



## TOUR ITINERARY

### Day 1: BUONGIORNO – WELCOME to BARI in the region of PUGLIA (APULIA)

#### ✚ Morning

- ◆ We MEET in **BARI** outside the “*Palace Hotel*” at 10.00 a.m.
- ◆ and begin with a fascinating panoramic BUS TOUR of the coastal town of Bari
- ◆ followed by WALKING TOUR through its ancient alleys, visiting the “*Basilica of St. Nicholas*,” one of the most remarkable examples of Romanesque architecture, the exterior of the “*Swabian Castle*” built in Norman times, and the local *Fish Market*.
- ◆ At the heart of the historic center called “*Bari Vecchia*” (Old Bari), we EXPERIENCE the making of the *Apulian “Orecchiette*,” a good food of which its essence is enclosed in a small-form pasta that is a true symbol of “*pugliesità*.”
- ◆ We enjoy a Lunch in a typical restaurant. It is time to taste some handmade orecchiette in a traditional authentic meal.

#### ✚ Afternoon and Evening

- ◆ We DRIVE to the elegant town of **LECCE**, also known as the “*Florence of the South*”.
- ◆ This evening in Lecce we have Dinner in a local restaurant where you’ll feel like one of the family and *eat like a local!*

#### ✚ Overnight stay in LECCE:

- ◆ Spend the *first three nights* of your tour at the historical family hotel “**Palazzo dei Dondoli**” or the “**Hotel Patria Palace**,” or similar accommodations.

### Day 2: LECCE AND ITS BAROQUE SPLENDORS - ORTRANTO

#### ✚ Morning

- ◆ We join a BUS TOUR to have the key sights of *historic LECCE* explained to us by a LOCAL TOUR GUIDE.  
Southern Italians have long appreciated this remarkable architectural confection and glorious profusion of Baroque mansions and churches intricately sculpted from the soft sandstone found locally.
- ◆ We VISIT a pastry shop to sample the traditional pastry, a sweet custard treat called *Pasticciotto*. When it comes to food, the Apulia region is one of the most famous for Italian cuisine, so you can’t miss the pleasure of the well-known Pasticciotto.

#### ✚ Afternoon and Evening

- ◆ Lunch in a local trattoria
- ◆ In the afternoon we VISIT, an historic seaside town and port of **OTRANTO** on the picture-perfect blue waters of the Adriatic Sea. Upon our return to **LECCE** enjoy free time exploring and dinner on your own.

#### ✚ Overnight stay in LECCE. (2<sup>nd</sup> of 3 nights)

### Day 3: THE MARVELS OF GALLIPOLI & GROTTA ZINZULUSA

#### ✚ Morning

- ◆ We travel to the town of **GALLIPOLI**, an important Greek colony in the Middle Ages.

#### ✚ Afternoon and Evening

- ◆ After Lunch in a popular fishing restaurant, we TRAVEL to “*Grotta Zinzulusa*,” located in the very bottom of Italy’s boot, for a fun boating excursion.
- ◆ A majestic sheer sea cliff near **CASTRO** welcomes us to Zinzulusa Cave, one of Salento’s most impressive karstic phenomena. The cave, which branches out in several different directions, owes its name to the popular imagination - its many stalactites and stalagmites look like limp rags, which are called “*Zinzuli*” in the local Salento dialect.
- ◆ We RETURN to the old town of **LECCE** where the *evening is all yours* for a meal or taking in the atmosphere of the evening “stroll.” Dinner is on your own.

#### ✚ Overnight stay in LECCE. (3<sup>rd</sup> of 3 nights)

### Day 4: PRIMITIVO WINE TASTING IN MANDURIA & MATERA

#### ✚ Morning

- ◆ LEAVING the beautiful *Puglia* region, we DRIVE to nearby *Basilicata* region and the town of **MATERA**. Even for Italians, Basilicata is off the beaten track and little known, despite being portrayed as *Biblical Palestine* in countless film epics.
- ◆ On the way we STOP is a *well-known winery* located in the *Manduria* region for a *tasting of their wines* “*Primitivo*” and a VISIT to the *wine culture museum*.

#### ✚ Afternoon and Evening

- ◆ Free time to leisurely explore and enjoy.
- ◆ For Dinner this evening we will *meet for a delicious meal* in a local gourmet restaurant.

#### ✚ Overnight stay in MATERA (1<sup>st</sup> of 2 nights)

- ◆ For two nights we stay in “*Palazzo del Duca*” or similar, located in the heart of the Sassi district, one of the world’s oldest towns, inhabited since the *Paleolithic Age*.

