



Italy

Part 12

Positano & the Amalfi Coast

June 21 - 23, 2015



June 21, 2015 - After our tour of Pompeii, our private driver drove us to Positano, a town on the Amalfi Coast of the Italian Riviera. We drove along winding roads elevated above the Mediterranean Sea.







As we neared the city of Sorrento, the scenery was breathtaking. Our driver pulled over so we could take some photos.





Sorrento, Italy







I was snapping photos from the car window, as well as taking some video of the drive.













The city sign of Positano.









As we entered Positano, our driver continued to drive up along the winding town road to our Hotel Marincanto. We were too early to check into our room, so we left our luggage in the lobby and went out to explore. We had asked our driver for restaurant and shopping recommendations.

On the way down, Anna got a lemon sorbet from a street vendor. I tasted it, and it clearly reminded me of the great Italian ice we got as children on Princeton Avenue when growing up.





We stopped in stores window shopping and making note of where to go back to spend some of our money. I saw cannoli in a window of a bakery and made a mental note to come back later after dinner to try some. We walked all the way to the bottom to check out the beach. Their beaches are full of stones and rocks. While there we also went to check on our reservations for the next day's boat tour.







We had walked along the street
all the way from up there!!
Below Anna wanted to put her
feet in the Mediterranean Sea
for the first time.





Right there at the beach we found the restaurant suggested by our driver, Ristorante le Tre Sorelle, translated to Restaurant of the Three Sisters, and there they are in the photo above. They gave us the postcard of the original sisters. This was an excellent pizza on par with the good pizza we had in Venice.

Positano is not far from Naples, which is supposedly known for its good pizza, and the pizza maker in Venice was from Naples.





On the way back up the hill to our hotel, I stopped and got a cannoli for dessert. It was good but very sweet. I ate it a little at a time slowly over the next 3 days!

Back at the hotel we stopped in this gorgeous lobby to get our key and have our luggage carried down a lot of stairs to our room. Apparently Jackie O stayed here back in the late 60's.





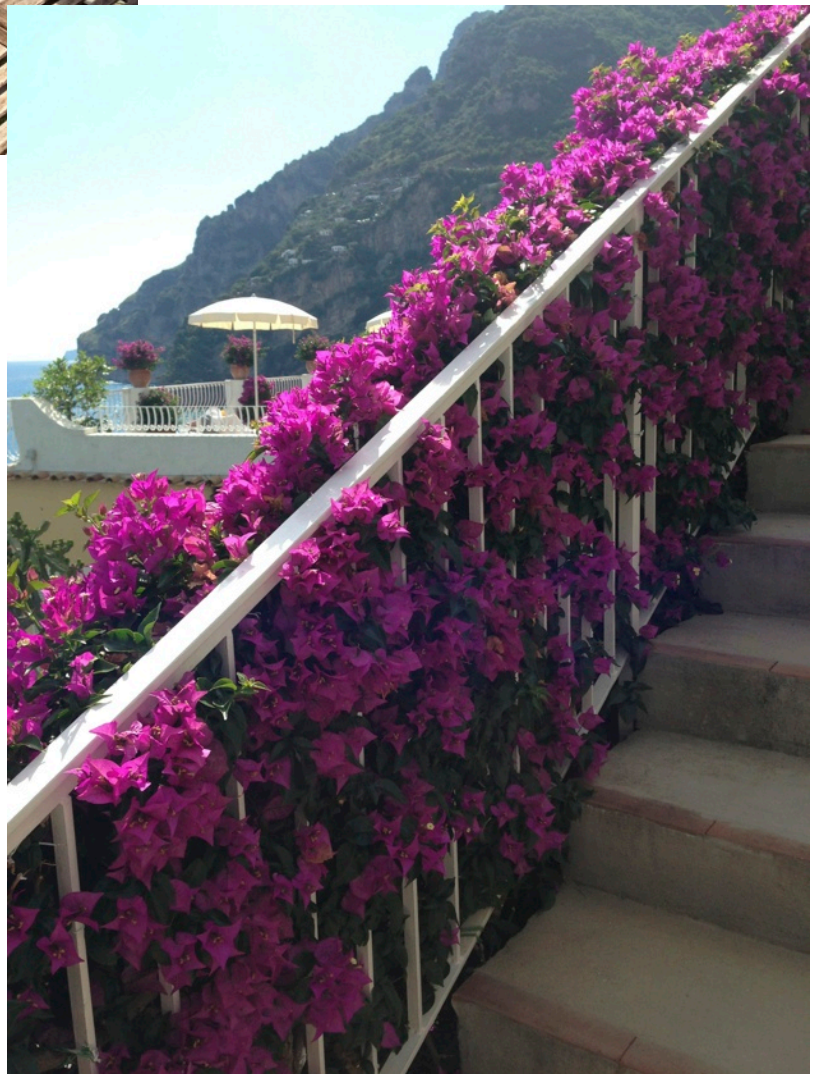
Just outside the lobby was the dining area and the first set of stairs leading down.

But what a view as we walked down.





