

# Sun-Kissed Southern Italy

AN ODYSSEY OF FOOD, WINE, AND WONDERS FROM HEEL TO TOE



A CURATED  
SOJOURN

TRAVEL FROM ROME THROUGH THE SOUTHERN HALF OF ITALY TO EXPLORE THE HISTORY,  
FOOD, WINE, ART, AND NATURAL WONDERS FOUND IN THE REGIONS OF  
CAMPANIA, SICILY, BASILICATA, AND PUGLIA





## SOJOURN DETAILS AT A GLANCE

### 2020 DEPARTURE:

September 5—20, 2020

### SOJOURN BEGINS:

Rome, Italy

### SOJOURN CONCLUDES:

Rome, Italy

### PRICE

\$7,495/person (double occupancy)

\$8,795/person (single occupancy)

### OPTIONAL AIR PACKAGE

From \$1,395/person\*

\*See back page for details

### TO REGISTER

Call us at 1-800-419-3443 or

Use the [online registration form](#).

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REGISTER ONLINE



The ruins of Taormina's Greek Theatre with Mt. Etna in the background

## Sun-Kissed Southern Italy

### AN ODYSSEY OF FOOD, WINE, AND WONDERS FROM HEEL TO TOE

This sojourn reveals unique and largely untouristed parts of Italy that are superbly rich in contrasts and deliciously diverse in flavors—from magnificent cities to endless, sandy beaches, and from rugged coastline and countryside to picturesque towns and ancient ruins. Together we will journey south from Rome, making a gigantic loop through the southern half of the Italian peninsula. Along the way, we will explore art and history and enjoy breathtaking scenery as we encounter spectacular monuments from the past. Most especially, we will discover the amazing culinary offerings and superb wines of each region we visit, enjoying plenty of time to savor these delights in the most idyllic settings.

Our sojourn begins with a visit to the vibrant city of Naples, where we learn to cook this city's most famous culinary delight—pizza—under the guidance of a professional pizzaiolo. Continuing south we walk in the footsteps of the ancient Romans who perished in the shadows of Mount Vesuvius as we venture into the astounding ruins of the city of Pompeii. Then it is on to one of the most coveted seaside destinations in all of Europe—the stunning Sorrentine Peninsula. Here, we enjoy time for rest and relaxation in the sunshine as well as sampling the region's unique culinary heritage and exploring the breathtaking Amalfi coast.

The next leg of our journey takes us to Sicily—the crossroads of the ancient world—where we uncover Moorish and Norman influences that intertwine with spectacular Greek and Roman ruins standing guard over the rich landscape. We see the spectacular volcano, Mt. Etna, and explore fascinating Erice—a city in the sky. We cross the Tyrrhenian Sea for a stay in the geologically-fascinating and scenic Aeolian Islands where we enjoy time to relax on volcanic beaches. As well, we discover the historic cities of Taormina, Syracuse, and Trapani which reveal their treasures to us and provide for unforgettable culinary experiences.

Finally, we travel through the remote regions of Puglia and Basilicata—areas rich in art and architecture with a unique culinary heritage—together one of the most undiscovered corners of the Italian Peninsula. Here we explore the town of Matera—known for its ancient cave dwellings, the “Sassi di Matera”—and spend time in the delightful town of Alberobello with its unusual cone-shaped homes called “trulli”. Finally, we visit the stunning, Baroque city of Lecce, and discover why it is very appropriately dubbed the “Florence of the south”.

### ABOUT CURATED SOJOURNS

These unique journeys give you the opportunity to engage with a variety of experts and explore a number of topics as you travel across areas of unparalleled beauty. Accompanied by your Scholarly Sojourns Sojourn Director, you journey in a small group to discover and sample the riches of the region.

