

Untold Italy Episode 59 - Amalfi Coast Weddings

[00:00:00.120] - Katy

This is the Untold Italy travel podcast, and you're listening to episode number 59.

[00:00:12.050] - Josie

Ciao and Benvenuti to Untold Italy, I'm Josie.

[00:00:15.170] - Katy

And I'm Katy, and we're here to help you plan your trip to Italy.

[00:00:19.010] - Josie

Between us, we have many years of travel experience and we want to help you uncover your own as yet untold stories and adventures in Italy.

[00:00:27.050] - Katy

Each episode, you'll hear practical advice, tips and ideas to help you plan your own trips to the magical land of history, stunning landscapes and a whole lot of pasta.

[00:00:35.900] - Josie

We'll have interviews from experts and focus on local destinations and frequently asked questions about travel in Italy.

[00:00:43.010] - Katy

Thanks for listening and make sure to subscribe to our show.

[00:00:46.100] - Josie

Now let's get started on your regular dose of Bella Italia.

[00:00:59.960] - Katy

Ciao, everyone, how are you all? Katy here, hoping you are having a lovely week and maybe treating yourself to a little Italian treat every now and again, to help keep those Italy dreams alive? I know when I feel a little sad about my trip. I like to put on some Italian tunes, make myself a lovely coffee, and if I'm feeling really cheeky, I may have a Cannolo as we are pretty lucky here in Melbourne, Australia, we can get great Cannolo with the ricotta filling. It's not too sweet and the filling is freshly piped, so the casing stays crunchy. And when you bite in, you get that perfect combination of crunchy pastry and smooth cream. It's really delicious. Unfortunately, I can't help most of you with the Cannolo, sorry about that, but I can help with an Italian music playlist that our wonderful community helped create. It's on Spotify and I'll drop a link to it in the show notes on our website. There's lots and lots of different songs there and different ones to suit different moods. So if you're feeling a little bit frustrated or

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you need an energy boost, I can thoroughly recommend putting Bella Ciao on full blast and having a dance around your house. But if you want something a little bit more romantic, then go for Andrea Bocelli's duet with Ed Sheeran singing Perfect Symphony. And it's just so beautiful. And it is Valentine's Day this week, so that one is perfect for such a romantic occasion.

[00:02:30.260] - Katy

And as it is San Valentino, this week I thought we might take a bit of a romantic theme. So I asked my friend Victoria along to tell you about what it is like to get married on the Amalfi Coast. Victoria is the creative director of wedding planning company Sophisticated Weddings, and she's helped many, many couples plan their special day in this most incredible part of the world. Take a look at her website and you'll see some of the most stunning weddings that she has created and how she's managed to make couple's dreams come true. So let's hear from Victoria on taking the idea of having a wedding ceremony in Italy from a dream into a glorious reality with all the details taken care of.

[00:03:13.450] - Katy

Ciao Benvenuto Victoria and welcome to the Untold Italy podcast.

[00:03:18.730] - Victoria

Ciao Katy. Thank you so much for having me. Such a pleasure to be here.

[00:03:23.230] - Katy

Oh, I am so happy to have you here, because, Victoria, you have one of the most wonderful jobs that I could imagine, which is making happy couple's dreams come true on the Amalfi Coast. Can you tell our visitors a little bit about yourself and how you came to be planning weddings in this spectacular part of the world?

[00:03:42.790] - Victoria

Of course. So I'm Victoria. I'm an English planner. I originally came to Sorrento actually for the first time when I was sort of early teens with my parents, sort of came on holiday and just absolutely fell in love with the area, as they did too. So we started sort of cutting back and discovering lots of different places along the coast. And it inspired me to do a language degree and to learn Italian and everything sort of went from there, let's say. It had always been my dream to work here, to do something here. And circumstances back in the UK sort of led me to do that post being/turning 32 I think I was. And it was like, it's now or never. Let's do this, see how it goes. And I've never, ever looked back. It's been an incredible journey for me and I've literally loved every minute. Six years later and I'm still planning weddings.

