



“There are a bunch of foolish reasons to doubt Ancelotti”  
Gabriele Marcotti

From **The Sunday Times**

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## My Hols: Jerry Springer

The TV star is passionate about Italy, but Portugal and the Catskills turn him on, too



(Chris McAndrew)

Although I've been Americanised for the past 60 years, I love Europe and we always tend to vacation there. I'm pretty religious about taking time out every summer, and over the years we've done Scotland right down to Greece. My favourite place has to be Italy — when God made it, he'd got to the point where he was just showing off.

It's such a ridiculously beautiful country. We like to spend a week in Capri before moving on to Tuscany, Rome or Portofino. In Capri, we stay at the Casa Morgano hotel, a beautiful place on a street with one of the most panoramic views on the island.

The closest I've ever got to active watersports is snorkelling in the bathtub, but I do like to be on the water. If I had my way, I'd happily divide a fortnight between doing absolutely nothing and eating great Italian food, but the family like to get out and explore, so we tend to go for a day of total relaxation and then a day of sightseeing.

One of my favourite hotels is the Villa San Michele, just outside Florence, which is pretty much one of the most romantic places in the world. It's a former monastery, on a hilltop, surrounded by beautiful gardens overlooking Florence. The 15th-century monks who first took up residence there must have thought they'd already died and gone to heaven. I certainly felt that way.



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Sometimes I think it's the places that you don't know much about that really grab you. That was the case for us with Portugal. A few years back, we flew to Madrid then drove down to the Spanish Med, before crossing the border and heading up to Lisbon. I knew nothing about Portugal, but it was incredibly beautiful — and very different.

The first thing that struck us was that nearly everyone there was Portuguese, whereas the rest of Europe feels increasingly international, and that everything about the Portuguese seems different. Their language looks European when you see it written, but when they speak, it sounds like Russian. Perhaps it has something to do with being on the very western edge of Europe, but to me Portugal really felt like an independent world.

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