# Day-to-Day Sojourn Summary

## DAY 1

### ROME—NAPLES

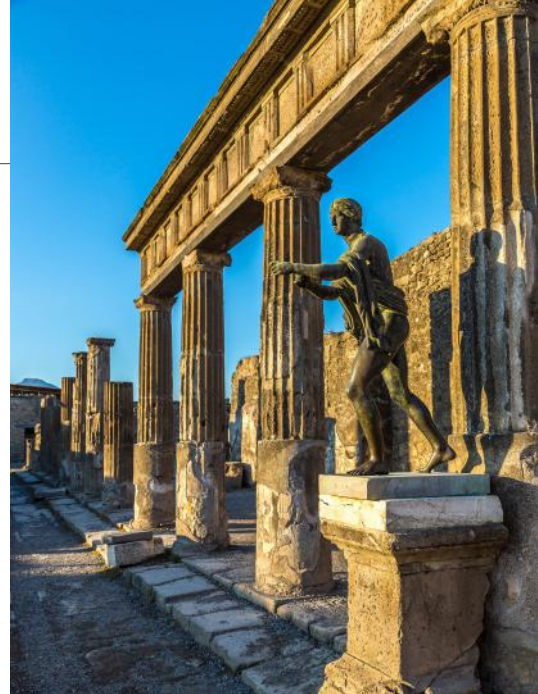
Our journey begins as we depart from Rome this morning and travel south toward Naples. We pause in the green hills overlooking the eternal city—an area known as the Castelli Romani—where we explore the celebrated white wine of this region, crisp and refreshing Frascati. Our visit includes not only a vineyard tour with plenty of tasting, but also opportunities to sample tantalizing street foods and other artisanal delicacies found here, most especially the delectable stuffed pork roast, *porchetta*. We conclude with a hearty lunch at a traditional, family-run osteria before continuing south. Arriving in the historic city of Naples, we enjoy a private, guided walking tour of the ancient center of the city—a UNESCO World Heritage Site—before taking some time to explore further on our own. History lovers may wish to visit Naples’ world-renowned archaeological museum. Tonight we gather to enjoy a special welcome dinner that features the best of traditional Neapolitan cuisine. [L | D]

## DAY 2

### NAPLES—SORRENTO

This morning we enjoy a very special experience as we learn to make authentic, Neapolitan Pizza under the guidance of a master pizzaiolo—one of the few instructors to be certified by the *Associazione Verace Pizza Napoletana* (the Real Neapolitan Pizza Association). Together we work alongside the chef, learning about the various ingredients and how to make both the dough and sauce before creating our very own pizzas to cook in a traditional, wood-burning oven. After enjoying a lunchtime feast of our delicious creations, we depart Naples and travel south into the shadows of the massive volcano, Mount Vesuvius, to the city of Pompeii. Here, we are joined by a local expert to explore the extensive ruins of the ancient Roman city that was buried when Vesuvius erupted in AD 79—a magnificent archaeological site. This evening, we make our way along the scenic, winding coastline of the Bay of Naples to arrive in the celebrated town of Sorrento, our home for the next three nights. [B | L]

