

We, 3 girlfriends from school days, spent August 01st – 08th at Pisciotta. Pisciotta is a picturesque medieval town on the coastal road to Palinuro. Pisciotta Alta rises picturesquely on a small hill and looks “down” upon the sea and Pisciotta Marina.

We were accommodated at Casa Anna – an apartment on two levels, with a fantastic view of the hills around Pisciotta and a small part of the sea. The apartment is furnished with everything you need. The kitchen equipment is superb and offered whatever we needed to create our own culinary delights. On the terrace, we could take picks from the large basil plants without getting up from our chairs. Great for breakfast, combined with fresh mozzarella from the small supermarket.

As the sun shines all day long, it is important to let down the sun screen before leaving the house. We thought the double bed in the “less cosy” room without windows a bit of a pity, while the single bed is to be found in a room on the 2nd floor with a fantastic view of the bay. For couples with (or without) children it would surely be better the other way round.

You must love Italy and the rather loud communication in its streets to feel at ease here. Pisciotta typical for the Middle Ages – narrow alleys, the houses hugging one another. The apartment is right in the midst of all that. In the evenings, the Italian mamas meet in front of their house doors and discuss the day and their lives. While enjoying some red wine you have got an excellent view of these goings-on from the terrace. All this radiates a very special kind of charm, but is not to be recommended to those who love peace and quiet. We found it rather amusing (most of the time). Nothing can beat the apartment’s location, only a few minutes and you are at the central piazza.

There, you can get fresh bread, all kinds of fruit in a small delicatessen. In the evenings, you can watch life while enjoying a glass of wine. As of 22 h the locals start meeting there. Late in the evenings, you can get fresh croissants. Just sit in the centre of the piazza and wait and then follow the aroma and the people.

Most of the times, we followed stairs and steep paths down to the small beach of Marina di Pisciotta. Not too funny by the way, when wearing flip-flops or thongs. At the pizzeria at the beach the lunch special is 3-4 Euro for a pizza. You can take the shuttle bus back. Mind that you have to find out whether the bus is headed for the train station or for Pisciotta Alta!

Rodio is a great day trip. We took the shuttle bus there and walked back along the road. This way you can enjoy alternating views, of the mountains and the sea, without getting lost.

We stopped to eat at the restaurant "Tre Gufi" three times. The value for money vacationers get there is unbeatable. It is particularly the recipes with local anchovies which can be recommended; even the house wine is tasty. And Pisciotta at night is fantastic.

Every now and then, we took a hike out of Pisciotta towards Palinuro. It is difficult to find a (public) path down to the sea. But it is worth while looking for one. The water is clearer and nicer than directly at Pisciotta.

We will surely return.

Gabriele L. Berlin, Casa Anna, August 2009