



Private Naples: Exemplary Palaces, Villas, Gardens & Archeological Sites

Sponsored by the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art

Organized by Pamela Huntington Darling, Chargée de Mission & Patron Member

Saturday, October 17 to Sunday, October 25, 2015: 8 days & 8 nights

The ancient port city of Naples' rich and compelling history dates back nearly 3,000 years and bears the traces of the early Greeks, Romans, Byzantines and Normans and the later European powers of Spain and France. For decades Naples was one of the great capitals of Europe, reaching its cultural zenith during the reign of King Charles VII, under whose reign Herculaneum and Pompeii were discovered, the palaces of Portici and Capodimonte were built and the Archeological Museum was founded. A **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, Naples' historic city center is the largest in the world.

Our exclusive program, organized and conducted by Pamela Huntington Darling, will offer an intimate group of discerning travelers privileged access to sites of unparalleled historic importance and incomparable beauty in Naples, Ravello, Positano, the Phlegraean Fields Pompeii and Herculaneum—most listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Guided by our expert lecturers, we will discover admirable private *palazzi* and villas, monuments and museums to observe masterpieces of architecture, art, interior and garden design, as well as some of the world's foremost archeological sites. ***We will be received by Italian nobility and esteemed members of the cultural elite for exclusive visits, luncheons, receptions and dinners in their remarkable private residences with marvelous gardens and views of the Bay of Naples.***

We will reside at the 4-star luxury **Hotel Excelsior**, located on Via Partenope, on the Bay of Naples, with spectacular views of the Amalfi Coast, equal in elegance to Naples' famous palaces, encapsulating the Old World charm and tradition with modern comfort, and fine, personable service; Via Partenope, 48; 80121 Naples; www.excelsior.it.

Tour Highlights

Optional Afternoon & Evening: Friday, October 16th – Naples (at cost: 150€ per person)

We recommend arrival in Naples a day or two prior to the official program. Guests will be met at the Naples airport and travel by private car (at cost: 80 Euros) to the Hotel Excelsior, where they will be greeted by **Pamela Huntington Darling** and our expert **Antonella Rizzo**. (Extra hotel night at cost: Sea-view deluxe room: 230€ single; 250€ double; with breakfast.)

Afternoon private visit to the Palazzo & Galleria Nazionale di Capodimonte (National Museum of Capodimonte) with expert lecturer Antonella Rizzo to view the impressive collection of fine and decorative art, including works by **Raphael, Titian, El Greco and Bruegel**, stunning **antique furniture**, and a superb range of **porcelain and majolica**, followed by refreshments at the Belle Époque **Caffè Gambrinus**, the oldest cafe in Naples, an architectural landmark on Naples' famous **Piazza del Plebiscito**.



Dinner at the Transatlantico restaurant, across from our hotel, romantically situated on the charming pier with superb views of Mt. Vesuvius and the bay of Naples, family run, offering the freshest gourmet seafood dishes and welcoming service.

Day 1: Saturday, October 17th – Naples, Private Palaces & Gardens Guests will be greeted by **Pamela Huntington Darling** and our expert lecturer **Antonella Rizzo** for a welcome cocktail & lunch at Hotel Excelsior's **La Terrazza** restaurant, with superb views of the Gulf of Naples and the **Castel dell'Ovo**. **Afternoon private visit to Certosa di San Martino**, one of the most beautiful monuments in Naples, with breathtaking views of the city and coastline.



Afternoon visit to Certosa di San Martino, with expert lecturer Antonella Rizzo. One of the most beautiful monuments in Naples, perched atop Vomero Hill with spectacular views of the city and coastline, this former Carthusian monastery was inaugurated in 1368 and restored during the 17th century in exuberant Neapolitan baroque style and decorated by Naples' renowned artists. Afterwards we will enjoy an **orientation to Naples by luxury coach** for an overview of the city in the utmost comfort, followed by a **private visit to the Teatro di San Carlo**. Built in 1621, the Teatro is **the oldest continuously active opera house in Europe**, predating both La Scala in Milan and Venice's La Fenice, where will also enjoy refreshments following our visit.

Welcome dinner as guests of a distinguished Neapolitan family at their private, historic villa, in Posillipo, the chic residential quarter of Naples. We will enjoy a warm welcome and a convivial cocktail dinner reception with our hosts, former Italian Ambassador to Burkina Faso, at their astounding historic residence. We will view their admirable, museum-quality art collection, the most significant "romantic garden" in Naples, and enjoy the enormous terrace offering spectacular views of the Bay of Naples.