**Option:** Those who wish can take an optional hike to the crater of Mt. Vesuvius and then spend less time at Pompeii.



Pompeii's ruins sit in Mt. Vesuvius' shadow

## ITINERARY OVERVIEW

### DAY 1: SATURDAY

September 5

Rome—Naples

### DAY 2: SUNDAY

September 6

Naples—Sorrento

### DAY 3: MONDAY

September 7

Sorrento—Amalfi Coast—Sorrento

### DAY 4: TUESDAY

September 8

Sorrento

### DAY 5: WEDNESDAY

September 9

Sorrento—Taormina

### DAY 6: THURSDAY

September 10

Taormina—Vulcano

### DAY 7: FRIDAY

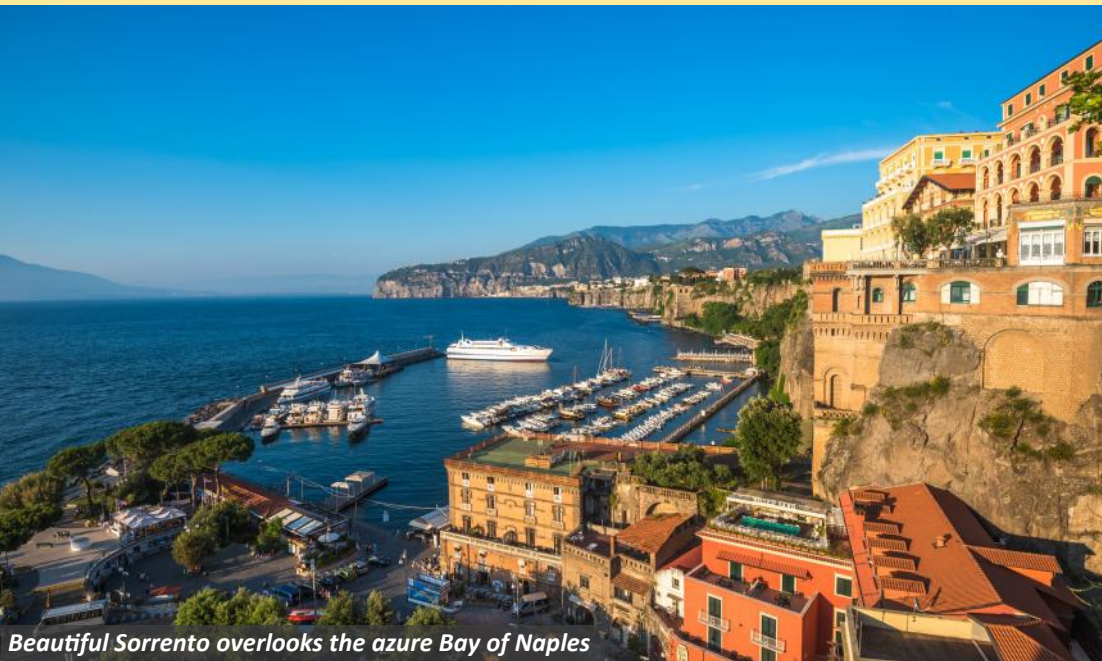
September 11

Vulcano

### DAY 8: SATURDAY

September 12

Vulcano—Trapani



Beautiful Sorrento overlooks the azure Bay of Naples



## ITINERARY OVERVIEW

### DAY 9: SUNDAY

September 13

Trapani—Erice—Trapani

### DAY 10: MONDAY

September 14

Trapani—Agrigento—Syracuse

### DAY 11: TUESDAY

September 15

Syracuse

### DAY 12: WEDNESDAY

September 16

Syracuse—Tropea

### DAY 13: THURSDAY

September 17

Tropea—Matera

### DAY 14: FRIDAY

September 18

Matera—Alberobello—Lecce

### DAY 15: SATURDAY

September 19

Lecce—Otranto—Gallipoli—Lecce

### DAY 16: SUNDAY

September 20

Lecce—Rome

*“This was the best introduction to the country, its culture, and its history that I could have asked for. I wouldn’t want to travel any other way!”*

– Jeffrey S., Kitchener, ON



The stunning Amalfi coast shimmers in a late-summer sunset

## Day-to-Day Sojourn Summary

### DAY 3

#### SORRENTO—AMALFI COAST—SORRENTO

We take an excursion today to explore Italy’s celebrated Amalfi Coast—another UNESCO World Heritage Site—which reveals breathtaking views of the picture-perfect towns and villages perched upon cliffs above the blue Tyrrhenian Sea. Our journey takes us over the Monti Lattari—the famed mountains which form the spine of the Sorrentine Peninsula—named for their abundant herds of cows and goats which produce milk (*lactis* in Latin) for the delicious cheeses made in this region (which we taste, of course!). In addition to plenty of stops for photos, our day includes visits to the celebrated villages of Amalfi and Positano, a sampling at one of the region’s premier olive oil producers, a stop at the workshop of an artisan ceramic producer, and, finally, a special tasting at the boutique winery of one of Italy’s superstar female wine makers, Mila Vuolo. Our return to Sorrento this afternoon provides us with the breathtaking sunset views for which this corner of Italy is famous. Upon reaching our hotel, the remainder of the evening is left free to dine as you wish. [B]

**Option:** Skip the excursion today and spend the day relaxing or exploring more of the beautiful Sorrentine Peninsula. You can relax by the hotel’s pool or on the nearby beach, visit Capri, or be even more adventurous by renting a Vespa to explore some of the areas charming seaside towns and villages.

### DAY 4

#### SORRENTO

We enjoy some unscheduled time to explore Sorrento during the morning and early afternoon. Those who wish to relax might choose to soak up some sun at either at our hotel’s rooftop pool or on the beaches just steps away. Sorrento also offers excellent shopping in the narrow, winding streets of its medieval old town. The more adventurous may opt to hop a ferry from to the nearby island of Capri. There you can enjoy a visit to the famous Blue Grotto and then take some time to sample the delicacies of the island, including a true Insalata Caprese. This afternoon we gather at the restaurant of a local chef to participate in a cooking class that has us preparing authentic Sorrentine cuisine and which culminates with a delicious dinner of the dishes we have created. We cap things off with a tasting of what is surely one of Italy’s most-enjoyed gifts to the world—gelato! [B|D]

