

# Untold Italy Episode 78 - Family adventures in Rome and Sorrento

This is the Untold Italy Travel podcast, and you're listening to episode number 78.

Ciao a tutti and Benvenuti to Untold Italy, the travel podcast, where you go to the towns and villages, mountains and lakes, hills and coastlines of Bella Italia. Each week your host Katy Clarke takes you on a journey in search of magical landscapes of history, culture, wine, gelato, and, of course, a whole lot of pasta. If you're dreaming of Italy and planning future adventures there, you've come to the right place.

Katy

Ciao everyone, hope you're all doing well and ready to escape to Italy this week. I know I am! It's been so much fun watching summer unfold in Italy over the past few weeks.

My friend author Corinna Cooke who has been on the podcast a couple of times has been researching an upcoming guidebook and exploring Venice which looks super quiet and peaceful and incredibly stunning. While over on Capri, my beautiful friend Holly who you may remember from our very popular episode about her island home - episode 42 -, has started delivering amazing picnics to visitors to Capri hungry from swimming in the turquoise waters of the beautiful Tyrrhenian Sea. I'm so happy they are both enjoying Italy to the fullest and can't wait to be there just as soon as it is possible

Both Holly and Corinna are just some of the experts available to our Untold Italy Insiders members. We have a lot of fun chatting with them about upcoming travel plans. No doubt you already know that you cannot beat insider tips from locals. All our insiders are there on hand, with me, to let you in on all the secret wineries, beach clubs, restaurants and picturesque towns you won't find on the Internet. Plus there's Italian food, wine, cheese, culture to explore. You can find out more at [untolditaly.com/insiders](https://untolditaly.com/insiders) - I'll put a link into the show notes for you to check out

A big shout out to all our Insiders members who make each week so much fun and keep me on my toes with all their tricky travel questions. Barbara wrote to me a few weeks ago with this lovely message

*I am absolutely loving all the Insiders content as a lovely escape from the daily grind and the fact that we still can't spread our wings yet. I have especially enjoyed the wine briefings which have given me the confidence to explore Dan Murphy's a little more (Grazie mille Giovanni!) The history and culture has been great to dive into and your travel guides (which*

Untold Italy travel podcast transcript. [Visit our website](#) for show notes and all episodes

*are brilliant - great job!) have all helped to keep the dream alive and got us thinking about different options for our next trip. Now, I am planning to get to the gorgeous looking recipes just as soon as I can and I have to say thank you to the other group members who have posted pics of their culinary efforts so far - please know that I appreciate all your engagement as inspiration. For now, the ragu is bubbling away in the kitchen for dinner tonight and bell'Italia is never far from my mind and I love that this group helps me keep it that way. Grazie di tutto! xx*

So if you'd like a fun escape with me, Barbara and our friends to Italy, become an Untold Italy Insiders member! We can't wait to see you there.

Ok, onto this week's episode and an extended family adventure to Rome and Sorrento with a Mediterranean cruise thrown in for good measure! Listener Jeannine reached out to me on Instagram and wanted to share her story traveling with her husband, young children, inlaws and her aunt and uncle. Jeannine's family is a close knit tribe from New York and they wanted to explore their Italian heritage together. What I love about Jeannine's trip is that she did some solid planning to make sure she got their accommodation in Rome right and built an itinerary that had lots of wriggle room and time for the kids to explore. They managed to visit all the major sites in ways that was suitable for their group and even had breakfast in teh Vatican. So let's hear all about it from Jeannine herself

Katy

Benvenuta, ciao and welcome to the Untold Italy podcast Jeannine.

Jeannine

Hey, Katy, thank you so much for having me. I'm so happy to be here.

Katy

Oh, we are so happy to have you on the show today to share your experiences in beautiful Italy. But firstly, I know we'd all love to know a little bit about you and how you came to be in Italy.

