



**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!**

**A Sun-Drenched Trip to Puglia & Sicily**

**May 23, 2027 to June 5, 2027**

## **An Enhanced Experience with 5 Days in Puglia and 7 Days in Sicily**

Tucked away on the east coast of Southern Italy, Puglia is a region known as the country's 'heel of the boot'.

Puglia is renowned as one of Italy's most beautiful areas, which says a lot considering how gorgeous the rest of the country is. With a relaxed and laid-back vibe, Puglia is scattered with charming seaside villages, fascinating towns, and sun-bleached sand beaches.

We'll embrace the slow life and spend our first four days discovering crumbling old architecture, indulging in long leisurely lunches, and weather permitting, possibly dipping into the clear blue sea (so pack your bathing suit) as we explore all that Puglia has to offer.

We'll learn the art of making orrechiette and focaccia, the traditional specialties of Bari. We'll visit the Trulli town of Alberobello, the seaside town of Polignano a Mare, the bread-baking village of Altamura, the ancient city of Matera, and quaint village of Locorotondo. And we'll enjoy oil and wine tastings along the way.

And then it's off to Sicily where we'll be spending six days at Villa Petrantica outside the ancient city Ragusa Ibla. This wonderful property offers a panoramic sea view and is nestled on 4 hectares of land, dotted with plants and gardens. It's carefully furnished in an ancient/modern style with each suite named after an important Sicilian event in history or cinema and hosts a large infinity pool.

This gorgeous property will be our exclusive home for the week, with plenty of time to enjoy its charms, as well as savor evening meals prepared by Christina and her co-chef and sidekick, Patrick Verre, a Michelin starred chef who now travels the world cooking and creating.

Our day trips may take us to: the Baroque cities of Noto, Ragusa Ibla, and Modica, known for its amazing chocolate; the seaside town of Taormina, known as the Amalfi Coast of Sicily; the archeological park at Syracuse; the market in Ortigia; and we'll venture to Mount Etna, one of the world's most active volcanoes, just to name a few of the treats we have in store. And we'll enjoy amazing wine and olive oil tastings at local vineyards and groves.

While there are many stunning spots to visit, here is our tentative itinerary. Our experience is that once you've been to Puglia and Sicily you'll want to go back again and again and again!

## **Our Itinerary - The Journey Begins**

**Sunday, May 23, 2027**

**Depart USA for Bari**

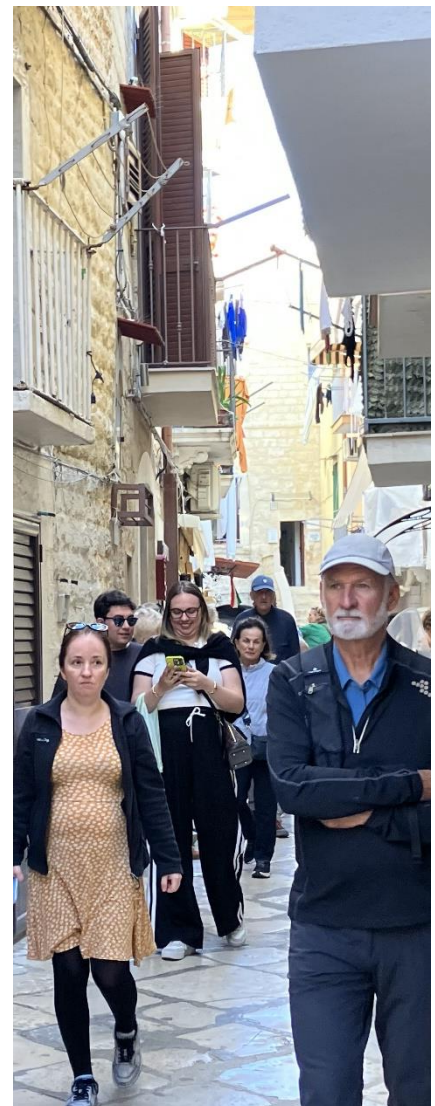
**Monday, May 24, 2027**

**Arrive in Bari and Transfer to Our Hotel**

We'll arrive in Bari and transfer to our hotel, Imago Plus, get settled in and relax a bit before heading out for a stroll around town and dinner.

