

VIRTUOSO LIFE

\$5.95

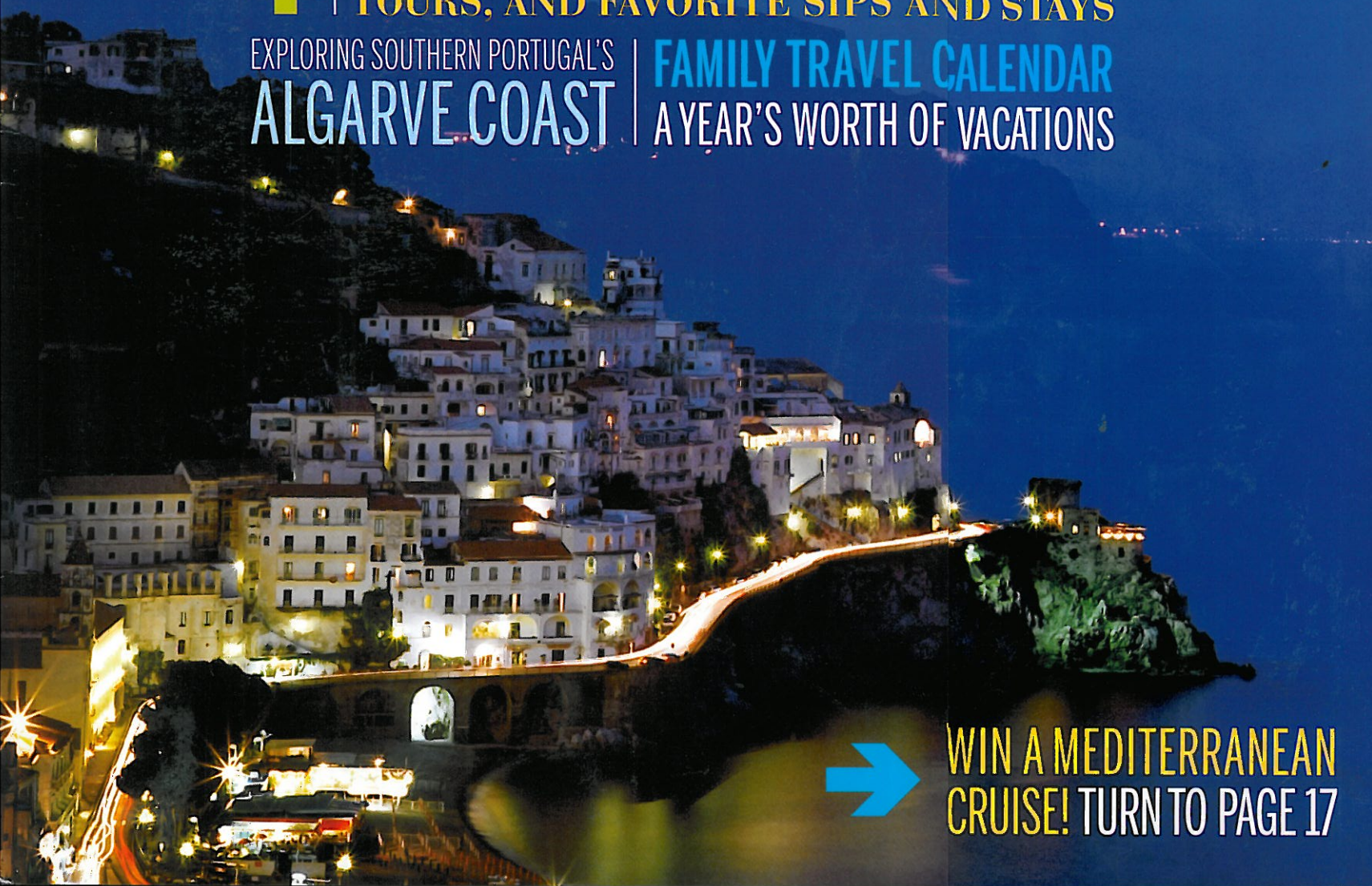
THE EUROPE ISSUE

50 REASONS TO GO NOW

NEW SAILINGS, HOTELS,
MUSEUMS, RESTAURANTS, AND MORE

+ ITALY SPOTLIGHT: CRUISE PORTS, WALKING
TOURS, AND FAVORITE SIPS AND STAYS

EXPLORING SOUTHERN PORTUGAL'S
ALGARVE COAST | FAMILY TRAVEL CALENDAR
A YEAR'S WORTH OF VACATIONS



WIN A MEDITERRANEAN
CRUISE! TURN TO PAGE 17



Amalfi, at last.

