

Behind the Keys

THE HISTORY, INSPIRATION, AND PEOPLE BEHIND OUR HIDDEN GEMS

Polito Family Properties

Therasia Resort
sea & spa

BOTANIA
RELAIS & SPA

MANZI
HOTEL & SPA

COSTA DEL
CAPITANO
SUITE APARTMENTS - ISCHIA



THE BEGINNINGS OF A LEGACY

The story of the Polito Family properties is one of passion passed down through generations.

In the late 1960s, matriarch Maria Polito began the project of turning her family villa on the island of Ischia, known as "Casa Maria," into a vacation home to host tourists during the summer. She and her two sons Giacomo and Luigi, worked hard, and over time, the family villa was transformed into a small hotel which they named Parco Maria. By the 1980s Parco Maria was well-established and surrounded with beautiful gardens which Giacomo and Luigi tended.



Early Days - Parco Maria

In the 1990s, Luigi followed his dream and founded Imperatore Travel World, a tour operation company which today is a leader in incoming tourism in the Italian Market with offices in several countries.

AEOLIAN ISLANDS: THE NEXT CHAPTER



Therasia Property circa 2003

In the year 2000, Rita and Luigi, already deeply passionate about hospitality and the natural beauty of surroundings, decided to spend a holiday in the enchanting Aeolian Islands.

Among black lava rocks, fumaroles, and fiery sunsets, the family discovered a property known as Hotel Arcipelago, a simple four-star property with just one pool and a single restaurant. But what captured their hearts was not the hotel's amenities, it was the soul of the place:

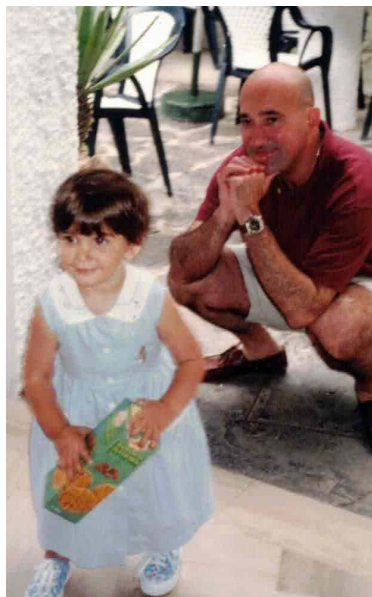
the breathtaking views of the islands, the cliffside position, and the raw, powerful landscape that left them in awe.

At the time, guests mostly came to climb the crater and enjoy the outdoor activities the island of Vulcano had to offer. The hotel was a starting point, not yet a destination. And yet, for Rita and Luigi, the place held a special kind of magic.

They did not speak of purchasing it immediately, but once home, the memory of Vulcano lingered vividly in their thoughts.



The Polito Family's first visit to the property that would become Therasia



Francesca and Luigi

Then, one day, a local hotelier from Vulcano, whom they had met during their holiday, called Luigi and Rita to tell them that the Arcipelago Hotel had been put up for sale. It felt like a sign, a call from that magical place that had captured them. Without hesitation, they decided to purchase it as soon as possible.

From that moment on, the Polito family began spending half of the year on Vulcano, turning the island into a second home. The children, Pierluigi and Francesca, were just four and five when the project began. They spent summers in a whirlwind of blissful sea life and hotel operations. At any given time you could find the pair folding napkins in the laundry, helping in the pastry kitchen, or welcoming delighted guests to the property. These two, entrenched in the family business from an early age, would become the next generation of hoteliers.

ISCHIA: HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF (MOST DELIGHTFULLY)

After the success of the Therasia adventure, destiny knocked once again in 2010. This time the call came from a place even more connected to their past: Ischia. Originally

the villa of a wealthy Neapolitan engineer, the property was set within a lush oasis surrounded by greenery and former golf courses. Over time, it had been closed down, neglected, and left in a semi abandoned state. Despite its decline, it still held immense potential.



Luigi and Francesca

When the opportunity arose to acquire it, Luigi and Rita immediately recognized the same sign they had encountered years before in Vulcano, an invitation to transform a forgotten place into a new chapter of their vision. Without hesitation, they embraced the challenge once again. Their goal was clear: to create a five star retreat capable of showcasing the vastness of the space, the strength of nature, and the authentic luxury of an experience defined by freedom and harmony.

This became Botania Relais & Spa, a haven of peace and elegance where time seems to slow down and every corner reflects a respectful dialogue between architecture and landscape.

The philosophy was the same that guided Therasia: let nature speak. Yet in Ischia, this idea evolved even further, becoming a total

wellness experience built on spaciousness, privacy, sustainability, and the discreet, refined, intimate hospitality that defines the Polito family's vision.

At the heart of Botania lies Rita herself. She is the true soul of the resort. Thanks to her vision, her sensibility, and her deep connection with nature and authenticity, Botania has developed a strong and unmistakable identity. Every detail reflects her taste, her intuition, and her ability to transform spaces into places of harmony and beauty. In many ways, Botania is an extension of her spirit.

THE FUTURE

Given their upbringing, it is little wonder that both Francesca and Pierluigi developed a deep passion for hospitality. Francesca especially felt that calling and went on to study Hotel Management and work in luxury hotels around the world, gaining valuable experience. Today, Francesca is now an integral part of the operations and management of Therasia Resort, contributing to strategic decisions and to the group's

new developments. Pierluigi followed in Luigi's footsteps, joining the family's tour operator Imperatore Travel World and carrying forward the legacy begun by their father.

As we write, the Polito family is in a significant and deeply meaningful phase of expansion, with the acquisition of three new properties on the island of Ischia, each with its own distinct identity and extraordinary potential.

The first acquisition is the Ville di Costa del Capitano on Ischia, a collection of magnificent villas overlooking the sea and surrounded by breathtaking natural scenery.

The second new addition is Manzi, an important historical palace in Ischia that holds deep cultural significance for the island. The property carries a rich heritage, both architectural and tied to the island's thermal history. Its spa, the largest on the island, preserves the legacy of Ischia's thermal tradition, a temple of wellness where history and regeneration come together.

Finally, the most personal project is Parco Maria. This is not just a hotel, it is a return to origins, to memory, and to Luigi's childhood. The property is now undergoing a complete renovation. Parco Maria will be reborn and will reopen with a completely new and exciting concept that will be different from anything else in the group. It will be a tribute to the family's roots, yet with a contemporary and forward looking spirit, an emotional, innovative, and deeply authentic project.



The Polito Family

*This Behind the Keys was written by Francesca Polito
with minor edits by the Harlowe Group.*