# Day-to-Day Sojourn Summary

## DAY 5

### SORRENTO—TAORMINA

We depart Sorrento early today and make our way to Naples' Airport where we catch a short flight to Sicily. Arriving at the coastal city of Catania, we travel north into the shadows of the massive volcano, Mt. Etna. Winding up the narrow mountain roads across ancient lava fields, the setting becomes almost other-worldly by the time we reach Terra Costantino Winery. Our visit here includes an enlightening tour of the vineyard followed by a delicious, multi-course lunch of Sicilian dishes paired with some of this producer's most prized wines—all made from grapes that have been nurtured in this region's rich, volcanic soil. This afternoon we arrive in the stunning hilltop town of Taormina, perched high above the Ionian Sea. The town is famous for its Teatro Antico di Taormina—a well-preserved, ancient Greco-Roman theater still in use to this day. Behind the theater, the cliffs drop to the sea to form coves with inviting, sandy beaches. Taormina also boasts some of the best shopping in Sicily and interesting boutiques line its streets and piazzas. After checking into our hotel, the remainder of the day is free to shop, explore, and dine on your own. Be sure to take part in the *passeggiata*—a traditional, leisurely stroll enjoyed by both locals and visitors—that brings the town to life this evening. [B|L]

## DAY 6

### TAORMINA—VULCANO

We depart Taormina early this morning, making our way to the port city of Milazzo where we catch a hydrofoil across the Tyrrhenian Sea to the fairytale-like archipelago known as the Aeolian Islands. This island group—dotted with natural hot springs,

### *You Visit Vineyards, Enjoy Wine Tastings, and Meet Producers such as Dino and Fabio Costantino*

Father and son winemakers Dino and Fabio Costantino share a passion for the wines they create from grapes grown in the rich, volcanic soil of the Etna DOC. While their wines are highly praised, the men remain humble, insisting that “we listen to the grapes, smell the earth, caress the vineyards. When the sun beats down, when the cold nights are blowing on the vines, when they change the color of the leaves, we are there. The wine, however, is not made by us. The wine is made by Etna.”



Winemaking is a family tradition with Dino and Fabio at Terra Costantino



Hotel Palazzo Guardati's stunning view

## HOTEL PROFILE

A classic, 4-star hotel in the very heart of Sorrento, Palazzo Guardati is one of the oldest noble buildings in the city. Just 50 feet from central Piazza Tasso and short walk from the beaches, the hotel makes the perfect base for enjoying Sorrento.

Its elegant rooms are set over 3 floors of an ancient palace and are furnished with marble bathrooms, parquet floors, antique furniture, and Murano-glass chandeliers.

Palazzo Guardati offers stunning views of the harbor and the Bay of Naples from its roof terrace, where you can relax on lounge chairs, enjoy a drink from the bar, or cool off with a dip in the pool.

*“Your attention to detail is way beyond any tour operator I have ever worked with!”*

-Paula F., Travel Agent,  
Mahwah, NJ



## A SAMPLING OF WHAT YOU SEE AND DO

THE TOWN AND VINEYARDS OF  
FRASCATI

THE HISTORIC CITY OF NAPLES

PIZZA MAKING IN NAPLES

MOUNT VESUVIUS

THE RUINS OF POMPEII

THE CITY OF SORRENTO

THE ISLAND OF CAPRI

THE AMALFI COAST

A COOKING CLASS IN SORRENTO

MOUNT ETNA

THE GRECO-ROMAN THEATRE  
AT TAORMINA

WINE TASTINGS IN SICILY

THE AEOLIAN ISLANDS

THE CITY OF CEFALU

THE VOLCANO STROMBOLI

THE CITY OF PALERMO

THE ANCIENT CITY OF ERICE

THE VALLEY OF THE TEMPLES

THE IONIAN SEA

THE ANCIENT CITY OF SYRACUSE

A COOKING CLASS IN SICILY

THE SEASIDE RESORT OF TROPEA

THE SASSI OF MATERA

THE TRULLI OF ALBEROBELLO

THE ADRIATIC SEA

THE CITY OF LECCE



*The unique beauty of the Aeolian Islands—a UNESCO World Heritage Site*

bubbling mud pits, and active volcanos is one of Europe's most interesting geological areas. After checking into our hotel, we depart for a special cruise which takes us on a panoramic journey through the islands, including stops on chic, exclusive Panarea and the cone-shaped island of Stromboli, which is famous for its active volcano that continually spews ash and lava from its crater. The volcano's state of continuous eruption—named Strombolic Activity by volcanologists—has also given its name to a famous type of stuffed pizza eponymous with the island. Our cruise culminates with a spectacular show as we anchor just offshore, affording us some time to gaze in awe at bright bursts of red lava set against the evening sky and shimmering sea. Returning to Vulcano after dark, we enjoy a final toast together before saying goodnight. [B]

