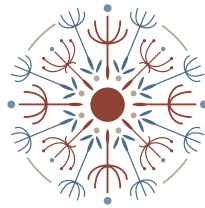


August 2024 - April 2025



Magari
TOURS



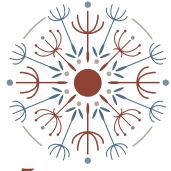
Online-only version



Purposefully Handpicked Tours

Puglia • Lombardy • Umbria • Sicily • Sardinia • Tuscany • Lake Garda

www.magaritours.com



Magari
TOURS

Welcome to Magari Tours

A new family of hand-crafted, escorted tours that take your travel experiences to a new level – providing deeper, immersive and truly authentic adventure.

Capturing the essence of Magari

Magari is about exploring the Mediterranean, starting with Italy more deeply and closely than you can on a conventional escorted tour. Our logo captures this vision: blending images of a seed-blown dandelion with colourful Mediterranean tiles and the four points of a compass. The result is a symbol that conveys the richness and variety of discoveries our guests enjoy when they travel with us.

Imagine for a moment the secrets behind the most delicious pasta dish you ever tasted: olives from local trees, wild mushrooms from nearby forests, and the skills of a local cook. Transfer these principles to tours and you have Magari. Our tours make the most of a region, get beneath its skin and reveal it from the inside rather than the outside, with nothing added or taken away.

Why did we choose the name Magari?

Put it down to serendipity: in researching potential names for our tours, we alighted on this Italian word, which means anything from 'I wish' to 'if only' – both feelings that chime with our aim of making travellers' experiential dreams come true. 'Magari' also stems from the ancient Greek 'makarios' meaning a 'happy, blessed event' – something we hope you feel when touring with us.

What you need to know

Magari tours get right down to earth in each destination they visit. Each tour is specially timed, so you experience every location at its purest, original, and uncrowded best and no trip will run with more than 26 passengers.

We make a point of focusing less on tourist highlights and more on smaller, lesser-known but enchanting locations: visiting villages and hidden gems often overlooked by conventional, conveyor-belt-style itineraries.

We choose our hotels and food with authenticity and sustainability in mind. Rather than glossy global chains, we hand-pick privately owned hotels rooted in their communities and which promote sustainable practices. And we steer away from fine-dining and silver service, instead favouring rustic trattorias and hotel restaurants that serve classic, unpretentious local fare.

The finishing touch comes from our tour leaders. Each is passionate and knowledgeable about their region, and knows first-hand what makes an escorted tour seamless and special. Their expertise and dedication ensures your time with us is as effortless and enriching as it can possibly be.

ATOL & ABTOT protection

Magari Tours is a brand of Success Tours Ltd and owned by The Albatross Group, a collection of travel companies with unparalleled experience in group tours. As such, we are ATOL licenced and ABTOT protected, so you can rest assured that you and your money is completely secure.



Responsible

Each of our hotels is chosen for being a living, breathing part of its local economy: for employing local people, sourcing from local farmers and suppliers, and promoting eco-friendly practices and sustainability. So you can be confident your visit will support the local community and leave a positive impact wherever you stay.

Culinary

Food is woven into every region's culture, so all our tours have a strong gastronomic slant. Our journeys include fresh hotel breakfasts of seasonal local produce, and a generous sprinkling of meals at humble trattorias and family-run eateries. We also include tastings of wines and other delicacies at farms and agritourism estates, and authentic culinary demos by local cooks.

Comprehensive

Our tours provide a genuinely comprehensive travel experience, so we don't offer the 'optional' excursions or encounters that some tour providers do. If there's something worth seeing or experiencing in a location - and it chimes with the Magari style - we will always build it into your tour anyway.

Contact your local travel agent

7 Nights Inclusive
From £1995 per person

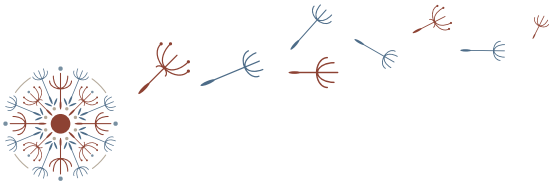


Trulli houses, Alberobello

Puglia Unwrapped

Forming the 'heel of Italy', Puglia offers everything from Adriatic-coast fishing ports to remote hamlets and its signature 'trulli' – unique cone-roofed cottages. Yet aside from these draws, it's also home to rustic cuisine, a simple lifestyle and robust wines, making it a place not just to explore but to immerse yourself in.

On this 7-night tour we base ourselves near Alberobello, the city of trulli, and visit not just highlights like Lecce and Matera, but some of Puglia's hidden and most authentic gems. Discover quiet villages and medieval harbours, visit agritourism farms to watch bread and mozzarella being made, and enjoy classic Apulian cuisine at family-run restaurants along the way - bellissimo!



Handpicked Highlights

If it isn't included, it isn't worth it

- Relax at the splendid 4-star Chiusa di Chietri near Alberobello, the city of trulli, for seven nights, with no change of hotels needed
- Wonder at the baroque beauty of Lecce, a city often compared to Florence
- Discover the art of making local mozzarella and focaccia at one of Puglia's 'masseria' fortified farms
- Dip into hidden gems like the villages of Locorotondo and Ostuni, deep in the Tuscan-like Valle D'Itria
- Savour just-caught seafood at a harbourfront eatery in Trani and a humble osteria in seaside Monopoli
- Visit the gorgeous, UNESCO-protected town of Matera, immortalised in a 007 film and famed for its cave dwellings
- Sample some of Puglia's finest local produce at family-run estates, such as wines from the Cantina Masseria Torricella and fruity home-grown olive oil



Matera



Cantina Masseria

Grand Hotel La Chiusa di Chietri

★★★★

Alberobello

The immaculate 4-star La Chiusa di Chietri sits in its own olive grove just a 5-minute drive from central Alberobello. While its architecture is modern and sleek, this well-run, privately owned hotel offers a true and traditional flavour of Puglia - warm hospitality, authentic cuisine and attentive service from friendly, local staff.