Jeannine

OK, so I'll start with my family and growing up in New York - I live in a suburb outside of the city and my family has always been extremely important. Every Sunday we had family dinners. We would go to my maternal and paternal grandparents house. We would eat and eat and eat. We'd have Sunday sauce, meatballs and macaroni, pork bones, sausage. I mean, it was insane. We had so much food and, you know, as a kid, we would run around and play. But

*Untold Italy travel podcast transcript. [Visit our website](#) for show notes and all episodes*

then as we got older, we would sit with my grandparents and we listened to their stories and we really created a strong bond between my entire family on both sides. And we still have that bond today. We're super close. I love my family. Can I tell you a little bit about my family and where they originated from?

Katy

Yes, please. We love to hear those stories.

Jeannine

OK, great. So my family originated from Foggia, which is in Italy right?. So and then Carini, which is in Sicily and Napoli. And for my grandparents growing up in Brooklyn, things were very different. Their parents came to Ellis Island. They wanted to assimilate and become part of the American culture. And I think, you know, growing up for for them in the 1920s and being Italian in New York specifically was very hard for them. You know, they changed my grandfather's name when they when he came over, basically the manifest from the ships changed my maternal great grandfather's name from Agrussa to Agrusso. So and that was typical of the time to change people's names when they came over to Ellis Island. And that was that that was his new name. And he went on and there was no questions about it. So all of them, they all came and they worked multiple jobs. They had to meet, make ends meet. I can remember stories of my great grandmother having to use the washbasin as a bathtub and a kitchen sink to wash her, to wash her food, but then also to wash herself in. And so, like, you know, they didn't really have much when they came here and no one ever said they lived in tenement housing. But I think about it and I'm like, they really didn't have a lot. And I knew they lived in very small apartments. They would also tell stories about how they would make their macaroni and they would dry it out and drape it all over the apartment. You know, just what it was and what they did. So they worked very hard to fit in to America. And so my grandparents, we never called them Nonna and Nonno. It was always grandma and grandpa. They didn't teach my parents to speak Italian. They taught them English. You're in America. This is what you speak. They were so proud to be in America and so happy to be here. But they still embraced their Italian culture and they passed it on to us, which I'm grateful for. I love being Italian. It's fantastic.

Katy

It sure is. And so when you were deciding to go on your trip to Italy, so this whole sense of family was a big, strong part of it, I can tell. And so you made a very big group, didn't you?

Jeannine

Yes. So what took us to Italy that time was my sister in law and her family. They were going on an Italian cruise line called MSC, and she had opened it up to everybody in our family. She had asked anybody to go. So my in-laws, my parents, my aunt, my uncle, her cousins and her whole family. So we had over twenty five people on the ship that we knew it was great. I

mean, it was like a wonderful opportunity. We went to Sicily, Malta, Spain, France, Portofino in Italy and then back to Napoli. So it was just a wonderful, wonderful trip. But before our trip we decided that we had wanted to go to Rome for a few days. And then after our trip, we wanted to visit our family and Sorrento and Sant'Agnes. So we did that.

Katy

Beautiful. It sounds like such a great way to sort of sandwich the cruise in between seeing some sights and getting that family connection as well. What a wonderful way to do it. So your little group in, well not so little group in Rome who was that? That was you and your husband and...?

Jeannine

So yeah. So when we were planning our trip to Rome, it was my in-laws, my husband, myself, and then our two children. And we had to take into consideration that we're traveling with kids. And, you know, at the time, my kids, they were nine and a half and just five. So we had two totally different ages and two different genders. And, you know, so many people are like, why would you take kids or why wouldn't you wait until they get older? Why are you traveling with children? But honestly, like, if a person has the means to travel, it doesn't need to be difficult to plan with children. You plan for things when you're at home where you plan for things while they're in school. So, you know, and kids, yes, can be totally unpredictable. And wrenches are thrown into plans. But if it's structured, it will work and it won't be a horrible experience.

