

PUGLIA

Moreton Club Exclusive



TRAVELLING *Divas*
BOUTIQUE TRAVEL FOR WOMEN



Puglia: The Heel of the Boot

Moreton Club Exclusive | 17–27 September 2025

This beautiful, bespoke tour has been exclusively designed for the Moreton Club, to showcase the culinary and cultural delights of Puglia.

At the heel of Italy's boot, Apulia is dotted with pretty hilltop towns, Baroque architecture and expansive farmhouse masserie. Nowhere else in Italy will you find such a diverse mix of architectural styles, ranging from decadent 18th and 19th century palazzos to the humble, cone-roofed 'trulli' – peasant houses dotted around the lush landscape, reminiscent of homes in childhood fairytales and fantasy films.

Thanks to a new influx of tourism, long-forgotten towns like Ostuni are welcoming life to their narrow, white-washed streets again. Those with Apulian roots are returning from Rome, Milan and Turin, to embrace a slower pace of life, marrying the modern design-led Italy they know with the rural Puglia they love.

This tour has been handcrafted to ensure total immersion into Puglia's rich cultural heritage both ancient and modern; to delight with authentic culinary adventures and provides the opportunity to indulge in slow travel, with time and space to explore and relax in equal measure.





What's Included

Fully escorted from Lecce by our bi-lingual Italy based partner, Carol Sicbaldi

10 nights boutique hotel accommodation in Puglia

Private airport transfer on arrival

Group airport transfer on departure

Private transport throughout

Breakfast daily

Main meals including wine as detailed in itinerary

Welcome aperitivo

Two private cooking lessons in homes/farmhouses

Five cantina/winery visits and tastings

An olive mill visit and oil tasting

Ceramic studio visit

Guided cultural tours in Lecce, Otranto, Giurdignano and additional villages

Entrance fees or open air museum tickets

Local guide and vendor tips

Terms & Conditions

Please see full booking terms and conditions at www.travellingdivas.com/terms-and-conditions/



NOT INCLUDED: Airfares unless stated in the itinerary; items of a personal nature; phone calls; passport and visas (if applicable); entry fees into countries charged at the airport; laundry or tips. Personal transport; excess baggage; security and additional government taxes not covered already; travel insurance. Meals not specifically mentioned in the itinerary; beverages unless specifically described. Optional excursions or activities that may be offered but are not included in the tour price. Camera tickets at sights were allowed.



Itinerary

From Brindisi to Brindisi

17–27 September 2025

Twin share: AU\$11,425 per person

Single: AU\$13,410 per person

Day 1 – Wednesday 17: Welcome to Puglia...

Today arrive into Brindisi, and meet your private transfer on arrival. Your driver will meet you and transfer you to your hotel.

Check-in, relax and then meet the rest of the group for a welcome drink and a tour briefing this evening. Dinner is at leisure this evening and suggestions will be provided for those in the mood to go out. For those just arrived and wanting an evening in to recover from your flight – feel free to do so!

Accommodation: Patria Palace Hotel (or similar)

Day 2 – Thursday 18: Exploring Lecce on foot and creating your dinner...

This morning we'll explore this marvellous city, called the "Florence of the south", with our local guide Dionne. Famous for its architecture, we find traces of a roman amphitheater and medieval buildings, but Lecce's ebullient baroque architecture, carved in local golden sandstone, is the real highlight of the town.

Enjoy a light lunch in town.

In the afternoon we'll have a private cooking lesson with the local chef and sommelier Gianna Greco in her

wonderful kitchen in a historic palazzo in the heart of Lecce. Together we'll cook some traditional Pugliese dishes, learn about the local wines, and sit down to enjoy the fruit of our labour.

After dinner return to the hotel.

Accommodation: Patria Palace Hotel (or similar)

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner (cooking class)

Day 3 – Friday 19: Gallipoli, a tasting lunch & the church of Santa Caterina D'Alessandria...

Today we drive southwest towards the once fortified village of Gallipoli perched on the Ionian Sea, stopping to visit the colourful fish market and stroll its narrow whitewashed streets.

We'll then drive to Cutrofiano to the family run masseria, (agricultural estate) of the Astore family. They have rescued and developed ancient varietals such as Susumaniello, Zagarese Primitivo and Aglianico Hellenic. After visiting their historic cantina, we'll enjoy an open-air lunch accompanied by a tasting of their organic wines and farm products.

Now on to some spectacular frescoes!

We'll enjoy a brief stop in the tiny town of Galatina to visit the surprising Franciscan church of Santa Caterina dell'Alessandria, a jewel box of romanesque and gothic architecture, splendidly frescoed top to toe.

Late afternoon return to Lecce and dinner is at leisure.

Accommodation: Patria Palace Hotel (or similar)

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



Diva Moments...