[00:04:35.800] - Katy

That's amazing. What's the name of your company?

[00:04:39.130] - Victoria

It's Sophisticated Weddings Italy.

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[00:04:41.800] - Katy

Wow, you know, when I think of weddings in Italy I always think of them as being sophisticated because there's just something about the landscapes and the people. And, you know, actually, I don't know if I told you this before, but I actually really wanted to get married in Italy. But unfortunately, we weren't able to do that. But I've got big plans, big plans with the same husband.

[00:05:06.280] - Victoria

Vow renewals!

[00:05:10.750] - Katy

But I think it's really hard to decide. And a lot of people, like even myself, wanted to have a wedding in Italy, but they may not know where to have it. So can you tell us why the Amalfi Coast is a wonderful place to have your wedding?

[00:05:26.050] - Victoria

Absolutely. So initially when we started, we were looking at different locations within Italy as well. And then having had a base here and knowing the area so well, it just became apparent that this, to be honest, is my favorite corner of Italy. It is so spectacular. I think you've literally got everything here that anybody could be looking for, for having, let's say, a holiday experience as well as the wedding itself. So you've got the scenery, you've got the climate, you've got incredible food, a really warm welcome. The people here are just so wonderful, so accommodating. All of the people that we work with, they just can't do enough for all of our clients, which I think is just something that's so lovely to see. They want you to have the most amazing experience. So I think that's really something for everybody.

[00:06:15.820] - Victoria

The locations that we work with as well. We work predominantly with three - Sorrento, Positano and Ravello. And I think they each offer something different as well. So those people that are looking for something a little bit more upmarket, they want to have something really with the wow factor. They have an option. And likewise, those people that are perhaps looking for something a little bit smaller, perhaps more rustic, more intimate. They too have plenty of options here as well. So it really does cater to a lot of people's different tastes and styles, which is fabulous.

[00:06:51.550] - Katy

Now, I think you need to tell us a little bit more about this. If you are having a wedding, maybe because some people might not have been to Amalfi Coast, but they have maybe seen a lot of pictures. So if you to have a really extravagant, fancy drop-dead gorgeous, wow, wedding with all the whistles and bells, where would you go for that?

[00:07:14.860] - Victoria

I think the first location that comes into my mind is Ravello, and I would say the jewel in the crown perhaps in Ravello (there are incredible places in Ravello as a whole) but this one sort of definitely springs to mind for luxury is Villa Cimbrone. I'm sure many of your listeners will probably have heard of it already, but it is absolutely incredible. It's an estate that has the most sensational gardens. It offers the Terrace of the Infinity, which you can literally just see for miles. It just is pure, pure luxury. It's almost like - I think the first time I visited, I described it as like stepping into some sort of fairytale land because it really did feel like that. Also, in Ravello, you've got places like Belmond Caruso, which is again, a luxury sort of five-star hotel where the service levels are impeccable. Michelin star food. Yeah, it's incredible. So Ravello I'd say is the place to head for the luxury experience.

[00:08:18.490] - Katy

That's really interesting, I think actually people may not know so much about Ravello, so I personally, that's one of my absolute favorite places on the Amalfi Coast, and you're right about the Villa Cimbrone. It is absolutely gorgeous. And it's really - it's one of those places you're walking up the hill there. And I didn't know what to expect because I'd just been down to Villa Rufolo, which is obviously - it's ruins for people who don't know Ravello very well. And I don't know if you can have weddings there actually?

[00:08:52.810] - Victoria

You can't. You can have photographs there for sure. That's where they host the Ravello Festival. So it's definitely somewhere to go. And you can have wedding photographs there if you pre book - there's a small fee to pay, but not full-on wedding receptions, no.

[00:09:08.620] - Katy

Yeah, well, I mean, you've been there and it's like, obviously, it's in ruins, right? So to paint a picture. And then you walk up the hill and then you'll get thi... Wow!! You think you've walked onto a movie set or something like that. I was like where's George Clooney?