A sun deck on one of the levels and more stairs.





A sitting area on this level just above the pool.

Down more stairs to the pool level.

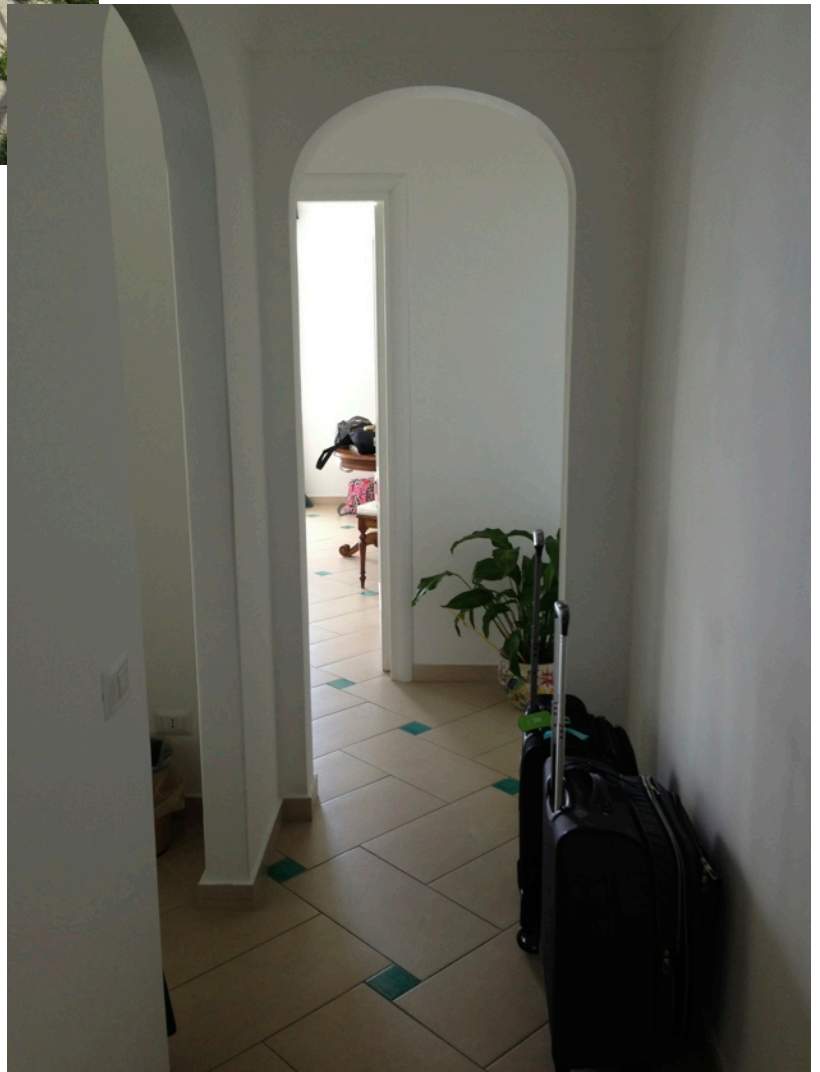






Down more stairs and we finally reached our room.

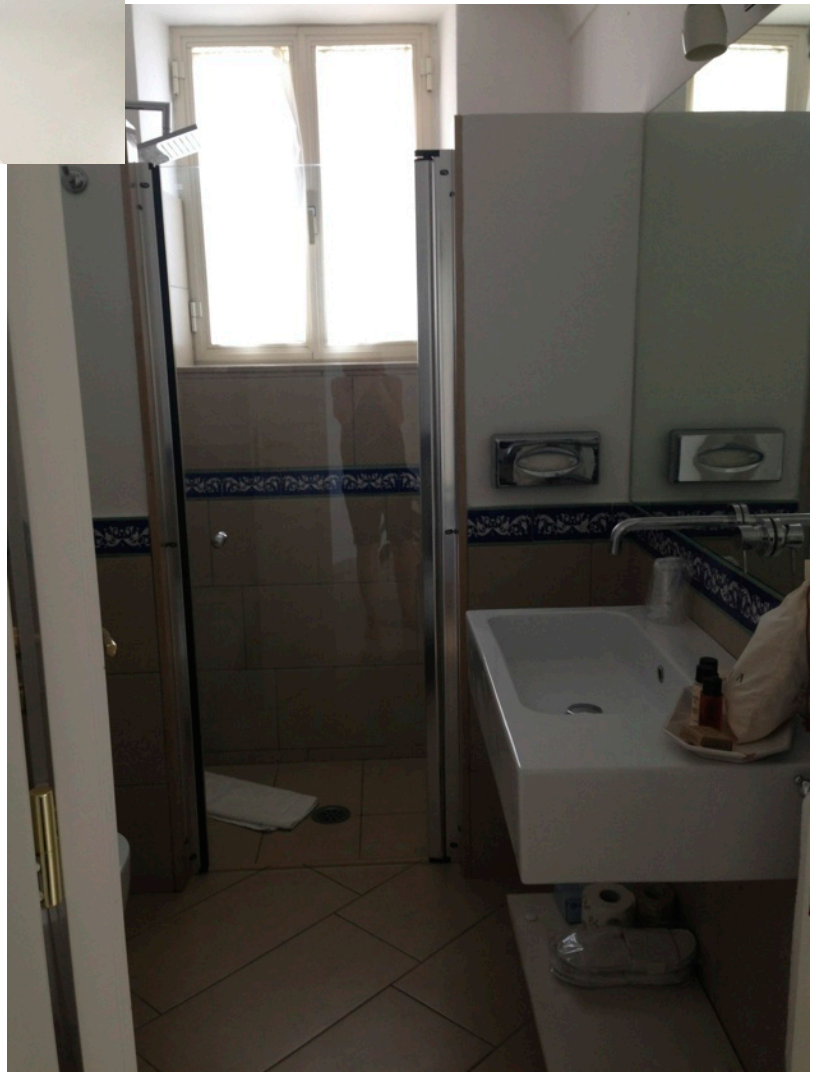
"Wow!!", was all we could say, as we walked in the entryway to our small suite.