### DAY 7

#### VULCANO

We enjoy a completely unscheduled day in the islands today so that everyone can pursue his or her own interests. For complete relaxation, you may choose to simply sunbathe on the famous black sand beaches of Vulcano, taking periodic dips to cool off in the blue Tyrrhenian sea. Or, for more therapeutic relaxation, try taking a hot mud bath in the volcanic pools at the center of town. After allowing the mud to dry on your skin, you can wash it away by sitting in a natural hot spring bubbling from the floor of the sea. If shopping and sightseeing are more your style, then take a short ferry journey to the nearby island of Lipari where the bustling town center will offer you more options that you'll have time for. Make sure to enjoy a cannoli while you are there! An optional scenic excursion to visit the sights of the island, including the crater of its active volcano, will also be offered this afternoon. [B]

### DAY 8

#### VULCANO—TRAPANI

We say farewell to the wonderful Aeolian Islands this morning, traveling back to the mainland by hydrofoil. From there we journey west along the north coast of Sicily, stopping midday to enjoy lunch and explore stunning Cefalu, which is perhaps the quintessential Sicilian seaside town. Its medieval streets, piazzas, and churches are so postcard-pretty that it's no wonder director Giuseppe Tornatore set his much-loved film, *Cinema Paradiso*, here. Continuing west this afternoon, we skirt Sicily's capital, Palermo, to stop in the hilltop town of Monreale—renowned for its cathedral which blends Byzantine, Arab, Jewish, Gothic, and Norman traditions, heritage, and art—and then continue to enjoy a tasting at a winery in Sicily's verdant wine-producing region, Alcamo. We arrive in historic Trapani this evening—the westernmost point of Sicily—where we enjoy a spectacular dinner at the celebrated restaurant of an up-and-coming, superstar Sicilian chef. Afterward, we take part in this city's magical *passeggiata* (stopping to enjoy a refreshing gelato along the way, of course!). [B | D]

*"The absolute  
most amazing  
vacation I've  
ever been on..."*

-Jessica H., San Francisco, CA

# Day-to-Day Sojourn Summary

## DAY 9

### TRAPANI—ERICE—TRAPANI

We enjoy a leisurely morning in Trapani before setting off on a guided walking tour of the historic city which includes a visit to its famous, 17th-Century Church of Anime Sante del Purgatorio—home of the Misteri, 20 life-sized woodcarvings depicting scenes from the biblical passion story. Following our tour, we take a cable car to the city of Erice which rests at the top of the mountain that shares its name. At 750 meters above sea level, the views are stunning—on a clear day you can see North Africa—but the history here is even more fascinating. This is a city that is mentioned by both Herodotus and Thucydides—it is Greek but has Carthaginian and Phoenician influences. After some time to explore the castle and walls of the ancient city, we enjoy a tasting of traditional, Sicilian pastries and sweets at the celebrated Pasticceria Maria Grammatico! This afternoon, we descend to Trapani where the remainder of the day is left free for you to explore, relax, and dine on your own. [B]

## DAY 10

### TRAPANI—SYRACUSE

We depart Trapani and drive through the heart of Sicily today, passing through its wonderful interior of olive farms and vineyards. Midday, we stop at Agrigento to explore one of Europe's most spectacular archaeological treasures—the stunning Valley of the Temples, yet another UNESCO World Heritage Site. Together with a private guide, we marvel at these most outstanding examples of classical Greek art and architecture and then relax over a hearty, Sicilian picnic which allows us to taste some of the typical culinary products of this region. This evening we arrive in historic Syracuse and then gather for a cooking demonstration at the palatial home of one of the city's lifelong residents—a former chef and restaurateur who teaches us to make her favorite Sicilian dishes. [B | L | D]

### *You explore sites of great historical significance*

Many of the Western World's most important archaeological sites are found in Southern Italy and we explore several of them during our sojourn. Together we walk the streets of ruined city of Pompeii and we go inside the spectacular temples found at Agrigento—considered one of the most outstanding examples of Greater Greece art and architecture. And, for a truly unique experience, we stay in a cave hotel in ancient Matera—the city of caves where humans have dwelt for over 9,000 years.



