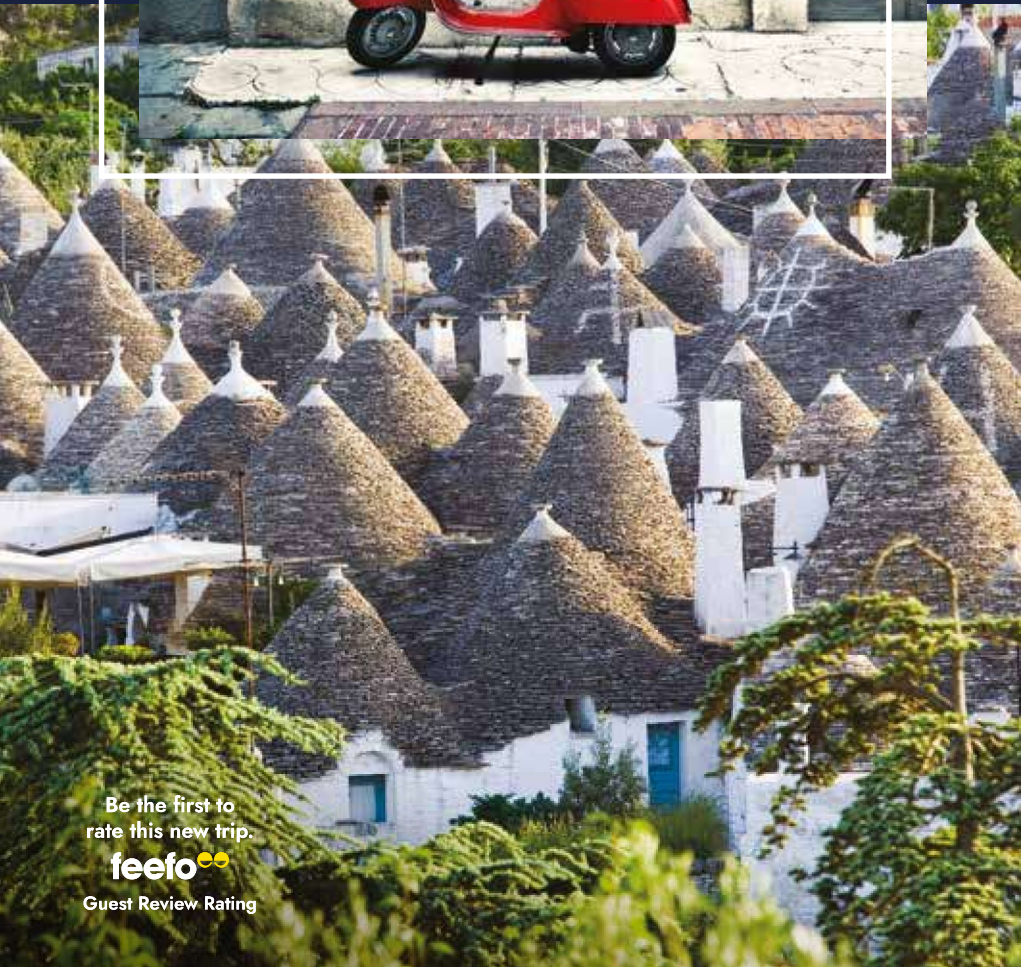


Country Roads of Southern Italy

Experience the cuisine and hospitality of Puglia, tour the village of Grottole with a local, explore the Sassi of Matera, discover Lecce and cruise to Capri.

9 DAYS | 2 COUNTRIES | 12 MEALS | BALANCED



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Guest Review Rating



Trip code: E821

DEPARTURE MONTHS

April - October

For dates, prices and to choose your group size call your Travel Advisor or see [insightvacations.com/country-roads-of-southern-italy](https://www.insightvacations.com/country-roads-of-southern-italy)

DAY 1 | WELCOME TO THE ETERNAL CITY OF ROME

Welcome to Rome, a glorious city filled with classic antiquities, medieval buildings, Renaissance palaces and Baroque churches. Relax and settle in before joining your Travel Director and getting to know your fellow travellers over a delicious dinner with wine. **(D)**
Hotel: Room 007 Select, 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 | VATICAN CITY AND ROME WITH A LOCAL

Rome is about art, antiquity, piazzas and palaces. Join a Local Expert for an in-depth experience bringing millennia of history to life. Journey from the Vatican City across the Tiber river to ancient Rome. See the incredible Circus Maximus. Admire the beautifully preserved Arch of Constantine and discover the history, the construction and the legends of the iconic Colosseum on a guided visit. As you stroll with your Local Expert, imagine the gladiatorial battles and roaring spectators around the arena. Later, perhaps continue your exploration of Rome to see the Pantheon and the stunning piazzas and fountains of Rome. **(B)**

