

TRAVEL ITALY

THE COAST IS CLEAR: ITALY UNCOVERED

OK, so they may have beaten us at the football, but don't let that put you off. Italy offers crystal blue Med waters, hip hideaways and stunning landscapes. Here are our faves from Small Luxury Hotels of the World

1. GRAND HOTEL MAJESTIC, MAGGIORE

Grand Hotel Majestic is located in the heart of the Italian Lake Region on the elegant west Piedmont shores of Lake Maggiore. Minutes from the picturesque lakeside town of Pallanza, its privileged position on a promontory, stretching over the lake, offers breathtaking views that showcase the Borromeo Islands, surrounding mountains, and the lake itself. Built in 1870, the hotel retains the spirit of La Belle Epoque with extensive lakeside English gardens. The service and amenities, however, are thoroughly modern day, with spacious en-suite rooms and suites. During your stay you can enjoy a relaxing day on the hotel's solarium. Now that's La Dolce Vita.

SLH.COM/MAJESTIC



2. GRAND HOTEL POLTU QUATU, SARDINIA

Sardinia is one of the most beautiful islands in the Med: unspoiled nature, white sandy beaches and crystalline waters are the protagonists in a land that's sunny 300 days per year. So, about 299 days more than England. Grand Hotel Poltu Quatu is a jewel on the north-east coast, a few steps from the renowned Costa Smeralda and 35km away from Olbia Costa Smeralda airport. The hotel is part of the village Poltu Quatu (literally 'concealed harbour'), where pink granite rocks, deep blue sea and Mediterranean vegetation envelop this charming port.

SLH.COM/POLTUQUATU



3. CASA ANGELINA, AMALFI COAST

Spectacularly set along the sheer-sided Amalfi Coast, Casa Angelina overlooks miles of Mediterranean sea from its cliff-edge perch in Praiano. The knockout views are matched by cool interiors at this hip little hideaway; the minimalist design is set off by flashes of brilliant colour from bold modern art and Murano glass sculptures. There are outdoor and indoor pools, and a gym if you've overindulged at the superb rooftop restaurant.

SLH.COM/CASAANGELINA

