

Sign In or Sign Up

NEWSPAPER ADS SPECIAL SECTIONS JOBS RENTALS HOMES CARS ADVERTISE STORE REWARDS SUBSCRIBE

72° F

SEP 3

Sell Your Home!
advertise.baltimoresun.com

MARYLAND SPORTS RAVENS BUSINESS LIFE HEALTH ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS OPINION VIDEO DEALS WEEKLY AD

BREAKING NEWS WEATHER TRAFFIC OBITUARIES GAMES NATION/WORLD WEIRD NEWS MOBILE ALERTS BLOGS PHOTOS SUN MAGAZINE PRINT EDITION

HOT TOPICS | Obama's vacation | Ocean City Beach Guide 2011 | Vacation packages | The OC Blog | Area day trips | Summer 2011

Search

PAY NOW RATES COMPACT CARS **\$129/WEEK** Budget **RESERVE NOW**
 TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

Home > Travel

Operation Italy

Hopkins surgeon is world traveler, but the Amalfi Coast is where Dr. Ben Carson really unwinds

Comments 0 Recommend 54 12 Share 87 0



The terrace of the main house of Villa Lilly in Praiano on Italy's Amalfi Coast. (Photo courtesy of Costa Land Company / July 19, 2011)



By Stephanie Citron, Special to The Baltimore Sun
July 21, 2011

It's no surprise that Dr. Ben Carson is a world-class traveler.

Being a world-renowned surgeon who has been named one of the nation's 20 foremost physicians and scientists by **CNN** and Time Magazine and one of 89 "Living Legends" by the **Library of Congress**, requires a great deal of coming and going.

Carson, director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Children's Center, also heads the Carson Scholars Foundation, providing scholarships to students for academic and humanitarian accomplishments in more than 30 states. Add to that, speaking

Related



PHOTOS: Pictures: Dr. Ben Carson's vacation hideaway

PREMIUM OUTLETS
 3 AREA LOCATIONS
 HAGERSTOWN
 LEESBURG CORNER
 QUEENSTOWN
 Click Here for Exclusive Coupons

Today's Travel Deals 9/3/11

- \$969** Costa Rica All-Incl. Trip from Baltimore, 60% Off*
- \$315*** Oslo Sale Fare from D.C. (each way)
- \$45** Scenic West Virginia Mountain Resort at 50% Off

[Click Here for More Deals >](#)
 Listed by **TRAVELZOO**. *Some taxes, fees additional

Travel Guides



Ocean City Beach Guide 2011



150th Anniversary of the Civil War



Baltimore Cruise Guide
 Find profiles of ships that use the Port of Baltimore and other cruise news.

vacation getaway



PHOTOS: Pictures: Jeremy Guthrie's favorite vacation spots



PHOTOS: Pictures: Chef John Shields' tour of Ireland

engagements and demonstrations of his unprecedented surgical methods and you come up with a global itinerary that's both business and pleasure.

"We travel about once every 10 days, usually to destinations within the continental United States, but there are several trips to other countries each year as well," says Carson. "Most of my trips are planned in conjunction with some activity I am participating in, but I do like to explore the destination on the Internet before I actually arrive."

We spoke with Carson recently about his favorite getaway and the one thing he doesn't like to travel without.

Where is your favorite travel destination?

The Amalfi Coast of **Italy**.

How did you discover it?

A very close friend of mine purchased and restored the region's premier villa — Villa Lilly [in Praiano]. It used to be owned by Napoleon's sister who was married to the king of Naples. We stay in the villa, which has a five-star rating. When we are not there and our friends are not there, it is rented [by the week].

We love that it is secluded and the vistas are breathtakingly beautiful, overlooking the Mediterranean, with views of Positano and Capri.

My wife accompanies me, and my sons and my mother have been there. I tell everybody about it, and some of my friends have been able to visit.

What inspires you most about this destination?

I love to walk around the property early in the morning when the birds are in full chorus because there are beautiful flower and

vegetable gardens from which the chef picks our daily meals. There are about 200 steps down to the beach, and making that trek several times is not only beautiful, but invigorating.

The food is the most delicious I have ever tasted. The private chef, Jon Carlo, is a master at his craft, and it makes me hungry to even think about the eggplant parmesan with ingredients fresh from the garden. This is accompanied by a fresh garden salad and fresh-squeezed lemonade.

Can you share a magical memory from the trip?

Flying through the water at high speed on a private boat and arriving for the first time on the island of Capri and then on to Sorrento. Roaming through the streets with multiple stops with friends and family is an unbeatable experience.