Private guided touring throughout in delightful towns and villages

Private cooking lesson with a local chef & sommelier – Gianna Greco

Private lunches and wine tastings at renowned vineyards

Olive Oil tasting

And much, much more...

Day 4 – Saturday 20: To Otranto via Grottaglie...

This morning we'll leave the Salento area and transfer northwest stopping in Grottaglie, the town best known in Puglia for production of its classic ceramics with blue dotted borders. In 1700 there were 42 ceramic factories here. There will be time to explore these ceramic workshops before meeting for lunch.

Enjoy an optional lunch in town before transferring to Otranto.

The easternmost town of Otranto, perched on the peninsula overlooking the clear Adriatic Sea was founded by the Greeks, and still is circled by massive fortified walls built first by the Normans and then later by the Aragonese.

Check into the hotel and enjoy dinner at leisure.

Accommodation: Basiliani Spa Hotel (or similar)

Included Meals: Breakfast

Day 5 – Sunday 21: Exploring Otranto & dinner in a vineyard...

Nestled in the enchanting Salento province of Lecce, Otranto is a gem. Perched dramatically on the Adriatic Sea, this historic town gazes across its namesake strait toward the Balkans and Greece—a vantage point that has shaped its fascinating past. The town is a blend of charm and fortitude, with its majestic castle, towering ramparts, and sturdy towers standing as proud guardians of its rich heritage.

Our guided visit will take us to two of its crown jewels: the Cathedral and the Aragonese Castle. We'll step into the Romanesque cathedral, dating back to 1088, and marvel at the mesmerizing 12th-century mosaics sprawled across its floors, depicting the Tree of Life—a breathtaking narrative of Otranto's deep-rooted history. Then, we'll explore the awe-inspiring Aragonese Castle, a fortress reborn after the town's liberation from Turkish control in the late 15th century. From its vantage points, soak in spectacular views of the town's timeless beauty and the shimmering coastline beyond.

Along the way, our guide will point out the best shops including local ceramics (wonderful sea creature motifs!), lace and textiles, coral jewelry, some leather shops and of course food artisan botteghe featuring local products.

You'll have free time for lunch and to stroll along the lively waterfront promenades, where excellent bars and bistros beckon. Or, take a moment to relax on Otranto's pristine white sandy beach, lapped by dazzling turquoise waters.

Late this afternoon, a short drive takes us to the nearby town of Minervino di Menhir where we'll dine in the



fantastic osteria in the renowned Menhir Salento vineyard, offering the best of ancient traditions and indigenous varieties—with a vision towards the future! Get ready for some excellent organic food and wine!

Accommodation: Basiliani Spa Hotel (or similar)

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 6 – Monday 22: A day at leisure to chill...

We'll offer lots of suggestions for things to see and do and where to dine, but this is your day to do exactly what you want. Chill by the pool, enjoy some spa time or explore further into Otranto – the choice is yours.

Accommodation: Basiliani Spa Hotel (or similar)

Included Meals: Breakfast

Day 7 – Tuesday 23: Giurdignano, oil tasting with a Duke & pizza time...

Our morning explorations take us to the unassuming sleepy little town of Giurdignano, set amidst acres of thriving olive trees, and loaded with ancient treasures. Here we go back in time, first to a Byzantine crypt carved into the rock and decorated with remains of frescoes, then to view prehistoric menhir and dolmen—primitive stone markers dating back to the Bronze Age. We'll also descend into a fascinating 16th century underground olive oil press carved into the stone.

Continuing south we'll reach the town of Scorrano. The local dialect is called griko, lingering still from when Greek colonies were settled. For hundreds of years the area has been known for its production of olive oil and wine, and we will do honours to both. A noble family, in this area for

centuries, owns the cantina where we will have our wine and olive oil tasting (guided by the Duke himself!) and a light lunch. The hot sunny climate of the region ripens the grapes and makes for delicious deep rich wines, such as Primitivo, Negroamaro e Malvasia Nera which are gaining popularity all over Italy.

Transfer back up to Otranto along the stunning coastline and turquoise sea with afternoon time to relax.

Dinner in town at our favourite thin-crust pizzeria, cooked to perfection in a wood-burning oven.

Accommodation: Basiliani Spa Hotel (or similar)

Included Meals: Breakfast, Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8 – Friday 24: The Trulli houses, a wine tasting lunch & Locorotondo...

We arrive this afternoon at our hotel, the classical Masseria Il Melograno (means pomegranate), our home for the next three nights. The winding architecture of whitewashed walls, ancient olive trees and flowering gardens illustrate its 17th century origins.

Locorotondo is a lovely, circular town of whitewashed houses with festive colourful doors. The town is famous for its grilled meats: fragrant pork, lamb and beef.

Accommodation: Masseria Il Melograno (or similar)

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 9 – Saturday 25: Conversano, cooking with Mara & Marina and more...

