

Country Roads of Southern Italy & Sicily

Experience Italy's finest food and views on this two-week tour. Explore major cities with Local Experts whilst enjoying Farm-to-Table dining and historical insights.

14 DAYS | 1 COUNTRY | 20 MEALS | BALANCED



4.5/5

feefo

Guest Review Rating



Trip code: E725

DEPARTURE MONTHS

April - October

For dates, prices and to choose your group size call your Travel Advisor or see [insightvacations.com/crsouthernitl](https://www.insightvacations.com/crsouthernitl)

DAY 1 | WELCOME TO THE ETERNAL CITY OF ROME

Welcome to Rome. Settle in before joining your Travel Director for a private visit to the Basilica of Saint Praxedes, welcomed by the Rector of the basilica. Gaze in awe at the Byzantine mosaics, illuminated for this evening's experience, and see the first sculpture by Bernini. End the day getting to know your fellow travellers during dinner at a local restaurant. **(D)**

Hotel: Radisson Blu GHR, Rome

TRANSFERS: Depart Leonardo da Vinci airport (FCO) at 09:30, 12:30 and 15:30.

WELCOME: Meet your Travel Director at 17:30.

DAY 2 | ROME WITH THE LOCALS

Experience Rome's art, antiquity, piazzas, and palaces during a guided walk with a Local Expert. Toss a coin into the spectacular Trevi Fountain, see the Pantheon, and enjoy free time. Consider touring the incredibly characteristic Roman quarter of Trastevere. Explore Rome's medieval neighbourhoods and the labyrinth of alleyways. Discover how Romans lived and how they live in present-day Rome. **(B)**

DAY 3 | ROME

Meet your Local Expert for a guided visit to one of the icons of the Roman era. Enter the Colosseum and imagine the roar of the spectators as you hear stories of how ancient Romans liked to be entertained. Later, depart for Sorrento. **(B)**

Hotel: Isabella, Sorrento

DAY 4 | CAPRI, THE ISLE OF DREAMS

The impossibly blue sea welcomes you to the sun-drenched island of Capri as you cruise by jetfoil. On arrival, meet your Local Expert for an orientation walk through the narrow alleyways. Explore Capri with Insight Choice. Choose to visit the immaculate Gardens of Augustus with a Local Expert and admire the views over the Faraglioni Rocks. Alternatively, enjoy a tasting of limoncello, Capri's famous lemon liqueur. **(B)**

DAY 5 | POMPEII AND ALBEROBELLO

With your Local Expert, explore the streets of Pompeii, buried in A.D. 79 by the historic eruption of Mount Vesuvius. Venture on to Alberobello. **(B) (D)**

Hotel: Grand Hotel La Chiesa di Chietri, Alberobello

DAY 6 | THE TRULLI OF ALBEROBELLO

Admire another of Italy's record number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites with a Local Expert. The trulli of Alberobello are circular structures with conical roofs that are domed within. They are built from local limestone and stacked without using mortar. In the evening, join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience featuring a delicious four-course Farm-to-Table dinner. **(B) (D) (RS)**

INCLUDED MEALS: Breakfast (B) Lunch (L) Dinner (D)
RELAXED STARTS: (RS)

HOTELS: On occasion, hotels of a similar standard and location may be used.

DAY 7 | ALBEROBELLO AT LEISURE

The day is free for you to enjoy. Perhaps choose to visit Lecce — often referred to as ‘the Florence of the south’ - with its dazzling architecture and beautiful Baroque buildings. **(B) (RS)**

DAY 8 | JOURNEY SOUTH TO MATERA

Visit Matera with a Local Expert for an in-depth exploration of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Sassi. Continue to the small village of Grottole. Once a thriving community, it has lost most of its activity and population. Meet Andrea, a local striving to bring back the area's traditional way of living. On this MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience explore the historic old town to learn about the fascinating history of the village and enjoy an aperitif with local snacks helping to preserve the culture. **(B) (D) (RS)**
Hotel: MH Matera

DAY 9 | TO SICILY AND THE TAORMINA RIVIERA

Travel to the very toe of Italy and board your ferry bound for Sicily, across the Strait of Messina. Join a Local Expert for a visit to the Greek Theatre of Taormina, graced with the most spectacular of backdrops. Take your pick of specially selected restaurants for your Dine-Around evening. **(B) (D)**

Hotel: Hellenia Yachting Hotel & SPA

DAY 10 | FREE TIME ON THE TAORMINA RIVIERA

The day is at leisure to relax at your resort's private beach. Don't miss the chance of an optional drive through the national park to Mount Etna. **(B) (RS)**