The hotel offers modern rooms with satellite TV, hairdryer, safe, air-conditioning and private bathroom, with most also offering garden views. During leisure time, guests can relax by the outdoor pool in the summer, stroll in the olive tree-filled grounds, enjoy the luxurious indoor pool and wellness treatments at the spa, and savour freshly prepared, local dishes at the restaurant. A shuttle also runs into Alberobello - the perfect finishing touch.



DEPARTURE DATES

28 August 2024 & 16 October 2024

PRICE INCLUDES

Return flights London Gatwick

Fully escorted holiday

Meals as stated in itinerary

All Handpicked Highlights listed above

Contact your local travel agent

Your Day to Day Itinerary

Day 1 Morning flight to Bari

On arrival at Bari airport, where we are met by our guide, we set off for an afternoon's exploration of Trani, an enchanting fishing port overlooking the Adriatic Sea. Famous as a departure point for the Crusades during the Middle Ages, this historic town hems a picture-postcard harbourfront, which provides the setting for our lunch. We take a seat at a portside seafood restaurant and enjoy an authentic local meal as we watch the fishing boats come in. Afterward, we continue to Alberobello, our base for seven nights, and famous for its 'trulli': white-washed houses with conical roofs. After checking in at the 4-star Grand Hotel la Chiesa di Chietri, we enjoy a welcome drink and nibbles, followed by a light dinner.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Day 2 Alberobello, Masseria Aglio-Piccolo & Cantina Masseria Torricella

Enjoy a guided walk of Alberobello, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its well-preserved trulli. We stroll around the historical Rione Monti district, home to around 1,000 of these unique dwellings, and learn about their roots as field shelters. Next, we travel to the rural Aglio-Piccola, a family-run Apulian 'masseria' farm, which specialises in making its own delicious dairy and bakery produce. After watching the family prepare mozzarella and focaccia to generations-old recipes, we visit the family-owned Cantina Masseria Torricella winery for a tour and tasting. This afternoon brings another walking tour with a local guide. This evening we enjoy dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3 Alberobello

Today is free for you to experience this lovely part of southern Italy as you wish. You may want to delve further into Alberobello: wandering its cobbled streets to see more of its trulli, visiting its evocative churches and sampling the rustic home-cooking offered in its restaurants. Alternatively, relax at your hotel, enjoying its swimming pools and spa, and perhaps heading into Alberobello for a spot of people-watching over coffee or lunch.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 4 Matera

This morning we drive to the UNESCO-listed historic town of Matera, perched dramatically on a outcrop. Dating back 10,000 years, this magical place took a starring role in films such as The Passion of the Christ, Ben Hur and 2021's Bond film, No Time to

Die. We will admire some of its stone churches and explore its Sassi quarter, famous for its Palaeolithic cave dwellings, which were inhabited until the 1950s. We also enjoy a bread-making session to discover the art behind the town's traditional bread. This evening we enjoy dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 5 Locorotondo & Ostuni

We wind through the green hills of the Valle D'Itria, passing olive groves and trulli villages, to discover the pretty village of Locorotondo before visiting hilltop Ostuni, dubbed the 'white town' for its shining white buildings. Enjoy a short guided walk around the centre, and admire the far-reaching views to the Adriatic. During our return to Alberobello, we call at a medieval masseria to sample local olive oil. This evening we enjoy dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 6 Polignano & Monopoli

We make the short drive to Polignano, a delightful coastal town occupying a promontory surrounded by the Adriatic. We explore here and absorb the sea views before continuing to seaside Monopoli, whose centro storico offers a castle and white houses, squares, and churches wedged against a photogenic harbourside. We cap our time here with a tasty lunch at an authentic seafood eatery just steps from the sea. This evening we enjoy a light dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

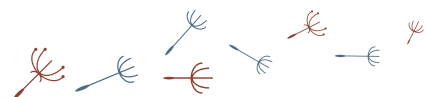
Day 7 Lecce

Today is dedicated to Italy's 'Florence of the South'—Lecce. This stunning city mixes baroque architecture with a buzzy atmosphere that makes it truly enjoyable to explore. We take a guided walk around the elegant centre, alive with street cafes and shops, and admire treasures like the Basilica di Santa Croce, Piazza Duomo and the city's hidden Roman remains. Our explorations end with free time for you to have lunch at a restaurant of your choosing. This evening we enjoy dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 8 Departure

We transfer to Bari airport for our lunchtime flight home.



6 Nights Inclusive
From £1795 per person

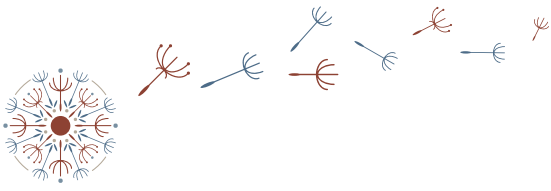


Bergamo Old Town

Essence of Lombardy

While Lombardy is famous for its glittering lakes, it has much more to offer and much that's missed by the tourists who rush to its Lakes Garda, Como and Maggiore. Among them are quiet cobbled towns, quaint villages, trattorias serving age-old recipes, and the valleys of the Bergamasque Pre-Alps, where meadows and woods reign.

This tour casts the spotlight on this largely undiscovered corner of northern Italy: unfurling Lombardy's history, charms and rich cuisine over seven rewarding days. Based in Rota d'Imagna, time is spent exploring medieval jewels like Bergamo, sampling home-made delicacies and wines at family-run farms, discovering peaceful Lake Iseo, and enjoying a personal demonstration of local pasta-making from a master – your hotel owner, Giampiero.