*We Visit Agrigento's Temple of Concordia—the largest and best-preserved Doric temple in Sicily*



*Ancient Matera glows at sunset*

## SOJOURN HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Spend 16 days exploring beautiful Southern Italy—the most diverse and untouristed part of the Italian peninsula
- ◆ Experience cooking classes in three regions with unique culinary traditions—Campania, Sicily, and Puglia—as well as enjoy a pastry-making demonstration
- ◆ See ten spectacular UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including Matera, Syracuse, the Valley of the Temples, and Mt. Etna
- ◆ Spend two days in the remote Aeolian Islands—one of Europe's most geologically-unique areas—where you see active volcanos and can indulge in therapeutic mud baths
- ◆ Visit the stunning Sorrentine Peninsula and Amalfi Coast with the opportunity to travel to the fabled, picturesque Isle of Capri
- ◆ Enjoy winery visits and wine tastings in five different wine-producing regions, including Frascati, Etna, and Alcamo



*"I already had very high expectations based on my previous tour with you, but you even exceeded those expectations."*

—Tallien P., Santa Monica, CA

### HOTEL PROFILE

Just a five-minute walk from the ancient Greco-Roman theatre and the main piazzas of the town, Hotel Monte Tauro in Taormina provides a tranquil oasis with panoramic views of Naxos Bay. Each of its spacious and elegantly-furnished rooms includes a balcony or terrace with views over the Ionian Sea. The hotel also offers an enormous pool with hydro-massage jets, a sea-view restaurant, and a delightful, rooftop cocktail bar. Taormina's main shopping and dining area is just 500 feet away and a short cable-car ride from there connects the town with the sands of Isola Bella Beach below.



Hotel Monte Tauro's stunning view



The Piazza Duomo in Syracuse is a Baroque masterpiece

### DAY 11 SYRACUSE

We explore the island of Ortygia this morning—the heart of historic Syracuse—on a walking tour guided by a local expert. Together we see some of the most spectacular sites that help reveal layers of the 2,700 years of history in this ancient city. Our endeavor includes visits to the stunning Piazza Duomo, the famous Fonte Aretusa fountain, the Cathedral of St. Lucy, and the Piazza Archimede, dedicated to the famous mathematician and physicist who was born here. Just in time for lunch, we experience a culinary treat with a visit to the vibrant Ortygia Market which greets us with an explosion of colors, scents and authentic flavors as we sample the tasty street foods enjoyed in this region of Sicily. Afterward, the remainder of the day is left free for you to wander through Syracuse's delightful jumble of Greek, Roman, medieval, and Baroque layers—there is so much here—your Scholarly Sojourns tour director will help you find the sites that most interest you. [B]

### DAY 12 SYRACUSE—TROPEA

We depart Syracuse after breakfast this morning, making our way along the coast of the Ionian Sea and passing once again in the shadow of mighty Mt. Etna. At midday, we cross the Strait of Messina by ferry to arrive back on the Italian mainland in its southernmost region of Calabria. From there, we take a scenic, coastal route along the in the gulf of St. Euphemia to reach our home from the night—the idyllic town of Tropea, situated upon cliffs and overlooking the crystal-clear, turquoise, and warm sea with endless white, sandy beaches. Although virtually unknown to visitors, Tropea is coveted as an ideal holiday spot by Italians themselves. In fact, the history of this atmospheric town goes back to the Roman Empire and legend tells us that the Roman God, Hercules, made Tropea one of his ports. Be sure to sample the delicious pasta dish made from the prized red onions grown only in this region! [B]

### DAY 13 TROPEA—MATERA

Departing Tropea following breakfast, we head north through Calabria, following the shores of the shimmering Gulf of Taranto. This afternoon we arrive in the fascinating city of Matera, which contains one of the world's most unique neighborhoods, the Sassi—comprised completely of ancient stone and cave dwellings—yet another UNESCO World Heritage Site. Our extraordinary lodging here is surely one of the



# Day-to-Day Sojourn Summary

highlights of our trip—an atmospheric, hotel built into the caves in the heart of the ancient Sassi neighborhood. After checking in, we head off to discover Matera's roots—which go back to the Paleolithic Age—during a guided tour of this ancient site. Together we venture inside the mysterious Sassi, believed to be the first human settlements in Italy. Over the centuries, these structures were adapted into family homes and many of them are still inhabited to this day—allowing residents to boast about still living in the same houses their ancestors did 9,000 years ago! After our tour, we take time to explore more of Matera on our own before gathering for a dinner at one of the city's most celebrated restaurants—a meal which introduces us to the unique culinary specialties of this undiscovered region of Italy—Basilicata. [B | D]

