

A photograph of a woman with long, wavy blonde hair, laughing heartily. She is wearing a dark, sequined, sleeveless dress and a wide, textured bracelet on her right wrist. The background is a textured, light-colored wall.

Red

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'Sometimes it takes
stepping out of your
comfort zone to
shake things up'

Kylie at 50.

ESCAPES

Edited by
SARAH TOMCZAK



SPEND YOUR WEEKEND HERE

ANOTHER TWO DAYS RUNNING ERRANDS
OR A CHANCE TO ESCAPE? BE INSPIRED
BY THESE SMALL ADVENTURES, JUST
A SHORT HOP FROM OUR CAPITAL

'Fresh sea air will restore you to your very best'



CASA ANGELINA,

Praiano

2-hour flight from London

Whoever first saw the cliff faces that jut off the side of Italy's Amalfi coast and thought they would make good places to build some villages clearly had more of an eye for the aesthetic than the practical. For the inhabited landscape makes no sense – sheer and unforgiving, houses clinging to rocks in terror, roads in winding tributaries above vertical drops – but it looks sensational. Gardens cascade down dramatic stone, whitewashed houses matching the crests of the waves, trees rich with sunshine-like lemons and the Tyrrhenian Sea glinting sapphire blue. You'll probably have heard of Positano, its enclave of tourist-pleasing restaurants snuggled into its cove, but drive just one bend further around the mountain to find Praiano, 90 minutes from Naples airport, a two-hour flight from London, an ancient holiday home once beloved of first-century Roman emperors and now being fêted as the newest jewel in the Amalfi crown.

It's quieter than its neighbour, and smaller – less flashy. With just 2,000

residents, the restaurants seem to have more freshly caught seafood than people, bursting with bowls of linguine, clams that were in the ocean mere moments before. Streets are narrow and all roads lead – eventually – to the beach.

There isn't much to actually do in Praiano, but that's not exactly the point – it's a place in which relaxation is an art form, in which a long lunch becomes a leisurely dinner, punctuated only with naps, books and sun. Nowhere is this more true than at Casa Angelina, Praiano's only five-star hotel, a brilliant white, split-level building with sun decks and pools looking out to Positano (its whites are so brilliant, in fact, that one employee is hired solely to do the constant touch-ups it requires to look this fresh. There are a dazzling 50 shades). From here you can lie on the hotel lawn, or walk for five minutes into town to stock up on locally made ceramics, or just languidly wait for dinner to roll around at Un Piano Nel Cielo, the hotel's fine-dining restaurant. Yacht tours arch around the base of the cliff, and fresh sea air will restore you to your very best. It's that kind of place, Praiano. Full of lazy light.

PIP McCORMAC

The pool at Casa Angelina looks out to Positano, while rooms in this five-star hotel are a dazzling white



TRIP NOTES Rooms at Casa Angelina start at £398. casaangelina.com. Flights from London (all airports) to Naples, from £29 on Easyjet; easyjet.com