

2017

WMPA Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association &
Friends **DISCOVERING PUGLIA AND BASILICATA**
ADRIATIC COASTAL ITALY < & THE IONIAN SEA >

It's "plain and simple:" if you want to experience the Italy travelers knew 40-50 years ago, head for the Province of PUGLIA in the heel of Italy's boot.

Most likely you'll fall in love with the place.

The region, also known as Apulia, is relatively small –a four-hour drive north to south, less than an hour east to west, sea to sea. In between is a place unlike anywhere else in Italy, ranging from beautiful beaches (on 500 miles of coast along The stunning Adriatic and the Ionian Sea) to vineyards & olive groves inland, medieval villages to the most ostentatious Baroque architecture in all Italy. And the food.....ah...the food and the wine.

USA Departure date: Sept 12 returning Sept 22, 2017

Itinerary is being developed with a post tour. We are planning for an optional 3 day post tour on **MALTA** where we explore ancient structures: First human habitation in Neolithic age is c 5000 BC. The Megalithic Temples of Malta and Gozo are several prehistoric temples. They are built during three distinct time periods approximately between 3600 BC and 700 BC on the island country of Malta. They have been claimed as the oldest free-standing structures on Earth. MALTA is well developed regarding tourism sites and infrastructure and is a VERY UNUSUAL ISLAND: MANY PARTS ARE BREATHTAKING. We have finally seen a sensible way to get there day of departure and return home on a sensible itinerary. I have been most anxious to show this post tour to those of you who would like to go. Claudia, our Italian tour arranger, has been there this October and will join us. Robert and I went in late 2012. I am excited to return, Quirky nuances abound in Malta: whitewashed houses adorned with names, brass doorknobs shaped like whales, and a hodgepodge of cultural influences. The Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans, Arabs, Knights of St. John, French, and British have all ruled this Mediterranean archipelago, which finally gained independence in 1974. You'll get a dose of the tropics here with an occasional palm or bougainvillea. The landscape is basically arid and hilly: a popular filming location for dramatic epics. Valletta, the capital has been named 2018 European Capital of Culture.

Please share your mailing address and email to join our list of friends who already plan to share this fascinating experience. If you have specific interest in joining a post tour to MALTA, we would like to know of that interest NOW. We can easily help you plan a pre or post days in ROME, or other cities or provinces you may have missed in your travels. Since our own group had done these destinations on past trips, we offer to add something new to our Puglia trip.

There is a total diversity in what we offer for you in PUGLIA.

We are immersed in the activities, historic sights, arts & music, unique foods & wines-

With a brush of their olive oil from 2000-3000 year old trees to make everything better.

September 13-16:

LECCE, Italy has a charm all its own. Travel is full of crystallizing moments, when the true spirit of place is captured in a flash. For me, it was the first smell of Lecce air. Lecce's twisting, ancient streets invite us to explore, marveling at the elegant Baroque atmosphere. The gargoyles, cherubs and cornucopias seem to come to life. Our visit in Lecce is to many of the Baroque special buildings and churches. A music program will await us here. As usual, it is at this time way too early to know exactly what our music program can be, but eventually we will have offerings in Bari, Matera, Lecce, and some regional classics will be found in Fasano-Ostuna area. We also plan an exposure to the "PIZZICA TARANTATA": the music that marked the ancient healing ritual against the bite of tarantula, the dangerous poisonous spider. This music and dance program is deeply ingrained in the Puglia region. We will see Lecce in depth since we stay there. This is a stunning city.

Nightlife: in Lecce, who knew? Southern Italian friends and family pursue the **nighttime *passaggiata*** with a stylish vengeance, all "arm in arm."

WHILE BASED IN LECCE < "LEHCHEE"> We visit GALLIPOLI. Gallipoli old town is built on a peninsula. The historical center is indeed historic: we have guided visit to the Medieval frescoes of Galatina Cathedral. We enjoy a surprise maze of clean alleyways & tiny beautiful shops.