The first door we peeked into on the right of the hall had a huge jacuzzi bathtub and closet and drawers.

The second door was the toilet, sink and shower.





The bedroom and balcony overlooking the Mediterranean.



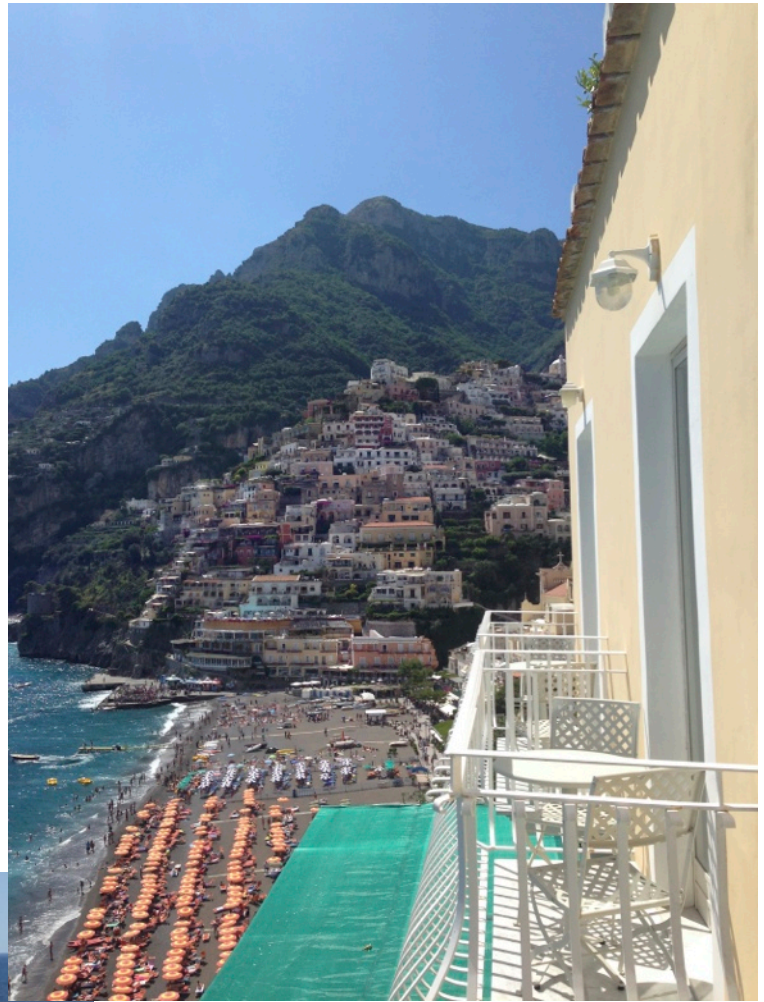


The living room, which also had a balcony and this was our view.





Just spectacular views!!