Conversano is a gem of a town in southern Italy's Puglia region, not far from Bari. Picture winding cobblestone streets, whitewashed houses, and an impressive medieval



The Diva Difference

Explore the world with fabulous women who are passionate about travel and life. Travelling Divas is a boutique travel company creating exclusive travel experiences for women.

Divas are about having fun, making connections and creating memories to last a lifetime. Travelling Divas is all about you, and our bespoke, high-value and experiential tours ensure you return home with a desire to keep on exploring this amazing planet we live on. Check us out and come and explore the world from a different-point-of view.

castle that seems straight out of a storybook. This town has a relaxed vibe, perfect for wandering around and soaking up centuries-old history. It's dotted with charming old churches and the Monastery of San Benedetto, adding to its rich cultural tapestry. Surrounded by lush countryside and vineyards, Conversano is where history meets laid-back Italian life—ideal for anyone looking for authentic charm and a taste of local traditions.

We'll meet our friends Mara & Marina at their beautiful farmhouse, Masseria San Pietro. Here you will be immersed in the strong culinary traditions and the local, seasonal ingredients of the region. Get hands-on in helping to prepare the meal. As you chop vegetables and make the pasta, Mara and Marina will share with you secrets of local dishes and ancient techniques of Southern Italian cooking. After the lesson, sit down around the table and enjoy the wonderful meal you have created. During the meal, Marina, also a sommelier, will introduce you to

some of her favourite local wines. This experience is sure to provide you with plenty of wonderful memories and recipes that you can recreate at home. Dinner is at the hotel this evening.

Accommodation: Masseria Il Melograno (or similar)

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 10 – Sunday 26: Ostuni, authentic villages and wine tasting delights...

Ostuni, known as the "White City," is a stunning hilltop town in Puglia that's famous for its dazzling whitewashed buildings. Wandering through its maze of narrow alleys, you'll find hidden cafes, artisan shops, and breathtaking views of the Adriatic Sea. It's got a mix of laid-back Mediterranean vibes and rich history, making it a must-visit for anyone wanting a slice of authentic southern Italian life.

A relaxed morning to visit some of the nearby small towns, with a late morning visit to the Ionis cantina, a large cooperative of local growers that produce many wines. After the tasting and lunch your afternoon will be free to enjoy our lovely hotel, its pool and spa, and pack before our farewell dinner in a local restaurant.

Accommodation: Masseria Il Melograno (or similar)

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 11 – Sunday 27: Time to say farewell

Sadly all good things must come to an end. Thank you for joining us and bon voyage. A group transfer to Brindisi airport to meet your departures.

Included Meals: Breakfast



Accommodation

LECCE | Patria Palace Hotel

Born as a noble residence of Petrarolo D'Anna family, Patria eighteenth-century palace rises majestic and elegant in the heart of Lecce. Unique with its refined decorations, it's one of Mauro Manieri's most important baroque masterpieces. The Palace's privileged location is amplified by an elegant and welcoming atmosphere where classic and modern design meet. A harmony of styles, a perfect blend of precious baroque details and unique contemporary masterpieces.



Testimonials

I adored this group of women and the opportunities to spend time with them both doing activities but also in the downtime with drinks and meals. The hikes were a highlight for me and Nicola was the perfect guide. I felt I knew what I was going into before every walk and loved her attention to everyone. I also love all the excursions and not feeling rushed when doing them. Andrea this trip was amazing!

Michelle – Active & Wellness

Best holiday experience ever. Loved everything! I would not have changed a thing.

Jenny

This was my second trip with Travelling Divas and I cannot recommend them enough. They have been seamless, the accommodation is always exceptional as is the food & wine throughout the journey.

However it is the company and the laughs that has stayed with me, not only on this trip but on my previous trip to Estonia & Finland. It was the tonic that was needed after our long travel hiatus, thank you so much for what was truly a Journey of a Lifetime (the Northern Lights twice was an added and unexpected bonus... thanks for organising that for us!)

Yvonne – Journey of a Lifetime



OTRANTO | Basiliani Spa Hotel

The "Basiliani Hotel is only 800 metres from the old town of Otranto, set amid its ample vine-trellises, external terraces, stone paths that are typical aspects of local architecture. The Basiliani offers various categories of finely furnished rooms which providing guests a pleasant relaxing stay. The Hotel has a beautiful and well-equipped SPA "Il Melograno", the biggest of Salento. Thanks to its strategic location, Guests have the possibility to visit wonderful places like the old town of Otranto with its castle and its medieval cathedral, Alimini's white fine sand beach, and Lecce, the city known as the capital of baroque architecture.



MONOPOLI | Il Melograno

Il Melograno is renowned throughout Italy as the first masseria to open its doors to guests and reveal 400 years of history. This country estate outside Monopoli is a place of simple beauty, echoing with past lives of noblemen and farmworkers.





Andrea, Founder of
Travelling Divas

www.travellingdivas.com

andrea@travellingdivas.com

or call +61 (0)408 721 569