[00:09:25.990] - Victoria

There's been plenty of celebrities. They go to Ravello as well because it's a little bit quieter. So I won't name names, but I was doing a wedding in one of the, one of the luxury hotels there, and just sort of minding my own business in the gardens - just the aperitif was happening so the drinks and canapés were flowing and everybody was mingling. And it was a lovely atmosphere. Beautiful weather. And I just happened to glance up and there was a famous person just looking over that balcony to see what was going on, sort of giving a wave to the musicians. And it was sort of one of those nudge my assistant moments and say, is that who I think it is? So Ravello definitely does attract them. They get a little bit more privacy there which is nice. Yeah. And has also been home to many famous weddings as well. So, yes, it's a really interesting place to go to. Definitely.

[00:10:17.050] - Katy

Yeah. And I think, you know, because you're going up - so for those of you who don't know Ravello, you have to go up a pretty steep road and then you go up and you get up and you've got the view right from the top there, which is absolutely stunning view of the Amalfi Coast, right down back towards Positano and back down to Salerno on the other side. So it's pretty woo! I would like to use the word jaw-dropping.

[00:10:45.310] - Victoria

Yes, absolutely. Absolutely. I think one of the weddings that we did at Villa Cimbrone as well, the Terrace of the Infinity, which is just, as I say, an experience that everybody has to see and feel. But we had their aperitif, actually at sunset on that terrace. They paid a little bit extra to have that. And I think the guests, like you say, were sort of wandering through the gardens, just not really knowing what to expect. And then they arrived there and it was literally - I could see everybody's jaw just hitting the floor. It was like, wow. So that was definitely another pinch me sort of moment in my career. Of wow, this is something really, really special?

[00:11:24.430] - Katy

Yeah. And I think, you know, everyone's different with what they want with their wedding. And I know I've got a bit of a story about my brother, who I totally underestimated with his wedding. So it was basically - to cut a very long story short, I thought he would be very low key, so I bought some sparklers along to improve the sparkliness of it, but he'd actually organised fireworks. So I just put the sparklers back in my bag at that point. But yeah, I think, you know, everyone wants something different from the wedding. And I think, you know as well if people are coming a long way, maybe from United Kingdom or the United States or Australia and they want to get married in Italy, they want to make sure their guests are having THE most amazing time I can imagine.

[00:12:17.590] - Victoria

Absolutely. It's all about the overall experience. And I think we say that's one of the real appeals to a destination wedding as well, is that you not only have the most incredible day, but you also have this amazing experience where you're making memories with your loved ones and your closest friends throughout the whole time that you're there. So we're often looking at what other experiences are really important to the couple, what would they love to do? And these are like memories that are made for a lifetime. I often think, especially in the UK, people are running around busy with their careers and doing this, that and the other. And sometimes weddings, you know, they go to the wedding, but they are already thinking about what they've got to do the following day. You notice immediately when people come over, that the whole wedding party are just so relaxed. They're so in the flow and they're loving every minute. And I just think that that's a real appeal to destination weddings for sure.

[00:13:13.000] - Katy

Absolutely. Oh, my goodness. I'm just wondering how I can make this happen for me. I just, I might need to go and talk to my hubby in a minute. Anyway, well now let's talk about maybe a little bit- something a little bit more low key. Where would you suggest people go if they're looking for a more low key destination?

[00:13:32.580] - Victoria

It really depends, again, on when when you say sort of low key, what the couple have in mind. I mean, we do weddings from like elopement weddings where it's literally just the couple, like you say, low key smaller events as well, just very intimate weddings. I mean, I think Sorrento is a great base to start with. And Sorrento is very much geared up to destination weddings as well. So there's plenty of options there. So people that are working on a more modest budget or just want to do something a little bit quieter and a bit more low key - Sorrento is a great place and there are plenty of suggestions that we've got in each category. I think the first thing we need to establish from any of our couples is what's your vision. Do you picture something typically Italian, very rustic. You know, rural setting or a mountainous setting, or do you want something sort of very beachy with the views. Do you want something... you know there's so many different options that we can look at together. And then from getting an understanding of that, we can then sort of figure out which locations we feel will work best. I think for low key we can also look, there are also options in places like Positano, which amazing Positano lends itself to smaller numbers just because for anybody that's been to Positano, they will know that the steps and the inclines, it can be quite challenging physically. So I think when you've got bigger numbers, logistically, it becomes a lot more difficult and Positano. So Positano also works very well for, let's say, low key or intimate celebrations definitely.