### Day 5: MATERA & ALTAMURA

- ✚ *MATERA is a fabulous troglodyte town of prehistoric grottoes, cave tabernacles, abandoned hovels and Renaissance houses, all excavated into the luminous limestone tufa. The rock-cut cave dwellings known as the Sassi, date back to Byzantine times.*

#### ✚ Morning

- ◆ We visit a local bakery in **ALTAMURA** for a DEMONSTRATION the making of bread, baked in an old wood-burning oven. “*Altamura Bread*” is a rustic bread from the Italian province of Bari. *Semolina Flour* gives it a distinct texture, flavor and aroma that is *unique to Italy*!

#### ✚ Afternoon and Evening

- ◆ Lunch at a *local farm* or ristorante.
- ◆ Upon returning to **MATERA**, the rest of the day free for leisure and exploring in beautiful Matera. Dinner on your own.

#### ✚ Overnight stay in MATERA (2<sup>nd</sup> of 2 nights)

## Day 6: ALBEROBELLO, NOCI & OSTUNI

✚ Today's visit takes you to the town of **ALBEROBELLO**, famous for its district of Trulli, spread over the hillside to the south of the town. These square structures have conical roofs covered with "Chiancarelle," grey-limestone roof slabs, and are crowned by differently shaped pinnacles, each with a magical significance.

### ✚ Morning

- ◆ We will TOUR an 18th century small *Trullo house*, giving something of the atmosphere of trullo life, with sweet, rounded rooms that include a re-created bakery, bedroom and kitchen.

### ✚ Afternoon and Evening

- ◆ Lunch and visit of "*Agriturismo Aglio Piccolo*" in the town of **NOCI**. We TOUR an *Apulian farmhouse*, known in Puglia as *masseria*, and DISCOVER the *cheese factory* offering samples of *farm-fresh burrata, mozzarella and ricotta cheeses*.
- ◆ Dinner in a local restaurant.

### ✚ Overnight stay in OSTUNI (1<sup>st</sup> of 4 nights)

- ◆ Enjoy four nights in the white town of **OSTUNI**.

## Day 7: "WHITE TOWN" OF OSTUNI & WINE TASTING

### ✚ Morning

- ◆ We TAKE A STROLL through the narrow alleys and steep stairways of picturesque **OSTUNI**, *a town which shines like a pearly white tiara*, extending across three hills with the magnificent gem of a late-Gothic 15th century cathedral.
- ◆ Lunch and a WINE-TASTING at a local restaurant. *Savor the local flavors!*

### ✚ Afternoon and Evening

- ◆ Upon our return, immerse yourself in the unique treasures and pleasures of **OSTUNI** on your own.
- ◆ Perhaps there is the possibility to visit historical city of **MONOPOLI** by night.
- ◆ Evening is free for exploring and dinner on your own.

### ✚ Overnight stay in OSTUNI (2<sup>nd</sup> of 4 nights)

## Day 8: POLIGNANO A MARE

Wide horizons, bold colors, sometimes harsh and a bit lunar. Such is the landscape of the "*Murgia Valley*" from the *Imperial Puglia*, dominated by the presence of Frederick II.

### ✚ Morning

- ◆ We are INVITED to a COOKING CLASS in the preparation of our *home-hosted Lunch*.

### ✚ Afternoon and Evening

- ◆ We VISIT the seaside town of **POLIGNANO A MARE**, a town of Greek origins located on a steep rocky cliff of a deep gorge overlooking the Adriatic Sea.
- ◆ The historic center of **POLIGNANO** offers all the right ingredients for a perfect day out. The tiny old town accessed by crossing "La Porta Vecchia" combines charming whitewashed streets with beautiful old churches and white beaches.
- ◆ Dinner on your own tonight.

### ✚ Overnight stay in OSTUNI (3<sup>rd</sup> of 4 nights)

## Day 9: “CASTEL DEL MONTE” & MOLA DI BARI

### ✚ Morning

- ◆ With the aid of a local guide enjoy a GUIDED TOUR of the unique, eight-sided medieval “*Castel del Monte*,” built on a hilltop at an altitude of 540 meters by the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II, that proudly overlooks the city of **ANDRIA**.
- ◆ **MOLA DI BARI** a village on the coast, is an ideal location where city and small-town meet; where the smooth and laid-back stillness of the summer heat, culinary richness and cultural attractions melt into an experience that will render your stay unforgettable.
- ◆ LUNCH in **MOLA DI BARI** at *Il Rifugio del Pescatore*

### ✚ Afternoon and Evening

- ◆ Afternoon on your own to make the most of your last day!
- ◆ SPECIAL NIGHT Original local music, food and wine

### ✚ Overnight stay in OSTUNI (4th of 4 nights)

## Day 10: Arrivederci!

- ◆ Transport to Bari Airport after one last breakfast in Italy to end our tour.
- ◆ *Molte Grazie and Buon Viaggio!!*