



Viaggi Deliziosi Presents

A TOUR OF PUGLIA WITH PAULA LAMBERT

October 2 - 9, 2022



Gallipoli



Volare in Polignano a Mare



I Trulli in Alberobello

Join Paula Lambert, artisan cheesemaker, cookbook author and tour guide extraordinaire, for a historical, cultural and culinary visit to the heel of Italy, the country's least-exploited tourist destination. Puglia, aka The Salento, 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** (the cuisine of poverty). Pasta is made without eggs, bread is made from the local durum wheat, and these are often combined with the fabulous 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 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. And 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.

Accommodations: Single rooms at: **Masseria Cimino ******* a fortified farmhouse with tower dating back to the 18th century. The Masseria was built just meters from the sea, adjacent to the archeological site where the ruins of the Ancient Roman city of Egnatia, founded in the 6th century B.C., were discovered (3 nights) and **Palazzo BN ******* an in-town palazzo that once housed the Bank of Napoli now converted into contemporary accommodations in the center of Lecce (4 nights)

Contact: Paula Lambert, Viaggi Deliziosi, 214-741-4072, paula@mozzco.com

Day 1 October 2

Arrive in **Brindisi** or **Bari** (both cities in Puglia) on your own ... either by air, by train or by car ... (The nearest airport is located in Brindisi.) Private transfer to your hotel, **Masseria Cimino** near Savelletri di Fasano. Rest, relax and unpack. Depending on your arrival time, a walk to the beach or in a nearby village can be arranged. Or you can wander through the charming white-washed Masseria Cimino resort and the nearby ancient olive groves. Meet for a welcome cocktail followed by dinner together at Masseria Cimino.

Day 2 October 3

Visit beautiful **Bari**, the largest city in Puglia, located on the Adriatic Sea. Visit the grand and elegant cathedral named for patron saint St Nicolas and stroll through ancient neighborhoods where you can watch the local women making their typical pasta called orecchiette. Spend time in Bari's elegant shopping area before driving south to **Polignano a Mare**, a charming, white-washed town located above crashing waves on edge of the Adriatic. Have lunch at Meraviglioso, a seafood restaurant next to the small piazza with the statue of Domenico Modugno, the hometown entertainer who made "Volare" one of the most popular Italian songs of all time. After lunch, 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 will stop in **Monopoli** to visit its beautiful and impressive cathedral and charming neighborhoods. Dinner together at Masseria Cimino.

Day 3 October 4

Drive to **Ostuni**, a gleaming, white-washed village, perched high on a hill overlooking miles and miles of olive trees with the Adriatic beyond. Visit its charming shops, admiring the local ceramics and handicrafts, before a panoramic lunch. Later visit the village of **Cisternino**, perched on another hill and known for its butcher shops. 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. There will be time for exploring and shopping here. Dinner together at Masseria Cimino.

Day 4 October 5

Visit the lovely and elegant town of **Martina Franca** and the charming flower-filled village of **Locorotondo**. Then drive inland to **Li Veli**, a lovely and elegant masseria that has been converted into a boutique winery ... Following a tour, sit down to a lovely luncheon of local foods that are paired with their delicious Pugliese wines. Later in the afternoon we will travel to Lecce where we will check into our hotel **Palazzo BN** conveniently located in the center of **Lecce**. There will be a time to explore Lecce or just to rest before cocktails. This evening we will walk together to enjoy a typical Pugliese dinner at a local Lecce trattoria.

Day 5 October 6

Today we will travel to Horses Ranch for a **cooking class** with the Mame of Puglia where you will learn to make focaccia and pizza. There will be a wine-tasting, and you will feast on your efforts! It is just so much fun! This afternoon we will return to **Lecce** for a guided walking tour of the historical center, 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. This evening we will enjoy an elegant dinner in a lovely palazzo.

Day 6 October 7

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 have a guided tasting. Later we will visit an agriturismo for a fabulous al fresco lunch at their organic farm. In the afternoon we will go to the charming fishing village of **Otranto** where we will visit the cathedral to see its ornate mosaic floors, enjoy a stroll around the castle ramparts and an aperitivo overlooking the deep blue Adriatic. We will return to Lecce in time for a pizza or plate of pasta on your own.

Day 7 October 8

This morning we will go to **Galatina** to visit the magical frescos of the cathedral and to have a pasticciotto, a famous local pastry. Then we will go 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 and our farewell dinner together.

Day 8 October 9

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

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

Minimum participants 6 and maximum 10.

All lodging, transportation, meals (as described) are included. The trip is priced for single occupancy so there are no surcharges.