Travel bag of choice?

My favorite is my Rollaboard because I can get almost everything I need for a trip into it even if I am going to be there for several days; the garment section, which will accommodate two or three suits, and the lower portion which will accommodate several changes of casual clothing.

What is the one item you will not travel without?

I hate traveling without my wife, but if it has to be an inanimate object, it would probably be my laptop because I like to know what is going on.

Do you have an all-time favorite travel read or author?

I always take my Bible with me because it is full of wisdom and comfort.

What are some of your other favorite destinations?

Regional destinations



Bermuda by boat: an itinerary for 48 hours in port



Six Flags America to launch 'Apocalypse' in 2012



Baltimore's Jersey girl

Topics

- International Travel
- Trips and Vacations
- Tourism and Leisure

[See more topics »](#)

ADS BY GOOGLE

Property Mgmt. Supplies

Buy Top Quality Property Management Products At Low Prices. Ships Free!
www.PBP1.com

50 Hotels Amalfi Coast

Book your hotel on the Amalfi Coast online. Good rates and availability
www.booking.com

Rome - Naples by Train

Trains - Fastest & Easiest Travel. Fares/Schedules, Official Source.
www.RailEurope.com

Sign up for the Travel newsletter

Whether you are looking for a weekend get-away, a once-in-a-lifetime adventure or just helpful hints, the **Travel Unraveled** newsletter is there to help. [See a sample](#) | [Sign up](#)

I have an opportunity to travel throughout the world. The number of absolutely gorgeous and peaceful places is almost too numerous to count, but I especially enjoy visiting Zion National Park in Utah. The scenery is breathtaking, and I love being out in nature.

If you go

Italy's Amalfi Coast

Dr. Ben Carson's beloved Praiano, Italy, is nestled in a cove between the Amalfi Coast's seaside towns of Positano and Amalfi. Acclaimed for its spectacular sunsets, Praiano's ancient name — Pelagium — means "open sea." Earliest records indicate that around A.D. 700 it was known for producing high-quality silk and linen. The discovery of coral centuries later brought economic prosperity, helping it become a vacation spot of royalty and doges. Its pristine beaches can only be reached on foot, by private footpaths or by hiking down steps from the town center.

Getting there

For an authentic local vibe, hop aboard the Circumvesuviana train from Naples. The 55-minute excursion snakes past the ancient ruins of Pompeii, Herculaneum and the majestic Mount Vesuvius before arriving in the stunning town of Sorrento. From there, you can take a public SITA bus along a loopy coastal route that will leave you gaping and gasping over hairpin turns alongside 500-foot drops from craggy cliffs dangling above the cerulean Mediterranean. A \$10 ticket will cover both fares. Go to vesuviana.it/web/en.

Have a time crunch? Take the Metro Del Mare high-speed boat (\$15) from Naples to Positano, where you can catch the SITA bus (\$2) <http://www.metrodelmare.net/> to Praiano.

Lodging

Villa Lilly, Via Masa, Praiano, costalandco.com/villalillyitaly.htm. Rates range from \$30,000 to \$50,000 per week, depending upon the season and the number of guests. The main house features five bedrooms and bathrooms and includes breakfast, a staff of three and unlimited use of the onsite masseuse. The property also offers two one-bedroom apartments. On the grounds are a hot tub, a wine cellar, and organic gardens where the chef grows ingredients used in his cuisine. Utilizing the private chef and the 40-foot yacht are additional. Celebrities who have stayed at Villa Lilly include **Julia Roberts**, **Ben Stiller** and **Barbra Streisand**.

Hotel Margherita, Via Umberto I, Praiano, hotelmargherita.info. This family-run lodging is a more reasonably-priced option. Guests declare that the hotel far surpasses its three-star rating, with beautifully appointed rooms, modern bathrooms and eternity pool overlooking the Mediterranean. Rates begin at \$145, including breakfast and beach shuttle service.

Attractions

The "Sentiero degli Dei" (Walk of the Gods) is a glorious hike beginning in Praiano and ending in Agerola. The path is still traveled by farmers and shepherds; it sidles ancient vineyards, small villages, historic caves, and vistas offering arguably the best views of the Amalfi Coast.

San Luca is a church dating back to the 12th century with its original maiolica tile dome and original paintings by Gigante, Lama and Montorio. ondaverde.it/sentiero_degliidei.htm

BALTIMORE SUN  **TRAVEL SOURCE**

The best deals on vacation packages **around the world.**

Getting There
From roads to rails to runways, Michael Dresser tracks transportation

From roads to rails to runways, Michael Dresser tracks transportation on his blog. Also see his weekly **articles**.