Day 2: Sunday, October 18th — Pompeii, a UNESCO World Heritage Site

Morning discovery of the exceptional historic site of Pompeii, accompanied by our expert, including recently restored buildings just opened, as the House of Golden Cupids, and the **Forum to Villa dei Misteri**, with *superb, well-preserved frescoes*. Engulfed by Mount Vesuvius in AD 79, Pompeii is among the few sites on earth where an ancient city was preserved in minute detail, yielding an unprecedented opportunity to discover how the people lived 2,000 years ago.



Lunch in Pompeii at the elegant Il Presidente restaurant, family run, offering beautifully prepared traditional dishes, top regional wines, and caring service.



Afternoon visit to the Villa of Poppaea, in the ancient Roman town of Oplontis, **the most luxurious and well-preserved Roman seaside villa.** Home of Nero's second wife, Poppaea, the villa, characterized by "rituals of reception and leisure", encloses extraordinary frescoes dating from 90-25 BC, with an atrium, fountains, swimming pool and gardens.

Late afternoon: free time to relax.

Cocktails and dinner at the private residence of our honorable hostess, a former Senator of Italy, who will warmly receive us at her astounding neoclassical villa, a remarkable reproduction of a temple in Herculaneum, with admirable décor and artwork. Set in the vast private Grifeo park, the villa has been in the owner's family for a century and offers splendid views of Naples and the Amalfi coast.

Day 3: Monday, October 19th — Naples' Historic Center, a UNESCO World Heritage Site

Morning discovery of Naples' exceptional historic sites with our expert Antonella Rizzo, including the **Duomo Cathedral's Chapel of San Gennaro**, with its priceless treasures amassed over seven centuries; **Pio Monte della Misericordia**, containing **Caravaggio's** masterpiece *The Seven Acts of Mercy*; and **San Lorenzo Maggiore's Greco-Roman excavations** of an ancient Roman city and Forum.



Visit to the colorful Via San Gregorio Armeno, "Christmas Alley," for handmade Nativity scenes and Christmas decorations. Followed by a tour of the nearby 17th-century **Church of the Purgatorio ad Arco, Chiesa di Santa Maria delle Anime del Purgatorio ad Arco**, with a significant sculpted altarpiece.

Luncheon at the newly opened Il Ecomesarà, an authentic Neapolitan *ristorante*, owned by talented chef Marilisa, a former architect who followed her passion and whose imaginative interpretation of traditional Neapolitan cuisine has earned her a stellar reputation among local gastronomes.



Private visit to the Chapel of Sansevero, accompanied by our expert lecturer, to view **Sanmartino's** renowned sculpture, *Veiled Christ*, one of the world's most impressive works of art, and the **Cloister of Santa Chiara**, with outstanding majolica tile work.

Free evening. Guests are free to relax and dine at our hotel or discover Naples' *trattoria*.

Day 4: Tuesday, October 20th —Herculaneum, a UNESCO World Heritage Site

Morning visit with our expert to the UNESCO World Heritage Archaeological site Herculaneum, including recently opened excavations. Engulfed by Mount Vesuvius in AD 79, Pompeii and Herculaneum are among *the few sites on earth where an ancient city was preserved in such detail*, an unprecedented opportunity to discover how the people lived 2,000 years ago. Though Herculaneum had only one-third the population of Pompeii and has been only partially excavated, it is considered better preserved.



Private luncheon and welcome by the acclaimed pianist Francesco Caramiello, descendant of ancient Neapolitan nobility, **at his historic family residence, Villa Caramiello,** along the famed *Miglio d'Oro* (Golden Mile Drive). Followed by an exclusive and very special short piano recital performed by our eminent host.



Afternoon free time to relax, or to explore Naples, or to discover Naples' renowned boutiques.

Cocktails and private visit to the Marquis Filiasi Collection, one of Italy's most important private art collections, housed in the family's residence, **Palazzo Cellamare's Apartments of the Princes.** Owners Signora Pisani (daughter of the late Marquis Filiasi), and her son, Carlo Pisani, will welcome us to view their incomparable art collection in a supremely elegant setting.

Private, convivial dinner by the exclusive invitation of an Italian Prince and Princess, at their residence in the Apartment of the Cardinals, Palazzo Cellamare, gorgeously decorated with period antiques and significant works of art, with delicious, homemade Neapolitan cuisine.

