

● 10 BEST

MANGIA, MANGIA

Want to hobnob with the yachterati? Head for these top Amalfi Coast restaurants. KELLY CARTER reports

EVEN the locals avoid, when possible, the hairpin turns on SS 163, the pretzel-like road that snakes along Italy's Amalfi Coast. Which is why visitors to this gorgeous stretch of cliffs, charming villages and turquoise water just south of Naples sometimes rent boats when they head out to eat and drink.

But choosing whether to go by land or by sea is the easy part. The hard part is deciding where to dine as there are a surprising number of excellent restaurants.

Here, a guide to 10 of the best places to eat along the coast and on the nearby isle of Capri. One tip: menus are rarely given; don't be afraid to ask for one.

LO SCOGLIO

Massa Lubrense

Bigwigs routinely drop anchor in front of this 55-year-old glass enclosed restaurant, which serves the area's best antipasti. You'll have your choice of organic vegetables, chemical-free meat, and fish selected from a huge aquarium.

Must have: Spaghetti with zucchini is common on the Coast; no one makes it as well (\$15).

Info: Piazza delle Sirene 15, (39) 081 808 1026, loscozionerano.com

QUATTRO PASSI

Massa Lubrense

There's elegant al fresco dining at this one-star Michelin eatery near the coast. Local favorites with a

twist, such as monkfish ravioli will tantalize the taste buds.

Must have: Fiori di zucchini (\$20).

Info: Via A Vespucci, 13, (39) 081 808 2800, ristorantequattropassi.com

LA CONCA DEL SOGNO

Massa Lubrense

Owner Anna Tizzani warmly greets guests — who have included Bill Gates — at her restaurant tucked inside a cove. You'll find Mediterranean-style cuisine with a focus on fish.

Must have: Tubettoni con cicale di mare, a pasta with a crustacean similar to crab (about \$40).

Info: Via S. Marciano, 9, (39) 081 808 1036, conca-del-sogno.it

DON ALFONSO 1890

Sant'Agata sui Due Golfi

This pricey, two Michelin star restaurant has unique dishes, such as one featuring lobster, mozzarella and tomato with peach ravioli and spumante. The veggies, olive oil and lemon liqueur come from the owner's farm. Top-notch wine list.

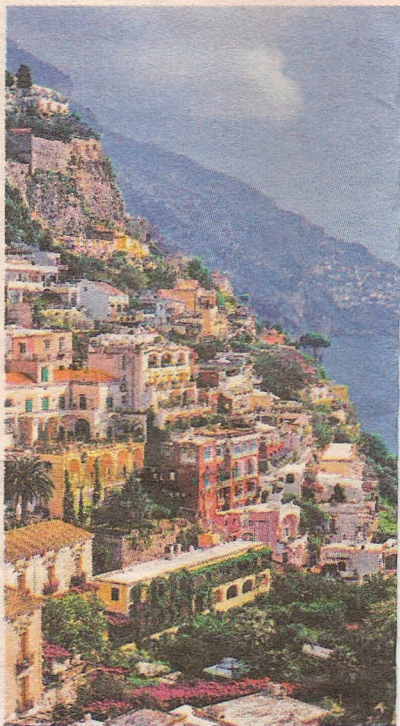
Must have: Eight-course tasting menu (\$152).

Info: Corso Sant'Agata, 11, (39) 081 878 0026, donalfonso.com

LA TAGLIATA

Montepertuso

Whoever says you can't get good meat on the Coast hasn't been here. Located above Positano, this family-style restaurant serves platters of antipasti and pasta.



Ed Gifford / Masterfile

Julia Roberts (and the like) favor pre-

Fresh fish is also available. Complimentary transportation from Positano.

Must have: Grilled meat platter (\$20).

Info: Via Tagliata, 14, (39) 089 875 872

IL SAN PIETRO DI POSITANO

Positano

This famed luxury hotel nestled in cliffs — and visited by celebs like Julia Roberts — offers graceful dining in its one Michelin star restaurant. It serves traditional (yet innovative) cuisine, like paccheri pasta

with lin

Must seafood

Info: 089 875

DA AL LAURITO

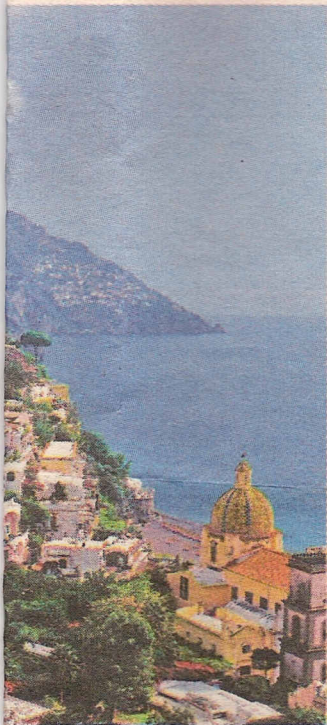
This located pirates launch flock ! enjoy t Compl ice from **Must** grilled leaves

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orts



It's all about the pizza at the historic Aurora restaurant, dating back to 1912.



) favor pretty Positano.

with limpets and sea snails.
Must have: Mixed seafood salad (\$29).

Info: Via Laurito, 2, (39) 089 875 455, ilsanpietro.it

DA ADOLFO
Laurito/Positano

This beachfront shack is located in a cove where pirates used to build and launch their boats. People flock here to swim and enjoy the local fresh fish. Complimentary boat service from Positano.

Must have: Start with the grilled mozzarella on lemon leaves (\$11).



Dine al fresco at Aurora, located in charming Capri.

HIRE A BOAT

These companies have English speaking captains:

Positano: Blue Star, (39) 089 811 888, bluestarpositano.it.

Capri: Capri Relax Boats, (39) 081 837 4559, caprirelaxboats.com.

Info: Via Laurito, 40, (39) 089 875 022

LA TAVERNA DEL LEONE

Positano

Motorists unknowingly whiz by this eatery, which arguably has the most reasonably priced, quality-food in Positano. Start with the fried mozzarella with smoked fish.

Must have: Pizza good enough to please a Neapolitan (from \$8; available dinner only).

Info: Via Laurito, 43, (39) 089 875 474

RISTORANTE AURORA
Capri

Pizza lovers and celebs flock to Aurora, which dates back to 1912. They're also drawn in by the traditional Neapolitan and Caprese menu. The outdoor tables make this the perfect place to see and be seen.

Must have: Pizza all'Acqua (\$13).

Info: Via Fuorlovido, 18/22, (39) 081 837 0181, auroracapri.com

VILLA VERDE
Capri

Opt for a table in the garden and feast on Mediterranean cuisine with a focus on seafood. This year the eight-year-old restaurant is introducing gourmet cuisine, such as fresh carpaccio and tuna tartare. The wine list is enormous.

Must have: Linguini fra diavola (\$40).

Info: Via Sella Orta, 6, (39) 081 837 7024, villaverde-capri.com