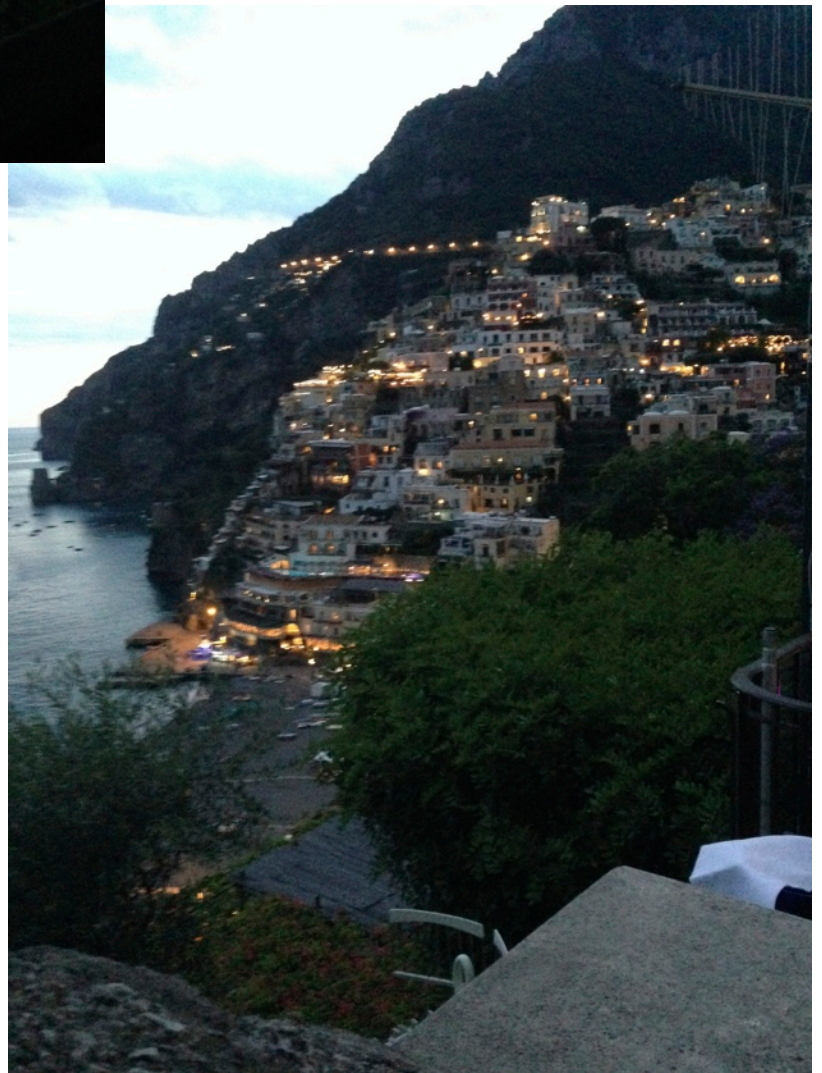


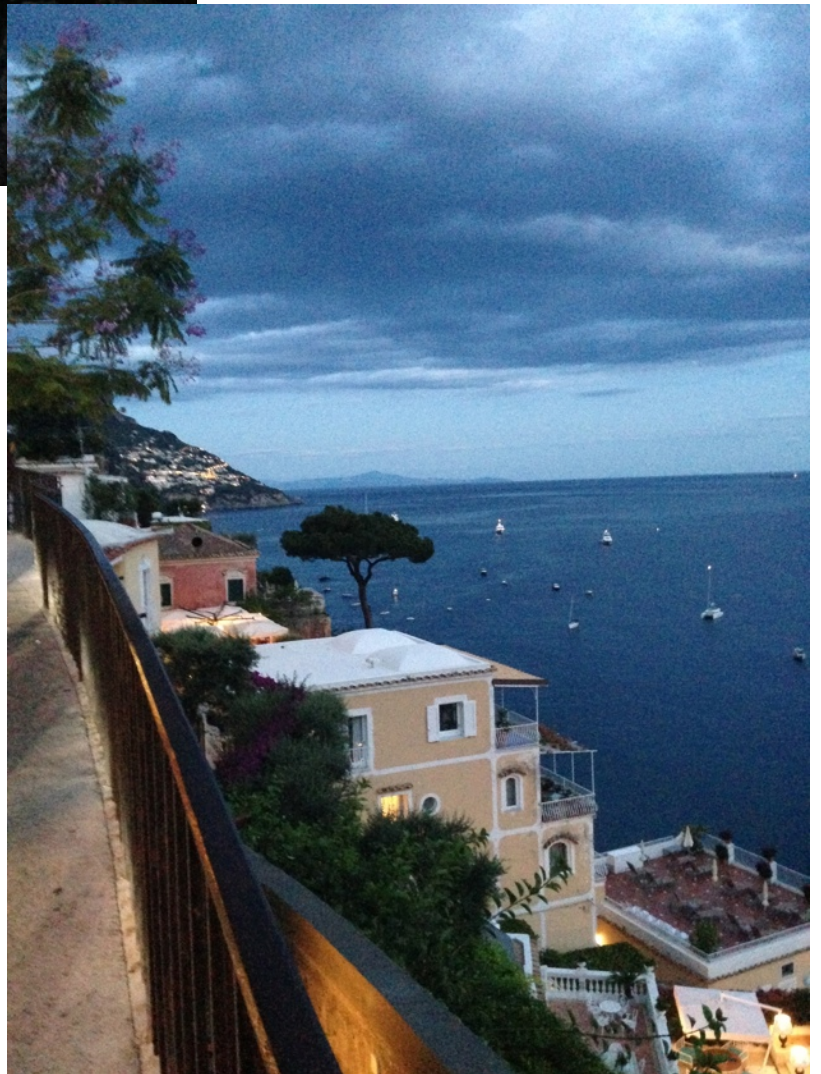
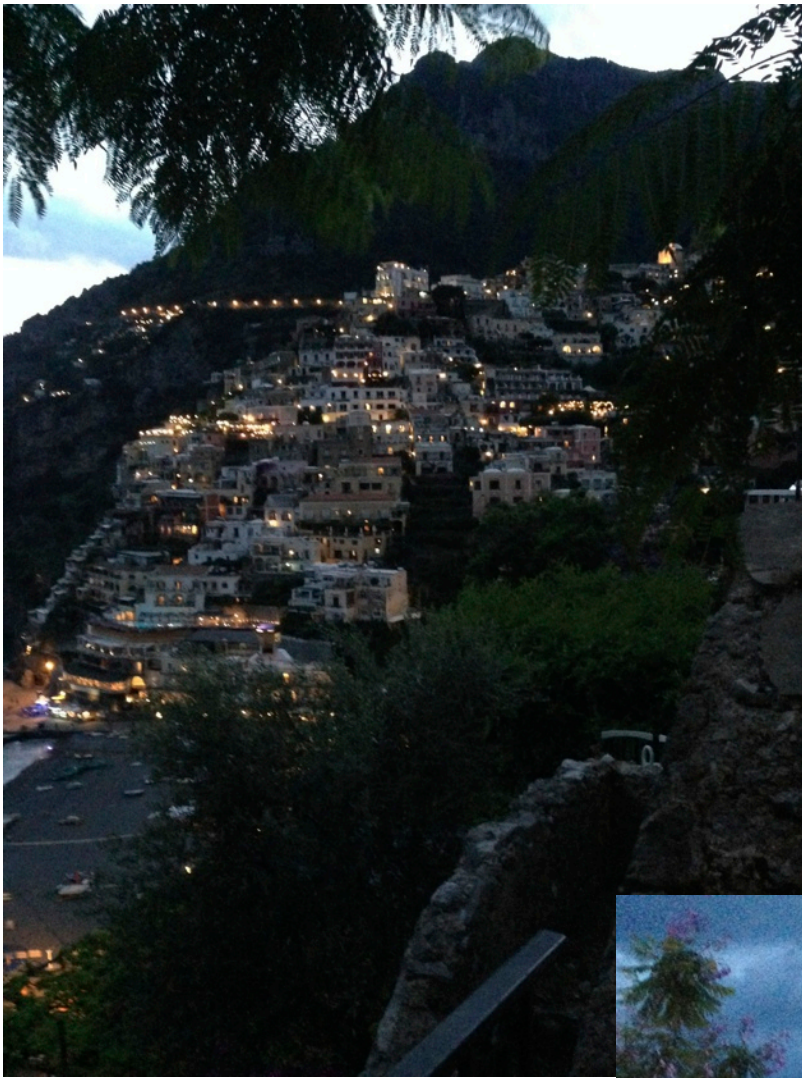
As the sun was setting, we went back out for a short walk down the street from the hotel to stop in a few more shops and take in the scenery at night.





