

15 DAY/14 NIGHT 'IL BELLO DEL SUD' TOUR - \$5260 pp*

Naples - Amalfi Coast - Capri - Mt Vesuvius - Pompeii - Sorrento - Matera (Basilicata) - Alberobello (Puglia) - Grotte di Castellana - Ostuni - Otranto - Lecce - Tropea (Calabria) - Capo Vaticano - Scilla - Reggio Calabria - Taormina - Mt Etna - Siracusa - Piazza Armerina - Agrigento - Marsala - Palermo

Southern Italy has many undiscovered treasures and this tour allows you to discover some of these hidden secrets. Visit amazing archaeological sites such as Pompeii and the Valley of the Temples in Sicily. Experience the magic of these Unesco world heritage sites: the Sassi in Matera, the Trulli in Alberobello and Villa Casale in Piazza Armerina.



Day 1: Naples

Arrive in Naples. Day at leisure followed by a welcome dinner in a charming restaurant facing the Gulf of Naples and Capri Island. Enjoy a delicious seafood dinner. Overnight in Sorrento. (D)

Day 2: Amalfi Coast

After breakfast depart for an excursion to the Amalfi coast, one of the most breathtaking coastlines in Europe. Visit the picturesque town of Positano. In the afternoon you'll have a "limoncello" tasting session, Amalfi's famous liquor made from lemons. Return to your hotel. Free evening. Overnight in Sorrento. (B)



Day 3: Capri

Breakfast in the hotel. Board the boat to Capri and have a full day discovering this beautiful island. In the afternoon return to Sorrento. The rest of the day is at leisure. Overnight. (B)

Day 4: Mt Vesuvius, Pompeii, Sorrento

This morning depart for Mt Vesuvius. After a visit to the national park, you will stop at a local "cantina" wine cellar) where you'll have a wine tasting session of the ancient "Lacrima Christi" (a wine produced since ancient times) and a tasting of local snacks. Then, to Pompeii, the site of the world's most famous volcano disaster and the most important archaeological site in Europe. Tonight, pizza at a local restaurant in Sorrento with "posteggia" (a duo with guitar and mandolin). After dinner, time to walk through Piazza Tasso, before returning to your hotel. (B, D)



Be astonished by the incredible blue of the water at some of the most beautiful beaches in the Mediterranean. Immerse yourself in the South by trying local produce and traditional foods, tasting some of the wines and liqueurs that this region is famous for. See how the locals live and experience this remarkable diverse region at its best.

Day 5: Sorrento, Matera, Alberobello

This morning drive east to Puglia. Along the way stop in Matera, a unique city. Its famous Sassi - stone houses/dwellings carved out of and into the twin ravines that slice through the town. Lunch at a local restaurant where you can taste regional dishes. Continue on to Alberobello and check in to your hotel. Dinner at the hotel and overnight. (B, L, D)



Day 6: Trulli, Grotte di Castellana, Ostuni

Breakfast. Depart for a half day visit of Alberobello, to visit the Zona dei Trulli, a dense mass of 1500 of these cone-shaped houses, now classified a Unesco World Heritage site. Light lunch. In the afternoon, continue to the Grotte di Castellana: spectacular limestone caves with incredible stalactite and stalagmite formations. The highlight is the Grotta Bianca, a cavern of eerie white alabaster hung with stiletto-thin stalactites. Proceed to Ostuni for dinner. Indulge in local pizza and wine. After dinner you will have time to stroll around Ostuni, before returning to your hotel for the night. (B, L, D)



Day 7: Otranto, Lecce

Breakfast. Depart for Otranto. Time at leisure to walk through this picturesque coastal town. Lunch. In the afternoon visit Lecce. Once site of the Greek Messapi settlement, it became an important centre of the Roman Empire. Lecce is rich in Baroque architecture, and for this reason it is referred to as the "Florence of the South". Most of the buildings have been carved from a very soft stone known as Pietra Liscia which is quite evident throughout the town. Tonight a very special dinner in a restaurant inside a cave! Return to Alberobello and overnight. (B, D)

Day 8: Alberobello, Pizzo, Tropea, Capo Vaticano

This morning depart for Calabria. Your first stop will be Pizzo, a picturesque small seaside town north of Tropea. Here you will get a chance to taste the famous "tartufo nero", a typical product of Pizzo. Then continue onto Tropea for an independent visit. Tropea is one of the most beautiful towns in Calabria, with superb views of the sea and the beaches. The old town hangs on to a cliffside facing a large rock, formerly an island. You will have some free time to walk around the small beach town. Dinner is in a local restaurant tasting some of the local produce such as the red onion and nduja (a typical homemade salami that can only be found in Tropea). Continue onto Capo Vaticano and check in to your hotel.