Katy

That's right. And I do think Italy is one of those places that you can really embrace as a family because the Italians embrace you - just like, you know, you found with your family. It's a really amazing place to travel with kids. And I can't wait to hear about how you fitted it all into your trip, because I have differently, have the ways I do it. But it's always great to hear a different perspective. Now, tell me about where you decided to stay in Rome, because I think this is a really excellent point. And you did a very good job of this, in my opinion.

Jeannine

Thank you. So we decided to rent an apartment in Piazza Del Maddalena. We felt that staying in an apartment was best for us. There are three things when planning a trip with children (and this is my opinion), food, right? They need to get fed. The second thing is breaks and scheduling. Right. And being flexible with your schedule. So we wanted to have an experience where our children weren't on a tablet or a phone the entire time and we wanted them not to be bored. Right. And so we decided we would rent an apartment. So we rented an apartment and Piazza del Maddalena and it was right behind Piazza del Rotonda. And I'm sorry if my Italian if I'm butchering it.

*Untold Italy travel podcast transcript. [Visit our website](#) for show notes and all episodes*

© Untold Italy 2020

Katy

No it's fine.

Jeannine

So there was a little balcony in our apartment and we had views of Santa Maria Maddalena. We were in the center of everything, which was perfect for traveling with children. You are in a convenient location, centrally located next to a supermarket so that you can buy fruit and bread and salami and cheese and whatever, so that you can go experience something in the morning, come back, relax, eat, and then go out at night for dinner, you know, and it's just nice to recharge.

Katy

Definitely. And for those of you who don't know, the Piazza della Rotonda is where you find the Pantheon, which is such an incredible building in itself. And it's also a great area because it's actually very much pedestrianised round there, isn't it? So especially when you've got young children, it's a great place to stay because you can walk from spot to spot and not worry about cars and things like outdoor spaces for them to play. It's not actually grassy, but the least you can go out and have a run around which I always find is very important when traveling with kids.

Jeannine

For sure. I one hundred percent agree. Yep.

Katy

OK, so did you go into the Pantheon? What was your impression of that.

Jeannine

So I had been to the Pantheon. I had actually traveled to Rome in my previous life before children. So but my husband and my son did on the very last day they went inside the Pantheon. I OK, so the first night we got there, we went to the supermarket, food shopping, and we ate dinner at night in the Piazza Della Rotonda overlooking - just looking at the pantheon. And I was so excited. I'm like, how am I here? Looking at this amazing structure, I feel like I'm back in time in history because it's like a mixture of modern with these historic buildings. It's just so beautiful and you know. You know. Right. It's just amazing. Amazing.

Katy

Like, I'm getting shivers because that's exactly how I feel when I go there. I'm just like, whoa, this is just incredible. It's an amazing spot. And there's some beautiful restaurants actually around there that you can eat and some great gelato places too.

Jeannine

Well, of course, we ended the night with gelato, but that is actually my number one tip with kids these days. There's never too much gelato in Italy and gelato bribes are the answer to everything

Jeannine

Hysterical - yeah, no, it's totally true.

Katy

And the other great thing about where you were staying is you can really walk to a lot of places from there and not really have to rely on public transport. So, you know, you can walk. You would have done a lot of walking, I imagine.

Jeannine

Yes, we did. So where our apartment was just to the west is Piazza Navona. Just to the east is the Trevi Fountain. A little bit north is the Spanish steps in Villa Borghese. So it's again, it's all there. You just walking everywhere. And my kids were able to handle it because it's not far. And if we did, like when we did go to the Colosseum, which I'll talk a little bit about, and when we did go to the Vatican, you take a taxi or an Uber, you know, it's very simple. It doesn't have to be complicated.

Katy

Yeah, I think people forget that as well and maybe people are worried about the cost, but actually taxis are really quite reasonable in Italy, especially if you've got new piling, three or four people into a taxi, it's really becomes quite cost effective and much less difficult than having to navigate the public transport system, which often the one in Rome a little bit slower, often much better, getting around by foot most of the time. All right. So let's talk about the Colosseum.