Day 5: Wednesday, October 21st — The Amalfi Coast, a UNESCO World Heritage Site

Our expert lecturer, Antonella Rizzo, will lead us on a scenic excursion up the Amalfi coastline to **Positano**, with a stop for refreshments at the picturesque **Hotel Le Agavi**, on the hills of **Belvedere della Madonnina di Positano**, with breathtaking panoramas of the town and the Amalfi coastline and on to **beautiful Amalfi**.

Luncheon on the terrace of the acclaimed Lido Azzurro, set in a prime location overlooking Amalfi's scenic port, offering authentic Amalfitane dishes with a modern touch and made with locally grown produce and the fresh catch of the day.



Afternoon visit to Amalfi's Duomo di Sant'Andrea and its cloister, **Chiostro del Paradiso**, a rare architectural treasure, followed by an **excursion to Ravello, a UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

Perched high over the sea, Ravello's natural beauty and extraordinary vistas have drawn artists and celebrities for centuries. We will visit the **Villa Rufolo**, Wagner's setting for his opera **Parsifal**, built in 1270 and renowned for its terraced gardens overlooking the Amalfi Coast and the Gulf of Salerno with breathtaking views. We will admire the **Ravello Duomo Cathedral**, erected in 1086, retaining traces of medieval frescoes and other architectural marvels of the period. We will enjoy refreshments on Ravello's charming main square and explore the town's village atmosphere or take



an optional visit to the breathtaking **Villa Cimbronne**, dating to the 11th century, with its famous gardens and antiquities, perched at Ravello's heights.

Free evening. Guests are free to relax and dine on the rooftop terrace of our wonderful hotel or discover Naples' best restaurants.

Day 6: Thursday, October 22nd — the Phlegraean Fields and the Cumae Archeological Park, Pozzuoli



Morning visit to the Acropolis of Cuma, accompanied by expert Antonella Rizzo, founded in the 8th century BC, this extraordinary site—where blue sky and sea, golden beaches, lovely volcanic lakes and natural hot-water springs meet the ruins of a glorious past. Described in Virgil's *Aeneid*, Cuma was the most powerful Greek colony in the western world and the mythical home of the Cumaean Sibyl, who is said to have resided at the **Antro della Sibilla** (Sibyl's cave), a trapezoidal shaft ending in a three-room niche where the oracle was consulted. We will view the **Piscina Mirabilis**, the world's largest Roman cistern once considered entrance to the underworld, and **Temple of Apollo**, the **Solfatara**, a shallow volcanic crater, and the beautiful **Flavian Amphitheater**, Italy's third largest, built by the architects of the Roman Colosseum.

Luncheon at the marvelous private villa of a distinguished Neapolitan couple, in the fashionable seaside town of Posillipo, overlooking the Grotta di Seiano. Our hosts will welcome us for a delightful lunch at their gorgeous villa with fabulous views of the Amalfi coast and the Grotta di Seiano.

Afternoon private, expert-guided visit to Grotto di Seiano, a unique 700-meter-long Roman gallery leading to the important remains of a first-century B.C. seaside Roman villa, bequeathed to Augustus, including an amphitheater, an Odeon theater, and a thermal bath complex, built to connect Villa Pausilypon with adjacent villas and ports.



Free evening. Guests are free to relax and dine on the rooftop terrace of our hotel or discover Naples' best restaurants.

Day 7: Friday, October 23rd — Caserta, a UNESCO World Heritage Site



Nicola Tartaglione, architect and president of the Naples' Garden Association, Maurizio Stocchetti, a Naples' heritage consultant, and our expert Antonella Rizzo will lead us on a private visit to the Royal Palace of Caserta, the last great edifice of the Italian Baroque period, built in 1752 for King Carlo III and said to surpass the Château de Versailles.

Upon arrival, we will enjoy an **exclusive visit** to the **Teatrino di Corte** (Royal Theatre), **rarely opened to the public**, and then travel by horse-driven carriage through the palace's picturesque park to the gorgeous **Italian** and **English gardens**. We will enjoy refreshments in the palace's handsome café before visiting the astonishing **Royal Apartments** and the unique **Palatine Chapel**.



Luncheon with Nicola Tartaglione and Maurizio Stocchetti, at their historic private residence, Casa Mondo, in Caserta, the former home of Baroque artist **Domenico Mondo** (1723-1806), whose outstanding frescoes adorn the Royal Palace of Caserta, and the Casa Mondo.