[00:15:10.440] - Katy

Well, I did actually wonder how on earth people were walking up and down those hills in those heels, like - Goodness me!

[00:15:19.230] - Victoria

We literally.. from many, many of the weddings that we've done, obviously we're sort of constantly, if they're getting married in one setting and then moving on to another, we're constantly sort of flitting between the two venues to make sure everything's ready. And so, yeah, Positano for us as planners in the summer is like... we tend to arrive hot, red faced like, oh my goodness, we need to five minutes just to breathe. It's challenging.

[00:15:46.310] - Katy

I hope you have your flats in the bag with you.

[00:15:49.770] - Victoria

Heels don't exist for me in Italy at all.

[00:15:53.910] - Katy

It's a special kind of skill.

[00:16:00.060] - Victoria

Exactly, yeah it's flats all the way unfortunately for me.

[00:16:03.630] - Katy

Oh yeah and I think those days are over for me too. So, you know, like when you were talking about that before, you know, it really is true because the Amalfi Coast, you do have the mountains, you have the sea, the countryside, and you have these stunning backdrops. I can't even imagine how hard it would be to choose where to get photos taken. I just - it's kind of mind blowing.

[00:16:30.540] - Victoria

It's difficult. I think a lot of people sort of come and say we've seen some photographs and a lot of people actually that we speak to as well, have never been before, but they've from what they've seen and read online, they're sort of we know that we're not going to be disappointed. I remember I had a doctor once and she literally just couldn't get any time out of her schedule to come and visit her wedding venue. So we literally just did loads of FaceTime calls, virtual tours of the venue, a different set of videos that I sent all along. And she said, I'm really nervous. I'm really nervous. It's such a big leap of faith, booking something that I have never seen in person. But I said to her, and the same is true with her when she came over, "I've yet to meet anybody that's been disappointed or said to me, Oh, Victoria, we loved it, but we never come back. " I've never, ever met anybody that has said that in all of the years I've been doing this, everybody usually says to me "we can't wait to come back". "We'll be back for our first anniversary" or, you know, they keep in touch and will say oh we've had a baby, we can't wait to bring the baby back and have more experiences together there as a family. So it is one of those places, obviously, there's a famous song Torna a Surriento, but it is one of those places where it just keeps pulling you back for sure.

[00:17:47.760] - Katy

Oh, my goodness. It certainly is. And I'm so lucky that I get to talk about this pretty much on a weekly basis and I always just get so excited. But I do really love a wedding and I love everything that goes into it. And I love... I can imagine the flowers, how many, all the amazing flowers you have to choose from just throughout the year as well.

[00:18:10.410] - Victoria

Beautiful, beautiful. Trying to, sort of, putting together the mood boards, working with some incredible floral designers that are just - I mean, some of the concepts that they bring to the table, I'm like blown away by them. Like, wow, I can't wait to get this in front of our clients and to see how excited they're going to be when they see these ideas. So it's wonderful to work with the people that we work with over here and have that excitement building throughout all of the people that are involved in the wedding. It's fantastic. And it's even better, obviously, when she see it will come together.

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[00:18:46.310] - Katy

Oh, absolutely. Like, you know, one of my favorite things is a love wisteria. And I love draping wisteria. And you get so much of that in the Amalfi Coast. And also the bougainvillea.

[00:18:59.840] - Victoria

Beautiful, absolutely beautiful. That bright pink is just stunning.

