



On the Back-Roads to la dolce vita

AWARD-WINNING Travellers Choice members toured Southern Italy in style this month on a seven-night Back-Roads Touring educational that took in the cuisine, art and architecture of Naples, the Amalfi Coast & Capri.

Highlights included the marble temples of Paestum, iconic Pompeii and the Royal Palace of Caserta. But the agents - all winners of the national travel network's coveted Silver Choice Awards - also had a chance to taste Southern Italy's true flavour, learning how to roll ravioli, tasting Falanghina wine and sipping limoncello in lemon groves.

Travellers Choice GM marketing Robyn Mitchell said the group also tried their hand at ceramics in Minori, and in the process helped to save a local hero.

"Donkeys were once used for transport all along the Amalfi Coast but they are slowly being replaced and there is a campaign

to save them," said Mitchell.

"We each designed a clay donkey face and all of the faces will now be part of an installation to raise awareness and raise money for the cause."

Each year 30 Travellers Choice members are recognised with Gold, Silver or Bronze Choice Awards, with winners determined by the level of support they provide the network's preferred suppliers.

For more info see travellerschoice.com.

SILVER Choice winners shine in Naples, back row: John Hancock, City Beach Travel & Cruise; Mike O'Leary, Endeavour Travel & Cruise; Greg Close, Easy Travel and Cruise; Anni Baillieu, Moss Vale Cruise & Travel; Dennis Basham, Back-Roads Touring; and Robyn Mitchell, Travellers Choice. Front row: Jim Cooper, Queanbeyan City Travel & Cruise; Carol Evans, Bay Travel & Cruise; Sue Holmes, Carine Travel Bug; Michele Perrone, Travel Makers; Natalie Lauderdale, Capricorn Travel; and Nancy Sinopoli, Travel House Group.



CAROL Evans, Sue Holmes, Anni Baillieu and Natalie Lauderdale at the Royal Palace of Caserta, the last great creation of the Italian Baroque.



RAVELLO, where agents enjoyed stunning Amalfi vistas from the Villa Rufolo and Terrace of Infinity.



JOHN Hancock puts the finishing touches on his ceramic 'capolavoro'.



AT THE UNESCO World Heritage-listed site of Paestum.

JIM Cooper shows off his Campania cooking skills.



ANNI Baillieu helps save a local hero.



DONKEY works in a ceramic class at Ailaikit, Minori.



TRAVELLERS Choice agents explore Pompeii.