This is what Positano looks like at twilight.







After all that walking and climbing, I was ready to soak in the jacuzzi!!





June 22, 2015 - Our first morning waking up in Positano after taking in the view from our balcony, we headed to the hotel lobby for another all you can eat buffet breakfast that all the hotels include in the cost of the room. We ate our breakfast in the outdoor dining area.





We decided to walk down the stairs from the hotel to the beach area and then along the walkway to the pier to catch our boat tour. That yellow building with the green awnings was our hotel.





Slowly but surely we made our way down all those stairs to the beach and walked over to the pier.

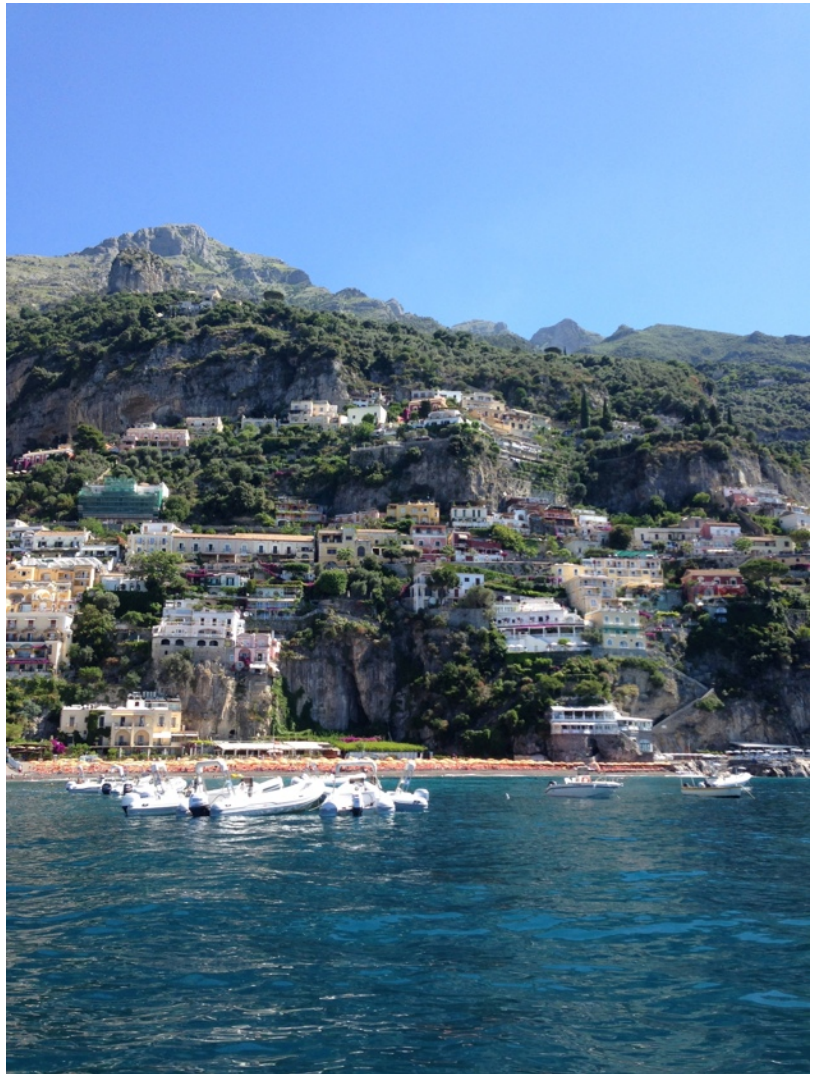






We met our boat captain, Roberto. There were just a few other people on the all day boat tour with us. We were given bottled water and towels to use if we went swimming. The weather was perfect and the scenery was absolutely gorgeous.









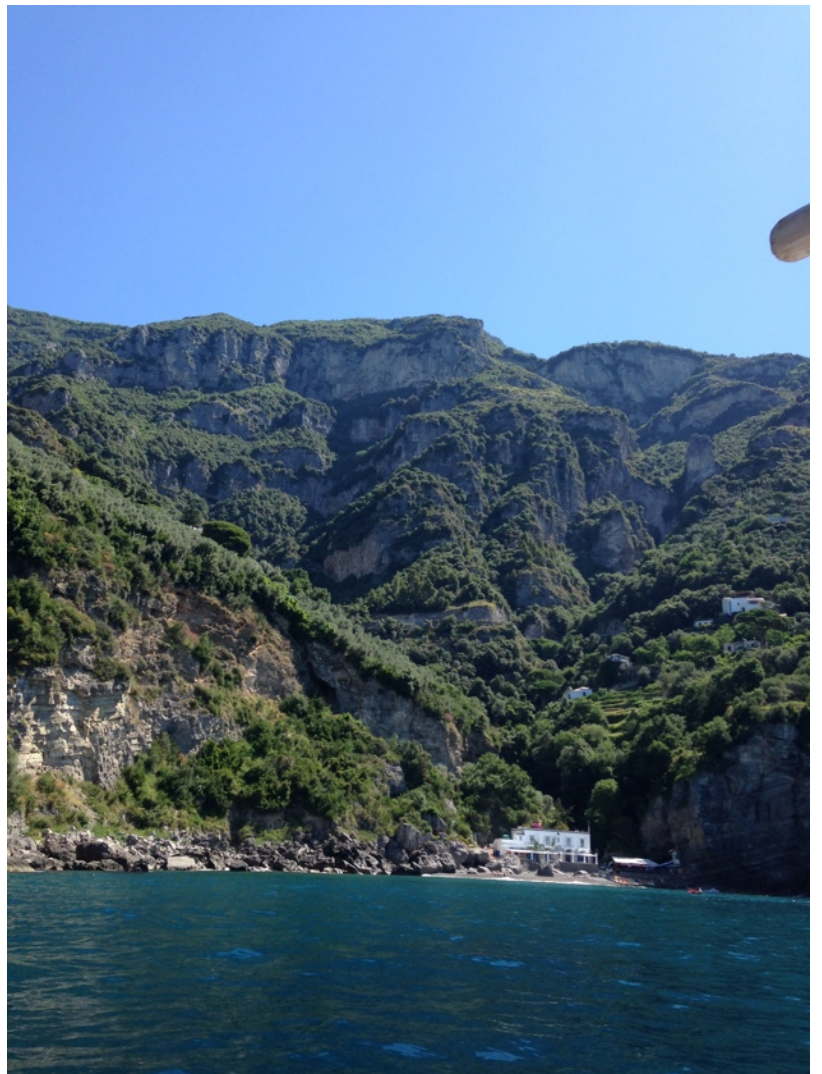
Roberto pointed out this building on the left that it was the most expensive hotel in Positano.



I took this photo on the right to show all those stairs leading down to the water!!



The Amalfi Coast is so beautiful. It reminded me of the only other place that had the same dark teal color water and lush hills and that would be the Hawaiian island of Kauai.







Roberto stopped the boat at this cave for those brave enough to go into the cold water and swim into it.





