



# Ara Maris:

## A Luxurious Journey Along the Italian Coast

Trip Recap by Olivia Gawronski, Sales Manager at Calliope Collective

Calliope Collective is a curation of independent luxury hotels, villas, and golf resorts that offer discerning travelers the finest experiences that result in ultimate travel memories.

When we arrived in Sorrento, dusk had already settled by the time we checked in at Ara Maris, so the coastal views were still hidden from sight. Instead, it was the lobby that immediately captured our attention. The space is lined with striking pieces of local artwork, each drawing you in and encouraging you to linger and explore. The beautiful blue Italian tiles and contemporary design elements complemented the artwork perfectly modern, yet warm and inviting. The rooms carried this same understated elegance, featuring the same captivating blue tiles, sleek contemporary finishes, a spacious bathroom, and a balcony you couldn't wait to wake up to. Come morning, it would reveal a stunning panorama of the Bay of Naples and Mount Vesuvius in the distance.

After a seamless check-in, we were guided toward an intimate gathering where we were welcomed with a lively aperitif and limoncello class that proved the perfect initiation into Sorrento's spirited traditions. The chef talked us through how to make the perfect limoncello as we got to ask questions and interact with him throughout the process. The golden liqueur, made from sun-ripened lemons, sparkled in the glass as laughter mingled with the clink of bottles. This was not just a tasting; it was an immersion into the region's zest for life, where every sip spoke of sun and soil, heritage and heart.

When evening fell, the transition to dinner at Cora Bistrot felt effortless. The private dining room, adorned with curated local artwork, radiated both elegance and intimacy. Dinner at Cora Bistrot served as a wonderful introduction to the exceptional culinary journey that awaited us in Sorrento over the following days. While we tried to pace ourselves for the multi-course menu, the house made breadsticks were so outstanding that they quickly became a highlight of the evening that we continued to talk about the entire trip.

For more information, visit [thecalliopecollective.com](https://thecalliopecollective.com)

✉ [info@thecalliopecollective.com](mailto:info@thecalliopecollective.com)  [@TheCalliopeCol](https://www.facebook.com/CalliopeCollective)  [@the calliope collective](https://www.instagram.com/calliope_collective)



Each dish was a revelation, showcasing regional ingredients elevated by a contemporary touch. Surrounded by conversation and candlelight, already sensing that Sorrento's true luxury lies in its ability to make every moment feel both extraordinary and deeply personal.



When the sun rose the next day, the view did not disappoint. Even with the full itinerary ahead, we found ourselves wanting to spend as much time as possible on the balcony, soaking in the serene water and mountain scenery. It was the perfect way to set the tone for all the breathtaking views that awaited us throughout the rest of the trip. The day began with the thrill of discovery: a private excursion to Pompeii, where centuries-old ruins whispered stories beneath the shadow of Vesuvius. With a knowledgeable guide leading the way, history came alive in the silent amphitheatres and sunbaked streets. By afternoon, our journey led us to Le Cantina del Vesuvio, a winery nestled on the slopes of the legendary volcano. Here, we enjoyed a guided tour of the winery followed by a beautiful curated five-course meal each dish paired thoughtfully with a complementary wine. It was an indulgent celebration of local flavors, think all the fresh pasta and cheeses you could possibly imagine.



When we returned to Ara Maris, Gianluca from the onsite sales team, who was hosting our trip shared a wonderful insider tip: the Christmas tree lighting ceremony in Tasso Square would be taking place at 6:00pm just before our dinner in town. Since Ara Maris is only a quick effortless two-minute stroll from the main square, it was the perfect opportunity to experience Sorrento in all its festive charm. The group was thrilled as the square was filled with locals and families, all gathered together singing Christmas songs and celebrating as the beautiful tree illuminated the center of the piazza. It felt truly special to witness the town come alive in such an authentic way. After the tree lighting, we took a bit of extra time to explore the surrounding streets and pop into local shops, several of us couldn't resist the incredible leather goods and other artisanal finds before making our way to dinner. Dinner at Ristorante Zi Ntonio was a fitting finale – classic Sorrentine flavors reimaged in a refined setting, every course a celebration of local bounty.



The third day unveiled the Amalfi Coast in all its glory. On our drive, we made a memorable stop when two Italian gentlemen approached our shuttle and surprised us with a charming impromptu bagpipe performance, such a delightful and unexpected moment that set the tone for the day. From there, a full-day tour carried us along dramatic cliffs and through the winding streets of Amalfi and Ravello, each stop revealing new facets of the coast's singular charm. We got to spend the day exploring Amalfi at our own pace, wandering through its charming streets, cafes, bakeries and scenic overlooks. One of the highlights was visiting the magnificent Amalfi Cathedral, with its striking ninth-century architecture and the iconic 62 step staircase leading to the entrance, a sight that truly takes your breath away. From there, we continued on to Ravello, a village with a more intimate and tranquil feel. Here, we got to see the area where the cliff edge gardens of Villa Rufolo sit, which is the historic setting of the annual Ravello festival. The sweeping coastal views and serene atmosphere made it easy to see why this location has inspired artists and musicians for generations.

For more information, visit [thecalliopecollective.com](https://thecalliopecollective.com)

✉ [info@thecalliopecollective.com](mailto:info@thecalliopecollective.com)  [@TheCalliopeCol](https://www.facebook.com/AtTheCalliopeCol)  [@the\\_calliope\\_collective](https://www.instagram.com/the_calliope_collective)



When evening arrived, we gathered for dinner at Restaurant Casa Tua, where an inviting ambiance and exquisite cuisine set the stage for an unforgettable meal. We were dining in the intimate private room, set in a different building from the main restaurant which gave us the perfect space to recap the amazing few days we have had together. The effortless synergy between attentive service and culinary artistry made the final night in Sorrento feel like a celebration.

Ara Maris is the ideal home base for making the most of your time in this enchanting corner of Italy. Its location allows for effortless day trips to Amalfi, Ravello, Positano, and Pompeii, while being just steps away from the heart of Sorrento, where five-star dining, boutique shops, and even local events like the Christmas tree lighting are all within an easy stroll. The cuisine, culture and charming character of Sorrento and fresh contemporary design of Ara Maris create an atmosphere that feels both authentically local and wonderfully inviting, making every moment spent here feel special and truly immersive.



Download our fact sheet to learn more about Ara Maris.

If you're interested in joining a group FAM to one of our outstanding Calliope Collective clients, please complete our form.



For more information, visit [thecalliopecollective.com](https://thecalliopecollective.com)

 [info@thecalliopecollective.com](mailto:info@thecalliopecollective.com)  [@TheCalliopeCol](https://www.facebook.com/TheCalliopeCol)  [@the\\_calliope\\_collective](https://www.instagram.com/the_calliope_collective)