



**\*DRAFT v4\***

**Southern Gems:  
Amalfi Coast and Alberobello  
Sept 25-Oct 6, 2023**

*\*times are approximate and may adjust daily\**

**Day 1 Mon, Sept 25 overnight flight**

Depart U.S. for Naples  
(or arrive earlier and enjoy that city for a day or two)

**Sept 25-30 (5 nights)**  
**Locanda Costa Diva**  
**Praiano, Amalfi Coast**

**Day 2 Tues, Sept 26: travel to Amalfi Coast**

Morning arrival into Naples  
Take a taxi (10 mins) to Hotel Decumani de Charme (unless everyone arrives at a similar time – we'll figure that out.)

- 11:00** Pick up at Hotel Decumani de Charme
- 11:30** Welcome to Italy! Let's start with a winery tour and wine-tasting lunch on the slopes of Mount Vesuvius.
- 2:00** we'll walk off lunch and jetlag with a private guided tour of the ancient city of Pompeii's ruins
- 4:00** depart for Praiano on the Amalfi Coast
- 5:30** arrive at Locanda B&B, get settled
- 7:30** dinner on their lemon-tree terrace
  - Includes: breakfast, private transfer to the coast, winery tour and tasting lunch, private walking tour, dinner, hotel

**Day 3 Wed, Sept 27: Praiano**

breakfast  
Morning/day at leisure, shopping, exploring;  
water taxi into Positano or Amalfi, beach time,

sea kayaks

**5:30** sunset cruise to Positano with Prosecco

**8:00** return to Praiano, dinner at the marina

- Includes: breakfast, sunset cruise, dinner

**Day 4 Thurs, Sept 28: Ravello and the high country**

Breakfast, morning at leisure

**12:00** depart for Tramonti and visit a remote winery with ancient vines – some as old as 500 years. We'll enjoy an exclusive tasting lunch with Gaetano and his lovely family in their cantina.

**3:30** depart for Ravello, the village famous for music and gardens. We'll walk through Villa Cimbrone's expansive gardens and have some free time for exploring, shopping and dinner at leisure

**8:00** return to B&B

- Includes: breakfast, private driver for the day, villa tickets, winetasting lunch, hotel

**Day 5 Fri, Sept 29: Capri**

breakfast

**10:00** depart for our private boat excursion to Capri. We'll tour around the island, stop for lunch and exploring, and stop for a swim or relax on the boat as we make our way back.

**5:00** return to B&B

**7:30** dinner

- Includes: breakfast, private boat and captain for the day, dinner



**Day 6 Sat, Sept 30: Positano**

breakfast

**10:00** depart for cooking lesson with sisters, Fortunata and Filomena, at their family restaurant. We'll make gnocchi and learn about traditional dishes – and watch the kitchen crew

prepare for the day's menu.

**2:00** lunch as prepared in class

**3:30** tour of [ceramic](#) studio to see how the famous colorful tables are made

**4:30** return to B&B to relax or go into Positano for the evening (water taxi, car taxi, bus options for return)

- Includes: breakfast, cooking lesson/lunch, ceramic studio



**Oct 1 - 6 (5 nights)**  
[il Gabellota](#) trullo resort  
Alberobello

**Day 7 Sun, Oct 1: transfer to Alberobello**

Breakfast, check out

**8:00** depart for [Matera](#) on our way south. It's in the region of Basilicata, in the "instep of the boot." It has a unique and surprising history of cave-houses.

**11:00** private walking tour

**1:00** free time for lunch, explore

**3:30** continue to Alberobello and check into our little trullo houses

**7:30** dinner

- Includes: private driver for the day, walking tour, dinner, hotel

**Day 8 Mon, Oct 2 Castellana Caves**

Breakfast

**~10:00** I'll walk the group into town (~1K) to see this magical village; free time to look around, shop, have a local specialty like the [Pasqualino](#) sandwich.

