



Viaggi Deliziosi Presents

A TOUR OF PUGLIA with PAULA LAMBERT

SEPTEMBER 7 – 14, 2024



Gallipoli



Volare in Polignano a Mare



I Trulli in Alberobello

Join Paula Lambert in Puglia for a historical, cultural and culinary visit to the heel of Italy, the country's least-exploited tourist destination.

Located in the heel of Italy's boot, the Salento (aka Puglia) has been conquered and influenced by just about everyone, from the Byzantine Greeks to the Romans, the Arabs and the Bourbons. Puglia offers hundreds of miles of golden beaches with azure water, a breathtaking combination of whitewashed hilltop villages and the Baroque beauty of cities such as Lecce and Bari.

Puglia has some of the simplest and tastiest food in Italy. Bread, olive oil, vegetables and wine are the main components of the Pugliese diet. It is the home of the so-called *cucina povera*. Pasta is made without eggs, bread is made from the local durum wheat, and these are often combined with the incomparable vegetables of Puglia. There are no rules, recipes have long been improvised from what is available. And the wines of Puglia are varied and renowned far and wide.

This trip has been specially designed to immerse you in the local Pugliese culture. Each day Paula and a local guide will introduce you to a different part of the region and you will discover its incredible beauty: landscape,

architecture, sacred sites, characteristic historic towns, food and wine, and local artisans. There is even a cooking class! Local guides will enchant you with the history of the area, past and present. Yet you'll have plenty of free time to relax and explore on your own and enjoy the unique Pugliese lifestyle. And even play golf.

Paula Lambert is artisan cheesemaker, cookbook author and tour guide extraordinaire. She loves to travel and delights in showing her guests the best and most authentic and special experiences.

We will be staying at two five-star luxury properties in two different locations in Puglia.

Accommodations:

Masseria San Domenico ***** a fortified farmhouse with a tower dating back to the 15th century. The Masseria was used as a watchtower by the Knights of Malta. Nearby are the ruins of the Ancient Roman city of Egnatia, founded in the 6th century B.C. (3 nights) and

Palazzo Bozzi Corso ***** an chic, in-town 18th century palazzo, now converted into luxe contemporary accommodations in the historical Baroque center of Lecce (4 nights).

OUR ITINERARY

Day 1 – September 7

Arrive in Brindisi or Bari on your own ... either by air, by train or by car ... Both airports have daily flights from Rome. (My preference is to fly into Bari and out of Brindisi.) Private transfer to your first hotel, **Masseria San Domenico**. Rest, relax and unpack. Depending on your arrival time, a walk to the beach, the Roman ruins, or a nearby village. Or you can wander through the resort admiring the ancient olive groves and spend time relaxing by the pool. We will meet for a welcome cocktail followed by dinner together at the masseria.

Day 2 – September 8

Visit beautiful **Bari**, the largest city in Puglia, located on the Adriatic Sea. Visit the grand and elegant cathedral named for their patron saint, St Nicolas, and stroll through ancient neighborhoods where you can watch the local women making their typical pasta called *orecchiette* (little ears). Spend time in Bari's elegant shopping area and enjoy a seafood lunch. After lunch we will drive south to **Polignano al Mare**, a charming, white-washed town

located above crashing waves on edge of the Adriatic. Polignano is the home of Domenico Modugno, the entertainer who made “Volare” one of the most popular Italian songs of all time. We will wander around the twisted streets of the picturesque village, stopping to shop or sip an espresso or enjoy a gelato. On the way back to the hotel we can stop in **Monopoli** to visit its beautiful and impressive cathedral and charming harbor. Dinner at Masseria San Domenico or at another local restaurant ... or you can optionally choose to have dinner at La Grotta Palazzese in Polignano. (This dinner is optional, not included in price of trip.)

Day 3 – September 9

Visit the lovely and elegant town of **Martina Franca**. Maestro Fabio Luisi of the Dallas Symphony conducts a summer music festival here! Then drive through the hills to the village of **Cisternino** where will wander through the streets of this little town and admire the panorama out over the hills. Later we will visit the flower-filled village of **Locorotondo**, where we will have lunch. We will return to Masseria San Domenico where we can enjoy the late afternoon. This evening we will have dinner at the Masseria San Domenico or we can go to a nearby village or dinner.

Day 4 – September 10

This morning we will check out of the Masseria and drive to **Ostuni**, a gleaming, white-washed village, perched high on a hill overlooking miles and miles of olive trees with the deep blue Adriatic beyond. We will visit its charming shops, admiring the local ceramics and handicrafts, before a panoramic lunch. Next is the view and scenery of Puglia you have been awaiting, the trulli of **Alberobello**. Trulli are the typical white conical huts with stone roofs that have made this UNESCO world heritage town known throughout the world. Some trulli have been converted into shops and modern houses, while other trulli remain as they originally were, simple homes. This afternoon we will check into the chic and elegant **Palazzo Bozzi Corso** in the historical center of **Lecce**. The palace was built in 1775 and has been remodeled into a hotel with 10 luxurious suites. There will be a time to explore Lecce or just to rest before cocktails on the rooftop of this special place. This evening we will walk together to enjoy a typical Pugliese dinner at a local Lecce trattoria.

Day 5 – September 11

This morning we will have a guided walking tour of the historical center of **Lecce** where we will visit the cathedral, see the beautiful palazzi of the olive oil barons, enjoy the charming streets, elegant piazzas and Roman ruins. Lecce is a baroque jewel. We will cap the morning with a cooking class where we will learn to make orecchiette pasta and we will enjoy the fruits of our labor for lunch. The afternoon will be free for shopping, relaxing and wandering around Lecce. This evening we will stroll to another trattoria in the center of Lecce.

Day 6 – September 12

Today we will visit the **Masseria 5 Santi**, a centuries-old, family-run property that is famous for its olive oil and artisanal cheeses where we will meet the family and have a guided tasting. For lunch we will visit the **Li Veli**, a highly respected winery, where we will have a guided tour and a wine-tasting lunch. This evening we will visit a charming little bar and sample their cocktails and then we will go to another local restaurant in Lecce.

Day 7 – September 13

Today we will visit both coasts (The Adriatic and the Tyrrhenian) of the Salento Peninsula (aka The Heel of the Boot). In the morning we will go to the charming fishing village of **Otranto** where we will visit the cathedral to see its ornate mosaic floors dating back to the 12th century, enjoy a stroll around the castle ramparts and an aperitivo or a cappuccino overlooking the deep blue Adriatic. Then we will visit to the charming fishing port of **Gallipoli** where we will have time to stroll around the village before enjoying a sumptuous seafood feast *al fresco* overlooking the Tyrrhenian Sea. We will return to Lecce, via the charming tiny town of **Nardo**, crammed full of gorgeous baroque palazzi and churches and piazzas, where we will stop for a coffee and a gelato. This evening, we will meet for cocktails at the and our farewell dinner together.

Day 8 – September 14

After breakfast and warm *arrivedercis*, we will depart Lecce via private transport for the Lecce train station or the Brindisi or Bari airports for your trip home.

The order of the tours and events of the Proposed Itinerary is subject to change.

All lodging, transportation, meals (as described) are included. The trip is priced for double occupancy. Single supplement for hotel rooms is available. Alcohol and wines not included.

This trip is designed for 6 to 10 participants.

Cost \$8250 per person, double occupancy

Single supplement \$4850 per person

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