

Amalfi, Puglia, & Sicily

September 17 – October 1, 2025



Castel dell'Ovo



Naples Harbor Promenade

Day 1

Arrive in Naples. Your private driver will meet you in the airport's Arrivals Hall and transfer you to the Hotel Royal Continental on the Naples Waterfront. Settle into your superior-class room with views of the sea and the legendary Castel dell'Ovo. After your long flight, you'll want to take a stroll along the scenic harbor promenade across the street from the hotel. In the evening, gather with your friends at the hotel's lounge for Prosecco, antipasti, and Margherita pizza! (D)

Hotel Royal Continental www.royalgroup.it/royalcontinental/en/hotel (1 night)



Pompeii



View from Villa Maria Pia

Day 2

After breakfast, depart Naples for the short drive to Pompeii. Meet your guide for a 2-hour tour of this ancient historical site. Ancient Pompeii grew from Greek and Etruscan roots to become an important Roman city. Then, on August 24, 79 A.D., everything changed as the city became buried under 30 feet of hot volcanic ash. Preserved in time, this event later gave archaeologists priceless information about daily Roman life. Stop at a local café for a snack before continuing on to the Amalfi Coast. Arrive in the charming village of Praiano and check into your luxury hotel where every room has a view of the sea. Praiano is a world away from the Positano crowds, but easily accessible to nearby Positano by local taxi (10 min) or water taxi (5 min). Have a light dinner at the hotel or nearby restaurant. (B)

Hotel Villa Maria Pia www.villamariapia-praiano.com (3 nights)



Amalfi Coast



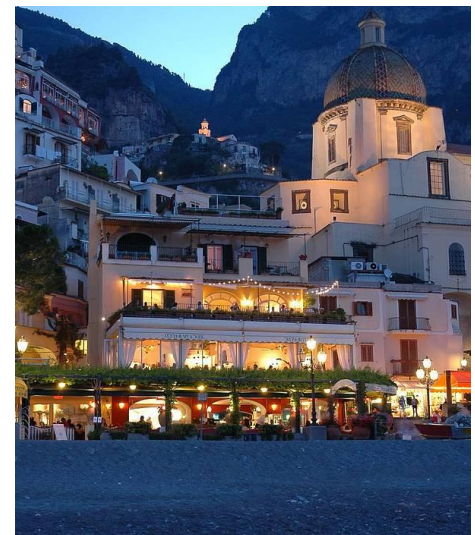
Ristorante Garden, Ravello

Day 3

Today, enjoy a full-day guided walking/driving tour of the Amalfi Coast, beginning at your hotel in Praiano. Traveling south on the coastal road, visit hill and harbor-hugging towns and historic ruins. Enjoy lunch at Ristorante Garden, a hillside-clinging restaurant in Ravello with incredible views of the coastline below and delicious homemade pasta. Ravello sits at 1,200 feet above sea level on a long, flat promontory jutting out of the mountains. The grand villas and palazzos, now home to luxury hotels, were once the residences of wealthy merchants who built the remarkable churches that dot the town. After lunch, drive to the nearby village of Minori to visit an ancient Roman villa dating from the 1st century BC, believed to have been the seaside residence of a Roman senator. Return to the hotel in the late afternoon to enjoy the rest of the day at your leisure. (B, L)



Island of Capri



Buca di Bacco Restaurant

Day 4

Today you have options that include time in Positano: (1) Take a taxi from the hotel to Positano harbor and catch the 35-minute ferry to Capri, a dramatic island with sweeping views, whitewashed villas, and flower-filled courtyards. Take the funicular up the steep hill to the town where you'll find restaurants, cafes, and shops. Return by ferry for time to explore Positano; (2) Relax in Praiano, sunbathing on the hotel's terrace, shopping, and exploring the village. Walk down the steep steps from the hotel to the small private beach to swim in the crystal-clear cove; (3) Enjoy a leisurely morning and then take a taxi to Positano to wander and shop. Whatever scenario you choose, you will gather with all your friends for a sunset dinner on the beach in Positano at the renowned restaurant, Buca di Bacco. (B, D)



