

For several years now, Italy has been part of our yearly holiday plans. Although it is and has been our intention to travel the regions of this fantastic country one by one, we did, for the sake of extraordinary destinations, deviate from “working” them “off”. Thus, in August 2009, we travelled to the Cilento/Campania for the second time, renting Casa Niky at Scario as we did in 2004. We had then discovered, on the internet, the photo of a house with a dream of a balcony high above the Golfo di Policastro and we were at once fascinated. Casa Niky is indeed a property located above Scario, offering, among other things, an enclosed parking space, a large roofed terrace and a picture postcard view of the water scintillating in indescribable shades of blue. Up here, there is quiet, while during summer, and above all in the evenings, there is lively Italian hustle and bustle 200 m below. What the house lacks? Air conditioning and a dish washer have to be substituted for in a proper way; German TV programs can and must be done without during this holiday. Onsite, life centred on the terrace of Casa Niky: it is partly shady, partly sunny, furnished with comfortable chairs/a large table and it can be illuminated in the evenings if necessary. A Dolce-Vita-terrace!

We could accommodate our grown-up daughter in a small summer house on the same premises.

The distance from the house to town can be covered reasonably only by car. The road is winding and steep, but always tarmaced.

It is wise to know a few words of Italian in order to enjoy the Cilento holiday without stress. We did not meet any German speaking locals, English is sometimes understood, we saw only two German license plates during those 14 days.

You dive into genuine Italy, so to speak – this appealed to us very much.

In travel guides, Scario is always described as a small fishing village. We once experienced its contemplative peace during May. In August, however, you are surprised by the number of people moving through the village and, above all, strolling along the big seaside promenade, mostly in families. Great to plunge in there, too!

Scario was the starting point for one of the most beautiful experiences during our holiday: At the harbour, you will find boats taking those who love bathing to somewhat remote bathing bays. Quickly, we had adapted to local ways – a bathing excursion requires sunshade, suntan lotion, bathing shoes and something to drink.

With a destination so far from Germany, you want to get to know as much of the area as possible. Must-sees we recommend:

Maratea – town and statue of Christ “Redentore” (Located directly opposite of Casa Niky, on the other side of the gulf and in the region of Basilicata).

Palinuro – easily and quickly accessible via highway. Stop at the harbour there, book a boat tour to the Blue Grotto! Afterwards, enjoy delicious fish at the harbour restaurant! Next time, look

out for Palinuro's natural beach towards Pisciotta. There is nothing more beautiful – golden sand along the azure sea.

Paestum – Unexpectedly, Greek temples bathed in sunlight appear before your eyes. Great!

Amalfi coast – Magnificent! Unfortunately, most people think so. That's why we parked our car at Amalfi and took the boat to Positano and back. Both towns are a must-see. Do not forget a stopover at Ravello. After 16:00 h, there is enough space to take in the famous picture postcard view and to have an espresso in the piazza.

Mount Vesuvius – an experience of high memo value. Afterwards, a visit to Pompeii.

Unfortunately, partly random traffic. But only there, in the suburbs of Naples, so to speak.

Final tip: Visit Pisciotta! We stopped there several times, despite the distance – At the restaurant Tre Gufi (Three Owls) you enjoy a fantastic view and culinary delights from the Cucina Campania. Furthermore, we happened to come across a performance of Turandot in the piazza, a perfect merging of Italian culture with a sense of family, pleasure of strolling and culinary delights on a Southern Italian summer evening. Spine-tingling!

Barbara & Jochen W., Ballenstedt, Villa Niky, August 2009