



GELATO SISTERHOOD *on the Amalfi Shore*

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. Why did you write the book?

For years I have been recounting my own travel tribulations to friends and customers before sending them off to every corner of Europe with recommendations of what to see, do and eat. Some of my funniest stories are related to the groups I have had the pleasure to guide. But it wasn't until the first time I escorted a women-only group to one of my favorite destinations in Italy that the idea of writing a book about our journey was sparked.

2. What was your favorite part of writing the book?

Reliving every wonderful moment I experienced during my trips on the Amalfi Coast over the past two decades.

3. What would you tell interested readers why they will enjoy reading your book?

This book takes you on an intimate journey of one of the most spectacular regions south of Rome. Part memoir - guide - travelogue... the storyline piques all your senses from the citrus scent of the lemon groves to the Campania mineral rich wines to the spectacular views of the aqua blue Mediterranean Sea. All things Italian shine through and make you want to hop on the next plane to Italy, pronto.

4. Your book has “sisterhood” in the title; would men find your story interesting as well?

Absolutely. I have already received several compliments from enlightened men. They enjoy the historical vignettes, the description of archeological sites, the humorous anecdotes and, of course, the driving tips.

5. What is personally your favorite town in Campania?

Amalfi, without a doubt because it reminds me of Bruges, a picturesque city in my native land of Belgium. Suspended in time due to misfortune centuries ago, Amalfi and Bruges are now two of Europe's best-preserved medieval cities. As you walk through narrow streets and alleys, you can only imagine their most glorious and rich pasts as thriving ports of an era that has vanished with time.

6. What is the most important personality trait you need when traveling with a group?

Three words: sense of humor.

7. Is there a funny story you can tell us about you in your travels as a tour director?

Several come to mind but there is one that really stands out. I was escorting a small group through Ireland. Everyone was already settled on the bus ready to go when I realized I had forgotten my camera. While rushing back into the hotel, my foot hit a metal bar and I fell flat on my face. When I got up, I noticed that the ring finger on my right hand was bleeding. The nail was broken. Thankful that no one had witnessed my “face plant,” I wrapped my finger in two handkerchiefs and concealed it in my coat pocket the entire morning as we viewed the cliffs of Moher. After we got back to the hotel my driver took me to the emergency room of Limerick Memorial Hospital. Four hours later, I greeted my group in the hotel’s pub with a finger in the air. It had been encased in a bandage too big to hide. Needless to say, everyone was reminded of that famous American gesture as my finger was splinted straight up. I chuckled about it as much as my group of travelers did.

8. Which writer inspires you?

The one whose writing enables you to escape to another place and time.

9. Do you have an idea for a second book? If so, can you give us a hint what the topic will be?

Yes. It will be based on another adventure to a different European destination.