Candela



Masseria Petrarolo

Day 5

Depart the Amalfi Coast for Puglia, the heel of Italy's boot. Puglia is a destination for travelers seeking an authentic Italian experience with its beautiful beaches, historical sites, hilltop villages, and regional cooking, "cucina povera". On the 4-hour drive, stop half-way at the medieval hilltop town of Candela. Wander the narrow streets and taste some of the local food. Arrive at the Masseria Petrarolo, a traditional, noble farmhouse estate, once fortified for protection from invaders. The Masseria has been lovingly restored and transformed into a stylish villa, blending original rustic charm with modern comforts. Services include a daily continental breakfast and chef-prepared lunch and dinner. Settle in to your luxurious room, wander the estate's expansive grounds, swim in the heated pools, and join your friends for dinner served in the Masseria's formal dining room or outdoor courtyard. (B, D)

Masseria Petrarolo www.masseriapetrarolo.com (6 nights)



Trulli Houses, Alberobello



Burrata Cheese Tasting

Day 6

In the afternoon, you will enter a fairytale land in the town of Alberobello. Here the streets are lined with hundreds of trulli houses: dry-stone houses with conical roofs, complete with their own rainwater collection and storage. Due to its precious architecture and heritage, the town was granted UNESCO status. Stroll along the picturesque winding alleys with your expert guide and step into another world, full of folklore and traditions. Next, visit a farm that has been raising dairy cows here for generations that produces Burrata cheese, the cousin of Mozzarella. You will meet the cheese artisan who twists knots of fresh Burrata before your eyes. At the family's table, you will enjoy a sampling of the freshest cheese you will ever taste. Enjoy a chef-prepared dinner back at the Masseria. (B, L, D)



Sassi of Matera



Bread of Altamura

Day 7

Today, enjoy a full day guided experience visiting the Sassi di Matera, having a picnic lunch, and sampling the bread of Altamura. The Sassi cave dwellings are prehistoric shelters believed to be among the first human settlements in Italy, and are considered one of the most unique landscapes in Europe. Matera is the only place in the world where people can boast to be still living in the same houses of their ancestors of 9,000 years ago! Continue on to nearby Altamura to sample the famous bread made since Roman times. In 37 BC, a Roman poet hailed the bread as the best he had ever eaten. For centuries, it was the main staple and each family prepared a large dough of bread at home and then took it to the public oven to cook with other loaves made by families from the village, with each loaf engraved with the family's name. Enjoy a picnic lunch along the way that includes bread of Altamura. In the evening, after your chef-prepared dinner in the formal dining room, retreat to the comfort of the Masseria's living room to play a suspenseful Murder Mystery Game where everyone has a part to play! (B, L, D)



Beach Club on the Adriatic Sea



Cooking Class & Dinner

Day 8

At this half-way point of your trip, enjoy a leisurely day at the Masseria – relaxing on the terrace, swimming in the pool, playing tennis on the grass court, riding bikes along country roads. Or, leave the Masseria by taxi to go shopping in the nearby seaside town of Monopoli and/or rent a lounge chair at a luxurious beach club on the Adriatic Sea. In the evening, enjoy a special cooking and dining experience at a historic farmhouse, home to the country kitchen of two passionate cooks, Marina and Marta, who will host you for this evening's delicious dinner. Marina is also a sommelier so you can be sure the wines will be perfectly paired with the cuisine. The traditional meal will involve the freshest, seasonal ingredients. Mara and Marina will be happy to share the secrets of local dishes and ancient techniques of southern Italian cooking. (B, L, D)



Ancient Roman Theater, Lecce



Baroque Architecture, Lecce

Day 9

This morning, depart for a full day visit to Lecce, often referred as the “Florence of the South” with classic art and architecture around every corner. This university town is filled with precious monuments, stunning churches, and wonderful restaurants. Conquered by many invaders over the centuries, it was the Spanish who left behind a treasure trove of 17th century Baroque architecture so unique, it has been given its own name, Barocco Leccese. Enjoy a walking tour with a guide and then have time to have lunch and wander the historical center on your own before returning to the Masseria in the late afternoon with time to relax before dinner. (B, D)



Ostuni



Ancient Olive Grove, Puglia

Day 10

On your last full day in Puglia, visit one more picturesque village, the “white city” of Ostuni. White-washed buildings, lovely piazzas, and Aragonese towers rise out of the rock and provide stunning views over the sweeping plains of olive trees all the way to the Adriatic Sea. Take a walk with your guide and immerse yourself in the lifestyle of the town, including olive oil tasting. The olive trees in Puglia are incredibly special. Some are more than one thousand years old, monumental trees bearing the gnarly twist and knots of the passing centuries. Have a picnic in the groves and visit a family-owned historic estate for a tour and tasting of extra virgin olive oil. (B, L, D)