## DAY 14

### MATERA—ALBEROBELLO—LECCE

We enjoy a leisurely morning in Matera before heading even further off the regular tourist path and traveling east into the remote region of Puglia. At midday, we stop to explore picturesque Alberobello where we experience a guided tour that takes us inside the traditional cone-shaped, stone houses—called trulli. These remarkable examples of vernacular architecture are typical in this area and many are still lived in to this day. After enjoying time for lunch and shopping is the charming and atmospheric town, we continue south, stopping for a tasting at a winery where we get our first sampling of the spectacular wines from this region. This evening we arrive in the beautiful city of Lecce, fondly named the "Florence of the South" for its stunning Baroque architecture and impressive artistic heritage. After checking into our hotel, we take a walking tour with a local guide who introduces us to the city's most spectacular monuments. Afterward, the evening is free to explore the city and dine on your own, hopefully taking part in some more passeggiata. [B]

### *You experience hands-on culinary programs*

Each of the regions that we visit is truly distinct—each has its own traditions, an individual atmosphere, and, of course, a unique and delicious cuisine. We investigate their culinary styles with hands-on cooking classes in Naples, Sorrento, Syracuse, and Lecce. In addition, we enjoy a demonstration on traditional Sicilian pastries and have ample opportunities to sample local street foods throughout the sojourn.



Mari del Sud Resort's typical Aeolian Style

## HOTEL PROFILE

Oozing with the quintessential charm of the Aeolian islands, Mari del Sud resort is built in the typical island style of whitewashed stone. Its bright, airy rooms are adorned with decorative ceramic tiles and feature private patios for relaxing. The resort offers stunning views over the sea and invites relaxation with plenty of sun loungers and parasols around both the expansive swimming pool—which features a hydro-massage area—and along its stretch of volcanic sand beach.



Making pizza under the guidance of Master Pizzaiolo, Tommaso Mastromatteo

*“My wife and I would like to thank you for perhaps the most wonderful trip we have ever been on.”*

-David R., Los Angeles, CA

*“We seemed to get special treatment wherever we went. This made a great tour, a fabulous tour.”*

—Richard H., Myrtle Beach, SC



The unique, cone-shaped Trulli houses of Puglia

## PRE & POST-TOUR EXCURSIONS

See more of Italy with either a pre or post-tour excursion. We list two popular options below, but can also create unique, customized itineraries to match your travel wishes.

### ROME

Arrive two days before the main tour begins and explore the ancient city of Rome with us. You'll tour the ancient Roman Forum, go inside the Colosseum, see the Pantheon, visit the Vatican and other sites.

2 days/2 nights including transfers; 4-star lodging; breakfasts; guides and entrance fees: \$749/person (DO).

### FLORENCE

Spend some additional days and nights in the stunning city of Florence where you explore amazing works of art and shop for treasures in its celebrated gold shops along the Ponte Vecchio. Perhaps take a day-trip into the heart of Chianti to sample some of the regions best wines and also visit the atmospheric, medieval city of Siena. Florence offers a variety of shopping, dining, and nightlife options.

2 days/2 nights including train (from Rome), lodging, breakfasts, and customized itinerary from: \$249/night/person (DO)

## DAY 15

### LECCE—OTRANTO—GALLIPOLI—LECCE

We set off on a stunning drive around the Salento Peninsula (the heel of Italy's boot) this morning to explore some of its most celebrated seaside towns. The scenic journey takes us past rocky coastlines, beaches, fishing villages, and historic watch-towers that are begging to be photographed. In Otranto we discover a spectacular Romanesque cathedral—consecrated in 1088—which contains a remarkable, 12th-Century mosaic floor as well as the bones and relics of the Martyrs of Otranto, who perished during the 15th-century siege of the town. Continuing our journey, we enjoy breathtaking views at nearby Cape Palascia—the most easterly point in Italy and the place where the Adriatic and Ionian Seas meet—before stopping to taste (and nibble!) at one of the Salento's most celebrated wine producers. This afternoon, we continue to Gallipoli where we visit the unique, subterranean olive oil mills and then enjoy some time to explore and do some final souvenir shopping in this historic town set upon the Gulf of Taranto. Arriving back in Lecce this evening, we gather for a very special final dinner together which features authentic Pugliese cuisine. [B | L | D]

**Option:** Skip the excursion today and spend the day relaxing and exploring more of the beautiful Lecce as you wish. The city offers a number of ways to enjoy the day, including museums, galleries, and terrific shopping.