**Tuesday, May 25, 2027**

**An Amazing Day of Food and Cooking In Bar**



Bari is a port city, and the capital of the Puglia region. In the heart of this cobbled labyrinth is the Basilica of San Nicola. Constructed in 1197, this church is known for its striking exterior. We'll head inside to explore the tomb of Saint Nicholas; yes, the bones of Santa Claus are here in Bari. We'll take a stroll through the narrow alleyways that surround the old town, keeping our eyes peeled for the Italian Nonnas making fresh pasta in the street; and we'll take a cooking class to learn the art of making focaccia and orecchiette of Bari. We'll even stroll the Lungomare di Bari (the walk along the seaside).

**Wednesday, May 26, 2027**

**A Magical Day in Locorotondo and the Fairytale Town of Alberobello**



We'll begin our day in Locorotondo, a quaint village great for strolling and finding unique shops and landscape views. We'll enjoy lunch at one of our favorite restaurants, La Pignatta (We love it so much, we filmed an episode of Christina's show here); before heading to Alberobello.

Alberobello is a UNESCO World Heritage town, also known as 'Trulli Town'. A Trulli is a small limestone house with a grey conical roof and white walls that wouldn't look out of place in a Disney film. Alberobello has 1500 of these tiny quaint structures. As you walk the streets you'll feel like you're in a fairytale, expecting Snow White to come around the corner. We'll enjoy free time to stroll and discover this truly magical 'Trulli Town'.

**Thursday, May 27, 2027**

**We'll Bask in the Beauty of the Seaside Town of Polignano a Mare...Enjoy an Olive Oil Tasting at an Ancient Olive Grove and Underground Tasting Room...and Feast on Lunch at an Amazing Agriturismo**



On this day, we'll enjoy the most beautiful seaside town of Puglia, Polignano a Mare. This coastal town is known for its dramatic cliffs, sparkling water, and white-pebbled beaches. It's also one of the most significant ancient settlements in Puglia, with history dating back to prehistoric times. We'll visit Polignano a Mare; enjoy an underground olive oil tasting at an ancient olive grove and mill and feast on an amazing lunch at an agriturismo, dining on home cooked specialties.

**Friday, May 28, 2027**

**We'll Discover and Feast on the Unique Bread of Altamura and Visit the Ancient Cave Dwelling Town of Matera**



If you've been watching Christina Cooks on public television or YouTube, you've probably seen Christina's bread episode shot at Panificio Di Gesu in Altamura. We'll visit the bread bakery and explore the historical and cultural roots of the famous Altamura DOP bread. During the visit, you will have the opportunity to learn about every stage of traditional bread baking, from the meticulous selection of local grains—essential for ensuring quality and authenticity—to the slow natural leavening, the key part of the process that gives the bread its characteristic texture and unmistakable flavor. The tour will culminate with a delicious tasting, during which you will savor freshly baked bread paired with a fine local extra virgin olive oil. You will also have the opportunity to enjoy artisanal focaccia and a selection of sweet and savory baked goods, all enriched by a fine local wine that perfectly complements this gastronomic experience.

We'll depart Altamura for the cave dwelling city of Matera. Matera is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, with settlements dating back to the Paleolithic era. Known for its unique cave dwellings, known as 'sassi,' which were carved out of the limestone cliffs of the region, Matera is also famous as the setting for blockbuster Hollywood movies, including the James Bond Movie, No Time to Die, and Mel Gibson's The Passion of Christ.

**Saturday, May 29, 2027**

**We'll Depart Bari for Sicily and Villa Petrantica in the Baroque City of Ragusa Ibla**

We'll depart Bari and fly to Sicily, and transfer to Villa Petrantica in Ragusa. We'll have lunch along the way so we can enjoy a relaxing afternoon around the pool at the villa.