[00:19:05.000] - Katy

Oh, my goodness. I think there's a lot of people having grey days at the moment. So I'm hoping you can all picture these walks of wisteria and those pops of green and bright pink because it is so, so stunning. And Victoria, you've got an Instagram account haven't you? So we'll definitely share that because I know there's some absolutely stunning photos on there that people will love to have a look at.

[00:19:31.280] - Victoria

Thank you. I've been trying to, with the Instagram as well, just trying to sort of lift people a little bit as well with putting on bits and pieces. A virtual trip we put on yesterday to Amalfi. Just to try and share some of the lovely things that we've done and experienced over here and lift people a little bit in these difficult times. And hopefully with - we've had some good feedback, so hopefully we're succeeding in doing that.

[00:19:57.200] - Katy

I mean, boat trips are some of the some of the amazing things you can do on the Amalfi Coast, if you have, like a hen party or a bachelorette party or any of these side events. What are some of the other experiences that people might not even think about that are possible? Because I think this is what I love about this podcast, is sometimes we talk about things and then people have even no idea that they even existed and it's a real eye-opener for them.

[00:20:24.170] - Victoria

Sure. There are so many wonderful experiences that you can do here. And I think that's the beauty of this place. I mean, we tend to organize many sort of welcome parties as well associated with the weddings. And so one of my favorites is always like a pizza and Peroni party. That's always a good fun thing, so people get to sample, generally speaking, the chefs tend to just bring out these big pizzas of various flavors and they just keep coming and coming and coming. And you're like, oh my God, I've never seen so much pizza in my life! And the Italians just love to feed you so people leave very content. And very full of pizza. And so that's one idea. We've had all sorts of wonderful experiences. Obviously, you've got Pompeii, you've got limoncello tasting and making experiences that you can get involved with, as well as the wine-tasting tours, the vineyard tours, so you can go over and experience that with your guests. There were lots and lots of different options. The boat trips obviously Capri so have a they over there and just sort of circling the island. Sometimes we've been over ourselves and actually just had a really relaxing day on the boat and just gone around the island and actually not got off onto the island. Some of the boat tours that we do, obviously

we can just sort of stop off at these incredible little places for lunch. So the skipper will just take you to a place that necessarily, nobody really knows and you can have a really authentic experience like that as well. So, yeah, loads and loads of suggestions.

[00:21:58.440] - Katy

I think people who are regular listeners to this podcast will know that our boat trip around Capri is like one of the best days of my life so far. So it's definitely something to think about. There's so many amazing experiences to get excited about on the Amalfi Coast. And I really - wooph! - if I had my time again, I know where I'd be doing it. Absolutely. But, you know, like apart from all the inspiration, because it's like such a beautiful part of the world and there are so many amazing experiences and photo opportunities and all of that. So you can really easily get swept away by the dream, as you can hear me already doing that. But I'm sure there's a lot of practical things you need to think about as well when you're considering to get married in Italy.

[00:22:46.160] - Victoria

Yeah

[00:22:46.460] - Katy

How do you handle all that?

[00:22:48.260] - Victoria

So I think the first conversation I tend to have with clients when we're discussing obviously what they have in mind, etc, the most important things they need to consider. Firstly, you need to have an idea of a budget and you need to be quite sensible with that and really try and sort of sit down and work that out before you start looking at options. There's nothing worse than setting your heart on something that realistically just isn't going to be possible. So I always tell people you know - have a good discussion and a realistic, frank discussion about budget, what you think is feasible. Also, consider your numbers, because naturally the budget is going to fluctuate depending on how many people you're looking to have. So figure out, you know, what's really important to you. We've had a lot of people, obviously in light of what's happened recently coming with, saying actually I'm going to go for something smaller. Even elopements are going to really start to become more of a thing. I think people are looking at doing weddings in different ways, but they are very important things to consider, obviously - numbers and budget. Moving on from there and looking at what type of ceremony is going to work for you being obviously Australian, US citizens there are were different paperwork, procedures to follow, to have a legal wedding ceremony here in Italy. And they can be quite complicated. I mean, obviously, that's part and parcel of what we do. And if people are desperate to have a legal ceremony, that's absolutely fine. We guide all of our clients through the process, but it can add to the cost. It can add, certainly, to the inconvenience and it can add to the stress, dare I say. So it's just sort of navigating our way through that. So what a lot of people have been sort of looking at is actually having a symbolic ceremony and doing the legal part at home. So, again, that's something to think about. Does that fit with what our clients have got in mind? Just considering considering those things are quite important and

