

## **Villa Nelli - A garden idyll above the sea**

For the first two weeks in May 2009, my wife (57) and I (54) booked our holiday in Italy. We love Italy and we have resolved to travel all its regions. This year we wanted to explore the area around the Gulf of Policastro. The description of holiday home Villa Nelli appealed to us and booking via the internet was uncomplicated and simple. I was surprised, in a positive sense, that the bankruptcy insurance policy was sent immediately.

In order to make the long journey (ca. 1950 km) somewhat tolerable, we cut up the route. We spent the first night at Lake Garda, the second at the Amalfi coast. It was from there that our real holiday was to begin. We enjoyed driving along this dream of a road. It was a special experience which I can only recommend. In the afternoon, we arrived at our holiday destination. Getting in touch by phone was a bit difficult, as we spoke only little Italian and the caretaker did not speak English. We agreed upon meeting at the house. Driving there was a bit of a problem. My car was loaded and as the road leading to the house was quite rutty I touched down several times. Later on, with the car unloaded, there were no more problems.

The first impression upon entering the garden took away our breath. Large, well-tended premises with a fantastic view of the Gulf of Policastro. The house and its furnishings met all our expectations as well. In the evening, it became quite cool in the house. Our plan to put a fire in the fireplace the following evening failed due to the facts that we did not have any wood and that we could neither find a place where to buy some.

During the first two weeks in May, our holiday resort only just came to life. Not all the restaurants were open, sun beds at the beach or other activities at the seaside were non-existent. Thus, we decided to explore the attractions surrounding our holiday resort. At Paestum alone, we spent a whole day in the shade of the ancient ruins. We went hiking and we were captivated by the wild beauty of the landscape surrounding our holiday home. Wherever we went, we were welcomed with open arms. Those two weeks were not enough to explore everything. We shall return – and that's for sure!

Jutta & Udo K., Hilden, Villa Nelli, May 2009