Jeannine

OK, so yeah. So day two, we ended up at the Colosseum. We took a taxi there and, you know, we booked tickets in advance - again with children, you want to take into consideration that you don't want to stand in line because they are going to be so bored before they even walk into the museum or the place that you're going to visit. So we booked tickets in advance. We did not take a tour. I ended up purchasing a little picture book for my kids. So I explained what the Colosseum was to them and it was great. They loved it. We ended up taking a small break after the Colosseum, before we went into the Roman forum and we found a shady spot. We sat, we had sandwiches that I had packed. So it was like, again.. Food. Breaks.

Katy

And you probably just you know, it's quite strange that you sitting there munching on your panini and looking around going, oh, my gosh, there's 2000/3000 years of history all around me. Amazing. Amazing. I love it. Now, you know, I think you can totally do all these Colosseum and Roman forum, just as you did. And I think it depends on how much you were prepared to invest in getting the kids excited before the trip as well. There's so many cool things now that you can do. Like I know I've got this subscription that's called Little Passports and it sends them like a thing if..

Jeannine

I know it!

Katy

And just it builds up their excitement and just the recognition of seeing the thing in real life that they've seen in a book or on a TV show. It just is quite incredible how it all comes together, I think. Did you did your kids still talk about that experience?

Jeannine

Yes. And what really helps is having picture books and photo albums and going through them with saying, oh, remember when we did this? Or just like reminiscing and looking through our memories. So it was great.

Katy

Now, the other thing that you did that day, which I just think is amazing, is that somehow you stumbled upon a parade. What happened there?

Jeannine

Oh, my goodness. So we didn't know what it was. We hear yelling and chanting and drums and then we see flares and lights and we're like, what is going on? And this was after we were walking home from the Trevi Fountain at night. And so basically it turned out that it was the 90th anniversary of the Rome soccer club. And I I don't know if it was planned or if it was an impromptu parade, but it was an amazing sight to see because what we did was we went upstairs into our apartment and they marched right through. I can't wait to share with you the video. They marched right through the Piazza del Maddalena. And so we saw it. We saw their flags waving. They're chanting. They were so happy. And it was just a joyous moment for them and it was fantastic. It was so exciting.

Katy

I love these. I love this. Many, many people go to Italy looking for the real Italy in small villages or towns and cobbled streets, etc. But I can tell you this for a fact is that most

*Untold Italy travel podcast transcript. [Visit our website](#) for show notes and all episodes*



Italians. Well, I say in general are obsessed with soccer or football. So if you have a chance to experience anything like what Jeanine's experience, that is really part of the culture. And that is real Italy really because they are kind of soccer mad over there.

Jeannine

It worked out perfectly. My kids were like, oh, wow, this is amazing.

Katy

So then on the next day, you went and did the other big thing that people do in Rome, which is go to the Vatican. How did you find that?

Jeannine

OK, so again, with children, you're making reservations. But what we also did was we had made a reservation to dine at the Pine Cone Courtyard. So my husband and I figured that, you know, we didn't want our five year old, and nine and a half year old, to have to spend hours and hours and hours looking at, you know, artwork and artefacts, which, you know, it's amazing to see. But we needed to break it up. So we did it in the morning where we visited the museum. And then we took a break. We had breakfast at the Pine Cone courtyard, which was fantastic. You sit out in the courtyard, you experience the statues around, you're sitting outside, you're eating. You know, it's just a wonderful opportunity to, like, just soak it in, soak in everything around you, like breathe for a second. And then we went back into the museum and we finished up.

Jeannine

The other thing is that a lot of people, if you leave a Vatican museum, you have to then stand inline at the St. Peter's Basilica. So there is an actual way to get into the basilica from the Vatican Museum where you don't have to stand in line. So with children like I recommend that you don't leave the museum, you stay and you walk through to get to the basilica. Or you're standing in line again.