Livingston Hotel, Ortigia



Livingston Hotel Lobby Bar

Day 11

Depart the Masseria for the Bari airport for your late morning flight to Catania, Sicily. Your private driver will meet you in the Catania airport Arrivals Hall and transfer you to the Livingston Hotel on the island of Ortigia. This ancient city was once inhabited by the Greeks. At its peak in the fifth century BC, Ortigia and the main city of Syracuse, briefly eclipsed Athens as the leading city-state of the civilization. The island juts out into the Ionian Sea and is connected to the mainland city of Syracuse by two small bridges. Your hotel sits on the edge of the island with spectacular views of the Ionian Sea. The evening is at your leisure to dine at one of the many fine restaurants near the hotel. (B)

Hotel Livingston www.hotellivingston.com (4 nights)



Ortigia Market



Temple of Apollo

Day 12

This morning, enjoy a guided walking tour of Ortigia, You will first visit the Ortigia Street Market to learn how a chef chooses fresh food for the lunch he will prepare today – for you! While the chef prepares your lunch at an exclusive location (a local artist’s private home) you will visit the main historical sites with your guide: the Temple of Apollo, Siracusa Cathedral, Piazza Duomo, and more. At the end of the tour, join the chef and the artist for your specially prepared lunch accompanied by traditional folk music. After lunch, you can choose to visit the Neapolis Archaeological Park in the city of Syracuse, a short taxi ride away. The remains in this vast park gives you a sense of ancient Syracuse’s immensity and power. The remainder of the day and evening are at your leisure. (B, L)



Ancient Greek Theater



Piazza IX Aprile

Day 13

Today, you will visit one of Sicily's top destinations. Taormina is a picturesque town perched on the dramatic outcrop of Monte Tauro, in sight of Mt. Etna, with some of the most beautiful sea views in all of Sicily. Founded by the Greeks in the fourth century BC, who gave it its famous Greek theater, it was taken over by the Romans in the third century AD, who quickly saw its potential as an elite retreat. Like much of Sicily, Taormina was conquered by the Byzantines, Arabs, and eventually the Spanish all of whom left their mark on this small town's architecture. It's a perfect town to explore on foot from the Greek Theater to the checkered-tiled central square, Piazza IX Aprile. Your driver will drop you off at the Greek Theater at the uppermost part of the town, and you will walk leisurely downhill to the Piazza on a self-guided tour. Meet your friends for lunch at one of the restaurants near the Piazza. (B, L)



Marzamemi



Noto

Day 14

Your private driver will pick you up this morning and take you to a winery in the Noto area, southwest of Ortigia, where you will visit the vineyards, the production cellar, and a tasting of Sicilian wines and extra virgin olive oil. You will also enjoy a lunch of locally grown, fresh farm products. The next stop is a visit to the ancient seaside village of Marzamemi, home of the traditional Tonnara, tuna fishermen. The last stop is a visit to the city of Noto, a UNESCO World Heritage site. With its baroque architecture, the city is surrounded by hills covered with olive, almond, and citrus groves. Noto is Sicily's main almond producing region so be sure to sample some of the region's sweet almond treats. In the evening, gather with your traveling companions for one last "Cin Cin" and "Salute" to Italy and good friends. (B, L)

Day 15

Depart Catania for your flight home or on to further adventures! (B)

\$6,250 per person
\$1,400 single supplement

Includes

Gratuities for drivers and guides
Entry fees and tours as stated in the itinerary
Drivers, guides, transfers as stated in the itinerary
4*+ accommodations, meals as stated in the itinerary,

Not Included

International flight USA/Italy
Tourist tax at hotel check-out (€4/day)
Gratuities for housekeepers and baggage handlers
Meals, transfers, and entry fees not stated in the itinerary

Payments

\$2,250 non-refundable deposit due at booking
\$2,000 non-refundable payment due March 1, 2025
\$2,000 non-refundable payment due June 15, 2025



Flight Itinerary 1

United, Lufthansa, ITA

Sep 16-17 SFO – NAP

October 1 CTA – SFO

Flight Itinerary 2

American, Delta, ITA

Sep 16-17 SFO – NAP

October 1 CTA – NAP

October 1 NAP – SFO

Pre- and Post-Tour Extensions

Naples (1 – 2 days)

Rome (3 – 5 days)

Malta (3 – 5 days)

Travel Guard Insurance

www.travelguard.com