**12:30** meet our driver for the 1:00 cave tour at [Le grotte di Castellana](#); walk through the underground network of stalactites, stalagmites and more (about 1 kilometer walking)

**2:30** depart for [Masseria Brancati](#) to see a traditional walled farm (*masseria*), walk through the ancient olive grove, tour the old mills and wrap up with an olive oil tasting. Trees in Apulia are as old as 3,000 years!

**4:30** return to Alberobello

**7:30** special dinner featuring multiple vegetable dishes from the restaurant's own organic garden

- Includes: breakfast, private driver, cave tour, olive grove tour and tasting, dinner

**Day 9 Tues, Oct 3: Alberobello**

Breakfast, morning at leisure – enjoy the pool, walk through the countryside

**1:00** Segway tour of Alberobello, followed by a cooking lesson and late lunch with Maria in her family trullo - including products from their courtyard garden. We'll dine on her terrace if weather permits.

**4:00** evening at leisure to wander through the village and make your way back to our resort.

- Includes: breakfast, private tour, lunch, hotel

**Day 10 Wed, Oct 4: Taranto on the Ionian Sea**

Breakfast

**9:00** depart for Taranto for a guided visit to the castle-fortress and the basilica

**1:00** free time for lunch and exploring



**2:30** depart for a winery for tour, tasting typical Apulian wines like Primitivo. Enjoy some nibbles and a walk through the vineyard before we return to Alberobello.

**7:30** dinner experience at Lisi Anna Macellaria (a famous local butcher where you select your cuts, have a seat at your table - and the food starts coming!)

- Includes: breakfast, private transfer and castle tour, wine tasting, dinner, hotel

### **Day 11, Thurs, Oct 5: Monopoli**

Breakfast

**10:30** depart for Monopoli; wander the quaint town and the fortified waterfront. Have lunch on the town square or with a view of the sea.

**1:30** continue to Polignano a Mare for a 2:00 boat tour on the Adriatic Sea. We'll see caves and cliffs, crashing waves – a view from the water of this stunning coastline.

**3:30** free time for the beach, shopping, exploring

**5:30** return to Alberobello for farewell dinner

- Includes: breakfast, private transfer, tour, dinner, hotel

### **Day 12 Fri, Oct 6: tour concludes**

TBD depart hotel for Bari airport (BRI) or train Station

- Includes: breakfast, private transfer to Bari

**Price:** \$4550 per person, double occupancy  
\$5915 per person, single occupancy  
(tentative; awaiting final vendor pricing)  
\$500 deposit due at booking

#### **Tour Inclusions:**

- 5 nights, Praiano
- 5 nights, Alberobello
- 4 private guided tours: Pompeii, Alberobello, Matera, Taranto
- Private boat tour in Monopoli
- Admission to Pompeii, ceramics studio, Castellana Caves
- Private boat for the day to Capri
- Private sunset cruise with Prosecco
- Private drivers and airport transfer
- Train tickets
- 2 private cooking lessons
- 3 wine tastings
- Breakfast every day
- 4 lunches (with wine)

- 7 dinners (with wine)
- Tips to guides, drivers and restaurant servers

#### **Exclusions:**

- Airfare
- Travel insurance
- Transportation outside the stated schedule
- Tips to hotel staff (concierge, housekeeping)
- Additional wine or alcoholic beverages beyond what is provided with each meal

#### **Special notes:**

**Culture:** Italy is beautiful, rich in history and culture – and fairly unpredictable. Italians are lovely, generous people, but they don't necessarily run the "tight ship" we're used to. I will manage everything I can, and I expect that everything is set. But things do happen after a plan has been made! I encourage flexibility – and being open to the magic of serendipity. You will likely hear this more than once during your trip: "It's all part of the adventure!"

**Activity level:** this itinerary has a moderate to high activity level. There is walking each day – as much as you'd like, but to see some sites it's required. And there are many steps and slopes in the Amalfi Coast. I average around 5 miles a day on these tours. But when you're surrounded by beautiful scenery and rich history, you don't necessarily notice. There are ride options available (taxi, Uber, metro, bus) per your preference, but sites like the Castellana caves allow only foot traffic (stairs down, elevator up.)