OTRANTO is a historic seaside town with picture perfect blue waters. Having been ruled first by Greeks, followed by Byzantines, the Normans and the Aragonese and later by Turks. Let's imagine the atmosphere here and "long for some free time" to enjoy the town and views. Otranto is a town of many features, most notably the Cathedral: inside are amazing mosaics & some surprises that are quite imaginative. This town is best known for *The Castle of Otranto*, Horace Walpole's pioneering Gothic novel. We'll see if we can organize a boat tour >to see the beautiful coastline from the sea and.... time on your own.

PAPIER MACHE....A SPECIALIZED ART OF PUGLIA



We'll plan to visit a place where their artistic papier mache is hand made, not just in a shop. Today the production of ***Cartapesta*** is concentrated around Lecce. Studio shelves are full of peasants in charming village scenes and represent various professions like shepherds, cheese-makers, bakers and farmers. Creche scenes and angels are also popular. Puppets and marionettes are produced using *Cartapesta*. Hands, feet and heads are often made from clay and married to the metal and straw armatures used in creating the *Cartapesta* figurines. Unique process and product.

September 16-18:

In MATERA, UNESCO World Heritage Site, we can spend a lot of time in caves: we may eat in a cave, drink an *aperitivo* in a cave, and even view modern sculpture in a cave. We hope to enjoy a concert in their concert venue set on the edge of the cave. The ancient neighborhoods, known as *sassi*, are a series of grottoes carved out of limestone, teetering on the edge of a ravine.

The first glimpse of the *sassi* stops you in your tracks, *looking down at the dramatic tangle of grey stone houses*; a contrast with the elegance of the new town. We plunge into a magical world that doesn't quite feel real.

THIS is a visit to one of the most unique & spectacular places we've visited in Italy or anywhere in the world. Matera is one of the oldest continuously inhabited settlements in history dating back to the Paleolithic period. On the other side of the ravine you can see the simple forms of the Neolithic caves where people lived 7000 years ago.

I HAVE EVEN GOTTEN THE NAME OF THE BEST GELATO. IT IS IN MATERA...Join our trip for THAT!!!! "I vizi degli angeli laboratorio di gelateria artigianale."

ALTAMURA nearby is a must to visit. Aside from being known for their bread, and ancient version, very old ovens. Local Food Culture dates from 37 BC. The family owned pasta company loves to see you. We are intrigued. The Frederic II Cathedral & city walls is very fine with surprises inside: The Museo Archeologico Statale has unusual artifacts, as well as archeological finds, some even to sell. Their version of Neandertal Man, Altamura Man, < 130.000 yrs old!!> may not be viewable but is imbedded here with good information. There are even dinosaur tracks in Altamura.

We also visit Octagonal Castel del Monte. Frederick II's famous castle on a hill is UNESCO site.

WE SEE MANY " LACE-LIKE " <like paper cuts> DECORATED STREETS IN VILLAGES
Pagan and Christian superstitions merge and local communities bond.

September 18-22:

We Visit Unesco World Heritage Site ALBEROBELLO & walled LOCOROTUNDA that resembles an urban sprawl – for gnomes. LOCOROTONDO is endowed with a whisper-quiet pedestrianised centro storico, where everything is shimmering white aside from blood-red geraniums that tumble from the window boxes. Situated on a hilltop on the Murge Plateau, it's a borgo più bella d'Italia (www.borghitalia.it). It's rated as one of the most beautiful towns in Italy. The town itself is a sight.

The Zona dei Trulli on the western hill of town is a dense mass of 1500 Trulli, beehive-shaped houses, white-tipped as if dusted by snow. The origins are obscure, but many have religious, pagan or magical symbols painted on the sides. They offer fabulous views over the whole higgledy-piggledy picture. We use this area as one of our bases.