Handpicked Highlights

If it isn't included, it isn't worth it

- Immersive 6-night tour of beautiful and often-overlooked Lombardy based in one hotel, so you unpack only once
- Settle into the Miramonti Resort Hotel & Spa in Rota d'Imagna, probably one of Italy's best family-run 4 star hotels
- Relax in the lush Valle Imagna, a secret valley in the hills between Bergamo and Como
- Visit cobbled Bergamo and historic Brescia, Italy's joint Capitals of Culture 2023
- Dip into tiny rustic villages to see wonders like the mystical Cornabusa Sanctuary cave church
- Savour the spoils of Lombardy with wine and food tastings at hand-picked agritourism farms and wineries
- Enjoy an authentic lunch at a superb village trattoria renowned for its local fare
- Enjoy a truly special culinary experience: learning to make local casoncelli pasta from hotel owner Giampiero

Miramonti Resort Hotel & Spa

★★★★

Rota d'Imagna

This privately run 4-star hotel combines sweeping views over the Valle Imagna with top-notch service and a traditionally inviting Lombardian welcome. Set in the hillside village of Rota d'Imagna in the Bergamasque Pre-Alps, the hotel's family owners are passionate about ensuring guests enjoy a relaxed stay filled with warmth and hospitality, and connected with the local community.

The hotel's commitment to sustainable tourism is showcased in its restaurant, which serves excellent regional cuisine crafted using only local ingredients, so supporting the valley's farmers and producers. Most of the comfortable and spacious rooms benefit from a private balcony with valley views, while all feature a private bathroom, LCD TV, safe, minibar, Wi-Fi, and thoughtful touches like bathrobes. An undoubted highlight of the hotel is the stunning spa (additional charge), which offers a luxurious indoor pool extending outdoors onto a beautiful terrace ideal for unwinding and enjoying the surrounding panoramas.



Lake Iseo



Brescia



DEPARTURE DATE

8 October 2024 & 25 March 2025

PRICE INCLUDES

Return flights London Heathrow

Fully escorted holiday

Meals as stated in itinerary

All Handpicked Highlights listed above

Contact your local travel agent

Your Day to Day Itinerary

Day 1 Morning Flight to Milan

We fly to Milan airport and after meeting our tour manager, transfer to our hotel, the 4-star Miramonti Resort & Spa, in Rota d'Imagna - our base for six nights. On the way, we stop for a fantastic lunch at a local trattoria. Once at our hotel, we enjoy a prosecco or non-alcoholic drink as a welcome followed by dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Day 2 Imagna Valley

Today we set our sights on Lombardy's Imagna Valley, an oasis of green in the Alpine foothills which is rich in history, art, culture, and culinary tradition. We visit the Arnosto Museum to trace the story of the 'roof of the Imagna' and call at the Cornabusa Sanctuary, a spiritual refuge inside a mountain cave. A highlight is a fabulous, authentic lunch at Antica Locanda Roncaglia, a historic eatery in the lovely village of Roncaglia, which specialises in using local ingredients to recreate ancient regional recipes. This evening we will enjoy a light dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3 Brescia

A visit to Brescia awaits today. This underrated city bristles with artistic and archaeological treasures, including elegant piazzas, Venetian villas, Roman ruins, an 8th century monastery, two cathedrals, an astronomical clock and captivating museums. We discover the main sights and learn how this lovely place was recently honoured as a European Region of Gastronomy - a sure sign of quality of its cuisine. We then continue to the Redaelli de Zinis, a farm-winery in the Valtenesi hills, where we enjoy a wine-tasting accompanied by local delicacies and explanations of local history and prosecco-making. A scenic afternoon stroll along the promenade at Salo, on the shores of Lake Garda, seals our explorations. This evening we enjoy dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4 Rota d'Imagna and Pasta-Making Demonstration

Today is spent at leisure, perhaps relaxing at your hotel, enjoying the spa and swimming pool or sampling the sights of pretty Rota d'Imagna independently. During the day, we attend a cooking demonstration by our hotel owner Giampiero and his Mama, who shows us the techniques behind the region's beloved casoncelli - a generations-old sweet and savoury stuffed pasta

redolent of Imagna's earthy home-cooking. We also experience a cheese-tasting, savouring some of the valley's unique cheeses, such as soft and creamy stracchino, which reflect the area's Alpine location and abundant dairy farms. A selection of local wines adds to our enjoyment! This evening we enjoy dinner in the hotel restaurant with our very own handmade casoncelli on the menu!

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 5 Bergamo

We travel to Bergamo for another day of discovery. This bustling city has a historic hilltop core divided from its lower city by Venetian walls that command spectacular views, and was named Italy's cultural capital in 2023. A guided walking tour of this Città Alta sees us wind through the cobblestoned streets to view its medieval houses, atmospheric churches, and picturesque piazzas, together with its fine museums and galleries. This afternoon, we delve deeper into the heart of Lombardy by tasting a selection of the region's most distinctive wines. This evening we enjoy dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 6 Lake Iseo

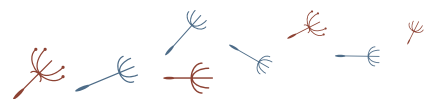
Lake Iseo, north Italy's fourth-biggest lake and one of Lombardy's hidden gems is our focus today. Often overlooked by tourists, this idyllic, mountain-ringed lake is hemmed with medieval villages. After strolling the pretty alleyways of Lovere, we ride a boat along the lake to Iseo where there is time to experience its harbourfront, historic centre and perhaps browse its market. On our way back to Rota d'Imagna, we visit the Cascina Carretto, an agritourism estate run by the Lamberti family. Sample some of the wines produced here alongside platters of tasty bruschetta, tomatoes and aromatic cheese. This evening we enjoy a light dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 7 Departure

After breakfast, we begin our journey back to Milan airport, stopping en route for a superb farewell lunch at a traditional restaurant. After this final opportunity to relish Lombardy's rich and hearty cuisine, we catch our return flight to the UK..

