

# Italy Info

## #4 Amalfi



Amalfi attracts millions of visitors each year. It became popular in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Once the capital of Duch of Amalfi—an independent republic—it rivaled Pisa and Genoa as the Mediterranean maritime power trading center for a time.

We will first see Amalfi from our boat on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, then return for a cooking class and to explore the city the following Saturday



17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Memorial Day					
31						



Amalfi's narrow streets lined with shops and cafes.





This is Amalfi's main square. In the background is the Cathedral of **Sant'Andrea** (Saint Andrew). The church was built in the 11th century, but the striped façade is a 19<sup>th</sup> century reconstruction with Moorish influence. Vibrant majolica tiles cover the bell tower and the main arch is supported by Egyptian granite columns.



The cathedral's entrance features Byzantine-style bronze doors that were cast in Constantinople.

Stairs from the left-hand nave lead up to the crypt of Saint Andrew.



According to tradition, Saint Andrew, Jesus's apostle, was martyred in Patras, Greece, around 60 AD and his remains were later transferred to Constantinople. Following the Sack of Constantinople, his relics were brought to Amalfi (1208) and placed in a crypt in the cathedra where they have remained ever since.



Andrew in The Chosen



Lemons grow in terraced gardens along the entire Amalfi coast between February and October. These lemons are typically long and at least double the size of other lemons. They are featured in local cuisine and delicacies, including shaved ice and ice cream.





Amalfi is known for a hand-made thick paper that is exported to Europe and America. It is used throughout Italy for wedding invitations, visiting cards and elegant writing paper. You can find Amalfi paper products in several shops in town.



Amalfi was one of the first centers of paper making in Europe, having acquired the skill from Arabs. An ancient paper mill up in the canyon is now a museum of Handmade Paper. It is a 12-minute uphill walk from the cathedral through crowded streets. The museum contains the machinery and equipment (restored and fully functional) used anciently. Randy and I have never been there.



As a big-time player in the Mediterranean, Amalfi had its own currency (*tari*) and a maritime code, the *Tavola Amalfitana*, that influenced Mediterranean trade law for centuries. Also, the mariner's compass used by all sailors was developed by an Amalfitan. The city's power waned after Norman invasions and a devastating earthquake in 1343.



Here is the Amalfi Heaven Gardens Cooking Class we get to enjoy. Awesome location -  
Awesome food!  
(photos from previous classes)