Day 9: Capo Vaticano, Scilla, Reggio Calabria, Taormina

After breakfast, depart for a visit to Reggio Calabria. Along the way you will stop in Scilla, a beautiful fishing village. There will be time to walk around the small town before heading off again. When you arrive in Reggio Calabria, which was heavily rebuilt after a major earthquake in 1908, one of the highlights of your visit will be the awesome Museo Nazionale della Magna Grecia. It houses a fine collection of artifacts from ancient Rhegion – a Greek city. In the afternoon continue to Sicily and check in at your charming hotel in Taormina. Dinner and overnight. (B, D)

Day 10: Mt Etna, Taormina

Breakfast. This morning an excursion to Mt Etna, Europe's highest (3,370 m) and most active volcano. In the afternoon a guided tour of Taormina. This charming town has long been a favourite international resort and has wonderful parks, gardens and an ancient Greek theatre. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure. From Piazza Garibaldi one can enjoy the best views of Mt. Etna and the Ionian coastline. Overnight. (B)

**Day 11: Taormina, Siracusa**

Breakfast. This morning depart for a guided tour of Siracusa (Syracuse) which was the most important and powerful Greek city from the 5th to the 3rd centuries BC and, according to the Roman consul Cicero, the most beautiful. The island of Ortigia is the hub of the old city. You will then have some free time to walk around Siracusa before dinner at a local restaurant. Then, check in to your hotel and overnight. (B, D)

Day 12: Siracusa, Piazza Armerina, Agrigento

After breakfast, transfer to Piazza Armerina to visit Villa Romana del Casale, a 3rd century Roman villa and one of the few remaining sites of Roman Sicily. Then drive to the famous Valley of the Temples. These magnificent works of Doric architecture date from 582 BC. The site is beautifully lit at night. Dinner, overnight in Agrigento. (B, D)

**Day 13: Agrigento, Marsala, Palermo**

Depart for Marsala and visit a local winery for a wine tasting session accompanied by some typical products of this area. In the afternoon, continue on to Palermo and check in to your hotel. Dinner and overnight. (B)

Day 14: Palermo, Monreale

Breakfast. This morning you'll have a guided tour of Palermo, including the folkloristic Vucciria market. In the afternoon visit the nearby town of Monreale. Return to Palermo and have some time at leisure before your farewell seafood dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight. (B, D)

Day 15: Departure

After breakfast in hotel, transfer to Palermo airport for your return flight. (B)

Rates per person:

*Based on double occupancy \$5260

Hotel Accommodation:

In & out portorage service, taxes and service charges included. Hotels may be substituted with a similar category.

- 14 nights accommodation in 4 star quality hotels
- 4 nights Sorrento in a central hotel like Conca Park
- 3 nights Alberobello in a hotel like La Chiesa di Chietri
- 1 night Capo Vaticano in a hotel like Hotel Ipomea Club
- 2 nights Taormina in a hotel like Hotel Monte Tauro
- 1 night Siracusa in a hotel like Hotel Il Podere
- 1 night Agrigento in a hotel like Hotel Colleverde
- 2 nights Palermo in a hotel like Grande Albergo Sole

Meals & Tastings

Where drinks are included, this is 1/2 litre of mineral water and ¼ litre of wine per person

- 15 buffet breakfast at all hotels;
- Day 1: welcome-to-Italy seafood dinner in Sorrento area (in a restaurant facing the Gulf of Naples and Capri Island), with drinks included;
- Day 2: limoncello tasting;
- Day 4: Wine tasting on Mt Vesuvius; pizza dinner in Sorrento with "posteggia" (a duo with guitar and mandolin) and drinks included;
- Day 5: Lunch in Matera, with drinks included;
- Day 6: Light lunch in Alberobello and pizza dinner in Ostuni, both meals with drinks included;
- Day 7: Dinner at Ristorante Grotta Palazzese - www.grottapalazzese.it - with drinks included;
- Day 8: Typical "Tropean" dinner, with drinks included;
- Day 9: Dinner in hotel, drinks included
- Day 11: Dinner in Siracusa with drinks included;
- Day 12: Dinner in hotel, drinks included
- Day 13: Wine tasting in Marsala;
- Day 14: Farewell seafood dinner in Palermo (Ristorante Cin Cin) with drinks included.

Included in the price:

- English Speaking Guides - Full day Amalfi Coast, Capri, Vesuvio & Pompeii, Alberobello & Grotte di Castellana, Mt Etna & Taormina, Palermo & Monreale. Half day Matera, Otranto, Lecce, Reggio Calabria, Siracusa, Piazza Armerina, Agrigento.
- Private coach transportation & Tour escort
- Boat from Sorrento to Capri and return
- Minibus from hotel in Sorrento to Sorrento harbour and return; roundtrip in Capri
- Entrance fees
- Porterage - 1 piece of luggage
- Taxes and service charges

Not included in the price:

- Meals and drinks not specified;
- Guided tours not indicated;
- Tartufo tasting in Pizzo (to be paid locally);
- Tips and personal expenses;
- Anything not stated in "Included in the price"

Departures:

June 6th, July 18th, September 12th 2011

www.southernitaliantours.com.au

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ITALIAN TRAVEL SPECIALISTS