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch



7 Nights Inclusive
From £1945 per person

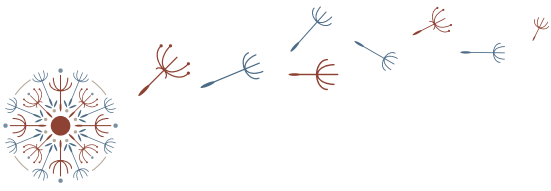


Spello

The Heart of Umbria

Nestled in the heart of Italy, rolling, green Umbria easily matches next-door Tuscany for its pretty scenery, rich history, rustic gastronomy and time-honoured way of life. Yet sitting out of the spotlight, this gentle landlocked region is perhaps more likely to surprise and delight visitors.

From our fantastic hotel in Spoleto, this 7-night tour captures the real soul of the region, from the UNESCO-protected city of Assisi to magical hill towns like Gubbio and gems like medieval Bevagna. Meals at old-world trattorias and culinary tastings deepen the experience, giving you a true flavour of Umbria's traditionally earthy cuisine and classic wines.



Handpicked Highlights

If it isn't included, it isn't worth it

- Stay seven nights in the welcoming 4-star dei Duchi outside Spoleto's walls—the perfect combination of a country and city hotel
- Experience unadulterated Umbria with tours of its highlights and smaller villages that embody the region's authentic lifestyle
- Visit UNESCO-protected Assisi, crowned by the vast Basilica of St. Francis, adorned with magnificent frescoes by Giotto
- Discover the medieval treasures and mysteries of Gubbio, famous for its 'madmen' fountain and as the town where St Francis tamed the wolf
- Taste some of the region's classic foods and wines, with tastings at a 'salumeria' and Montefalco winery
- Soak in the charms and history of hilltop towns like Orvieto, Bevagna and Narni
- Indulge in fresh local fare in intimate trattorias



Spoleto



Gubbio

Hotel del Duchi

★★★★

Spoleto

Selected for its classic Umbrian charm, friendly and helpful staff, and commitment to local sustainability, the 4-star dei Duchi matches these attributes with a fantastic location in Spoleto's centre. Set in a wooded valley just outside the city walls, the hotel is a short walk from Spoleto's main piazza, Duomo and Roman theatre, making it ideal for leisurely strolls into town.

Guests can admire panoramic views of the Roman theatre from the first-floor terrace, unwind in the lounge and bar, and enjoy first-class regional cuisine at the restaurant. The attractive rooms feature garden or park views, satellite TV, private bathroom, air-conditioning, and Wi-Fi, thus ensuring a comfortable space to relax after sightseeing.



DEPARTURE DATE

5 November 2024

PRICE INCLUDES

Return flights London Heathrow

Fully escorted holiday

Meals as stated in itinerary

All Handpicked Highlights listed above

Contact your local travel agent

Your Day to Day Itinerary

Day 1 Morning Flight to Rome

We fly to Rome's Fiumicino airport where we meet our tour manager ahead of our transfer to the ancient hilltop town of Spoleto, which overlooks olive groves, vineyards and the distant green Apennines. After checking in at the delightful 4-star Hotel dei Duchi, we settle in before savouring a delicious evening meal at the hotel restaurant.

Meals included: Dinner

Day 2 Spoleto

We begin with a morning guided tour of Spoleto, which stands on the old Roman Flaminia road and whose Roman remains and medieval buildings crouch under a 14th century fortress. We take in sights like the Roman Arch - once the entrance to the forum - the 12th century Duomo and the Roman aqueduct, a symbol of the city. This afternoon brings free time to relax and enjoy your surroundings in your own way before we head out this evening to a superb trattoria in town. Here, we feast on fresh, locally sourced Umbrian cuisine while soaking in the trattoria's traditional and convivial atmosphere.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 Gubbio

Today is devoted to Gubbio, a Gothic town in the Apennine foothills in northeast Umbria, famous as the place where St Francis of Assisi tamed the wolf. We explore its medieval lanes as we hear how, in the 13th century, St Francis calmed the wolf in what was hailed as a miracle by the populace. Principal sights include Gubbio's sumptuous Palazzo dei Consoli, Duomo, and the Fontana dei Matti (Fountain of the Madmen). Legend has it that anyone who makes three turns around this 16th century fountain and is then baptised with its waters will go insane. Discover how the legend has given rise to the claim that Gubbio's citizens are mad – and why it might just hold a grain of truth! This evening, enjoy dinner at the hotel.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4 Orvieto

We travel to the hilltop gem of Orvieto for a guided walk, hearing about its Etruscan past, riding its funicular and admiring its incredible Duomo, whose façade is carved with Bible scenes. After seeing the sights, you have time at leisure to explore alone, perhaps pausing for a chilled glass of Orvieto Classico wine. A highlight is lunch at a wonderfully authentic restaurant, which is not just renowned for its home-made food but its access to Etruscan catacombs. We descend into these ancient

caves during our visit – truly something to remember. Before returning to Spoleto we visit tiny Narni village. This evening is free to enjoy independently.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 5 Bevagna, Perugia & Montefalco Winery

A short drive brings us to the medieval village of Bevagna, where we visit a local 'salumeria' salami and cured meat shop for a tasting - bring your appetite! Next, we continue to Umbria's elegant capital of Perugia, whose historic upper town is riven with buzzing piazzas and shops. We view the stunning Palazzo de Priori, with its splendid artworks, and the Maggiore Fountain before sampling some of Umbria's finest wines at a winery in the nearby Montefalco region. Dinner will be included this evening.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 6 Spoleto

