

CONDÉ NAST

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

JUNE/JULY 2018

Traveler

THE

SUMMER

ISSUE



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KAUAI — LISBON — MOTORCYCLE ROAD TRIP — SICILY — WASHINGTON, D.C.

JUNE/JULY 2018

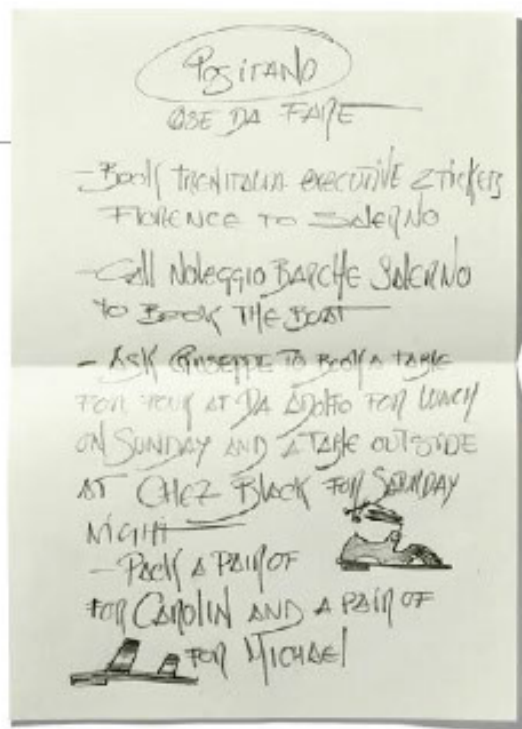
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Vacation on Repeat

Every July, Florence-based designer Alvaro González sets aside 72 hours for eating, drinking, and lounging under a beach umbrella in Positano.

"The journey to Positano is part of the adventure," says accessories designer Alvaro González, who, every summer, rides a train three hours to Salerno, then catches a charter boat for the 40-minute sail right to the doorstep of his hotel, the small, family-owned Il San Pietro di Positano. "It's so beautiful to arrive by sea," he says. "You're surrounded by cliffs, so it feels very isolated." Because every minute counts on a weekend getaway, he and his husband, writer Nick Vinson, step off the boat, hand over their luggage to the hotel staff, and claim two loungers under striped umbrellas. Il San Pietro's private beach has a bar that serves Il Chiostru, a great local beer, and a seaside restaurant called Il Carlino that make a perfectly simple burrata dish with zucchini, mint, and garlic. They'll do dinner at the hotel's Michelin-starred restaurant, Zass. "Stay until after sunset," González advises. "The people-watching is fantastic, and there's a duo that plays traditional Neapolitan music with a mandolin and guitar." The next night, González and Vinson may hop a five-minute water taxi to have dinner in town at Chez Black ("Make a reservation at least a week before," he says), but they'll do dessert—framisù and stracciatella gelato—back on the terrace at Il San Pietro. "And before checking out, we always book our weekend for the following year." LEAH GINSBERG



Above: González's handwritten pre-trip to-do list. Below, from left: Room 9 at Il San Pietro; the view of Positano's main beach.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY ALVARO GONZALEZ; JOSEPH HINEBOHELLS; CAROL BACHA; CAPPELLUCOURT BY HOTEL IL SAN PIETRO