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then moving on from that, I guess it's all just about the vision and putting together - us trying to sort of pull together all the things that are really, really important.

[00:24:41.610] - Victoria

So but I think those practical things, very much so are budget, numbers and type of ceremony, I'd say, predominantly.

[00:24:49.710] - Katy

For sure, I think Italian bureaucracy is pretty famous around the world - not for the right reasons. So I'm pretty sure I would probably want to avoid that. But I guess - we have a lot of readers and listeners who are Catholic and are really intrigued to have a religious ceremony there. Is that something that you are able to organise as well?

[00:25:14.910] - Victoria

It isn't something that we personally do, but certainly we can point clients in the direction of people that do. In Sorrento, it's not possible, but there are certainly places in Positano and Ravello where it is. So, yeah, absolutely. Again, it just comes with various bits and pieces that need to be done beforehand, but it's completely doable. So yeah, nothing's impossible. It's just whether you're prepared to sort of go through the process. But we've done many weddings where people have been through the legal process absolutely fine. So, it's not always completely - not wanting to scaremonger anybody - it's just obviously some people decide that actually symbolic works well. One thing I will say actually about the difference between the legal ceremony and the symbolic ceremony - is in Italy to have a legal civil ceremony, you are sort of restricted to certain locations. It tends to be centred around the town halls, places that have been given a license by the town hall. So if, for example, in Positano, the town hall sits right at the top of Positano, and that's where the civil ceremonies can take place. All of the other ceremonies that you'll see online. So in different hotels, villas, etc, they are all symbolic ceremonies. So it's just having a symbolic ceremony also opens you up to having that flexibility of keeping the ceremony and the reception in one place and avoiding sort of having to move your guests too much. So there are definitely lots of advantages, not just with regards to the paperwork, but actually the ceremony itself of having that symbolic option instead of the legal one.

[00:26:48.670] - Katy

Yeah, well, I think everyone's learned a bit of patience in the last year. Hopefully! I know a lot of people have had their dreams squashed. And so at least with this option of having the symbolic ceremony, then even if you had to have a quick ceremony in your home country, then at least you can now sort of dream a little and say, hey, will the Amalfi Coast might be a good place for everyone to celebrate? Because, you know, even if you're a little bit, I don't know, some people aren't really into weddings. And I was a little bit.. well I wasn't really like, oh, I've got to get married and all this. But you know what is really such a special day with all your family and friends around you? And I just I think if you can have it in a spectacular spot like where you are able to take them - it's such a gift. And as you said, you can't even imagine

the memories that come out of that. I'm sure you've seen some incredible moments. Do you have any favorites?

[00:27:51.280] - Victoria

Oh, such a tough question. That is because obviously there've been so many. Yeah, I think - I'm not necessarily sort of pinpointing anything particular. I think for me, like I said, sort of all of the planning that we do together and going through the process just to see everything come together on the day for each and every one of our clients, for me, is just always a favorite moment because you see the complete elation and joy and they give you the little nudge on the way in and like, oh, we did it, you know, it's just it's wonderful. We've we've been fortunate enough to do lots of different weddings as well. I think one of my favorite things is actually experiencing weddings of different cultures as well. So I had my first Indian wedding, which was definitely a highlight. We actually did two ceremonies in one day, which was - we did the civil ceremony and then we went on to do the the symbolic ceremony, the Indian ceremony. And the priest came over from England. And it was absolutely incredible. Incredible to watch, incredible to put together. So, yeah, that was a real highlight. We've done Persian ceremonies learning all of the bits and pieces that go on the table and putting all of that together. That was amazing. I think for me, the highlight of everything for me is the people that I've been blessed to meet along the way and having those memories with those people from all over the world. Each and every time being different, but being incredible. And I'm so, so grateful for my job and and for the contact that I have with wonderful people from all over the world. And always I always say to everybody, thank you, thank you for choosing me, that I genuinely do feel completely blessed every time I am chosen to coordinate and to plan a wedding. It's such a special moment and yeah - very, very lucky.