Today is free to enjoy Spoleto at your own pace. You might want to explore the nearby Roman amphitheatre and aqueduct, now the Ponte delle Torri bridge. Or, simply enjoy the comforts of your hotel, perhaps interspersed with people-watching at one of Spoleto's piazza cafés. Dinner is at the hotel tonight.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 7 Spello & Assisi

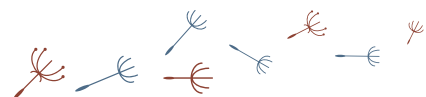
This morning we discover Spello, a honey-stone hill town known for its annual 'Infiorata' flower festival. Soak up its charms on a walking tour, and visit the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore, whose Baglioni side-chapel is filled with frescoes by Pinturicchio. Next, we visit UNESCO-listed Assisi, the birthplace of St Francis and Umbria's jewel. Wander the flower-lined alleyways and hidden churches, and visit the Basilica of St Francis whose upper church boasts Giotto's magnificent fresco cycle of the saint's life. This evening, arrive at one of Spoleto's best-regarded restaurants to dine on antipasti, fish, and pasta prepared by local chefs with the freshest ingredients.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 8 Departure

We transfer to Fiumicino airport for our return flight to the UK.

Meals included: Breakfast



9 Nights Inclusive
From £2845 per person

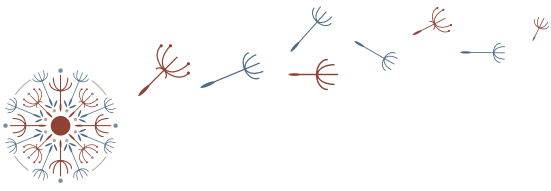


Ragusa Ibla

Heart & Soul of Sicily

Diverse history, stunning scenery and tempting food make Sicily one of the Mediterranean's most satisfying destinations. Here the best journeys unravel the island's storied past, spotlighting the Greek, Roman and Norman contributions to the architecture, landscapes and cuisine that greet visitors today.

This 9-night tour of Sicily's north and south focuses less on tourist hotspots than its below-radar treasures and traditional gastronomy. In-between visits to Agrigento's UNESCO-listed Valley of the Temples, baroque Ortigia and gritty Palermo, we discover hidden towns like Naro and Scicli, unwind at intimate hotels, and eat at charming trattorias, sample home-grown wines and chocolate, and devour fresh seafood and pasta at boutique local restaurants and agritourism estates.



Handpicked Highlights

If it isn't included, it isn't worth it

- Delve into Sicily on a 9-night 'shoulder-season' tour when the island is wonderfully uncrowded and comfortably warm, with average March temperatures of 20°C
- Visit stunning UNESCO-listed ancient sites such as Agrigento's Valley of the Temples and the Vila del Casale, all free from the summer crowds and queues
- Pair your sightseeing with generous helpings of gastronomy—eating at local trattorias and enjoying home-grown wines and produce throughout
- Stay in small hotels and 'real' towns like Castellammare and Modica, where locals go about their lives year-round
- Enjoy authentic experiences that money can't buy, including dining at a private 'Baglio' farm and learning the art of Sicilian chocolate-making at a chocolaterie
- Avoid tourist magnets like Taormina and Cefalu, and discover off-radar towns like Naro and Ragusa Ibla



Monreale Cathedral

Ortigia

DEPARTURE DATES

1 March & 1 April 2025

PRICE INCLUDES

Return flights London Heathrow or Gatwick
Fully escorted holiday
Meals as stated in itinerary
All Handpicked Highlights listed above

Nights 1-3

Al Madarig ★★★

Castellammare del Golfo

Our first stay is the Al Madarig Hotel, which occupies a prime position in traditional Castellammare del Golfo. Flanking the Piazza Petrolo the hotel is a long-standing part of the town, with friendly and helpful staff, a low-key atmosphere, and a commitment to local sustainability. The location is hard to equal: overlooking the turquoise bay, with numerous restaurants, cafes, and shops within strolling distance.

Nights 4-5

Colleverde Park ★★★★

Agrigento

Standing in gardens two kilometres from Agrigento centre, the modern Colleverde Park is a 15-minute walk from the Valley of the Temples and boasts panoramic views over its ruins and the sea from its grounds. Run by the Sinatra family, the hotel has a charmingly old-school air, with 19th century Sicilian furniture and ceramics dominating the lobby lounge and lending an elegant feel that matches the friendly service.

Nights 6-8

Principe d'Aragona ★★★★

Modica

Our base in Modica is the Principe d'Aragona, a highly rated, privately owned hotel, which benefits from a convenient location and has its own outdoor swimming pool. This 4-star hotel stands on the pleasant Corso Umberto I, an easy 5 minute walk from Modica's old centre, so it is ideally placed for when you have free time to explore the shops and sights of the town.

Night 9

Grand Hotel ★★★★★

Ortigia

This plush 5-star hotel is a fabulous place to relax after a day's sightseeing in the old city of Ortigia. Occupying an impressive 19th-century building overlooking the harbour, it's as far from a shiny chain hotel as one can find - with plenty of period charm, flowery Liberty-style architecture and charming service from its attentive staff.

For full hotel descriptions, please see our website

Contact your local travel agent

Your Day to Day Itinerary

Day 1 Arrive in Sicily

We fly to Palermo/Catania airport and meet our tour manager ready for our transfer to our hotel, the charming Al Madarig in the picturesque north-coast fishing town of Castellammare del Golfo. We enjoy a coffee stop en route and after arrival at the Madarig, relax over a welcome drink. Later, we make the short stroll to a local trattoria for a light evening meal - our first opportunity to relish the island's distinctive cuisine.