Katy

That's actually through the Sistine Chapel. So that's at the end of the Sistine Chapel. Now, normally, they actually only tour groups do that. But what you can do is you can ask the guides at the end to let you through because and they really great with small children. They just Italians love kids. So they want to make things easy for you, which makes a very happy holiday.

Jeannine

That's what's so fantastic. Everybody was so wonderful, pleasant. Everybody's happy. They're willing to help you and be helpful. So it was just great. It's great when you're traveling and

people are there and they want to help you. They know you're tourists and you're not there. You're not Italian or from Italy.

Katy

Yeah, that's true. And then did you go into St. Peter's itself? You did do that?

Jeannine

Oh, yes, we did. And oh, my goodness. So, again, I had been there many, many years ago with my my girlfriends, we went backpacking to Europe and I can remember falling in love with the Baldachin, which is on the altar. So I was so happy to go and see that again. It's just a beautiful structure, you know, again, it's one of those things in Italy. We're just sitting there and you're in awe.

Katy

Well, it's been there for hundreds of years and it's a stunning piece of work. I mean, we don't put so much care and attention into our buildings these days, which is a real shame, really. And you can see just how much thought and just symbolism is there. And that's what makes it really amazing from my perspective, anyway. I'm not Catholic, but I still find it quite an emotional experience to go in there because it is such a beautiful place. And then for dinner, you went to one of my favorite areas, and that's Trastevere .

Jeannine

Yes, Trastevere. So we went to try to Trattoria Del Teo, I hope I'm saying that right. But it was amazing food. And we walked around the neighborhood and it's you know, I had never been there before, so I was looking forward to visiting an area that I had never been to. And it was beautiful. The town is absolutely gorgeous. The place where we ate -they put us in a room so we were by ourselves. And the wine was excellent and our children loved it. It was right next to the river. So before dinner we had walked and we went to the river. And then, of course, we ate dessert.

Katy

Did you walk there and back or did you get a taxi back?

Jeannine

No. So we ended up getting a taxi. We didn't walk there because we had spent the whole morning at the Vatican and the museum. So it was just a lot for the kids. So we ended up taking a taxi there and a taxi home.

Katy

There's one - there's a bridge that's called the Ponte Sisto. And on that bridge, (this is the next time when you go)

Jeannine

Yes tell me!

Katy

They have lots of buskers and street entertainers that entertain on the bridge. So it's really fun. I've got a really good video of kids doing some dancing on the bridge with those little glow sticks. It's fun. It sounds like you packed a lot in because the next day - you got a little bit of nature, didn't you?

Jeannine

Well, we did. I know. So this was our last day. Well, our last full day in Rome, we knew we wanted to go to the Spanish Steps and hang out in that area. And we also knew that the Villa Borghese is just north of the Spanish Steps, but it also had Bioparco de Roma, so which is the Roman zoo. So we were like, you know what, let's pack lunches, let's eat breakfast and let's go to the zoo. So that's that's exactly what we did. So we ended up at the zoo and there are zoos in New York. So why would you go to Italy to go to the zoo is what some people would say. But, you know, it's a different experience, you know, you have beaches in New York, but when I go to Positano, I want to go to the beach. So it's the same thing, you know, so it was really cute. The kids were actually able - there was like a little showcase. You were able to pet some animals. And then after the zoo, my husband and I decided that we were going to rent one of those 4 person pedal bikes. Oh, my God. Do not recommend.

Katy

Oh, we had so much fun.

Jeannine

If I stop pedalling like my husband was pedalling or if he stopped pedaling, then I was pedalling. I was like, oh my goodness. We were exhausted.

Katy

Oh, I think actually now I remember I think we got one each. So we had one kid we got I think we did the four I can't remember but I do. I quite like the bikes because you can get around. It's quite a big park isn't it?