DAY 11 | A NEW DAWN IN SICILY

Early risers may experience what D.H. Lawrence christened the ‘dawn coast of Europe.’ The day is free to explore Taormina at your leisure, or to embark on an optional experience to Syracuse. In the evening, venture to a local restaurant for a tasty meal accompanied by wine. **(B) (D) (RS)**

DAY 12 | AGRIGENTO, THE VALLEY OF THE TEMPLES AND ON TO PALERMO

Drive to Agrigento and explore the Valley of the Temples with a Local Expert. See the massive Temple of Concord and cliff-top Temple of Juno, overlooking the sea. In the afternoon, continue to the Sicilian capital of Palermo. **(B)**

Hotel: NH Palermo

DAY 13 | PALERMO AND THE GOLDEN AGE OF THE NORMANS

Join a historian on a guided walk to see the gems of the old city. Visit the Palatine Chapel and continue to Palermo Cathedral with its blend of architectural styles. The afternoon is free to explore on your own. In the evening, join your fellow travellers at a local restaurant for a dinner of delicious local cuisine and wine. **(B) (D)**

DAY 14 | DEPART PALERMO

Your journey draws to an end. Departure transfers arrive at Palermo Falcone–Borsellino Airport. **(B)**

TRANSFERS: Arrive at the airport at 06:00 and 08:00.

HIGHLIGHT INCLUSIONS*Premium Experiences*

Rome | Enjoy exclusive access to the pre-Romanesque Basilica of Saint Praxedes for a once-in-a-lifetime experience during an after-hours visit.

Follow in the footsteps of gladiators for a deeper insight into life in ancient Rome when you enter the Colosseum.

Capri | *Insight Choice* Enjoy a tasting of Limoncello and learn the history behind this traditional lemon liqueur, or discover the luxuriant Gardens of Augustus with a Local Expert and admire views of the Faraglioni rocks.

Pompeii | Visit the unearthed Roman town.

Agrigento | Admire magnificent Hellenistic remains in the Valley of the Temples, such as the massive Temple of Concord and cliff-top Temple of Juno.

Palermo | Discover the Sicilian capital with your Local Expert. See Pretoria Square and the 16th century fountain. View the composite architectural styles of the Palermo Cathedral and visit the Palatine Chapel.

Alberobello | Dine at Trattoria Terra Madre, where owner Alessandro and his nonna focus on sustainability and creating local employment opportunities. Everything is grown organically and harvested on site, and excess produce is donated to the community. Your visit advances United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 12: Responsible Consumption & Production.

Grottole | Participate in the fascinating Wonder Grottole Project. This regeneration initiative works to rehabilitate the abandoned historic centre and preserve village life. Your visit advances United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities.

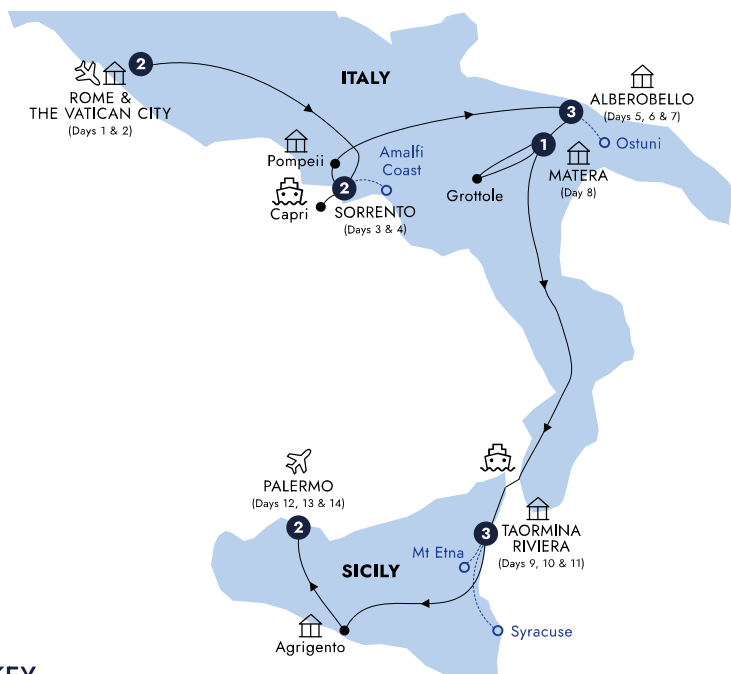
MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®
EXPERIENCE

*Premium Dining*

Rome | Savour dinner at a uniquely Roman restaurant, offering a perfect exploration of Lazio's typical flavours.

Palermo | Experience local customs as you delve into tantalising flavours and rustic dishes served with local wine.

For all inclusions see tour page online.

**KEY**

- Join/Leave Options
 UNESCO Heritage Site
 Hotels and Nights
 Place Visited
 Optional Place Visited
 Cruise