## DAY 16

### LECCE—ROME

We say farewell to Lecce this morning and travel to nearby Squinzano where we take part in one final culinary program. Here, under the guidance of lovely chef Ylenia and her team of *nonne* (grandmothers) from this charming, Puglian village, we learn the art of cooking traditional, Pugliese homestyle dishes. Together we make four delicious courses—punctuated with tastings of local wines—and then partake in a feast of the fruits of our labor. It's appropriate that our time together draws to a close with this special activity as we find all of the light, goodness, and warmth—the amazing “dolce vita” we have come to enjoy during our 16-day dalliance across sun-kissed, Southern Italy—to be wonderfully reflected in the hearts of our hosts and the delicious food we prepare and enjoy with them. This afternoon, we continue to the airport in Brindisi to catch our return flight to Rome where we say our goodbyes as this unforgettable journey comes to an end. [B | L]



# Sojourn Map



View from the balcony at Royal Maniace

## HOTEL PROFILE

A superbly-situated, 4-star hotel in the historic city center of Syracuse, the Royal Maniace offers panoramic views of emerald-blue seas combined with breathtaking beauty and elegantly-styled, modern rooms to make your stay relaxing and comfortable.

Located along the waterfront of the ancient island of Ortigia, the hotel makes the perfect base for getting the most out of your stay in Syracuse. The historic streets and all the architectural wonders that the ancient city has to offer are just outside and the amazing, 7th-Century Duomo is just five minutes away.

*"We were somewhat apprehensive to try an organized tour, but this experience was phenomenal"*

-Barbara B., Annapolis, MD



In ancient Matera we stay in a unique, cave hotel

*"This was an amazing, once-in-a-lifetime experience that I will take with me personally and professionally for the rest of my life."*

- Scott K., Waltham, MA



# Sojourn Details & Registration Information

## SUN-KISSED SOUTHERN ITALY

### 2020 DEPARTURE

September 5—20, 2020 (sojourn #1082036)

#### PRICE:

\$7,495/Person (Double Occupancy)

\$8,795/Person (Single Occupancy)

**CLICK HERE TO  
REGISTER ONLINE**

#### SOJOURN BEGINS SOJOURN CONCLUDES

Rome, Italy

Rome, Italy

#### OPTIONAL AIR PACKAGE

From \$1,395/Person\*

\*Air package includes round-trip, economy airfare, airport transfers in Italy, and 100% travel assurance. Price subject to change until booked.

### REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT INFORMATION

#### TO REGISTER

**Call us: 1-800-419-3443**—We are ready to assist you Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (EST).

**Visit us at: [www.scholarlysojourns.com](http://www.scholarlysojourns.com)**—Here you will find an online registration form as well as a printable version.

#### PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Due within 14 days of registration: \$1000/person deposit

Due 90 days prior to departure: Balance

#### TRAVEL INSURANCE

Scholarly Sojourns highly recommends that all sojourn participants purchase travel insurance to protect their trip. We will send further information once you have been confirmed on a sojourn.

#### PRICES INCLUDE

16-day travel program; 15 nights accommodation in specially-selected, superior hotels and resorts; 16 breakfasts, 6 lunches, and 6 dinners; air transportation from Naples to Catania and from Brindisi to Rome; all sightseeing, wine tastings, cooking classes, excursions, and activities described in this brochure; entrance fees and private guides in select locations; ground transportation by private minibus; water transportation; all gratuities (except for hotel porters), and all other tour activities as described in the day-to-day summary.

#### PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE

International airfare to and from Italy; meals not indicated in the day-to-day summary; beverage options other than water, wine, beer, or soft-drinks with group meals; local transportation by bus, taxi, water taxi, metro, or light rail; passport or visa fees and necessary photos; immunizations; travel insurance; excess baggage charges; airport taxes; medical, hospitalization, or evacuation costs; gratuities for hotel porters; laundry; other personal items, including incidental hotel charges; any other item not specifically indicated.

### ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE INFORMATION

#### MEETING LOCATION AND TIME

The meeting point for this sojourn is Rome's Fiumicino – Leonardo da Vinci International Airport. Participants should plan to rendezvous there by 9:00 AM on Saturday, September 5, 2020. You will be greeted there by your Scholarly Sojourns Tour Director.

#### CONCLUSION AND DEPARTURE

The sojourn concludes the afternoon of Sunday, September 20, 2020, when the group returns to Rome's Fiumicino – Leonardo da Vinci International Airport. We will be glad to help you with your onward travel plans.

#### EARLY ARRIVAL OR LATE DEPARTURE

Scholarly Sojourns is happy to assist you with booking additional nights prior to the start of your tour or following its conclusion. Often we are able to secure better rates than are available to the general public. We are also happy to provide itinerary suggestions should you wish to do additional travel in Italy.

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Ancient Matera is a UNESCO World Heritage Site



**SCHOLARLY SOJOURNS** | [www.scholarlysojourns.com](http://www.scholarlysojourns.com)

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