Jeannine

It's a very big park. Yeah. But what I loved about it is that we actually ended up stumbling upon a little carousel in the park and it wasn't a carousel with horses. It was little.. I'm calling it a carousel... I don't know what else to call it, but it was a little cars. So we got off, the kids went on for a little bit. We hung out again, Break! Food! and then we rode back, dropped the bike off. We walked through the park. So now we come where the top of the Spanish Steps looking down over the city. I mean, oh, my goodness. The views, the views from the top of the Spanish Steps and the view from the top of the Roman Forum are just stunning views of the city. Absolutely gorgeous. So then we walk down. We had some pizza and then we rested. And then we went to Piazza Navona that night, we had dinner and we had gelato again.

Katy

Wow, you certainly really made the most of your time in Rome. You hit all the highlights and some secret spots as well. And I think one thing about that Villa Borghese is it's got the playground there as well. I don't know if you found that, but I think it's really important, like you're saying with kids to take breaks. And I am like a super playground sluth. Where are the playgrounds? Especially with little kids. You just need to get them that, you know, those breaks and they will appreciate it and so will you. And you know what? You learn more about the kids, but when you're sitting back relaxing, watching other families play, you find out about how they do things and you know what's going on around in the city. And I think they've got lots of lovely little traditions. And they love giving kids sweets and the little toys and I just things. And it's really cute. Yeah. And then you took the train back to Napoli.

Jeannine

Oh, my goodness. So, yes. So then we ended up going. The next day we woke up, we ended up taking the train back to Napoli to board the MSC's cruise line. And the train we took was the high speed Italio train. The one thing that I would say is you book your train tickets online, but then you still have to go to the ticket window to get your boarding passes. So, you know, it's not complicated. You just have to know those things before going.

Katy

Ah OK. I normally book with a thing called Omio, which is it's got an app you can do that with so you don't need to go check- in. But there's different ones you can book online, that do need to go in to collect your boarding pass, you're absolutely right. Now tell us - I'm not a cruiser myself, but I know many of our listeners are. What did you think of the MSC cruise? Because I've actually been on board one of the boats and I was quite - I was like, whoa, this is crazy because it had a Swarovski crystal staircase.

Jeannine

Were you on the Meraviglia?

*Untold Italy travel podcast transcript. [Visit our website](#) for show notes and all episodes*

Katy

I went on like a press trip to go and have a look around for you. It could have been that one.

Jeannine

It probably was, because their maiden voyage was in like 2017. So was that around the time?

Katy

Yeah. I had the opportunity to go on board when I was in the UK, but yeah, it's a beautiful ship and that staircase is something else really isn't it.

Jeannine

Yeah it was, it was absolutely gorgeous. So we, we did, we went on a cruise the, the MSC Meraviglia. It was tremendous. It was so big but extremely convenient with - again traveling with children because you have food whenever you need it, you have activities there. I forget - I think they had Cirque du Soleil on the ship. It was fantastic and I think that they also have an Eataly store on board, which is like the I guess the high end supermarket chain in Italy that sort of showcases all the I wouldn't say luxury, but just very selective goods and foodstuffs. And they have a store on the actual ship. I understand.

Jeannine

Yeah. And they have an Eataly. In New York City too. So I've been there. Very good.

Katy

Oh, and then so you went to Portofino as well, just up there on the way back.

Jeannine

Yes, so we we stopped at Portofino, so so one of the ports was Genoa, and then we decided that we didn't want to see Genoa, we would rather see Portofino. So we ended up taking a boat to Portofino and, oh, arriving to Portofino with all those buildings, with all the different colors on the sea. It was absolutely stunning. Again, we had gelato. We climbed all the way up to the top and then you look down over the town and over the sea. It's absolutely stunning views. Gorgeous. So Portofino was beautiful. And then we ended up docking/coming back to Genoa and taking the MSC back to Napoli. And that was the end of our MSC excursion.

Katy

Yeah, it sounds like an amazing - if you stop it at several ports on the way - to Malta and Spain, Barcelona and Marseilles as well. Amazing.

Jeannine

Yes.

Katy

Amazing.

