



*my secret*



ITALY



# Welcome

---

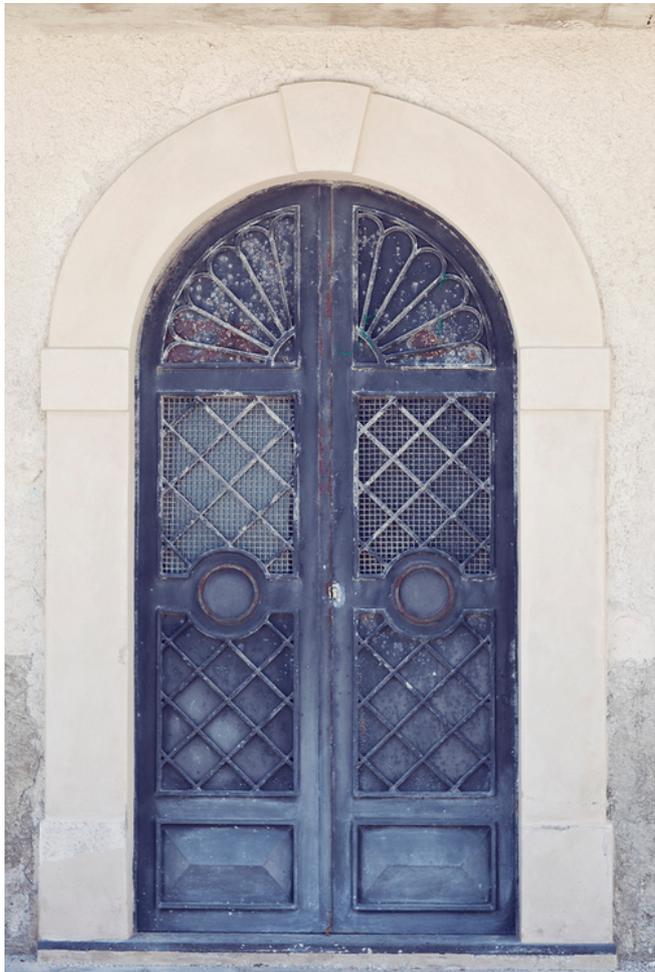
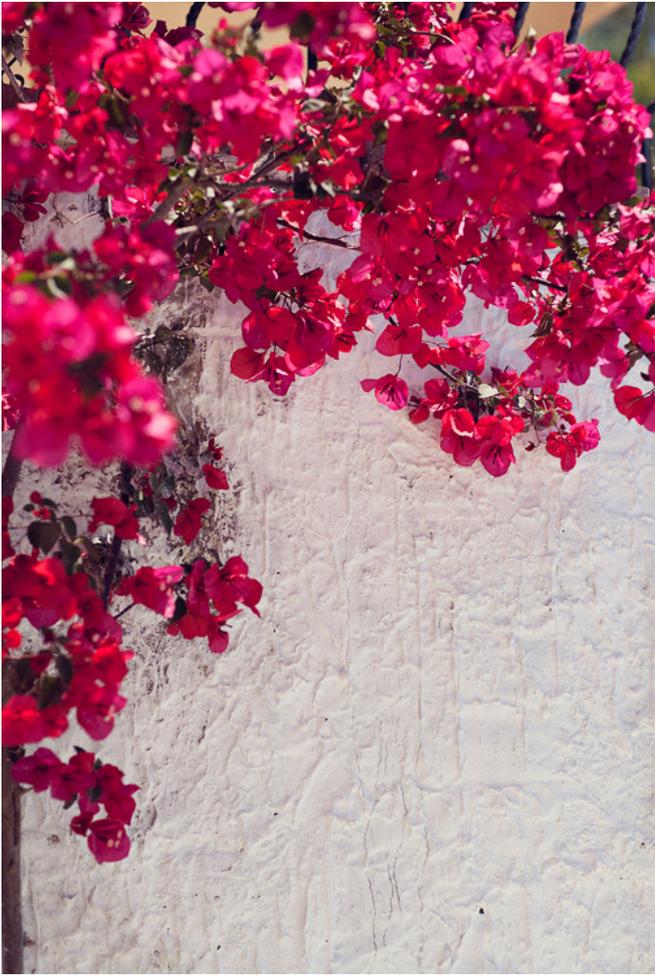
Ciao, my name is Julie and I love every moment of creating magical wedding & hotel experiences that will stay with you forever.

I discovered Italy's best kept secret; the seaside town of Santa Maria on a holiday with my daughter, Emillie. Our first wedding took place soon after in 2005 and we have not looked back since. For me, after many years working as a luxury honeymoon specialist, it's an absolute joy to be able to combine my expertise and knowledge with my passion for the country I love.

