



## **The Velvet Notebook- Portofino Insider Layer**

- **See the harbour twice:** early morning (before ~9:30am) for calm light, and early evening (after ~6pm) for atmosphere. Midday is the busiest.
- **Take the ferry at least one way:** approaching Portofino by sea gives the full perspective of the harbour and coastline, which you don't get by road.
- **Pause before reaching the top viewpoint:** along the path to Castello Brown, lower terraces often give more balanced views with fewer people.
- **Choose your table deliberately:** in the piazzetta, front-facing tables overlooking the water are the most sought-after; inner tables have less of the atmosphere.



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- **Plan Paraggi in advance:** the public section is small and fills early; beach clubs offer space and service but require a longer stay to make sense.
- **Time San Fruttuoso carefully:** first boat out or later afternoon visits are noticeably quieter than midday.
- **Expect pebble or rock swimming:** Paraggi is the exception—most other swimming spots require comfortable entry on stones or rocks.
- **Use the mid-afternoon lull:** between roughly 2:30pm–4:00pm, there is often a slight dip in foot traffic.
- **Keep dining simple but intentional:** one well-chosen meal is more effective than multiple rushed stops; menus are seasonal and change regularly.