



21

ITALY FOREVER

Year in and year out, Italy leads the world as *Virtuoso Life* readers' most sought-after destination. We love its history and culture (and fashion), but right now, it's the dolce vita pleasures – pastas and pizzas, spritz-fueled *aperitivos* and evening *passeggiate* – that we're craving most. Raise a limoncello to the whole country, from the canals of Venice to Amalfi, land of citrus-scented sea breezes and stylish Riva yacht wakes, to Sicily's sun-soaked shores.





VALENTINA DE SANTIS
Owner, [Grand Hotel Tremezzo](#), Lake Como

If you could visit now, I'd show you: The beauty of Lake Como as our ancestors saw it: The mountains are reflecting on the water like in a mirror, and the only sound is of nature.

Fun fact: Our chef, Osvaldo, has baked each of my birthday cakes – and he's not the only one at the hotel who has known me since birth.

For aperitivo, I'm having: A spritz, because I'm not a great mixologist. If I could have our barman, Hatem, make me a cocktail, I'd love a "Valentina," the drink he created with my favorite summer flavors: cucumber, ginger, mint grown on our terrace, and Italian bubbles.

FEDERICO BIANCONI
Co-owner, [Palazzo Seneca](#), Norcia

If you could visit now, I'd take you to: Monti Sibillini National Park on the Castelluccio plateau for hiking, cycling, or horseback riding. It's especially beautiful mid-June through early July, when the wildflowers bloom.

What I've done with the downtime during quarantine: We started an organic agriculture and essential-oils project with our friends, the Cinque brothers from the Amalfi Coast hotel [Il San Pietro di Positano](#). When we reopen, we'll be able to offer these natural products to our guests.

For aperitivo, I'm having: Local pecorino and goat cheeses with a sagrantino di Montefalco red wine.



HUGO PIZZININI
Owner, [Hotel Rosa Alpina](#), Dolomites

A surprising result of Italy's lockdown: I see many more wild animals in our village of 700 – and in our hotel: A marten came in a window one night.

If you could visit now, I'd take you: Hiking up my favorite mountain to let you "hear" the silence and peace.

Italian comfort food I can't get enough of these days: The pizzas I make with my kids and, of course, all sorts of homemade pastas and our local white asparagus – the best in Italy.

For aperitivo, I'm having: Prosciutto crudo and Ronco delle Mele sauvignon from my best friend, winemaker Giampaolo Venica.

MARIELLA AVINO
Managing director, [Palazzo Avino](#), Ravello

If you could visit now, I'd take you: To Palazzo Avino's roof to enjoy the silence and sunset's pink show.

The thing I love most about the Amalfi Coast: The colors and the brightness of nature – the lemons, pink flowers, and days when you can't define the line between sky and sea.

For aperitivo, I'm having: A lemon-drop martini for sure. I've mastered it during quarantine.

Italian comfort food I can't get enough of these days: Homemade pasta with all the fresh spring vegetables, from peas to broccoli to zucchini. Every day is Pasta Day!