Emillie fell in love with Dario a local guy and they are both very much part of My Secret Italy. They now have a gorgeous baby girl, Aurora.

I hope you fall in love with Santa Maria just like I did, I simply cannot wait to share My Secret Italy with you.

Julie x



# Santa Maria



Santa Maria di Castellabate is a beautifully authentic Italian seaside town. Gorgeous sandy beaches, friendly locals and a wide choice of bars, restaurants and shops. Nestling above the shoreline, is the 13th century medieval village of Castellabate. The town is waiting to be explored and it is very easy to get around. As you stand at the main square, Piazza Santa Lucia with the church in front of you, simply, turn right to go along the 'Corso', the main shopping street, or left to go towards Torre Perrotti and statue of Santa Maria.



## CASH POINTS

There is a cash point in the main square, outside the Banco Di Napoli. There is another located about halfway down the corso on your left, just past the chemist.



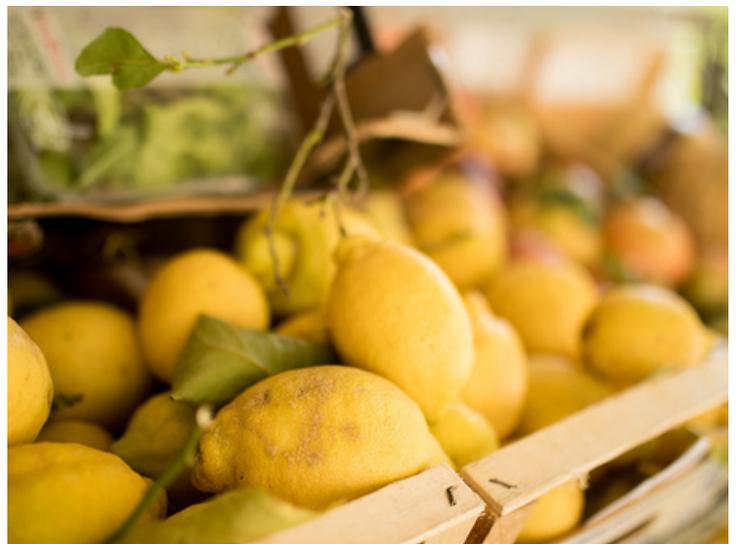
## TAXIS

As the population of Santa Maria is less than 10,000, there is no official taxi rank in town. If you need to book one, you can call our trusted taxi driver, Domenico, on 0039 3355371573. (Pre-booking is advised)



## MARKET

The local market in Santa Maria is on a Saturday Morning. If you make your way to the very end of the corso, you will find a car park, the entrance to the market is at the far left hand corner of the car park. If you need help with directions, just let me know.



LOCAL INFO



ICE CREAM IS  
*ALWAYS*  
AN OPTION



# Baffo



---

## THE STORY OF A LOCAL GEM

What can I say about Baffo, except he is probably one of my favourite people? In his early career, he worked in Germany, before coming back to his hometown, Santa Maria.

His first ice cream was made in 1972. Baffo is the Italian word for mustache, which he has been sporting since 1972 (look for the photo of Baffo outside the shop).

One for the kids, can you work out Baffo's favourite type of ice cream? Here is a clue.. L\*\*\*N. Let me know if you can guess what it is!

Baffo's ice cream shop is tucked away close to the Torre Perrotti (the tower by the beach). If you walk up the slope beside the Arleccino restaurant, at the base of the tower, and then do a left, you will find his gelateria. His wife is called Gerardina, she is lovely too. If the kids wink at Baffo, they may just get an extra scoop of ice cream!

The Italian word for ice cream is *Gelato*.



# Useful Phrases



## **GENERAL PHRASES**

Ciao - Hello/Goodbye

Buongiorno - Good Morning

Buonasera - Good evening

Buonanotte - Good night

Si/No - Yes/No

Grazie - Thank you

Prego - You're welcome

Per Favore - Please

Scusa - Excuse me

Mi dispiace - I'm Sorry

Bene/Male - Good/Bad

Dov'è il bagno? - Where is the bathroom

Parla inglese? - Do you speak English?