DAY 3 | ALBEROBELLO

The brilliant blue of the sky set against the white of the buildings of the southern Italian towns and villages will inspire the mind of any curious traveller. A photographer's paradise around every corner from Field Marigolds in early spring to date palm trees, figs and pomegranates with groves of olive trees for a picture perfect setting. Exploring the southern part of Italy is a chance to enter a world away from the throng of tourists and discover how Italians live and enjoy life. Rub shoulders with UNESCO World Heritage sites and friendly locals who will enchant you with their hospitality. **(B) (D)**

Hotel: Grand Hotel La Chiesa di Chietri, Alberobello

DAY 4 | 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, built from local limestone and stacked without using mortar. Get up close learning the insights behind these unique structures. Relax this afternoon with your time at leisure or take the opportunity to join an optional experience to explore more of the Puglian countryside and heritage. Later, deepen your discoveries joining an optional experience for a Masseria dinner. **(B)**

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 5 | DISCOVERING LECCE

Italy will enchant the most curious of travellers. Enjoy a visit with your Local Expert to one of the most beautiful cities of southern Italy, Lecce. The town is often referred to as the Florence of the South due to its dazzling architectural, beautiful Baroque buildings and monuments dating back to Roman times. Amble along its spider's web of streets offering a kaleidoscope mix of long-range vistas and alluring glimpses. Next is the pretty seaside town of Gallipoli where you'll view the Greek Fountain and medieval castle before making your way to a viewpoint looking out over the Ionian Sea. **(B)**

DAY 6 | JOURNEY SOUTH TO MATERA

Visit Matera with a Local Expert for an in-depth exploration of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Sassi — a labyrinth of cave dwellings, churches, staircases and arches, hewn out of the solid rock. You may recognise Matera as the biblical backdrop for the film 'The Passion of the Christ.' 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 reignite the traditional way of living of the area. On this MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience explore the historic old town to learn about the fascinating history of the village. Later, enjoy an aperitif with local snacks helping to preserve the culture. **(B) (D)**

Hotel: MH Matera

DAY 7 | POMPEII AND SORRENTO

Buried in A.D. 79 by the historic eruption of Mount Vesuvius, discover the archaeological site of Pompeii in the region of Campania. Walk with your Local Expert through the cobbled streets to see a city frozen in time. Venture on to the picturesque resort of Sorrento, perched upon the southern cliffs of the Bay of Naples and looking over to Mount Vesuvius. **(B)**

Hotel: Isabella, Sorrento

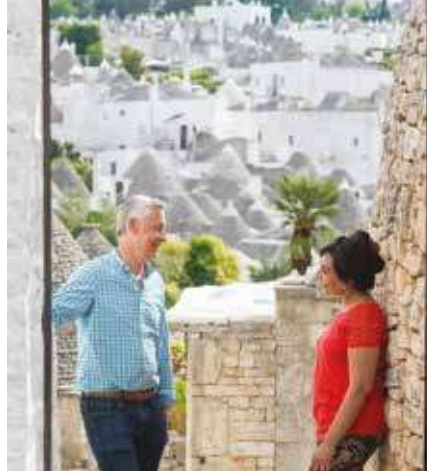
DAY 8 | CAPRI, THE ISLE OF DREAMS

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) (D)**

DAY 9 | DEPART SORRENTO

This morning, wave goodbye to your fellow travellers as you depart Sorrento on a coach transfer to Rome airport. **(B)**

TRANSFER: Arrive at Leonardo da Vinci airport (FCO) at 12:00.

**HIGHLIGHT INCLUSIONS***Premium Experiences*

Rome | Experience the city through the eyes of a Local Expert as they passionately reveal how modern life thrives amidst ancient treasures.

Alberobello | Explore the fascinating history and limestone construction of the trulli on a guided stroll.

Matera | Visit the famous Sassi cave dwellings, previously home to approximately 20,000 people and abandoned in the 1950s.

Pompeii | Visit the unearthed Roman town.

Capri | Cruise by jetfoil to this famous isle through beautiful blue Mediterranean waters.

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.

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*

Alberobello | Learn about local life whilst savouring a freshly prepared Farm-to-Table meal featuring recipes and flavours typical of the region.

Sorrento | Embrace the essence of southern Italy at dinner with your new friends.

For all inclusions see tour page online.

**KEY**

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