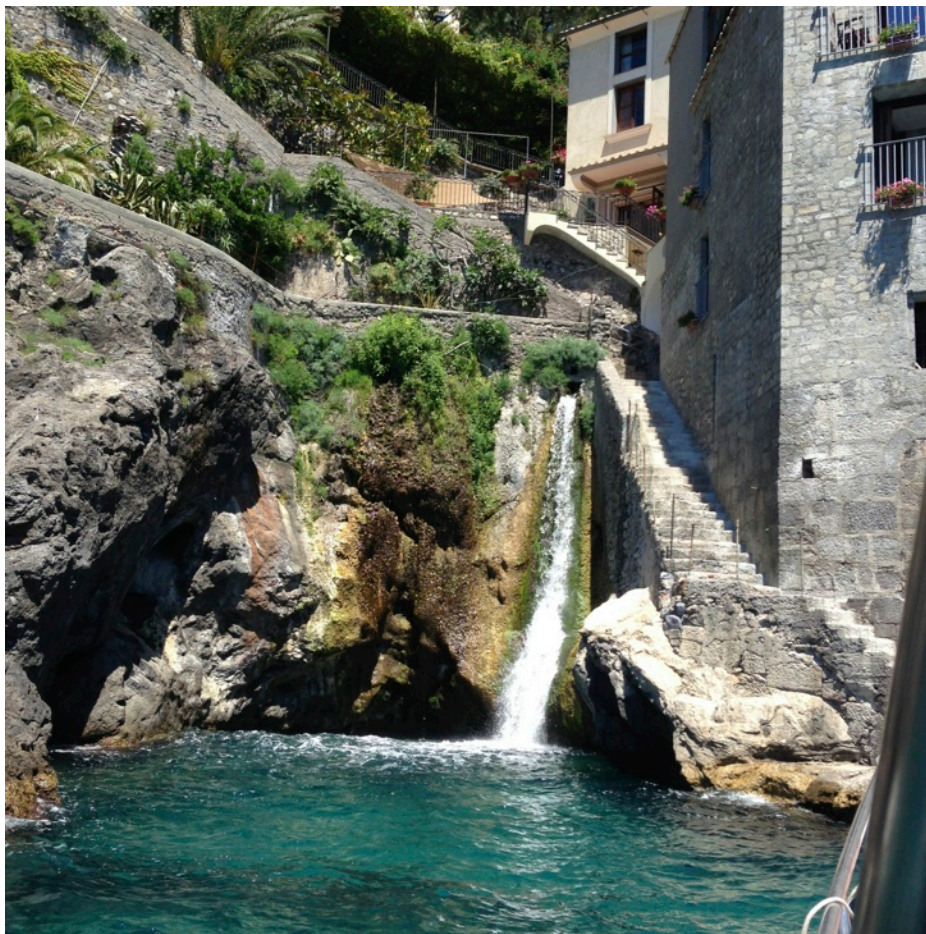
Anna enjoying the sun, while some of our boat mates jumped in for the swim into the cave.





Back along the way Roberto pointed out Sophia Loren's house, and I think it might have been one of these up on the hill.





Roberto pulled up to this little waterfall in order for us to take pictures.

At some point he turned the boat around and headed into a cove to this restaurant where we were served a delicious lunch and bathroom break. The lunch was included in the cost of the boat trip.





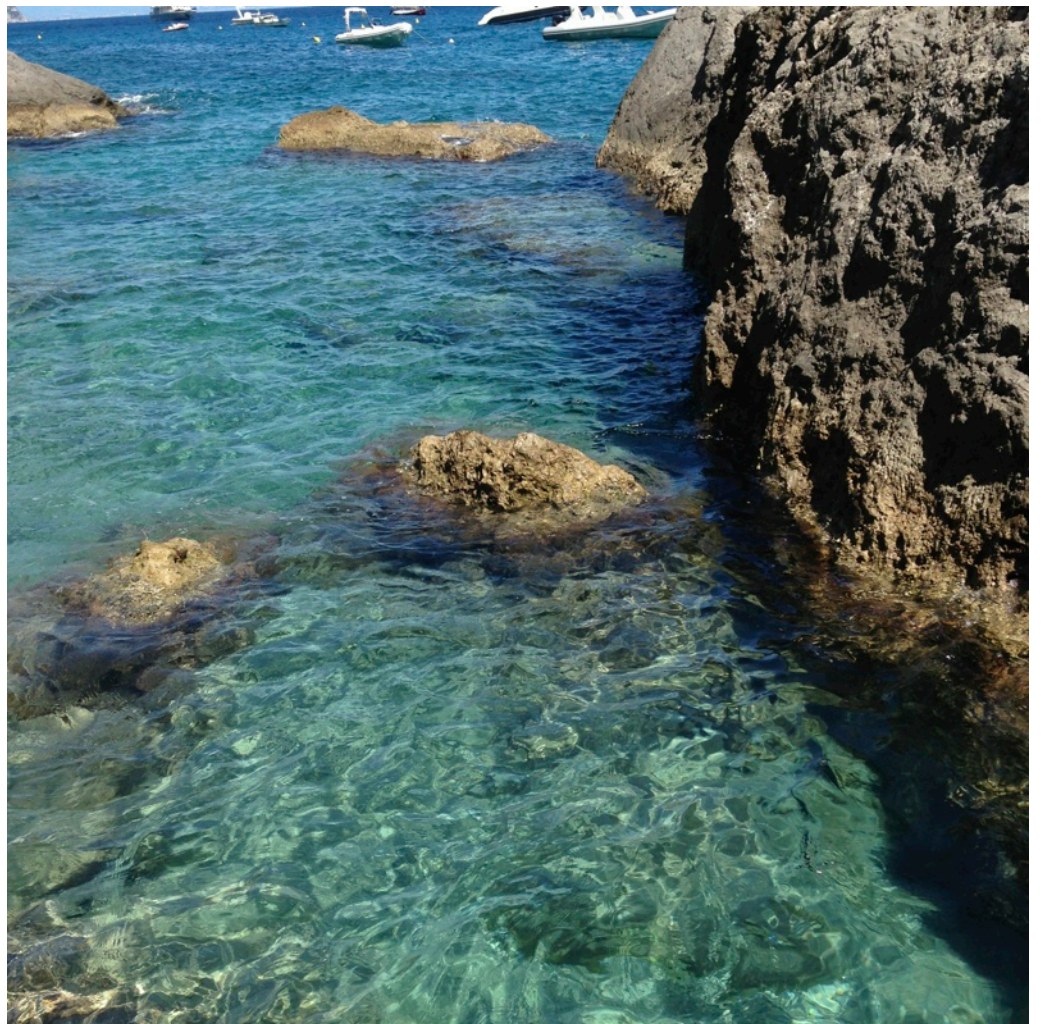
After lunch we walked down a few stairs to the rocky beach while waiting for everyone to gather to get back on the boat.