A domani - See you tomorrow

## **EATING & DRINKING**

Posso avere - Can I have

Il Conto - The bill

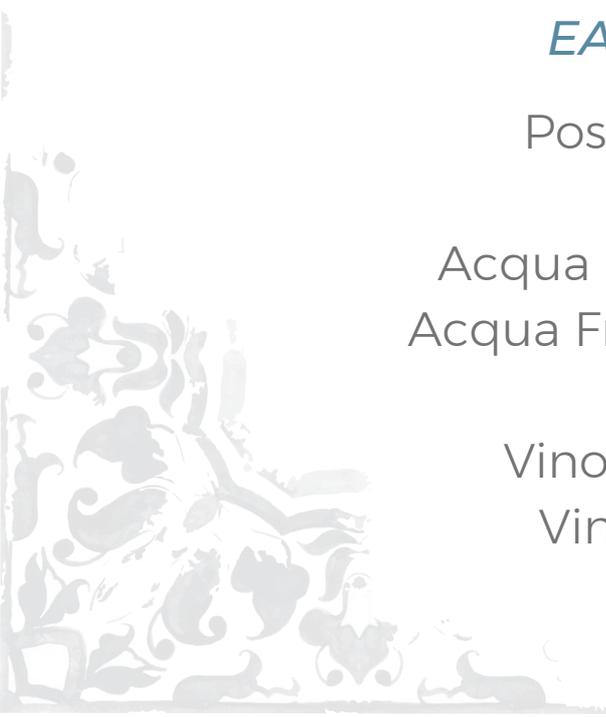
Acqua Naturale - Natural water

Acqua Frizzante - Sparkling water

Birra - Beer

Vino Bianco - White Wine

Vino Rosso - Red Wine



# Twinkle Town



There is a little corner of Santa Maria where I often stand and look back at the town and sigh. As the sea crashes against the ancient shoreline, I gaze at the crumbly pale pink palazzo's that seem to tumble down to the sea. As the sun sets, the lights of the tiny village that sits above Santa Maria start to light up. It is no wonder that I call this place Twinkle Town.

*Santa Maria will steal your heart..*





# Vip Card

The My Secret Italy VIP card lays bare all of our best kept secrets and experiences to creating long lasting memories for you. Dripping with style and history, this beautiful laid-back hideaway just has to be explored and each card offers access to fantastic treats in local bars and restaurants, as well as some of the town's delightful shops, and of course the best places to sip a cocktail as you watch another unforgettable sunset.

I know and love this town so much as as you can imagine after 17 years of planning weddings here, I have tried all the local restaurants and bars and often get asked where i like to eat and drink.

The card is extremely easy to use. Each of the carefully chosen venues are listed below. Simply show the virtual card located at the end of this guide and say Ciao when you arrive and enjoy your treat or discount.

So, be our guest, the locals are waiting to meet you.

Look out for the window stickers displayed around town.



# Eat, drink and shop!

**Il Cantuccio** - Where you will probably find me most of the time! The owners name is Danielle and there is something for everyone on the menu. Il Cantuccio is tucked away in the corner of the main square. Free focaccia and no service charge when you show your VIP card!

**Le Gatte** - A very popular restaurant. The pizzas are fantastic and are made in a real wood oven. There is a great fish menu and they also serve steak. Good choice of wine and situated in a beautiful waterfront setting. To find Le Gatte, stand at the viewpoint in the main square, close to the church, and follow the steps down towards the sea. Walk towards the sea and turn right, where you will find old fisherman's caves, and Le Gatte is just at the end. There is a great outdoor space and an extensive cocktail list. Pre-booking is always recommended here as it gets so busy, if you would like me to book a table, just give me a call. 10 Percent discount for VIPS

**Cliff Bar** - Along the sea front there are a few bars, our favourite is Cliff bar. A great selection of drinks and chairs where you can sit and watch the world go by. The best place to watch the sunset. It does get very busy at weekends and stay open into the early hours! A free glass of Prosecco on your first visit between 19.00 and 20.00!

**Bar Leucosia** - located at the beginning of the Corso on the left, a lovely little bar to sit at any time of day. Great spot for lunch and the place to be for football matches!

This bar offers no service charge for VIPs!

**U Barone** - A great fish restaurant with an even greater view! If you follow the steps down to Le Gatte and keep going around and right along the seafront, you will find U Barone on your right. Free Limoncello.

**Orla Mare** - A lovely bar located just next to U Barone. Another fantastic place to have a drink and watch the sunset. VIP treat, is a glass of prosecco on your first visit.

**La Marina in Piazza** - Located in the main square, a great place to eat and drink any time of day. One of my favourite coffee bars. Say Ciao to Pina, the old lady that sits outside the bar every day from midday!

**Fuegos** - Located past Le Gatte along the sea front, a fantastic new steak house, with outstanding food and wonderful views! A free glass of Prosecco for all My Secret Italy VIP's!

