Voyage

INSPIRING YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE

BEST BY BOAT

Georgia Boscawen visits the newly renovated Il San Pietro on the Amalfi Coast to experience its retro charm and astounding views

After a drive along a clifftop that's wiggly and meandering enough to challenge the strongest of stomachs, I am greeted by a view that has drawn the world's superyachts to the Amalfi Coast for decades. Positano's terracotta rooftops spill down to a crescent black-sand beach, with the faint outline of Capri ahead, cloaked in a soft haze. All 55 rooms at Il San Pietro and its two restaurants offer various angles on this beautiful vista, which inspired Carlo "Carlino" Cinque to create the hotel back in 1970.

The hotel's design would have stirred Antoni Gaudí's imagination with its curvaceous form (though it was Oscar Niemeyer who influenced Cinque). Cascading 10 levels, it is embedded in the rock face, with wisteria and bougainvillea weaving through its terraces.

"He hated right angles," says Andrea Zana, the hotel's general manager, gesturing to the sinuous facade as we sip Virginia Specials (one of the hotel's signature cocktails) on the grand terrace. "Carlino designed the hotel himself, wanting free, sensual curves throughout." *Continued overleaf*

PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF IL SAN PIETRO DI POSITANO

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