

THROUGH THE LENS OF PINAR KÖKSAL

The Italian Coast

This year the entire Köksal Family, our daughters, their husbands, and our grandchildren included, went on a boat trip to the Mediterranean islands. I'd like to share my impressions and photographs of Naples, the islands in the Tyrrhenian Sea, as well as the Amalfi Coast.

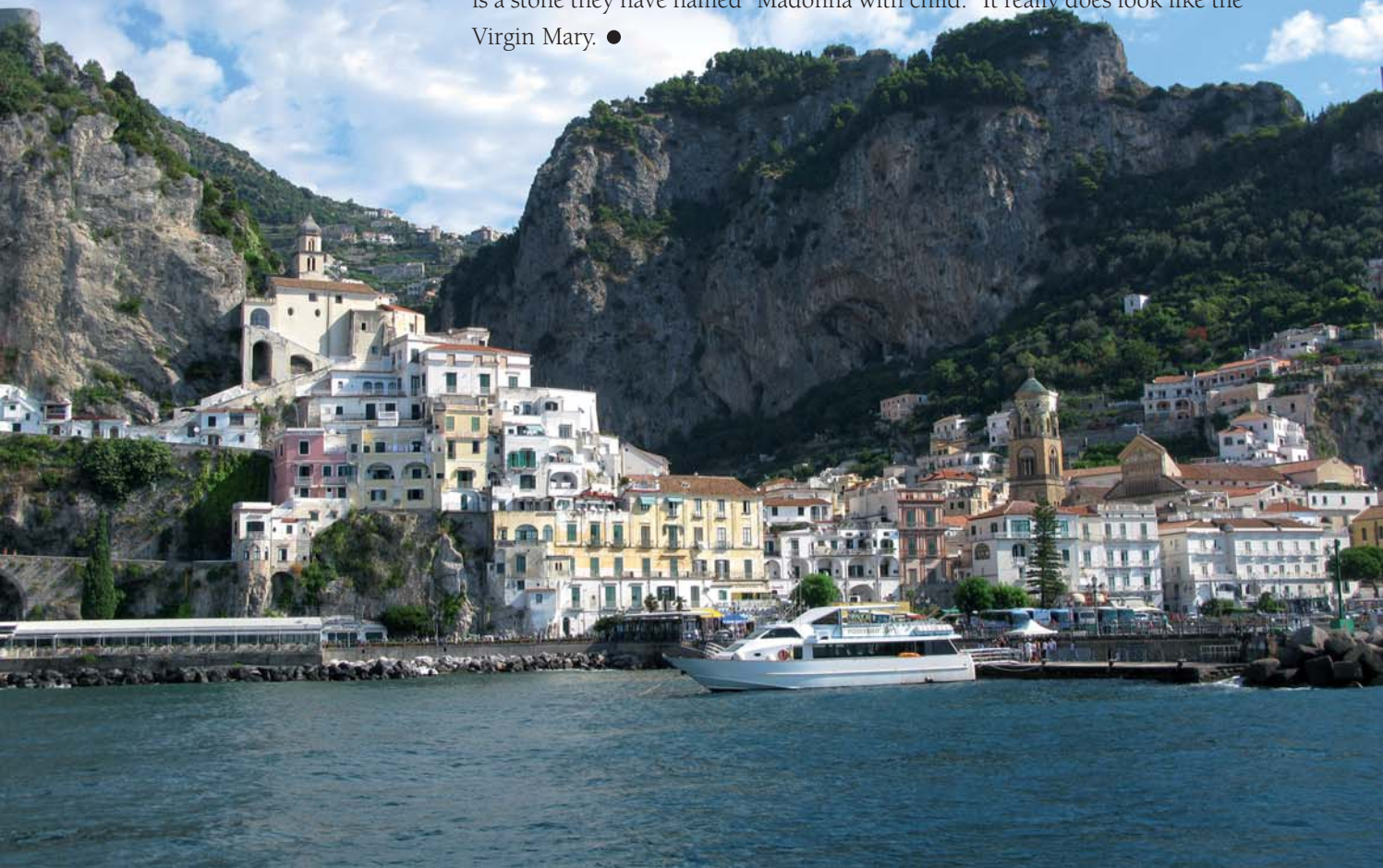
Article and Photos by Pinar KÖKSAL

NAPLES Looking from the harbor you can see Mount Vesuvius rising before you in all its might, the entire city and the castle above, as well as the Santa Lucia prison. The city of Pompeii, built at the foot of Mount Vesuvius, 25 km from Naples, was destroyed by the eruption of Vesuvius in AD 79. People were petrified under the lava. However, the entire city was uncovered during excavations carried out in 1748. Today Pompeii is on UNESCO's World Heritage Site List... It is one of Italy's most popular tourist destinations. ●





AMALFI The Amalfi coast boasts picturesque little towns along the shore, offering incredibly beautiful views of colorful houses built at the foot of the mountains amid the steep hills. With its pleasant climate and the beauty of its shoreline, Amalfi is one of Italy's important tourist destinations. First we approached Positano by boat. While the boat was moored near Amalfi's harbor I hired a taxi to travel between Amalfi and Positano. I toured that region, taking in the marvelous view from the narrow roads in the mountains. On the shore, they've opened up beaches both large and small on every flat space they could find. In most places the beaches are accessed via long stairs or, in some hotels, via elevators. I drank lemonade made from the region's famous large lemons. It was delicious. They offered us limoncello or meloncello wherever we went. It's nothing like the limoncello we buy at the duty-free shop. Here they are all home-made and delicious... The natural landscape is still intact and lush and green... All the beaches are public property. They are not monopolized by hotels, residential complexes, and cooperative housing like in Turkey. The roads are very well-maintained. You feel happy and enjoy it. Nearing Amalfi I saw the home of Carlo Ponti on the hill overlooking the coast. Again on a hill rising above the coast, there is a stone they have named "Madonna with child." It really does look like the Virgin Mary. ●