**Da Nello** - Head down the corso until you reach La Pergola and go down the slope, take a right and you'll find a fantastic hidden gem with Da Nello. Classic Italian dishes with an offer of no cover charge and a free limoncello!

**Jammin** - One of the newest bars in Santa Maria, and the closest you will get to an English pub! Great burgers, live music and draft beer! Located along the seafront, past U Barone, just before the blue boatyard. If you need directions just ask!

## *Shops*

**La Buffalina** - A lovely deli along the high street on the right. If you show your card, the owner, Angelo, will let you try some local ham and cheese. They sell lots of lovely wine, limoncello, cakes, cheeses and lots more. A good local vineyard is San Salvatore, look for any label with the bull, especially Jungano, a local red wine. Also, Maffini wines are worth a try, Kleos is red and Kratos is a delicious white.

**Monia** - A lovely shop ran by my beautiful friend, selling perfumes, aftershaves, make up, jewellery and more! A little goodie bag will be ready for you if you show your VIP card, with samples of Italian products. Make sure you get a sample of Aqua d'elba, you can only buy it in Italy and it smells amazing! You can also buy a great hairspray here that will keep your hair in place all day on the wedding day, it is 3 euros and is small enough to fit in your bag, its called 'Kerammine'.

**AM Accessories** - Along the high street, past Villa Matarazzo, a great shop with a taste of Positano. Antonio sells beach bags, sparkly sandals (if you need some for the wedding), funky jewellery and beachwear. Not market standard or prices, but excellent quality and luxury brands.

**Amodio** - Located along the corso on the right, opposite the chemist. Pasquale sells the finest shoes from Italy and will offer you a discount if you show your card.

# Days Out

As Santa Maria is off the beaten track, all the days out are tailored to suit you. We work with a great guy who can arrange trips to:

- Paestum to visit the ancient temples
- Mozzarella farms
  - Vineyards
  - Spa
- Boat trips
- Amalfi coast
- Cookery classes

If any of these interest you, or if there is something else you would like to arrange, please let me know and I will do my best to organise it for you.



# Hotels



It is simple; we love seeking out the hidden gems Italy has to offer.

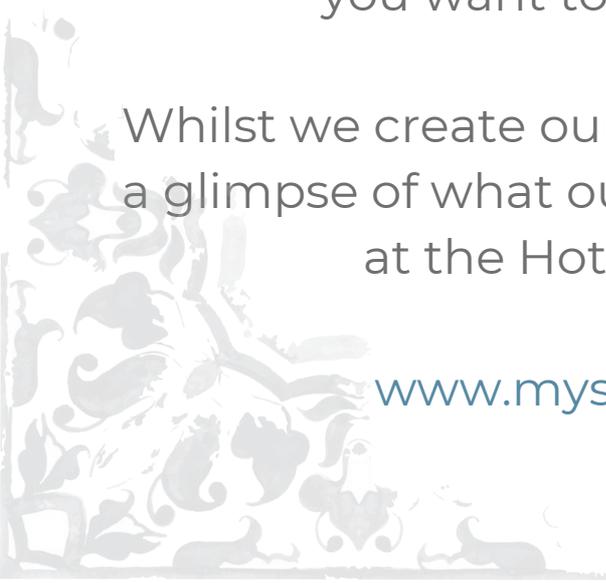
What began as a simple passion for finding the perfect hotels and apartments for our couples and their guests who were staying in the area and travelling further afield, has grown into My Secret Italy Hotels, a small and stunning collection of hotels in Santa Maria and beyond.

For us, it is not about star ratings, but rather the warm welcome you receive, the perfect morning cappuccino and not forgetting the special VIP 'little extra' we have arranged personally for you for when you arrive. We have personally visited each and every one of our hotels, know the best rooms, and can promise the best value for money.

We can help you on future holidays to Italy, especially if you want to come back to Santa Maria.

Whilst we create our new hotel website, let us show you a glimpse of what our collection has to offer. Take a look at the Hotel section on our website:

[www.mysecretitaly.com/our-hotels](http://www.mysecretitaly.com/our-hotels)



# A note from Julie



It is an honour for me to share My Secret Italy with you and hope you come back to visit again. Feedback means the world to us, so it would be wonderful if you could take the time to leave a review on our Facebook page 'My Secret Italy'.

Remember, we can also help plan holidays in other parts of Italy! If you enjoyed the wedding, please tell your friends about us and if you recommend us to anyone and they book a wedding, a special gift will be on its way to you!

If you need anything at all my number is **07843255000**

Julie x