[00:29:38.830] - Katy

It is - it's an absolute honour. And, you know, as you said before, I think there is a lot of trust that goes into it, because especially if you've never been to the Amalfi Coast and, you know, then when I was saying that, I was thinking, well, maybe it's better that you haven't been, because if you had seen the roads and all of that stuff, you're probably better off not knowing actually some of those things.

[00:30:00.131] - Victoria

The driving is certainly interesting.

[00:30:05.470] - Katy

Oh my goodness, imagine. Oh, no, I can't imagine being late for a wedding, but I'm sure you've got ways around that drive to get people to where they need to be on time.

[00:30:16.270] - Victoria

Absolutely. I think we've always been OK. We know Italian time is slightly different to normal times. So bearing that in mind and when you're doing all the times and putting everything

together, just allowing a little bit of flexibility that to ensure that nobody's going to be late, so.

[00:30:35.110] - Katy

When you were mentioning just earlier about the traditions and the different cultures, but I was wondering if there - are there any special Italian traditions that you can build into weddings that that we may not know about.

[00:30:48.610] - Victoria

Yeah sure, I think, I mean, traditionally we throw confetti at the end of it at the ceremony and confetti for us, is the little bits of paper and the little petals, etc, for Italians, it's actually very different and confetti is usually sort of rice and the heavy sugared almonds. And now they mean sort of different things like the rice means fertility. And so there's some quite interesting sort of bits like that that are quite good.

[00:31:17.770] - Katy

Wow. And you know while you were saying that as well, I was thinking, well, we haven't really talked about the food, which is always one of my greatest, favorite topics. But that's another amazing thing you have right on your doorstep on the Amalfi Coast - is this is a wonderful produce and I can't even begin to imagine what it's like to choose a menu.

[00:31:40.610] - Victoria

Yes. Everything just looks so good, it's really difficult.

[00:31:46.760] - Katy

I'll have the lobster....

[00:31:50.340] - Victoria

Absolutely! No, the food as you can imagine - if you are a seafood lovers, then this place is to the south of Italy is just incredible for fresh seafood, fresh fish is just.. there's some amazing seafood restaurants as well in Sorrento, Capri and all over the coast. Just amazing. So, yeah, definitely a place to head if you are a seafood lover. For those that prefer something a little bit more traditional as well, then you certainly won't be disappointed. The pizzas! In fact, in the little town that I live in, there is the metre long pizza is famous for the meter long pizza and you can actually go and have a meter long pizza with all different topping etc. You can watch the pizza chefs making them. And it's a real experience. So that's always something quite nice to do. The food is, as you can imagine, incredible.

[00:32:44.350] - Katy

Oh, I'm sure you have pretty good access to some brilliant pasticceria as well for the cake.

[00:32:50.320] - Victoria

Yes! Absolutely. So the wedding cakes and the Italians are so, so passionate about their cakes as well. Very, very passionate about their cakes. So we've had all sorts of weird and

wonderful requests about style and taste and everything. But the cake that they produce are just second to none. Real breathtaking. Obviously, lemon is a big flavor here, that's very, very popular, very fresh. And you tend to find the cakes have a little bit of alcohol in as well. There's plenty of Limoncello laced in the in the mix there as well. So they're very nice. They're all fresh, fresh cream, so yeah. For sweet lovers, the wedding cakes certainly is a big highlight.

