



## A perfect combination

11<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> May 2019

### Highlights

- Small group – maximum 10 guests
- NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
- Cooking class in a neoclassical palace
- Walking tour of Lecce
- Day tour to Otranto, an historic seaside town on the Adriatic coast and the Cappella Mortiri
- Visit Santa Maria di Leuca where the Ionian sea meets the Adriatic sea
- Visit the 'White Town' of Ostuni – one of the most beautiful towns in southern Italy
- 2 Michelin star restaurant dinners
- Visit a local dairy to see how mozzarella cheese is produced
- Explore the cave houses and churches in Matera Matera
- Visit the mysterious Castel del Monte
- Spend some time wandering the byways of the historic fishing port of Trani
- Take a tour by bike or pedal cab of Bari
- Visit the 'city of witches, Benevento
- Discover Capri including Alex Munthe's villa
- Pompeii
- Marvel at Ravello, famous for its stunning gardens and views which inspired Wagner to create his 'Parsifal'

### Days 1-3 Lecce

Arrive at Bari or Brindisi for a private transfer to your hotel in Lecce.

In the early evening we'll take a leisurely stroll to a stunning neoclassical palace built in the 1500's. The palace has the most beautiful secret gardens in the historic centre of Lecce. With the help of the chef and a glass of wine or two we will create our own dinner featuring local delicacies. A perfect way to break the ice with your fellow travellers.

Day 2: After a leisurely breakfast we'll take a walking tour of Lecce, once a Greek settlement and later an important centre of the Roman Empire.

From late morning you'll have free time to further explore Lecce.

This evening we'll head to one of the famous wineries in Salice Salentino, arguably the most important wine district in all of Italy, to sample the fine wines and enjoy a delicious dinner.

Day 3: Our first stop today will be the UNESCO site of Otranto, a lovely historic seaside town and port on the Adriatic coast. It is famous for its Cathedral built by the Normans in the 11th century and featuring a vast 12th century mosaic of a stupendous tree of life balanced on the back of two elephants.

A seafood lunch awaits us in the walled city of Castro before continuing our journey to the southern cape of Puglia, Santa Maria di Leuca, where the Ionian Sea meets the Adriatic Sea.

This evening you will be free to explore more of the wonderful restaurants on offer within walking distance of our hotel.

 *Risorgimento Resort, Lecce*



Ostuni



Matera Matera



Capri

#### Days 4-8 Martina Franca

After breakfast we'll check out of our hotel for the drive to Ostuni. This walled city with its incredible view overlooking the coast known as the "White Town" is one of the most beautiful towns in southern Italy.

Day 5: We'll swap walking for an optional bike riding tour this morning to explore the nearby coastal path.

Early afternoon we'll head to the heart of the Murgia upland and one of the most beautiful landscapes of the region. A splendidly cultivated valley bearing olives, fruit and vines and characterised by scattered towers, domens, chianche and dry stone walls and with fine views over the valley and its trulli.

Day 6: In an area famous for its mozzarella cheese we can't resist a visit to a local dairy to see how it's made and of course to taste this marvel of a cheese.

Our next stop is at the extraordinary UNESCO World Heritage site of Matera Matera, one of the ancient world's city centres. You might also recognize it as the location chosen for the Mel Gibson movie "Passion".

Day 7: We'll visit the mysterious Citadel and Castel del Monte, a marvel of medieval military architecture and a successful blend of elements from classical antiquity, Islamic Orient and north European Cistercian Gothic.

Day 8: This morning we'll take a city tour of Bari by bike or pedal cab. Look out in the old part of the city for the women making the famous "orecchiette" – the typical ear shaped pasta.

For more details and booking  
[www.bigyellowscuitcase.com.au](http://www.bigyellowscuitcase.com.au)



#### Days 9-11 Benevento

Heading across the mountains we'll visit the favourite castle of Swabean Emperor Frederick II, Castle Melfi, before arriving in Benevento, city of witches.

Day 10: We'll visit Hortus Conclusus (walled garden) home to a complex of notable sculptural works by Domenico Paladino.

Day 11: Today's delights include the extravagant Royal Palace built for King Charles III. With over 1,000 rooms it also boasts splendid gardens and parks.

◇ *Hotel Aquapetra*

#### Days 12-17 Sorrento

Our first stop on the Amalfi Coast is in Naples where we'll enjoy some of its famous 'street foods' before settling into our hotel in Sorrento.

Day 13: The sumptuous gardens and splendid views of Ravello and the Moorish villa of Rufulo is our destination today.

Day 14: Stunning, romantic, Capri, its blue grotto and Alex Munthe's villa with breathtaking views awaits us today.

Day 15: The tragic story of the once vibrant Pompeii is our destination this morning. Followed by the best pasta in Italy in Gagnano.

Day 16: A day at leisure to further explore the fascinating town of Sorrento and for some last-minute shopping before our special farewell dinner.

◇ *Hotel Regina Sorrento*

#### Day 17: Depart

All good things must come to an end ... until next time. Transfers will be provided to Naples airport.

#### **Inclusions**

- Individual transfers from Bari or Brindisi airport to the hotel
- The same English-speaking guide for the entire tour
- Tips for drivers and guides
- 3 nights in Lecce, 5 nights in Martina Franca, 3 nights in Benevento and 5 nights in Sorrento
- 16 breakfasts, 8 lunches and 10 dinners
- Entry fees for all scheduled visits
- Air-conditioned vehicles used for all excursions
- Group transfer to Naples airport

#### **Dates & Prices**

1<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Tour Price: AUD 14,500 per person  
 Reductions available for twin share  
 Not included: Air fares to and from Italy