



Food & Wine: Southern Italy

8 Days/7 nights - From \$1,849

(4) Sorrento • (1) Matera • (2) Alberobello



ITALY

ITALY

- No. of Overnight Stays

HOTELS (OR SIMILAR)

City	Nts.	Hotels
Sorrento	4	Hotel Michelangelo
Matera	1	Hotel San Domenico al Piano
Alberobello	2	Grand Hotel La Chiusa di Chietri

TOUR FEATURES

- Hotel accommodation for 7 nights
- 14 included meals consisting of:
 - 7 buffet breakfasts
 - 2 lunches
 - 5 dinners
- Wine, mineral water, coffee or cappuccino served with meals at hotels and restaurants
- Touring by private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach
- Assistance of a professional tour director for the entire length of the tour
- Complete program of sightseeing tours and excursions with entrance fees
 - Guided tour of Pompeii
 - Pizza making class followed by dinner in Sorrento
 - Excursion to Capri including a visit of the Gardens of Caesar Augustus and Blue Grotto
 - Limoncello demonstration and tasting in Capri
 - Gelato demonstration and tasting in Sorrento
 - Amalfi Coast excursion
 - Pastry experience in Amalfi
 - Guided tour of Matera including local products tasting and light lunch
 - Guided tour of Ostuni including Pasta making class and dinner
 - Visit to Alberobello
 - Lunch in a typical farm house of the region
- Arrival and departure airport transfers
- Baggage handling
- Document holder and luggage tags
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- City tax

DAY 1 | NAPLES | SORRENTO Upon your arrival, transfer from Naples airport to your hotel in Sorrento. We have selected a charming, centrally located hotel so that anyone arriving early can easily explore Sorrento independently. This evening, meet your fellow travelers for a welcome dinner and get to know each other before we embark upon our journey through southern and eastern Italy. (D)

DAY 2 | SORRENTO | POMPEII | SORRENTO After breakfast we'll meet our driver and transfer to the archaeological site of Pompeii, a wealthy Roman city buried under ash after a cataclysmic eruption of nearby Mt. Vesuvius in 79 AD. The incredibly preserved art and artifacts of this city give a window into the daily life of Romans nearly 2000 years ago. Pompeii has fascinated visitors and historians for centuries, and research continues to this day. Later we will return to Sorrento for a fun pizza making class in a farmhouse. We will learn how to prepare the "real Italian pizza", and then taste it together with a glass of great local wine. (B,D)

DAY 3 | SORRENTO | CAPRI | SORRENTO This morning, weather permitting, we shall transfer down to Sorrento Pier and board the fast ferry to Capri Island. Upon arrival, we will meet our local guide, who will be with us the entire day, then board a ferry to Capri Island. We'll hop onto the funicular, which takes us on a fantastic ride up to the hilltop town of Capri. We'll take a walking tour to the public gardens, which offer an outstanding view of the island. Lunch is on your own to select from one of the many small cafes that dot the town. After lunch we will rejoin our guide to continue exploring this island of mystery and fantasy. Weather permitting, we will board a private motorboat to the entrance of the Blue Grotto. This sea cave is eerily lit by reflected sunlight and glows with a glorious blue hue during the day. Should there be adverse weather or sea conditions, we will instead drive up to Anacapri, the highest part of the island and visit Villa San Michele, a ruined church turned into a unique home a century ago by the Swedish physician and scientist Axel Munthe. This afternoon learn how to prepare Capri's famous limoncello liqueur: a unique experience in the heart of the island making and sampling one of Capri's most traditional specialties! Later in the afternoon we will return to Marina Grande and board our ferry to Sorrento, then transfer back to our hotel. After an independent dinner, don't miss a gelato demonstration in a gelato shop in Sorrento followed, of course, by a tasting of this delicious ice cream! (B)