Meals included: Dinner

Day 2 Erice & Segesta

Today is devoted to two of Sicily's lesser-known gems: Erice and Segesta. First, we travel to Erice, a walled town crowned by the Castello di Venere (Castle of Venus). We uncover its ancient Greek origins as we trace the medieval lanes past noble palaces and churches, and admire majestic views towards Trapani and the Egadi Islands. After time for an independent lunch, we journey to Segesta to see its magnificent Greek temple - an unfinished Doric jewel perched on a hilltop - and its Roman amphitheatre, dating from the 2nd century BC. There is time to mull over our fantastic discoveries during dinner at the stylish La Cambusa trattoria in Castellammare tonight, which specialises in mouth-watering pastas and seafood.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 Monreale & Palermo

A full day of sightseeing awaits, with guided tours of Monreale and Palermo. In Monreale, we focus on the splendid Norman Cathedral, an architectural wonder awash with 12th-century gold-leaf mosaics. In Palermo, a guided tour through the bustling streets takes us to a typically lively street market and the Palatine Chapel, famous for its marble paintings and glittering mosaics. We cap today with a wine-tasting, traditional meal, and fascinating talk on Sicily's tuna fishing industry at the wonderful Baglio Fontana, a 19th century agritourism farm framed by lemon orchards.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4 Selinunte & Agrigento

We set off for Selinunte, one of the Mediterranean's greatest archaeological parks, whose sun-baked remnants date from the 7th to the 4th century BCE, and include Greek temples, an agora and residential dwellings. After exploring here, we sit down to a long and leisurely lunch at the fabulous Da Vittorio ristorante, which is famous for its freshly caught seafood and featured on both Rick Stein's Great Mediterranean Escapes and BBC2's Sicily Unpacked TV series. Having earlier checked out of our Castellammare hotel, a scenic afternoon drive now takes us to the hilltop south-western town of Agrigento, our base for the next two nights.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 5 Agrigento Valley of the Temples, Olive Farm & Naro

This morning brings a walking tour of Agrigento's stunning Valley of the Temples, a globally important archaeological site awarded UNESCO

World Heritage status. Marvel at the well-preserved Greek temples as a local guide charts their history. We then stop at the family-run Mandranova olive oil farm for a delicious olive oil tasting and home-grown lunch before continuing to Naro, a charming town with a medieval fortress and panoramic views.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6 Vila de Casale & Modica

After saying 'arrivederci' to Agrigento, we make our way to the Vila del Casale, a UNESCO-listed Roman villa, which houses 40 stunning floor mosaics, each depicting scenes from imperial Roman life. From here, we travel to our hotel in Modica, one of Sicily's eight Val di Noto towns rebuilt in Baroque style after a 1693 earthquake, and known for its chocolate-making. After an early-evening welcome drink at our hotel, we head for supper at Locanda del Colonello, a restaurant tucked into Modica's alleyways and acclaimed for its simple, yet stunning, Sicilian fare.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 7 Modica

We join a local guide for a walking tour of Modica; admiring its Baroque buildings as we roam its tiny lanes and staircases. After free time for a snack lunch, we visit the Antica Dolceria Bonajuto, the town's oldest chocolaterie, where we sample some of its classic, rich chocolate. We then continue to Scicli, another Val di Noto jewel and filming location for the popular Inspector Montalbano TV series. Discover its Baroque streets before returning to Modica for dinner at a local osteria.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 8 Ibla di Ragusa & Modica

The UNESCO-protected Baroque gem of Ibla di Ragusa boasts elegant palaces and churches, and is dominated by the magnificent Cathedral of San Giorgio. After experiencing the town, we return to Modica, where the afternoon is left free for you to sample its sights and shops as you wish or just to relax at your hotel. Dinner tonight is at the prestigious Relais Torre Marabino, an agritourism estate based in a Norman fortress, which produces its own organic fare and wines.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 9 Modica & Ortigia

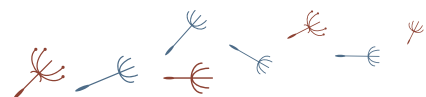
We depart Modica for Ortigia, the island-based old quarter of Syracuse, which is connected to the main city by three bridges. A guided walk reveals its quaint alleys and Baroque piazzas, before a delicious lunch at the Taberna Sveva restaurant which showcases its old-school local cuisine. After lunch, we check in to our Ortigia hotel, leaving the afternoon and evening free for you to enjoy this wonderful town and its eateries.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