Afternoon: return to Naples: free relaxation time or discover Naples and its best boutiques.

Evening cocktails at Lia Rumma's exclusive contemporary art gallery in the palazzo Donn'Anna in Posillipo, in Naples' most fashionable residential neighborhood, the former family residence of the Princess Marina Colonna Amalfitano, displaying an outstanding collection of the finest international Contemporary artists.

Convivial dinner with Princess Marina Colonna Amalfitano, President of Naples' Association of Historic Residences of Italy and Professor of Economics, **and her distinguished husband Pablo Amalfitano**, at their private residence in the ancient **Palazzo Donn'Anna**, with spectacular views of the Amalfi Coast.



Day 8: Saturday, October 25th — Museo Archeologico Nazionale de Napoli, Villa Filangieri, and Palazzo Leonetti

Expert lecturer Antonella Rizzo will lead us on a visit to the **National Archaeological Museum** to view the extensive **Farnese Collection** of Greek and Roman antiquities, including the famous **Treasure of the Magnificent**, colossal marble sculptures, the ancient Roman bronzes from the Villa of the Papyri, and mosaics recovered from the ruins of Pompeii.

Private country-style lunch at the Villa Filangieri with owners, Countess Fulvia Filangieri and Dottoressa Eleonora Filangieri, in Naples' gorgeous countryside, a "Fellini" dream!

Afternoon visit: Art Stations of the Naples metro. We will visit three of Naples' contemporary art metro stations, interweaving high technology and contemporary art. The project, comprising 180 works of art and 90 artists, allows travelers to interact with these extraordinary works of art by world-renowned artists, including Katharina Sieverding, Karim Rashid and Sol LeWitt.

Farewell Dinner at the Villa Poggio Fiorito, where Countess Elisabetta Leonetti and her brother Count Gianpaolo Leonetti, will welcome us, prizing Naples' foremost private collections of fine and decorative arts, from Antiquity to the 18th century, and gardens offering exquisite views of Mount Vesuvius and the Bay of Naples. Our hosts will warmly receive us for this privileged and memorable evening. A culmination in grandeur of our momentous program!

Day 9: Sunday, October 26th—Breakfast and "a presto" until the next exclusive tour!

After breakfast and goodbyes, guests will travel by private chauffeur-driven car (*at cost*) to Naples airport.

Accommodations: We will stay at the 4-star luxury **Hotel Excelsior** on the stunning Bay of Naples, offering spectacular views of Mount Vesuvius, the Isle of Capri and the Amalfi Coast. Located on the picturesque Via Partenope, on the bay and a few steps from the old town, this historic hotel is equal in elegance to Naples' great palaces, encapsulating both Old World charm and the uniquely gracious atmosphere of southern Italy's most beautiful city. All rooms are spacious, elegantly appointed and equipped with wifi and air conditioning. www.excelsior.it

Tour Price: \$7,500 per person double occupancy in Deluxe Double Sea-View rooms; \$8,250 per person single occupancy in Superior Double City-View rooms; \$8,500 per person single occupancy in Deluxe Double Sea-View rooms; based on a minimum of 15 participants, maximum 22 participants for this private tour; plus a fully tax-deductible \$500 donation to the ICAA's Annual Fund. Members at the Contributor or Individual-Professional level or higher may attend the ICAA tours.

Tour Price Includes: 8 days of private visits and receptions; 8 nights hotel accommodation at the 4-star luxury Hotel Excelsior; 8 breakfasts, 6 lunches, cocktail receptions, and 5 dinners in prestigious private residences; all costs involved in the program, transport to and from events during the tour, all private visits, and expert lecturers.

We recommend arriving a day or two prior to our official program to be rested. Our negotiated hotel rates are offered for early arrival. An additional expert-guided afternoon and evening are proposed on October 16th (at cost: 150€ per person), including: the Farnese Collections, National Museum of Capodimonte, with masterpieces including works by Botticelli, Raphael and Titian; refreshments at the Belle Époque **Caffè Gambrinus**, the oldest cafe in Naples, an architectural landmark; and dinner at the **Transatlantico restaurant**, on the quaint pier across from our hotel.

To assure availability, please reserve before May 15th. For more information and to reserve: Please email Pamela Huntington Darling: pdarling@exclusiveculturaltours.com or call (Paris, France): Tel. +33 1 45 67 62 81.



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