I took these photos from the walkway pier to the boat just to capture the beautiful color of the water.







Back on the boat we cruised a little further where Roberto pulled into another cove to let everyone take a swim...everyone except me that is because the water was too cold. That's Anna getting ready to take the plunge.



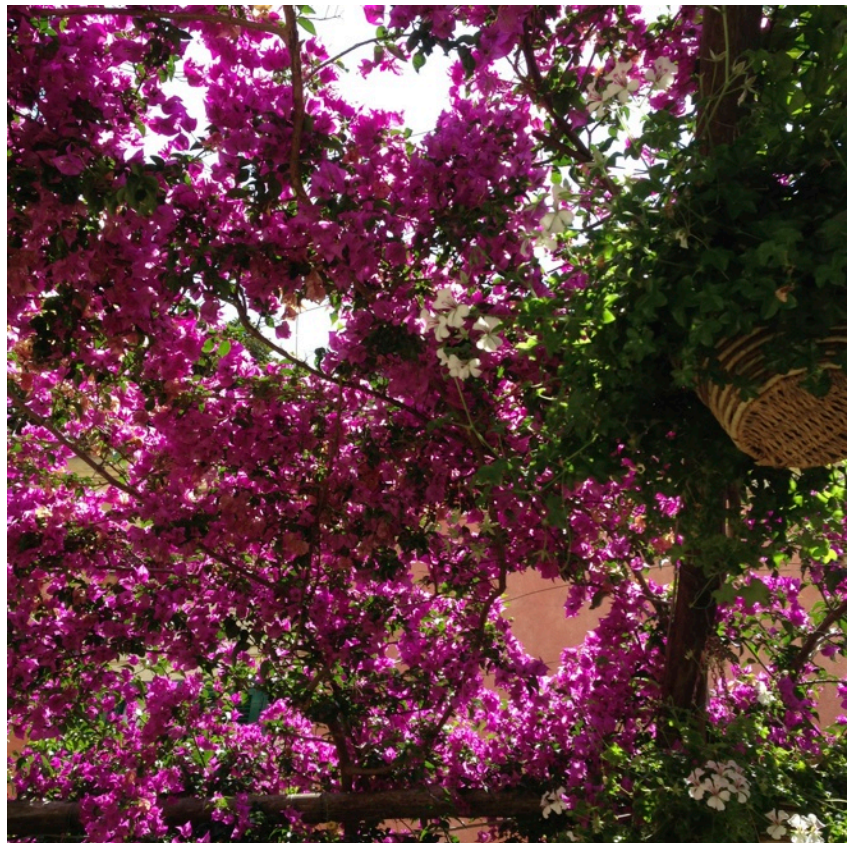


Splash!! She swam to the beach to join the others. I did try to go down a few steps on the boat ladder and got wet, but it was just too cold for me.





June 23, 2015 - After breakfast we packed our bags and had to check out by noon. Our private driver taking us to the Naples airport wasn't due to pick us up until 3:00 PM. We decided to just lounge in the garden part of the dining area and then have some lunch there while waiting.





We ordered lunch from
a table overlooking the
hotel pool and the
beautiful
Mediterranean Sea.







I ordered eggplant parm and it was good. We sadly said goodbye to Positano, but knowing we were heading to another beautiful place as Santorini made it a little easier to leave.





Our driver took us to the Naples airport where we boarded the plane to the Greek island of Santorini. I think it was about a 2 hour flight.

This was the last view we had of Italy from the air of Mt. Vesuvius.



