

# Cuisine, Culture and Cliffs! Sensational Sorrento

CHEF ROCCO DISPIRITO'S HEART BELONGS TO THIS VILLAGE THAT CLINGS TO ITALY'S BREATHTAKING AMALFI COAST

I love Sorrento and the Amalfi region," Rocco DiSpirito tells *Closer*. "It's a very special combination of food, culture and natural beauty." The locals are pretty special, too, reports the 47-year-old gourmand. "I specifically worked with moms there, and not with professional chefs," Rocco shares of recently spending time in Sorrento kitchens learning old-school

culinary skills. "Moms are where it's at, especially in Italy." He's also a big fan of La Sorgente, a family farm nestled in the hills above Sorrento that's open to visitors. "They grow all kinds of wonderful produce and lemons and they teach you how to make fresh mozzarella," notes Rocco. "I shot a TV show there — I recommend it!" —Aaron Rasmussen

**MAMA MIA!** Rocco has family ties to this part of Italy — his beloved mom, Nicolina, grew up just 90 miles east of Sorrento in San Nicola Baronia.

## Living La Dolce Vita

**RUSTIC RUINS** Get a history lesson with a visit to nearby Pompeii, destroyed when Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 A.D.

**FOOD FAVES** Rocco loves Sorrento's fresh fare. "It's where lemons and hot peppers are grown," he told *Closer* at the South Beach Wine & Food

**DELICIOUS DISHES** Michelin-rated restaurant Il Buco is nestled in an ancient monastery's wine cellar.

**STUNNING SCENERY** "Go to Capri," just across the bay, suggests Rocco, and enjoy the Hotel Caesar Augustus' views.

*"The food is amazing and the people are really nice."*

Rocco

## BRING SORRENTO HOME

**THE MEAL** Check out Rocco's book *Now Eat This! Italian* for low-cal faves. \$26.99, amazon.com



**THE FLAVOR** Azienda Agricola Sorrentina is a tasty blend of extra-virgin olive oil and Sorrento lemons. \$9.80, eatatly.com

**THE SIP** An Absolut Pear Pleasure cocktail is bright and breezy — perfect for evoking warm memories of southern Italy.



**INGREDIENTS**  
2 parts Absolut Citron  
1 part limoncello  
Pear juice  
Pear slices

Fill a highball glass with ice. Add the Absolut Citron and limoncello. Top off with pear juice. Garnish with