Jeannine

And we we also ended up in Sicily. We docked at Messina, but then we ended up going to. Oh, my goodness. What's the name of it? Taormina. Yes, Taormina. It was one of the most beautiful cities I had ever been to. I couldn't believe like we were. I think we took an elevator up. To get there. Is that possible?

Katy

Yes. Yes, you do. You take, it's like a funicular elevator to get up from the beach to the top. It's amazing.

Jeannine

I mean, it was fantastic. And we walked around, we had their rice balls and then we went to the beach.

Katy

Wow. You see, you packed a lot into the trips. That sounds really good, but at the same time, had lots of rests and gelato. Sounds great. And then you ended up in Sorrento. Amazing.

Jeannine

Yes. So we have family in Sorrento. We we stayed at the Hotel Mediterraneo Sorrento, which is located. It's funny because it has a Sorrento name, but it's located in Sant'Agello. And we explored Sorrento on our first day. We took a boat the next day and we went to Positano and Amalfi. We took the taxi, the boat taxi, which was great because it was a cheaper way for us to travel and also get to see the coastline of the Amalfi Coast. So it was perfect. And then Amalfi was absolutely gorgeous. There was the center there with the church and it was absolutely beautiful. And then we decided we didn't want to take the boat back. So we ended up taking a taxi back to the hotel. There was so much traffic though Katy. It was it was insane. I couldn't believe how much traffic there was.

Katy

Yeah. I think if you can stick with the water in - especially in the summer. What time of year? I didn't ask you that? Actually, what time of year was it?

Jeannine

So we went in July. It was the end of July. Beginning of August. So Rome was the end of July. Sorrento and my family in Sant' Agnello was August.

Katy

Right so it's really peak season then, so I think you made the right decision to take the boat for at least one of the sections, and I think if you have a larger group, like, it becomes really cost effective, really, in terms of if you were trying to go and get the ferry and get everyone to go to the ferry. Oh, goodness. I can't even imagine all of the logistics around that compared with just jumping on a boat. You know, like, I think it's a really smart way to do it and would have been beautiful just zipping past all those beautiful coastlines and seeing the towns and the little inlets.

Jeannine

It was it was gorgeous. And this part of the journey, it was my - so my in-laws, they weren't traveling with us at this point of the journey. It was just my mom and dad and it was my aunt and uncle. And then obviously my children and my husband, we did go to Capri. I was in love with Capri. Oh, my goodness. Everything about it. So we ended up booking a private boat, but there were other people on the boat that we that we didn't know, but that was definitely the way to go. We were able to go to the Blue Grotto, but not only that, they were able to give us free time where we went to the top of the island, we explored we ended up eating at a restaurant. It just - I ended up - you know those Capri watches? I have on.

Katy

I have the perfume. I spray it every day. Fiori di Capri. I'm like "I'm in Capri!"

Jeannine

And so it was great. It was relaxing. And then they took us around the back side of the islands and I didn't realize that there were other grottos. So it was nice to explore everything on that island. I mean, we were there the entire day. They did such a fantastic job showing us around. So definitely the way to go, especially with kids. They had a little like bed underneath, in the boat. So my daughter, she took a little nap. It was great.

Katy

Sounds like you did exactly the same thing as what we did. And I have to say that that trip that day, that we took to Capri, very similar to what you did, is actually one of my favorite days of my life, actually. I often think very fondly back on that day and hope to recreate it again, but maybe stay a little bit longer. How about you? Is there some place that you (apart from Capri?) Jeannine has told me she definitely wants to go back to Capri. But is there any other places in Italy you'd like to go to?

Jeannine

I'd like to go back to Venice. I absolutely loved Venice, but I do want my husband to be a part of that with me. That would be it. I would love to go back to Venice.

Katy

Venice is my favorite. I think everyone knows that. It's my absolute favorite. So now everything sounds amazing. But were there some challenges you had to overcome along the way? Because you did have quite a big group. You had some small kids. So, you know, things aren't always smooth sailing.

