

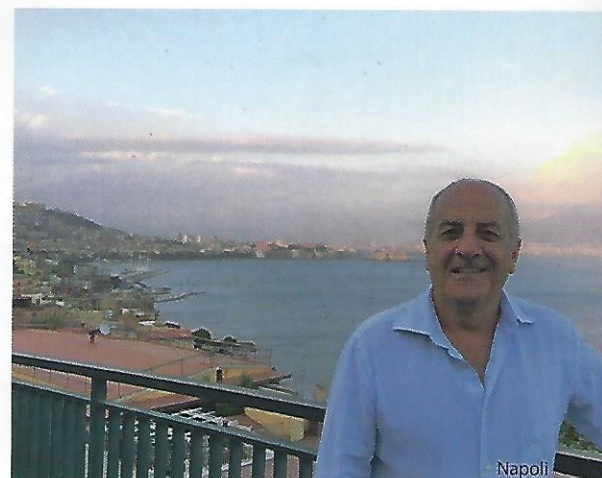
Bell' Italia



Trevi Fountain



Sorbillo



Napoli

Bell' Italia, beautiful Italy. Like the fine wine it produces, this country improves with age. I saw Italia for the first time in 1978 when attending L'Universita di Bologna in Bologna, Italy. That stay would also include meeting for the first time my relatives living in Napoli, but that's a story for another time.

I decided to begin this trip in Firenze, Florence. Maybe because of the beauty and the art or maybe it's the gelateria over the third bridge. Really because it's where Dante created the Italian language that I love teaching plus I had my mind set on some of that fine Florentine leather. A few days and several bowls of ribollita later, I jumped on a train to Napoli. My relatives would have to wait because I was headed to the Amalfi coast. I've been there

several times but the sheer beauty of the land and sea keep calling me back. I stayed in Ravello because the views are unmatched and no cars are allowed in the center. Peaceful, relaxing and an easy trip to the remainder of the Amalfi coast. Had one of my best meals seaside in Atrani and my go-to dessert "delizie al limone" in Amalfi where I hopped on the boat to Positano because the views from the sea are more than memorable. About Positano, I'll go with John Steinbeck who said, "Positano bites deep. It is a dream place that isn't quite real when you are there and becomes beckoningly real after you have gone." My driver and friend Aldo took me back to his hometown Sorrento where the limoncello kept us in that Positano dream state.



Sorbillo with my cousins.



Roma

I enjoy experiencing Italia rather than just seeing it, so a great opportunity to feel “I meridionali” (the southerners), is the train from Sorrento to Napoli. Even without understanding Italian, the characters on board bring you into the theatre that is life in southern Italy. A metro ride later, and I’m knocking on the door of my cousins’ house in the fashionable Chiaia district. If you’ve read the Elena Ferrante quadrilogy about Napoli, that should ring a bell. As always, I’m greeted with the best mozzarella I’ll ever taste and “pasta alle vongole,” the Neapolitans’ signature pasta dish, pasta with clams fresh from the Tyrrhenian Sea. Our meal tradition continues in the evening with pizza. This time, we go to Sorbillo for the best Neapolitan pizza in the world. Trust me, it wouldn’t be my last pizza in Napoli.

In between all my eating, I revisited the Archeological Museum (where they have all of Pompeii’s good stuff) and walked Napoli’s neighborhoods where laundry flutters, Vespas zoom, and the passion and energy seep into your bloodstream. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe said: “*Vedi Napoli e poi muori.*” (Translation: See Naples and die.) Napoli is so impressive that once you’ve seen it, there is nothing left for you to do in your life, as nothing could compare. Today, given Napoli’s renaissance, seeing Napoli gives you life!

So how do you follow Napoli? Go where all roads lead...to Roma! Four days to eat Rome’s four classic pasta dishes and discover Trastevere, one of the city’s funky neighborhoods that seamlessly combines a modern, burgeoning craft beer scene with one of the city’s oldest churches, Santa Maria dating from 300AD.

Naturally, I would revisit the Eternal city’s monuments to civilization and history. Tossing a coin into the recently polished and now glistening Trevi Fountain ensures your return, I assure you. You are welcome to join me on my Brilliant Italy Tour in September 2019. You’ll live the Italian experience and more. Plus, Tierra Verde residents receive a discount. Details are on my website at www.learnitalian.us.

A presto...Roberto

SOMEONE OUT THERE WANTS TO BUY YOUR HOME

It's MY job to help them find it!

I'd love to help you find the best buyer for your home or find your new dream home.

Contact me today!

RE/MAX[®]

Outstanding Agents
Outstanding Results[®]

Ed Escobar, Realtor

813.390.6923

ed@edescobar.com

www.edescobar.remaxagent.com