**Sunday, May 30, 2027**

## **We'll Visit Two Amazing Baroque Cities: Modica and Ragusa Ibla**



Ragusa Ibla is one of the most charming and picturesque towns in Sicily. There is so much to see that you could simply wander around and stumble at will upon town mansions, quiet gardens, pleasant squares, fabulous cafés, excellent restaurants, quaint shops and baroque churches.

The public garden features high palm trees, Mediterranean plants, the church Chiesa dei Cappucini, with a 17th century wing altar, and stunning views of the valley of the river Irminio and its surrounding canyons.

And right down the road from Ragusa Ibla is Modica, another famous Baroque Sicilian city. Modica is particularly famous for its unique chocolate and is a seductive destination for food-lovers. We'll visit one of the most famous chocolate shops in the world: Antica Dolceria Bonajuto for a tasting and chocolate making demonstration.

We'll also visit Donnafugata castle, and enjoy a wine tasting in Vittoria.

**Monday, May 31, 2027**

## **The Mystique of Mount Etna Awaits**



The most amazing thing about visiting Mt Etna, is the approach. As you observe the volcano from a distance, its presence is quite ominous. You feel wholly insignificant in its shadow. As we approach the volcano, the ride up the mountain is very lush and green; but it very quickly changes, and you feel as though you're on a different planet, as the terrain goes from lush and green to dark black lava rock, and you experience the volcano for what it truly is...a living, breathing, active volcano. The experience begins with a finicular ride to the first level; then we jump into huge vehicles to the top where the weather could change from minute to minute; snow to rain to sun. The experience is truly breathtaking. Of course, at the end of our vist, we'll enjoy lunch at the base of the volcano.

**Tuesday, June 1, 2027**

## **The Baroque City of Noto and an Amazing Wine Tasting Experience**



Noto is one of our favorite cities in Sicily...it absolutely sparkles. It's known for its Baroque architecture, including the reconstructed 18th-century Noto Cathedral. Across the street is the Palazzo Ducezio, now the town hall, with the Hall of Mirrors embellished by gilding and stuccos. Nearby, the Palazzo Nicolaci has richly decorated balconies.

Resembling a triumphal arch, the 19th-century Porta Reale marks the

entrance to the city. And did I mention, one of the most famous bakeries in all of Italy is in Noto? Some say, the pastries there are the best in the world. You'll have to try some and see for yourself.

**Wednesday, June 2, 2027**

## **We'll Visit the Archeological Park in the Historic Cities of Siracusa**



Siracusa, a city on the Ionian coast of Sicily is known for its ancient ruins. It's also the birthplace of the pre-eminent mathematician and engineer Archimedes. Here, we'll take a time machine back in history as we tour the central Archaeological Park Neapolis, comprising the Roman Amphitheater, the Teatro Greco and the Orecchio di Dionisio, a

limestone cave shaped like a human ear. This day is truly a look back at ancient history and civilizations and how their discoveries have shaped the modern world we live in.

**Thursday, June 3, 2027**

## **We'll Escape to the Historical Island of Ortigia**



We'll begin our day in the ancient fishing village of Ortigia, where we'll wander through the market, making our way to the center of town. Ortygia is a small island which is the historical center of the city of Syracuse. This tiny island has breathtaking views at every turn; stunning Baroque architecture; beautiful beaches and delicious traditional Sicilian foods. We'll enjoy lunch at one of our favorite restaurants, Moon and have free time to explore this small village.

**Friday, June 4, 2027 - A Relaxing Day at Villa Petrantica**



We'll spend our last full day in Sicily relaxing at Villa Petrantica, getting ready for our journey home. We'll enjoy a cooking class with Christina and Patrick, and share stories of our Sicilian adventures.

**Saturday, June 5, 2027 - Depart for the USA**