TAKE A HIKE

Three guided explorations of Amalfi, plus hotels for do-it-yourselfers and those seeking just a day hike or two.

GETTING THERE: Alitalia flies direct to Rome daily from New York City (and offers nonstop flights from Boston, Chicago, Miami, and Los Angeles as well), with frequent connections to Naples and Salerno for the Amalfi Coast.

GO Backroads' six-day walking tour of the Amalfi Coast takes to the ancient trails carved into the Sorrento Peninsula and Capri. Hikes range from strolling the gardens of the Villa Rufolo in Ravello to a steep climb up Capri's Phoenician Steps. *Departures: Multiple dates May 8 through October 9, 2011; from \$5,698.*

Trek the Path of the Gods above Positano and scale Monte Pertuso on **Butterfield & Robinson's** six-day walking tour of Capri and the Amalfi Coast, exploring Positano's chic boutiques and soaking up the Ravello scenery poolside in your downtime. *Departures: Multiple dates May 22 through October 2, 2011; from \$7,795.*

Tailor your own Amalfi Coast hiking trips to your fitness and adventure level with **European Connection**. One option (of medium difficulty): six days of guided treks that take in Capri, Mount Vesuvius, and the Path of the Gods

linking Agerola and Positano. *Departures: Any day through October 31, 2011; from \$1,997 with a minimum group of four.*

STAY Perched 1,000 feet above the sea, the 55-room **Caesar Augustus** sits far from the bustle of Capri town with views spanning the Bay of Naples, including Mount Vesuvius, Sorrento, and Ischia. *Doubles from \$509, including breakfast, round-trip harbor transfers, and a bottle of limoncello.*

Live the life of an emperor at **J.K. Place Capri**, a white-washed villa lookout over Marina Grande with just 22 rooms dressed in crisp island style. *Doubles from \$849, including breakfast, a bottle of wine, and a \$140 spa credit.*

Contemporary 79-room **Capri Palace Hotel & Spa** features an impressive modern art collection and suites dedicated to stars (Monroe, Hepburn) and artists (Mondrian, Magritte). Cap off a day on one of its private yachts with dinner at the island's top restaurant, L'Olivo. *Doubles from \$367, including breakfast, a bottle of limoncello, a \$105 spa credit, and 20 percent off excursions on the hotel yachts.*

Il San Pietro di Positano calls to travelers with 61 rooms (all with terraces), a stunning cliffside pool, and a secluded private beach. Don't miss the complimentary two-hour boat ride (June through September). *Doubles from \$595, including breakfast daily and two Bellinis on arrival.*

Handpainted ceramic tile floors adorn 63-room **Le Sirenuse**, an eighteenth-century Positano villa where lemon trees freshen breezes poolside and candles light the oyster bar overlooking the bay. *Doubles from \$495, including breakfast, afternoon tea for two, and a bottle of spumante.*

The Gambardella family opened Amalfi's 66-room **Hotel Santa Caterina** in 1880 and has run it ever since. Elevators carved into the cliff whisk sunbathers to the beach club's pool and seaside Restaurant Al Mare. *Doubles from \$369, including breakfast, a bottle of Prosecco, and a \$100 gift shop credit.*

Palazzo Sasso presides over the Mediterranean with 43 rooms in hilltop Ravello. Views abound from the pool, from the rooftop solarium's Jacuzzis, and from the terraces at two-Michelin-

star Rossellinis, a Virtuoso Best of the Best Hotel Award winner for dining. *Doubles from \$305, including breakfast, complimentary spa access, and a bottle each of spumante and limoncello.*

Guests at the 48-room **Hotel Caruso** can enjoy complimentary two-hour cruises (from Amalfi) and tours of the hotel gardens with head gardener Gaetano Amato. The eleventh-century palace features an infinity pool at Ravello's highest point. *Doubles from \$764, including breakfast, Internet access, and a \$100 resort credit.*

The 98-room **Grand Hotel Excelsior Vittoria** features five acres of gardens leading from the hotel entrance to Sorrento's main square, and a private elevator to the pier for boats to Capri. *Doubles from \$503, including breakfast and one-way transfers to Capri.*

Naples' **Romeo Hotel** makes a sleek bookend to Amalfi Coast trips. Vintage photography complements the 84 rooms' modern feel; the rooftop Il Comandante restaurant features picture-perfect views of the Bay of Naples. *Doubles from \$417, including breakfast and a \$70 dining credit.* **VL**