edifice is extraordinary in its preservation and not even Greece itself possesses such a fine monument of Hellenic architecture. Later, we’ll visit a water-buffalo farm and observe the production of mozzarella. Naturally, we’ll sample the cheese as well! Free evening in Sorrento. **(B) Overnight: Sorrento**



Boscoreale Fresco



Caserta - the Grand Cascade

Tuesday, October 4. This relaxing day features a drive along the breath-taking Amalfi Coast and a visit to Positano, where square, white houses and luxuriant gardens descend in steep steps to the sea. It became popular as a resort when the Allies arrived in 1943 to establish a rehabilitation center here. Later targeted by the jet-set, it is one of the most popular resort areas on the coast, although the local fashion industry has surpassed tourism as the prime source of income. Why not take home a *pezze di Positano*, the colorful, ingenious, yet simple designs, as a memento of your adventure on the Sorrentine Peninsula. We’ll also visit a nearby ceramics workshop before returning to Sorrento for a festive farewell dinner. **(B, D) Overnight: Sorrento**

Wednesday, October 5. Morning transfer to Naples Airport for return flights to the USA. On arrival in Boston, your coach will be waiting to take you back to Barrington. **(B) Overnight: Home**

Key to included meals: B - breakfast, L - lunch, D - dinner