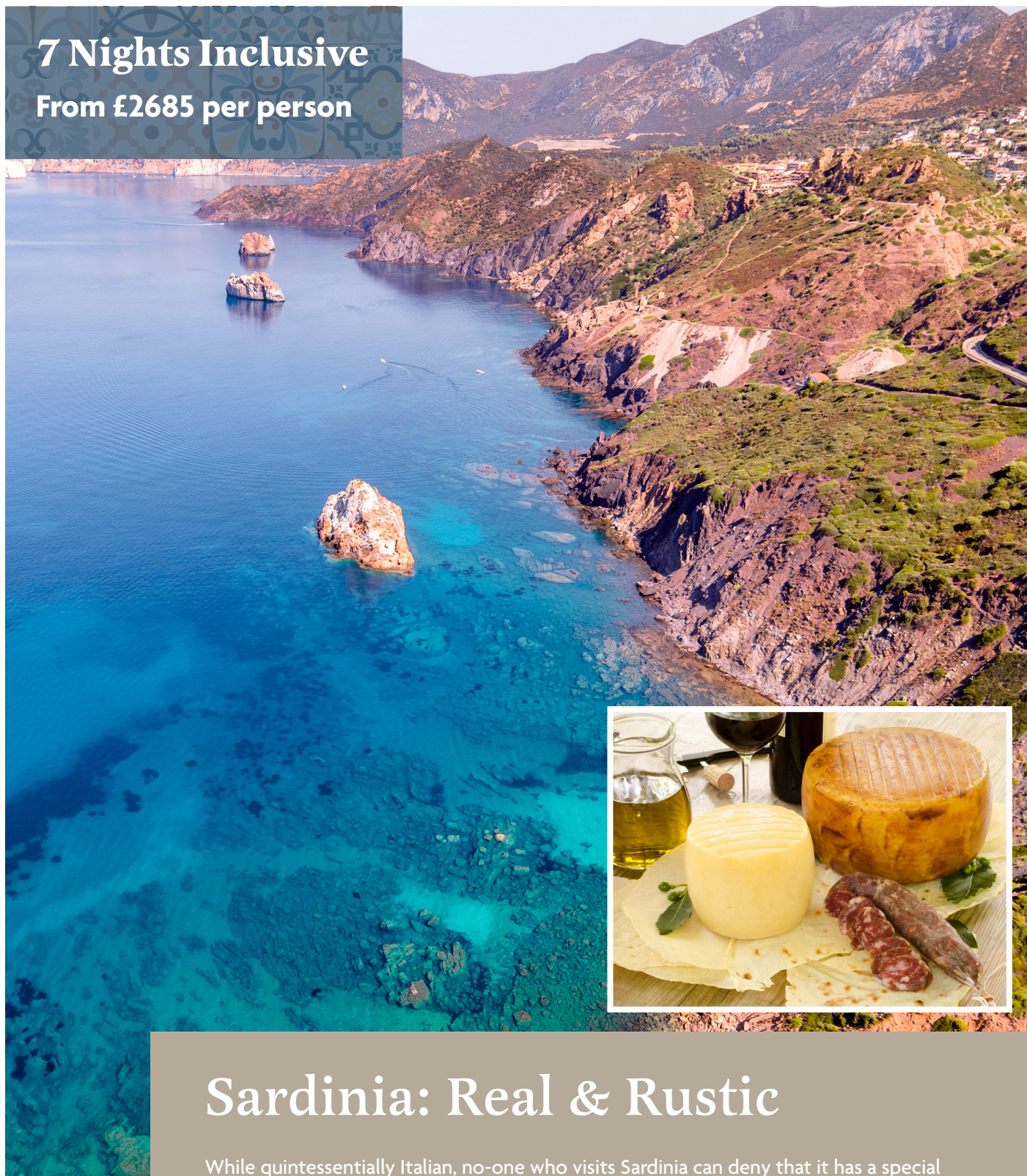
Day 10 Departure

We transfer to the airport to return to the UK.

Meals included: Breakfast



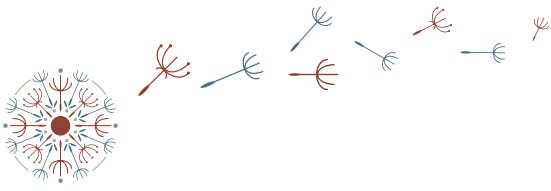
7 Nights Inclusive
From £2685 per person



Sardinia: Real & Rustic

While quintessentially Italian, no-one who visits Sardinia can deny that it has a special magic of its own. From its craggy peaks and Bronze-Age 'nuraghi' towers to its simple, frugal cuisine - borne from its ancient shepherd diet, this often-overlooked island brims with rustic charm, sun-beaten landscapes and beguiling discoveries.

Eschewing the conventional tourist trail around Sardinia's coast and glitzy Costa Smeralda, our 7-night tour concentrates on less-travelled Sardinia: unveiling capital Cagliari, sleepy towns like Bosa, and the Supramonte Mountains before visiting seaside Alghero. Encounters with local life abound, from wine-tastings and a mountain lunch to stays in hand-picked hotels, including the acclaimed Su Gologone, an idyllic retreat in the hills.



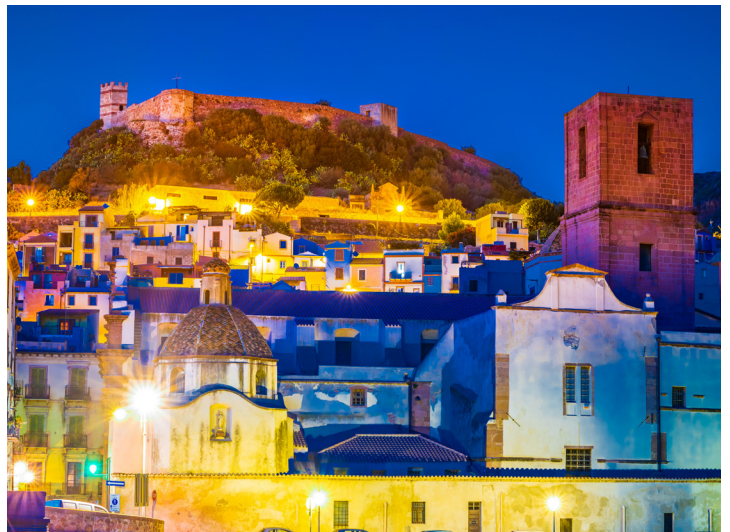
Handpicked Highlights

If it isn't included, it isn't worth it

- Get under the skin of wild, untouched Sardinia, experiencing its natural beauty, savouring its local food and staying at small and charming hotels
- Unwind in the lovely Catalan town of Alghero, famous for its sunsets and sea grottos
- Channel the local lifestyle at the Su Gologone hotel in Sardinia's 'Blue Zone', one of five global areas known for the longevity of its locals
- See the Bronze-Age 'nuraghi' of Su Nuraxi in Barumini and learn their ancient mysteries
- Visit an organic winery in the south's rolling hills and taste wines still made in ceramic amphoras
- Devour rustic Sardinian fare like cold cuts and 'pane carasau' at a shepherd's hut in the Gennargentu mountains
- Watch bakers make traditional flatbread, sip red
- Cannonau wine, and dine on slow-roasted suckling pig, an island delicacy



Su Nuraxi



Bosa

Nights 1-2 **Regina Margherita** ★★★★★

Cagliari

We have hand-picked the Regina Margherita for its great location in Cagliari's historic centre and its reputation for exceptional service. Standing on a tree-lined street running from the medieval quarter and close to the cathedral and harbour, the hotel has a polished look that can bely the traditionally warm welcome it offers, from the moment you arrive, you are treated to professional and helpful service from the well-trained team.