Jeannine

OK, so yeah, one thing that we didn't pack and I was not in charge of this, so I'm just to put that out there. We did not have a stroller, so my daughter had just turned five. So she was so little. And so we ended up there was a day where, you know, we went to a toy store thinking that maybe they would have a stroller there. But they didn't. It was fine. It worked out. We were totally fine with the taxis and the convenience with everything in Rome. So it wasn't a huge concern. But, yeah, don't forget your stroller.

Katy

Yeah, it's actually a really good point because a lot of the shops that sell those bigger items, they're not in the city center. So to actually, if you decided that you did need to get one, you might actually. I think you can hop on Amazon. I think Amazon's become a lot more popular now over there. So you could actually jump on Amazon. But I think if you forget your stroller and you do need it, it might be some extra gelato stops for you, which can't be a bad thing anyway.

Jeannine

Yeah, I mean, it was fine. We made it work. My in-laws were with us, my parents at the end of the trip, my husband, it was fine. But don't forget that stroller.

Katy

Oh well it sounds like you've got some amazing memories from that trip Jeannine. And what I love about this issue, you've hit the highlights. You've seen all the amazing places around Rome and Sorrento and seen some Portofino, which, you know, I wonder if you did see Beyonce there, because apparently she likes to park her super yacht there on occasion. But,

Jeannine

That's hysterical.



Katy

Well, Portofino is like billionaire row actually. They know a good thing when they see it basically.

Jeannine

Yeah, I mean, absolutely gorgeous there.

Katy

It's stunning. So Grazie. Thank you, Jeanine. Thank you so much for sharing your trip and your wonderful journey with your family, going to see the places that your family's from and Rome and Sorrento and I hope to get back there very soon.

Jeannine

Yes, me too. Thank you so much for having me.

Katy

It's been a pleasure. Thank you.

Katy

Thanks to Jeannine for sharing her family's adventures in Italy. I think they really struck a great balance between seeing the sights and soaking up the atmosphere. I love that they stumbled on the FC Roma football parade. What a fun experience! Football or soccer is almost like a religion in Italy. People are absolutely obsessed and if you want to experience modern Italian culture, attending a football match or visiting the iconic stadiums - particularly in Milan is a great way to understand what it's all about. Or if you're in Italy during a major international tournament you can also experience the passion, joy and highs and lows of the Italians as they follow their beloved Azzuri - the national Italian team. Just head to any bar and settle in for some of the best people watching entertainment and you might even get a hug when they score a goal.

Jeannine's family followed a classic route in Italy combining Rome, Sorrento and the Amalfi Coast plus the cruise around the Mediterranean. What I really liked about the itinerary is the combination of different interests and pace and that they were able to share so many memories and experiences with their broader family including the kids.

We don't do many episodes specifically around family travel because the reality is, kids are so welcome in Italy and it's so easy to find interesting activities for them to do outdoors, not to

*Untold Italy travel podcast transcript. [Visit our website](#) for show notes and all episodes*

mention gelato bribes. So do what Jeannine did and take the whole family to Italy. You'll have an amazing time!

No doubt Jeannine's family will be talking about that trip at their family dinners for many years to come - which is exactly as it should be

If you'd like to connect with Jeannine you can find her on Instagram at @wonderfultravel and @jeanninevictoria more information and details of Jeannine's trip you can find them in the show notes at [untolditaly.com/78](https://untolditaly.com/78)

We would love to hear from you if you would be happy to share your trip to Italy with your partner, as a family, with girlfriends or however you travel. You don't need any special media training, we literally just have a chat on line and then our wonderful audio team works some magic to create the episode. Reach out to us at [ciao@untolditaly.com](mailto:ciao@untolditaly.com) if you'd like to be a guest on the show. We can't wait to hear from you.

That's all for this week, stay dreaming of Italy, we'll be back next week with another fun episode of Untold Italy but until then it's "ciao for now"