This is the Valle d'Itria and between here and the Adriatic are many unusual sites for us. The short distances and uniqueness of this area should fill you with wonderful days. We'll be at or very near the Adriatic in the chic FASANO-OSTUNA area south of Bari. We include a visit to the archaeological site of Egnazia.

BARI VECCHIA is a walled city crowded on a peninsula jutting into the sea. As there was no room for expansion, resulting overcrowding has meant that life is lived on the streets. The markets are almost in front of the houses, and we plan to see the old ladies making homemade pasta at their doors. As we wander down the narrow alleyways we feel like we are walking through someone's living room, well, everyone's living room.

OSTUNI, THE ENCHANTING WHITE CITY AND THE JEWEL OF PUGLIA.

Sitting atop a hill, Ostuni's white buildings make it stand out against the blue sky creating a beautiful image. Wander through the old alleys of its historic center, a

pedestrian zone, inside its ancient walls and enjoy the views from the hilltop.. Ostuni is where we will have our cooking class at the one of the lovely Masserias < old and beautifully renovated farmhouses> which will be fun as the the cuisine is decidedly “ Pugliese” food and wines and is new for us.... dinner will follow.

Clay, which abounds in the region, is used for the manufacture of majolica, porcelain & ceramics of excellent quality. The great availability of sheep's wool favors the development of weaving carpets..

For years, Puglia has been the largest producer of wine in Italy: The cuisine new to most sophisticated Americans, is an exciting departure from known Tuscan & Roman dishes.

Cost of Program : This estimate will be within \$100 of final cost:

PER PERSON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY: \$4150.00

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: Approx.\$400.00

PLEASE REQUEST SINGLE WHEN APPLYING SO WE WILL NOT BE SHORT OF SINGLE AVAILABILITY

WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR \$400 PER PERSON DEPOSIT ASAP. If you feel any problem with the final determined costs, which will be by mid December , deposit will be fully refunded to you.

DEPOSIT OF \$400 TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO:

BROWNELL TRAVEL for Puglia

216 Summit Boulevard, Suite 220

Birmingham, Al 35243

attn Judy B

REACH ME AT

judyb@brownelltravel.com

tel 1 800 999 3960 ext 114 or 703 371 7574 /cell

COST based on euro to US \$ 1.15 and 20 participants. We are always hopeful of no fuel surcharges.

Our past travelers feel they receive lots of value as well as creativity/originalty for their money. Our itinerary goals are to provide YOU with a trip that does not appear in typical tour books.

**OUR LAST FEW TRIPS HAVE BEEN SELLING OUT RIGHT AFTER TRIP IS OFFERED.
WE FEEL THAT THIS TRIP WILL BE THE SAME.**

Trip Package includes:

- Round Trip Airfare Washington to Bari, Puglia to Washington
- 4-4.5 Star hotels with Buffet Breakfasts daily- 9 nights – an extra night this year
- Portorage in and out hotels
- Guided touring & entries per itinerary with enrichment activities added as available
- Deluxe coach throughout with Driver
- 5+ music programs
- 5 dinners & or major lunch
- Cooking class of “ Pugliese” specialties in a lovely Masseria < luxe farmhouses > near Ostuna , Puglia
- Gratuities for Guides and Driver
- Contribution to WMP Association from each ‘ Friend’ on tour

- Hosted by Ulysses James, Conductor of Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Orchestra
- Tour Planner-Tour Manager: Judy Borisky of Brownell Travel & Robert, Claudia Margheri of San Gimignano. Claudia is also our “artistic director” along with Judy, & Robert speaks Italian like a native.

Tour planner reserves right to add or substitute similar activity to enhance the program.



The Trulli at Alberbello



Matera



Stunning Adriatic & Ionian Seas

...see you there with old friends and new friends ...RSVP!!!! ASAP!!!!

**Judy Borisky Metzger*Brownell Travel W.M.P.A. judyb@brownelltravel.com
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