Nights 3-5 **Su Gologone Experience** ★★★★★

Oliena

Crouched in Sardinia's Supramonte foothills, the 4-star Su Gologone is a living, breathing celebration of the island's rich traditions, gastronomy and connection with nature. Run by the Palimodde family, and much more than a hotel - guests enjoy experiences like craft workshops and 4WD excursions - it is decorated throughout with hand-embroidered furnishings and local art that embed it into its natural surroundings.

DEPARTURE DATES

14 October 2024

PRICE INCLUDES

Return flights London Gatwick
Fully escorted holiday
Meals as stated in itinerary
All Handpicked Highlights listed above

[For full hotel descriptions, please see our website](#)

Nights 6-7 **Hotel Catalunya** ★★★★★

Alghero

A short stroll from Alghero old town, the 4-star modern Catalunya enjoys a great position a street back from the harbour and 15 minutes' walk from the beautiful Lido beach. Inside, everything is designed to create a relaxing and authentically Sardinian home-from-home, from the immaculate lobby and obliging staff to thoughtful touches that support the local community, such as eco-friendly policies and the use of local ingredients at the restaurant.

Contact your local travel agent

Your Day to Day Itinerary

Day 1 Arrive in Sardinia

We fly to Cagliari and after a transfer to our hotel, the 4-star Regina Margherita in the city, we enjoy a delicious dinner at a local restaurant. Both provide the perfect opportunity to meet and chat with your fellow travellers and tour manager.

Meals included: Dinner

Day 2 Cagliari

Today is dedicated to Cagliari, Sardinia's evocative and often underrated capital. Steeped in character, the city is outwardly Italian but with its own undeniable personality - interestingly, DH Lawrence called it 'strange and rather wonderful.' On a walking tour, we explore the historic old city, which sits on a plateau under an ancient citadel. After visiting the National Archaeological Museum to view artifacts spanning Neolithic and Roman times, we see the 13th century Cathedral and Bastion of Saint Remy, which commands stunning bay views, and ride the mini-train that winds through the medieval quarter.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 3 Su Nuraxi & Olianas Winery

Leaving Cagliari, we travel to Barumini, home to UNESCO-listed Su Nuraxi, a cluster of 'nuraghi' defensive towers dating back 3,700 years. With a local guide, we go inside the central tower and learn the legends behind these age-old structures. Next, we visit the Olianas Winery for a vineyard tour, wine-tasting and light lunch of fresh, home-grown produce before crossing into Sardinia's Gennargentu Massif to our base for the next three nights - the extraordinary Su Gologone Experience Hotel, tucked into the foothills of the Supramonte Mountains. This evening, we gather for an aperitif on an alfresco terrace before relishing the Sardinian speciality of suckling pig, accompanied by unlimited wine, beer and soft drinks.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4 Supramonte Mountains

A true adventure awaits in Sardinia's rugged Supramonte peaks this morning. Travelling into the mountains by 4WD, we visit a nuraghi site before driving to a rustic shepherd's hut for a picnic of flavoursome local foods including 'carasau' flatbreads, antipasti, roast lamb, cheeses, honey and desserts, all washed down with full-bodied Cannonau red wine. After our feast, we return to the Su Gologone, leaving the remainder of the afternoon and evening free for you to enjoy its inspirational amenities and setting. Maybe swim in the pool if the weather allows, relax on a scenic terrace, enjoy a siesta, or sip an aperitif at sunset - the choice is yours.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 5 Sorgente Su Gologone Springs & Orgosolo

We embark on a leisurely walk to the Sorgente Su Gologone springs, which flow from a rock face. After taking in this mystical beauty spot, we have lunch in nearby Orgosolo, dubbed the 'City of Murderers', for harbouring notorious bandits until a few decades ago. Our local guide shows us the highlights of this intriguing town, which is now peaceful and painted with murals depicting everything from revolutionary scenes to saints' portraits. Tonight brings a special tasting of local produce and wines. Gathered around a bread oven inside the hotel restaurant or one of its terraces (weather dependent), we watch an artisan baker create and cook local breads. The sweet aromas will surely whet your appetite for dinner and drinks, which follow.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 6 Nuoro, Bosa & Alghero

This morning, we call at historic Nuoro, set on the slopes of Monte Ortobene before passing farmlands and nuraghi en route to the west coast. We stop for lunch in the medieval town of Bosa, whose stacks of pastel-painted houses climb to a ruined castle. From here, it's a scenic drive around headlands and cliffs to Alghero. This one-time Catalan outpost exudes both a Spanish and Sardinian feel, and boasts cobbled lanes and piazzas girded by fortified walls. After checking in at our hotel, we meet for prosecco and nibbles at the rooftop bar overlooking the harbour before enjoying the remainder of the evening at leisure.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 7 Neptune's Caves

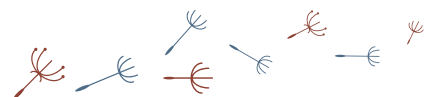
After riding a boat across the emerald waters of Alghero bay, we reach the rocky Capo Caccia headland, home to the famous Neptune's Caves, a network of natural sea grottos. Here, a cave guide leads us through the caverns to see their illuminated lakes, stalactites and stalagmites. Alternatively, you can choose to descend the 'Escala del Cabirol' (goat's steps), a 656-step stairway down the cliffs to the caves' entrance, revealing sublime seascapes at each turn. