

Untold Italy Episode 67 - Exploring the Amalfi Coast

Katy

This is the Untold Italy Travel podcast, and you're listening to episode number 64.

Josie

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

Katy

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

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.

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.

Josie

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

Katy

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

Josie

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

Katy

Ciao a tutti! Hi everyone. I hope you had a lovely Easter. It's Katy here, emerging from a chocolate coma.. I think we overcompensated for the virus situation with a few too many eggs this year. We also had a few glasses of prosecco to celebrate 100,000 downloads of the podcast! Wowee! I find that so exciting that so many people have tuned into our show, that started just over a year ago and has brought our love of Italy to people all over the world.

People like torimitch18 on Apple podcasts who recently left us a beautiful review. They wrote

“If you are planning a trip to Italy this podcast is essential! And if you aren't planning a trip then you will be as soon as you start listening. These ladies are so knowledgeable about this

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amazing country and the episodes are all so unique and So. Much. Fun. They give you tangible tips and advice to make sure you have the absolute best vacation possible and make you appreciate this incredible place so much more than you already did. Can't get enough of this show!"

Grazie Mille! Thanks so much torimitch18 - we are so happy you enjoy the show and cant wait to bring you new episodes every week.

Today we are taking a trip to the incredible Amalfi Coast. I know it is a place many of our listeners love or can't wait to get to and today we're going to explore some of its beautiful spots and learn excellent tips first hand from someone who lives and breathes this stunning part of the world. Our guest today is local tour guide Pierpaulo from Joe Banana Limos & Travel. In normal times Pierpaulo loves taking visitors around the Amalfi Coast, enjoying their laughs and smiles as they soak up the scenery. Their family run company has been helping travelers explore the coast for over a decade and they miss you all so much. So let's not dither and head straight to the azure blue Tyrrhenian Sea and the sights and sounds of the Amalfi Coast!

Katy

Benvenuto, Pierpaulo! Ciao and welcome to the Untold Italy podcast.

Pierpaulo

Good morning Katy. Good morning, everybody. So I'm very happy to join you today and to share some of my personal experiences on the Amalfi Coast with you.

Katy

We are so looking forward to it. How is it day there today?

Pierpaulo

It's a bit chilly, but outside there is the sun, so the sunlight. So we actually have a good day. That's good.

Katy

Beautiful there's nothing like a sunny day on the Amalfi Coast. And I know that we can't wait to get back there as soon as we can. Now, I told everyone a little bit about you and Giovanni, your brother.

Pierpaulo

Thank you so much

Katy

We'd really like to know what is your story and why the name Joe Banana. What's that all about?

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Pierpaulo

So our company is actually a company that's got some years of experience and we actually train starting from the low base. So the Rome wasn't built in a day or so we actually are two brothers which have managed this company, which it's services to the foreigners that come here. And we gave actually private car services and both services and private guided services. And of course, we actually started a few years ago, even a service of a full coverage. So you just have to put three or four clicks and the credit card and we will plan about your vacation entirely. So with no worries about anything. Sounds great and why the name Joe Banana?

Pierpaulo

Joe Banana comes out because actually in Italy you don't have a first and last name if you don't have a nickname. So actually, if you say, who is Giovanni. Giovanni who? Giovanni Banana! Oh I know Giovanni Banana! OK, so that's actually how you realize who that person is. And actually our grandpa was not in the tourism industry. I mean, he didn't own any hotel, unfortunately for us. But thank God, he raised us up very well and actually had free truck. So the three wheel truck called Ape. A.P.E. So that's actually one of those strange vehicles that everyone sees in Italy and he was actually loading it up with lots of fruit and vegetables because you know what? When he started, I mean, at the very beginning, the people grew up, everything, you know, I mean, the only thing that can grow up that much was through it like foreign fruit, including bananas. So that's the reason why it or what they had these bananas. So there is also in Italy, a popular movie called Banana Joe and so Giovanni Banana. So he's actually standing around the fruit truck picking up bananas or stealing the bananas. I mean, my grandpa I mean, actually pretend that you didn't see him, but they saw him and noticed that is still, you know, and so it came out the name Joe Banana very easily. And so that's actually how the name comes up. But it sounds actually not really like a limo or a boat or any tourism services, but it's actually catchy. So we prefer to continue with it.

Katy

So, yeah, it's a great name. I love that story. Do you have a nickname, though, Pierpaulo?

Pierpaulo

Well, actually, it's Fagiolino, which is actually small beans, you know, because I was some of the - I mean, don't ask me why, because that's actually so strange, you know, that in Italy we always have to match something like that. But you know what? We did this actually since the Roman times. So I'm in and thank God we don't have any nickname before that actually has to do with the shape of our bodies. You know. I mean, because somebody tall or somebody the short somebody is called the big nose, you know. I mean so I mean we actually have all of these strange nicknames, but it's fun because in this way we can realize who that person is.

Katy

I love it, I love it. That's so great. All right, we are wanting to talk about the Amalfi Coast and it's such a dream destinations for so many of our listeners. And you live there and you've been

looking after many, many visitors for years. What do you think makes it such a special place to visit?

Pierpaulo

The Amalfi Coast is actually a unique place in the world. I traveled a little bit thank god, but I have to say that you can't compare it with anywhere else. Why? Because the place is actually with these beautiful shapes. I mean, it seems like you have a mountain right above the sky and it almost seems like it's collapsing, you know, almost frightening sometimes, you know, and you actually have the street, which is windy and full of curves, actually. So you have then there is very steep cliffs. By the time that you actually face down to see you actually see that there are these empty spaces and the water underneath. And so you have all of these incredible views. And every time it's a breathtaking moment, you know. So beautiful, lush mountains, you know, then sometimes a very wide, so they reflect the colors into the sea. And this turquoise color actually, that is reflected from the sky and the mountain. I mean, it matches two things that are normally very far from each other, like mountain and sea, and they are connected together in one shot. That's actually the most incredible thing. Plus the human factor, because you have some places in the world that can look like this. But I mean, people didn't build there. Here, it's centuries that we're trying to build and we're modeling/shaping the lands. So we actually have all of these terraces, which are so beautiful because it creates like a staircase, which is even more beautiful to see for the eyes, you know, I mean, it is a satisfaction for the eyes. You know, when you look at all these beautiful terraces. Why? Because these people in the past, they needed to grow their farms. I mean, even if you had little space, a little piece of land, you wanted to put some vegetables in it. You wanted to have your animals, some chickens, some porks in order that you could actually make your living with such a small, you know, amount of terraces - its land. But every foreigner that comes here, what they actually are impressed of, it's actually the fact that we know how to join every little space. I mean, when I go and I see people from Australia, from America, actually, that they have so much space and they say you cannot even realize how lucky you are to have all of this space, you know, so that's actually and so we actually we're kind of like a tomato paste. So the tomato paste is a concentration of flavors and stuff. And so is the Amalfi Coast - it's a concentration of views. I mean, it's actually delightful for the eyes.

Katy

It's really, truly spectacular. And it does take your breath away. And I think also the people are so friendly and kind and generous, and that's kind of also adds another little extra layer to the whole experience too.

Pierpaulo

Well, we have to say that because in the reality, somebody would I mean, somebody that thinks in a bad way, actually would think 'they do it because they're in the tourist system. They've got to do it.' No way. I mean, we've always done that. And since I was actually 13 years old and I started to go to high school, I mean, the first thing that I did, I saw foreigners and I spoke really few English words. I mean, there was enough actually to have a conversation and to tell them where to go. I mean, it was literally my genes, you know, since

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I was born. So that's why we actually are like this. I cannot see somebody going somewhere, I mean, and not even helping them. So, I mean, I try hardly. And you know what? People are grateful. And I think if we all together do like that, people come back, you know.

Katy

That's so true.

Pierpaulo

Doesn't matter you know, how many people can fit on the Amalfi Coast, because that is another point, you know, which is actually a very popular place. And, of course, people, when they come, they expect to be the only one on the Amalfi Coast. No! I'm sorry to say to our listeners that they will not be the only ones on the Amalfi Coast, but definitely they will love it also because at nighttime, the Amalfi Coast takes a different feeling, you know, I mean, it's actually with a different pace and not on the cars that you see it in the afternoon or the morning. But this is actually something beautiful. Everybody wants to see it. I mean, and if it's a touristic place, that must be a reason.

Katy

That's exactly what I say. I always say that actually everything is popular for a reason. Now, speaking of popular, most people are very familiar with the towns of Amalfi and Positano, and they really want to visit them when they come to the Amalfi Coast. But can you tell them a little bit about maybe those places and some other sites that they may not know about when they visit the Amalfi Coast?

Pierpaulo

All right, so we actually have to specify this, so we have 13 towns on the Amalfi Coast, but people stick always with the same ones because they're literally beautiful, I mean gorgeous, spectacular. So what are the mistakes to not do? I mean, the first mistake to not do is actually to not book a place in the middle of nowhere, you know, just to reach the Amalfi Coast because sometimes it becomes hard. So I would definitely say pick up a location which actually connects you, I mean, to all the different towns and on the Amalfi Coast. So consider that the most popular is actually Positano. Positano, which people change the name with Postiano, you know, but in reality, Positano is a vertical town. I mean, you cannot come to Italy and not see a place like that. I mean, it's a bunch of houses on the top of each other, but gently done, you know, always with this method of the terracement and they all face on the water. So the incredible thing is actually that these houses, they really covered the view to another. And we have talking back about the towns, actually, we have a Positano, which is the most popular. Amalfi that gives the name back. It's one of the few towns, Amalfi, that has a parking for the busses. So, I mean, don't feel scared whenever we can, actually, with this virus thing going on, don't feel scared if you see tons of tourists, you know, I mean, because, of course, when you have the space, enough space to host the bus. So there are a little bit more complications about the quantity of people that there are inside. But it's actually spectacular. And then there is Ravello, which is one of my favorites as well, which is set right on the peak of this cliff. And these are actually the three most popular. But we have towns

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like Praiano even before the Amalfi Coast, which is an outsider that I like it a lot, which is called the Massa Lubrense. But it's a town in between Sorrento and the Amalfi Coast, which is incredible as well. A beautiful place there. So we have other towns smaller, like a Minori, which is so cute, a little bit outside, you know. So you literally have the chance to visit every place that you want so you can tailor a trip even on the personality that you have. If you are an outsider that doesn't want to go through the crowds, not a problem because you can because you can pick some of these places as well.

Pierpaulo

So Praiano in my opinion is actually very nice, too. And the incredible thing of the Amalfi too, Katy, is the fact that you have always two parts. You have the upper part and the main street part. So paradoxically so the water, you don't reach there easily as you would expect, because sometimes people forget that if it's so vertical, it means there are a lot of stairs. Well, it can be actually one of the very few times that you take a vacation in Italy and come back losing weight, you know, I mean, which is another good point. But I mean, jokes apart, these these areas on the top of my opinion, that they are quite unique because you actually have the chance to see both of them.

Of course, you can visit the Amalfi Coast in several ways so you can go there by bus. You can actually go there even with some ferries sometimes. But actually, you could also hire your own car. If you're a little bit - forgive me the word a masochist, you know, by a certain point of view. Why? Because it's actually a street that was barely made for chariots and donkeys. They made it a little bit wider in the last 70 years. So less renovation was actually nineteen eighty six, the last widening job. So, I mean, you cannot ask to yourself, I'm taking a vacation and I actually drive my own car. I mean, the scratching the car, stressing me out. I mean, avoiding the bus, avoiding the tourist who stop in the middle. So let somebody else do the hard part of the job. You know.

Katy

It's true. My husband actually drove when we were in there. And he's, I mentioned before his family is from Napoli and even he struggled a bit I have to say. Was a little bit grumpy.

Pierpaulo

Yeah.

Katy

That's a nice way of putting it.

Pierpaulo

Yeah, exactly! But you know what I mean. And not that we say to people, you have to do that. You don't have to do that. I mean, we give a suggestion. Of my opinion, if you really want to try to do it with a very, very, very small car.

Katy
I agree.

Pierpaulo

And then, of course, there are other ways to visit. In my opinion, you have to visit the Amalfi Coast in both ways because you cannot go there and not seeing this from a car, from a vehicle, but you cannot even go to the Amalfi Coast and not seeing it from the water side. So these are two different perspectives. These are two different points of views that, I'm saying, you know, I'm talking to you as an Australian, but even to Americans. How many times do you go to Italy? Like three or four times a year? I guess no. Very few times that you go to Italy. I mean, you have to catch the best out of it. So going back to what we were saying, I mean, doing it with a boat, that would be nice, but of course, not loaded with tons of people. I mean, try to take something which is more exclusive. I mean, actually with more people you can even better share the price. And even by car, you take your own private driver, which actually the way we do it, but not only us, plenty of others - is to give even an explanation of what you're seeing. So you have a sort of driver guide in the car that gives you some notion about the place. And so you get informed. But at the same time, you can enjoy the view. Katy because most of the people forget that you've got to take some pictures, that you've got to enjoy the views. So that's why let somebody else focus on the street and you actually focus on the views. So then there are so many little stories that people can share. I mean, even the knowledge that we have done, I mean, them and people, our listeners, they cannot see it. But my belly is a witness of that - of all the many good places that you can use actually to eat. And definitely you have this feeling of living it more like a local and not like a foreigner. That's how it actually works. And so talking back about the way to do it, I think by car with the smaller vehicles, I mean, it would be ideal in my opinion.

Katy

I think so, because, I mean, even if you, in peak summer, if you're trying to go on the bus or the ferries, it's like I've heard of people getting stranded because the busses are full and I can tell a story of our own is when we were going to get the bus and our daughter was sick. And so we ended up getting in a car because she was she wasn't well. So from Ravello back down to Amalfi and yeah, I think we would have had a much better time if we just relaxed and done it that way. That was the first time we were there.

Pierpaulo

Let's say that the feeling sometimes, not always, thank God, but they've got to respect their schedules. I know that it couldn't be real for somebody to hit that, but we don't have any schedule because when you actually have your personal driver, you tailor it on the needs of the person. "You know what Peirpaulo? I don't want to keep driving now. I want to relax and see this view for about ten minutes." What is the problem? We do it. I mean, I try to ask that to a bus driver and you will not have a nice answer for sure. And that's the point. I would say after that, you come out of a bus, you feel a little bit like the eyes of a pina colada - that kind of feel, you know?

Katy

Oh dear. But I think as well, as you mentioned, you can stop and see the views. I mean, I feel like there's some smaller places that you can reach that really not as well known that you can reach if you have a different form of transport and different way of getting around. Is there any special places that you like to take people?

Pierpaulo

Oh, my word, absolutely. I mean, as I was mentioning before, when you go to the Amalfi Coast, people think, OK, there are so many streets, it's actually one street. So the main street is the main street. But what we actually do is to focus on the people. So when you focus on the people and you ask them, so what really would you like to see us? So you start going, for example, to this little town. Majority of the cars, they drive through the main street, which is beautiful. I mean, but the ones who take a little bit of a diversion. I mean it seems like they're climbing up the sky, you know, so steep it is. So you can't do that with a huge bus. Absolutely. Forget about it. So you go on the top of this town called Praiano, you have an immense view that embraces like a hundred and eighty degrees view starting all the way from Capri, you know, going all the way almost to Amalfi. So with the view like that, no one going around and sometimes you also have to stop because there are actually the shepherd with the goats passing the street. You have to wait for them. I mean, that is actually something that you wouldn't expect and that you don't do with the big bus. That's actually the point. I mean, I mentioned the Praiano, but I couldn't mention even others. Like, for example, there is a very cute town called the Conca de' Marini, which literally I wouldn't pick to sleep there because they're literally far if you want to move and see the places around every day. But I would definitely pick it the for a little stop by. So, for example, in the town of Conca de' Marini, you go on the top and you have this beautiful little church, these nice views, so they can actually see a beautiful convent from there with an infinity pool, which of course, it's not that we're going to sleep there. Unfortunately, we can't. But I mean, you see this convent with this view, which is actually a hotel, and you feel like, OK, when I retire, I want to spend some year in this place. So that's how you actually feel. And in fact, in this place, there was even the tradition of Sfogliatelle. So the nuns, they used to live in this convent, they rolled up this pastry made with ricotta cheese and the pieces of peeled orange. So they actually stuff it with this cream, ricotta cheese. And it has got this crispy layer outside. I mean, it was actually made there. So I'm talking about to see even these goodies - we have it.

Pierpaulo

But of course, we would need like 10 of these podcasts to talk entirely about the Amalfi Coast. I'm picking just some that on my personal opinion are nice. For example, Ravello, look, Ravello is a posh town, very posh. So still you have some people with groups, I mean, not actually so many big groups like in Amalfi, but for sure, if you sleep in Ravello, there are people that take a hotel room, I mean for a thousand euros a night, and they actually use it to read the book and enjoy the views. So that's the kind of mood you have in Ravello. So they built actually an auditorium. So they have concerts. So almost all year round there is this beautiful villa of the thirteen hundreds where they have a terrace facing on The View. So this beautiful cliff that you kind of like descends to the sea and you have a musician playing for

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you with this view in the background. I mean, where else? So this is the point. For example, Ravello is one of the places that I would never give up. In Ravello, another place that I love is called the Villa Cimbrone. And so this place is actually a garden that was restored in the eighteen hundreds. Now what we had these people from the grand tour - these very rich people that wanted to visit Europe and they fell in love so much with the place that sometimes they bought and they bought this entire property. There's a Lord Grimthorpe from England and he actually restored that that much - he created some gardens that are fabulous. So gardens and actually a beautiful hotel as well, because we never miss the chance to have hotels. And definitely in a place where you have a cliff, there is literally fifteen hundred feet, five hundred meters deep down. So you face from the cliff - that the sea view is whooo! because it is so beautiful that you can't forget it. So these are experiences that should be done. Or like, for example, when we drive the Amalfi Coast, we also like to take people to a minor town, which is actually like the let's say, the less beautiful version of Ravello. Well, I can't say ugly because it's not a nice word, you know, and because somebody see the place and tells me "ugly? - what you're talking about? It's not ugly at all" but it's actually less popular than Ravello. But I like to take people there because from that view, you actually have all the view of the water and you can entirely admire the view of Ravello. So when you come back from Ravello, you actually have the view and you can literally see where you have walked through the town. Plus a place that was even known to ever so many convents and monasteries because it's the place where they actually started the missions. What we call it now, the charity missions, you know, and so they started there, from Scala, this little town, which is actually very nice. So it's an outsider and we try to see that one and the other one. So in this way, you actually have a complete view. Another place, and then, of course, we'll keep going. So it's actually Minori. That is another part of the coast that people are going coz it's reachable from the highway and from another side, very famous for the pottery too like Vietri sul Mare, a very cute town as well. And after Vietri sul Mare, I have even a little town called Raito, which you go there and you just look at it, say, why? Because it's another version of Positano, but nobody knows! So that's the incredible thing. I mean, there's always new discoveries and the town of Minori, I like it because thank God they didn't built it that much. So it's still how it looked like and you have the beautiful Santa Trofimen church that you can walk through. I mean nice. But what you actually like there, it's the regular face of that town. And it's not as when you're bored of making lots of steps. You have a walk through that little town and you enjoy it a lot also because there is a nice pastry that they invented there that I love it. The Ricotta cheese and pear. So there is a famous baker there and there it is, a beautiful pastry made with the ricotta cheese and the pear from our area, which is delicious. It's with the two bases of biscuits and nuts actually, hazelnuts. And it's actually a bite that is for the mouth for the palate, you no? This is the point about these different places on the Amalfi Coast. So you have different ways, I'm not saying you don't have to do that or you do have to do that, but on my personal point of view of a person that does experience a couple of those on the coast, so I can tell you this, I mean, let's try to see a little bit of everything, and do it in a better way.

Katy

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Yeah, but, you know, the one thing I also want to do when I go there. I don't want to just say beautiful things. I want to have a nice lunch. And I can tell just by what you've said, you know your pastries. So I'm sure you know some great places for lunch.

Pierpaulo

Oh, definitely I do. One of my favorite places, of course, I really want to mention something which is for the pocket of everybody. Also because not everybody feels to do like to have like a huge, you know, when they are touring the towns, you know, so you have to find something in between. I definitely would say that on the Amalfi Coast, because, of course, there is a huge quantity of places where you can do it, considering it's a touristy area. So the prices are not actually always that low cost, like you could find in a city or outside the coast, but you can still find the places to eat decent prices. For example, one of the restaurants, which even now that there are all these channels like TripAdvisor (thank god, you know, I'm saying) but they got very popular these restaurants as well. But I've always loved to go to this restaurant called La Tagliata - which they give all this bunch of food well with a price that is actually quite, quite honest, I would say. And you have this view, which is incredible. I mean, you eat, I mean, your mouth eats but your eyes eat as well looking at that view, I mean it's kind of like a double satisfaction, you know, I mean when you have a place like that. And so La Tagliata is one of mine. Plus if you want to pick some other one that are more like on the water, I would definitely say go to Buca Di Bacco, which is another place that I love a lot. They're good friends of mine. And they have a little corner, that if you call in advance, they will prepare this corner that is actually right on the water and with the most popular view of the houses of Positano. So you have a menu there. I mean, 50 bucks each. I mean, a big meal, you know, I mean, not actually 50 euros per person. And you go out of that starving but I mean, you don't starve. I definitely love the place to plus in Conca de' Marini, another place that I like it a lot. It's called Le Bontà del Capo -to translate it into words, it's actually the goodies of the chief. Chief Capo in Italy means also the Cape because Conca de' Marini is actually on a Cape and there is a beautiful watch tower of the 1500s there. And so this restaurant has got the view of this incredible tower and waterfront, but plus as it's actually on the top and not in the main center. The prices are almost ridiculous. I mean, you take an appetizer for seven Euros. Tell me. I mean, even if I take a roll sometimes I pay 7 Euros. So a place like that, you would eat a lot with 30 bucks each, you know. I mean, after that you can even order a bottle of 50 euros of wine and say, OK, I'm even drinking, I'm drinking even better than I normally do. So because you really have the choices.

Pierpaulo

But the top one, in my opinion, of course, it's more pricey. I mean, but it's a watch tower right in the middle of the water. And it's in Maiori. It's a Norman Tower, Torre Normanna, in Italian. And there are these four brothers - two are in the kitchen and two are actually serving the people. Fresh fish every day. So they have this terrace Katy, I can't explain you. I can tell you, look, Katy, there are these two hundred and twenty degrees views, like I already said, you know. I'm not giving justice with the simple explanation. Not even if I describe it like Marcel Proust, you know, I mean. This place is so used a lot when they got to make these proposal. So use the place when you want to have a romantic dinner. But even when you want

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to have a moment of peace, you go on that terrace, I mean you feel the owner of the world even when you have nothing! So I mean, that that sensation is priceless. On my opinion.

Katy

That's really true. My goodness. I think we're all missing the Amalfi Coast. We did actually stop in Conca de' Marini. And I just I got a little bit of a shiver. I quite liked that place. It seemed like a pretty cool place to me. You mentioned going by boat and I just wanted to circle back. Was there anywhere that you go by boat that you couldn't really reach if you were in a car.

Pierpaulo

Oh, definitely, definitely. There are actually at least three or four places like this that have restaurants right on the water, I mean, beside the restaurants, I mean, even caves, places that normally you can't go there. I mean, and that's the big point about it. That's why I insist that the beginning saying, look, there are two different ways to see it, see it from the top. I mean, it's actually, in the way that I say, see the top, see the main street, but see the tops, see the known places, see the less known places. But actually by boat, it's actually your trip because when you have a nice day, even if it's not extremely sunny, you know, even if there is some shade - the colors can change in that moment, you go to these beautiful caves. We have the White cave, not simply the Blue Grotto, which is the most popular. You've got to have a line and everything, but you have some alternatives using the boat, which normally you wouldn't have. Plus, you have also the chance to say, you know what, I want to see a little bit of this town you stop by and you actually see it. I mean, whatever the town is actually at sea level, otherwise you always have to make steps to reach the center of it. So I want to point that out. And it's beautiful because when you're on a boat, I mean, how to explain to people the colors? I mean, you start and you see all these different shades of blue. Now, there is also a book that is popular, but thank God, here we have the 50 Shades of turquoise color, you know, goes from the green and it ends up, you know, to this turquoise blue, which is actually not easy to explain. Even when you look at the water underneath, you can always see the bottom. So it is something that you don't get very easily to have such a blue water. And plus if you have the willingness to dive. Who denies you that? I mean, we will stop there, you actually splash in the water, see you or all the different swim that want. Go back on the boat, then you get to drink take that sip of limoncella. You can also drink because you don't really have to drive anything because you're on vacation. We take care of it. So and this is actually how it works because with a private boat, you can really tell the plus - the services that we have. So we always have an English speaking skipper. I mean, it's not one of those things, you know, "oh we gotta hurry up, we gotta move, we gotta move!" No, absolutely. We don't have to hurry up. That's our motto. You know, we have to pace down. I mean, not actually too fast to make it fast. That's the point. So we actually have also an assistant on board. So which is something that people that come on the boat want to relax more. It's not like getting the real explanation every minute. Also because you want to enjoy, you want to feel the breeze. But at the same time, I mean, an assistant that helps you to go down and tells you where to go and what to do, I mean, it's actually quite a big help in our opinion. We also have a service of snacks, drinks. You can literally spend your time on the

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boat. Plus, nobody denies you that if you are willing to stop by at one of these beautiful restaurants that face right on the water, we have one called La Gavitella, which is actually reachable with two hundred and something steps or actually by boat. Which one would you prefer? Because after your lunch to take these two hundred steps on the way up. It's harder!

Pierpaulo

Another place that I actually like that you can reach by boat, I guess you know it's in Positano, it's a friend of mine called Da Adolfo the owner Sergio is actually a very good friend of mine. Unfortunately, I actually sent people there, they're very happy, but I don't have the chance to go there very often. I have to say the truth. You know? We've got to do what we got to do, actually.

Katy

I know now I wanted to mention, because we do get a lot of requests for drivers and for boat hire on the Amalfi Coast from our listeners and from our online community. And a lot of people throw out names and suggestions. But I think I'd love to know from your perspective, what should we look for in a driver or company to take us around the Amalfi Coast? What are the things you'd be looking forward to know that that was someone that was had a good reputation and could give a great service?

Pierpaulo

Let's say that, first of all, the first choice that we make, when we booked something now is always to look at some of the reviews. I mean, for sure, this is not the only way, but we have all so many friends. I mean, even in Australia and America, so many guests send us other guests! And the important thing is actually, how you look a reliable. When you have that person in the car, the first thing is, would you really want to do today? What are your wishes? You know? And every person actually has got his own choice. You got to respect every point of view of the client because to us, the clients are not clients. To us, they're guests. It's different because when you have this person that tells what would you like to do? What would you like to eat? So, I mean, imagine that I had a guest that, oh my word, it was actually a beautiful but crazy experience, at the same time. She was a lawyer from New York. I mean, actually with a much better body than mine, you know, in terms of walking through paths and doing steps that for sure. And her request was Paulo, every time we see a nice beach on the Amalfi Coast, we stop by and I actually go down and come back. I said you know, that you need sometimes even 20 minutes. She said "Oh, yeah. Don't worry. I'll make it 10". So I spent the whole day letting her go in and out. I mean, on the coast, I mean, if you actually told somebody this kind of tour, you said this is crazy to accept something like that. Crazy world! I mean, I had a satisfied guest and that was her way that she wanted to visit. Like there are some other people that if you were to say, look, today I want to see the highlights, I want to see something out of the beaten path, why not? And I want to have something good to eat. So you make a plan and you actually go with the day. Plus, of course, the Amalfi Coast is also full of things that are unpredictable. Sometimes they close the street, sometimes there is rock falling. I mean, the important thing is that you have the person that is always in contact with these people, with other drivers in order that we can actually manage it in the best way

we can. And sometimes you have to do it with the very strict time schedule when you have like a ship to take back. And so the other thing is actually that we guarantee also that. So even if you are not sleeping in the area and you want to do like a day tour, I mean, we make it in order that you enjoy it as well. Of course, when you have too many things to see one day, you have to take a little bit of it. So it's just a slice of the cake and you get the entire pie when you come back.

Katy

Yeah, I think it's really great. I have to be honest with you. It does concern me a little bit when people - I see people just take a random recommendation from the Internet or a group and some of them don't even have a website. And I think that apart from all the hospitality and the services that you provide, I think it's really important that people look for things like registrations and insurance because it's boring stuff. Right? But at the end of the day.

Pierpaulo

I mean, don't take it for granted that there are people that do my same business. And I mean, of course, I don't like, as I told you, to talk bad about competitors, but there are some of them that don't even have the insurance for the passengers. I mean, if anything happens, anything, how do you manage it? It's normal that then you go to check the prices and it's a little bit more, but it's normal. We have the drivers that they're all set perfectly even with their payrolls, you know, they're paid well. We know that they work hard and they deserve a lot. And of course, where are we taking this from? From a higher price. But this is actually even our higher service. And the same thing is actually about all the insurance for the boat. I mean, even the fact that you have an assistant on the boat, I mean, it's all teams that at the end of it, you know, making increases the cost and, of course, increases the price. But you have not a severe rising of the price. You have a little rising of the price, but actually a much better improvements of the services. That's what I mean.

Katy

So our listeners who have heard me a lot, they know that my trip with my family to Capri when we were on the Amalfi Coast is like a highlight of my life. So I can't stress to people enough just to - if it's your dream to go somewhere, that you really just have to accept that, you know, it may cost a little bit more than what you think, but it's just so worth it. And I actually haven't stopped talking about that day and I won't. Ever. Because it was so magical to me. And I've got the photos of us all crowded together and just smiling and happy. And it was just such a beautiful day. And I really wish that for everyone, actually.

Pierpaulo

And Katy, you know, what the what is the best point out of a vacation that is done in an excellent way. Memories.

Katy

Yeah.

Pierpaulo

I mean the memories will always be with you. You build the beautiful memories. It's kind of like a bank for the happiness. Normally you have the bank to save the money. You have the memories for the happiness. So that's actually how it works. Am I wrong?

Katy

No, you are not wrong. That is actually my whole reason for being. Memories, not things. It's an amazing thing. Oh, I love it. Now, I'm sure all our listeners would love to stay in touch with you and the Joe Banana limos and have a browse of all the wonderful places that you can visit when we finally can come to the Amalfi Coast. And how can I stay in touch with you?

Pierpaulo

It's very easy. We have a website which is actually www.joebananalimos.com, so it's very easy, very catchy. You can literally find out everything you need. Plus, not to mention that we work as a family. So anybody answering your mails is part of the family. And when they ask you, it's very prompt.

Katy

That's wonderful. Well, I just absolutely love hearing about the Amalfi Coast. I know everyone does. So, Grazie! Thank you so much for joining us and telling us all about it today, Grazie.

Pierpaulo

Thanks to you Katy. I mean, it's been an occasion to first know you and which is actually a very big part to me. And, of course, you know, to let our listeners understand a little bit how it works on the coast so that we are people they can trust, something that, you know, which is which has become even harder to trust the people so they can do it with us. And in this way, they can get to the best out of their vacation. So to transform a vacation into the best of memories ever.

Katy

I love it!

Pierpaulo

Thank you so much. Goodbye everybody!

Katy

Listeners, the Amalfi Coast is one of those places that is constantly talked about, Instagrammed and video'ed. You'll never hear that it is overhyped though because it really does live up to its promise of being one of the most incredible landscapes in the world.

But, here's the thing because it is so popular it is a good idea to make use of local services like Joe Banana limos while you are there to make the most of your time in the area. They can help you experience the coast at its absolute best and in the way that best suits you. Of course we've left all their details in the show notes at untolditaly.com/67

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I hope you enjoyed this week's episode, next week we are heading south across the Tyrrhenian Sea to the Aeolian Islands off the coast off Sicily which are just as beautiful as the Amalfi Coast but also boast an active volcano! But until then it's

Ciao for now