[00:33:34.850] - Katy

Oh, my goodness, it's just sounding even better and better. Wondering why I just didn't bite the bullet and do it back then. It really does sound perfect. Now, I do have this might be a very hard question, for you to answer, but I'm going to ask it anyway. If you were to choose any venue on the Amalfi Coast for a wedding, that would just be the one to showcase the best of the coast, the food and the wine and everything, which venue would you choose?

[00:34:10.130] - Victoria

Oh wow. That is such a difficult question. What would I choose? I guess the venue that probably comes into my head, first and foremost, we've done a lot of weddings that is Caruso in Ravello. Belmond Caruso. The scenery from that hotel and the garden setting for dinner and they've got a section of the gardens which have olive trees and you can have a beautiful imperial table set under the olive trees and have the fairy lights and that view behind you. It's just I think... people come down the steps into that location and they just, again, breath taken away. So it's very, very special. The food is exceptional. The service is exceptional. It also has an infinity pool as well. So you move from the garden area where you have dinner up to the infinity pool. And it's a completely different vibe up there as well to what guests have experience for dinner. So it's sort of offering a lot as well. You're just sort of offering the same setting. Guests are getting the best of both - that super modern, chic infinity pool vibe for the afterparty but then the very rustic sort of setting garden setting for the dinner. It's very special. It's one of many venues that that is very special. And as I say, I think that's just a personal favorite. But there are many other venues as well that I absolutely love. I love coordinating weddings there, in all of the venues that we work with. It's probably unfair of me to just highlight the one, but it's certainly one that comes to mind.

[00:35:44.570] - Katy

Oh my goodness, it sounds just perfect. Love it. There may be some people listening who are very interested in getting married on the Amalfi Coast, especially as it is just coming up to Valentine's Day or San Valentino, as it's called in Italian. How, Victoria, can our listeners that are dreaming of their very own wedding on Amalfi Coast stay in touch with you.

[00:36:09.110] - Victoria

So obviously you'll find this on Instagram, as we've already mentioned, Facebook. Our web page really offers is the first port of call for sort of just starting to get the ideas flowing and have a little look at what we do and how we work. So sophisticatedweddings.net is our web page. If they want to go and have a little nose on there and see a little bit more about us, a little bit more information about the venues that we work in and what might fit and then just

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reach out. We would love to - we love to hear from people. We love to then set up an informal, relaxed chat with no obligation whatsoever. Just to chat through people's ideas, tell them a little bit more about us and how we work. And then we go from that.

[00:36:53.060] - Katy

Sounds wonderful, Victoria. I'm just going to go when we finish, I'm going to tell my husband that we're going back to the Amalfi Coast and Victoria is going to plan everything and it's going to be fabulous. But I just can't think of a better way to start a life together than to confirm your commitment in one of the most beautiful places on the planet. Victoria - grazie! Thank you so much for joining us today and letting us into your dreamy world.

[00:37:21.650] - Victoria

Thank you so much for having me, it's been a real pleasure chatting.

[00:37:26.630] - Katy

I hope you enjoyed my chat with Victoria, even if, like me, you're already married or you're not planning a wedding, do go and check out Sophisticated Weddings website and Instagram for some absolutely incredible photos of the Amalfi Coast. I have to say, my jaw dropped when I saw an image of a bride and groom who seemed to be dancing on an infinity pool with the cliffs of the Amalfi Coast in the background. It really is the place for professional photography. I'm sure those photos never just stay in the wedding book. If you are planning a wedding, take a good look around Victoria's website as there is a ton of great information about planning weddings in Italy and the Amalfi Coast, as well as interviews with former clients who share their stories and special days. Of course, we put all Victoria's details on the show notes at untolditaly.com/59 for episode 59.

[00:38:19.500] - Katy

That's all for this week on Untold Italy. Don't forget to subscribe, so you're notified as soon as new episodes are available. And if you've enjoyed this episode, we would love it if you left us a rating or review. Grazie, grazie! Thank you. Coming up next week, we are heading back to Tuscany and delving into a part of this region that is relatively undiscovered. But it's actually one of my favorites. Ciao for now.