Report: Worst drivers in America are in Baltimore

Getting There taking vacation break

SHA to inspect Southern Maryland bridge

[Read more at Getting There >>](#)

Sample sfogliatella Santa Rosa, a delicious pastry invented in the 18th century by nuns living in the Conservatory of Santa Rosa da Lima. Though creative liberties are taken with the filling today, the nuns originally used sugar, milk, dried fruit and glace cherries

Take a day trip, via hydrofoil, to explore Positano and Isle of Capri.

Information

Go to amalficoastweb.com or <http://www.comune.praiano.sa.it/inglese/Default.htm>

Copyright © 2011, **The Baltimore Sun**



Register with The Baltimore Sun and receive free newsletters and alerts >>



Comments 0

Recommend 54

12

Share 87

0

« Previous Story

More Baltimore Travel News: Travel News, Travel Guide and Travel America

Next Story »



Deal of the week: Restaurant Week in Rehoboth Beach



Bermuda by boat: an itinerary for 48 hours in port

RECOMMENDED FOR YOU

Police: 4 found shot to death in Md. home after relative reports disturbing text message

Bel Air girl, 15, found after missing nearly a week

School for the Arts opens year amid controversies

IndyCar drivers find flaws in Baltimore Grand Prix race course

Taylor's early departure leaves Ravens with big questions

FROM AROUND THE WEB

3 Key Questions to Ask When Renting an Apartment | *Allstate Blog*

7 Rules of Men's Bathroom Etiquette | *Man of the House*

This is a tunnel that cars drive through | *The Daily*

'Black box' recorders may become mandatory in new vehicles | *Allstate Blog*

Study: Half of Texas' students have been suspended or expelled | *University of Phoenix*

[what's this]

ADS BY GOOGLE

#1 Location Mgmt Software

Stop hunting now & get software to manage all needs for 50+ locations.
AMTdirect.com/Location_Management

Amalfi Coast Tours

Book Now Your Private Tours & Transfers with Carlo
www.wiselytravelling.com

capri tour guides

discover with us the isle of capri private tours and assistance
www.capricentroguide.com

Comments (0)

[Add comments](#) | [Discussion FAQ](#)

Currently there are no comments. Be the first to **comment!**

COMMENTING POLICY: Readers are encouraged to post comments that are germane to the article. We reserve the right to remove any user, and to delete comments that contain abusive language or personal threats, as well as those that are racist or demeaning. Readers may report comments by clicking "Report Abuse." Once a comment has been flagged, a Baltimore Sun staffer will investigate. [Click here](#) for more information on commenting.

Travel Videos

By 5min <...>



Top 5 Moments in Syria



How Much You Should Really Get for Your Lost Luggage



Where to Snorkel in Bermuda



Visit the Cabos in Baja California, Mexico

Travel photos



Reader pictures: Best Shots



Pictures: Katy Perry, other stars go nuts at theme parks



Top 10 Labor Day destinations



Pictures: Five ideas for multigenerational trips



Pictures: World's weirdest skyscrapers



Pictures: Martha's Vineyard, Obama's vacation favorite



Pictures: Most beautiful places in America



Pictures: 49 summer delights in the Pacific Northwest



Pictures: Top 10 spots for a parental getaway



Blogger Rocco Palmo uncovers Vatican secrets — all from his basement in Philly



Rookie driver Charlie Kimball doesn't let diabetes stand in his way



Bermuda by boat: an itinerary for 48 hours in port



Six Flags America to launch 'Apocalypse' in 2012



Bethenny Frankel's Skinnygirl drinks yanked from Whole Foods

OUR BEST PRICE, EVERY DAY

We don't inflate prices just to reduce the later and call it a sale. Relax and take your time to find your perfect piece. [Shop now](#)

Room&Board
CLASSIC CONTEMPORARY HOME FURNISHINGS

Events/Venues

Newsletters

Mobile

Advertise

Subscribe

Site Map



Print Edition | e-Edition | Explore Baltimore County | Explore Carroll | Explore Harford | Explore Howard | Privacy Policy
 Terms of Service | About Our Ads | Search/Archive | Contact Us | About Us
 Baltimore Sun | Chicago Tribune | Daily Press | Hartford Courant | Los Angeles Times | Orlando Sentinel | Sun Sentinel
 The Morning Call

The Baltimore Sun, 501 N. Calvert Street, P.O. Box 1377, Baltimore, MD 21278

A Tribune Newspaper website