CAPRI The island of Capri is a resort of Naples; an island we all know well or have been hearing of for years. Monte Solaro is the highest mountain of the island, with an elevation of 589 m. In any publication about Capri you will for certain see the sea stacks called Faraglione. The main port is the Marina Grande... On the hills, in Anacapri, you have a bird's-eye view of the port and the entire island from the famous clock tower and the Torre dell'Orologio square. Furthermore, with its narrow streets and world-renowned boutiques, Anacapri is a beautiful shopping center... An island where you can find sea, sun, entertainment, and shopping all in one place....●





ISCHIA Ischia is a lush, green volcanic island famous for its thermal spas. The port of Ischia is on the northeast of the island. There is a very nice, long shopping area in the harbor. As you go uphill from the harbor you can see Mount Vesuvius. The Aragonese Castle is located, again, on the northeast of the island, on the Ischia Ponte promontory. There are beaches and thermal spas all around the island, which is formed of six small municipalities, including the main town, Ischia. On the northern side of the island, toward the center, there is a beautiful botanical garden. And on the southern side you will find the fishing village, Sant' Angelo where there are also thermal spas.

As you cruise between Ischia and the island of Ponza, you can stop by at Caesar's daughter Julia's palace on the island "Isola di Ventotene." When Julia became illegitimately pregnant, Caesar exiled his daughter for life on this island to protect her from rumors. ●

PONZA Ponza is a tiny volcanic island across from Rome and Naples where Italians come to spend their holidays. It has remained largely unknown to foreigners and is perfect for those who wish to spend a low-key. Many rich and famous people prefer this island to enjoy a simple and quiet life and some privacy. A less expensive option as compared to Capri, Ponza is a great island for boat tourism and diving. It is a 1-hour ferry ride from Anzio-Rome.

If I was able to give a glimpse of the places I saw through these few photographs, then I am truly happy. ●