DAY 4 | SORRENTO | AMALFI COAST | SORRENTO This morning, enjoy an amazing guided tour of the Amalfi Coast which features a luncheon overlooking the Mediterranean Sea in the town of Amalfi. This picturesque village from which the coast derives its name was the first Italian maritime republic to play a major role in Mediterranean trading, with an extensive network in Egypt and Byzantium to the east. This afternoon enjoy a pastry experience in Amalfi! The tour will lead you in an ancient Pastry of Amalfi where you will have the opportunity to see the pastry chef showing you the tricks to making the most important sweets in the world, such as the Caprese cake, made with chocolate and almond, named for the island of Capri from which it originates; the Sfogliatella, a shell-shaped filled Italian pastry native to Campania. "Sfogliatella" means "small, thin leaf/layer," as the pastry's texture resembles stacked leaves and it was created in a monastery in Conca dei Marini in the 17th century, a village of the Amalfi Coast. Return to Sorrento and enjoy the evening at leisure. (B)

DAY 5 | SORRENTO | MATERA Today we leave Sorrento and drive inland across Southern Italy into the inland Basilicata region and the town of Matera. In Matera's Sassi district, ancient homes (Sassi - from the Italian word for "stones") were dug from the very rock itself. Some believe the Sassi to be the oldest human settlements in Italy. Here one can see several rock-hewn churches, a reproduction of a typical cave house that is open to visitors, and refurbished caves that now host hotels and restaurants. You can also enjoy its smells and flavors: the IGP bread and primitivo DOC wine, cardoncelli mushrooms and the maiatica oil, cruschi peppers and podolico caciocavallo tell the



Alberobello

millennial history of the territory of Matera. Not only taste, but also see and literally...put your hands in the dough. First stop for a laboratory and tasting of IGP Matera's bread at a bakery. It continues with a cheese tasting in a cheese factory, ending with a visit to an oil mill and a tasting lunch with the best local products washed down by the finest local wines, in particular the Matera's Primitivo DOC. We will meet our Matera guide to explore the unique topography of this town. Because of its similarity to Jerusalem, with a large ravine and churches carved of the soft limestone, several movies have been filmed in the Sassi district including Mel Gibson's The Passion of the Christ. Typical dinner at a local restaurant in the center. (B,L,D)

DAY 6 | MATERA | OSTUNI | ALBEROBELLO Today's drive takes us into the Puglia region and to the historical fortified hilltop town of Ostuni. Ostuni features ancient city walls, white buildings on the hillsides, and views across olive groves to the nearby Adriatic Sea. During our tour we will see the town's largest buildings, the Cathedral and Bishop's Palace, as well some grand homes built for the town's aristocrats. In the afternoon, you will go to a Masseria where you will enjoy a hands-on pasta making class: you will learn the secrets of how to prepare the typical "orecchiette" pasta, literally "little ears". At the end of the class, you will sit down and taste the dishes you have prepared, together with a glass of local wine. Continue on to Alberobello for overnight. (B,D)

DAY 7 | ALBEROBELLO Today we will visit villages such as Alberobello that feature buildings designed in the iconic trulli (trullo) style. They are shaped like a cylinder with a cone-shaped limestone-tiled roof, which is often painted with a cross or other symbol. The walls are very thick which keeps the interiors cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. Residents of this region built the first trulli many centuries ago, but the oldest ones still intact date to the 1500s (recent in Italian terms!). We'll enjoy lunch together in a typical farm house of the region. You'll taste some of the typical local products, like extra virgin olive oil, pickles, cheeses, meats, honey, wines...Tonight we have a special farewell dinner featuring regional cuisine in an authentic setting. (B,L,D)

DAY 8 | ALBEROBELLO | BARI TO USA Transfer to Bari Airport for your flight back home. Arrivederci Italia! (B)

(B) Breakfast - (L) Lunch - (D) Dinner

Price is per person based on double occupancy and a minimum of 20 passengers. Valid for travel between November 2018 to February 2019. Additional travel dates are available upon request.

Hotel and itinerary are subject to change.



Call: 866-613-5599

Visit: www.grouptravelexperiences.com

Email: info@grouptravelexperiences.com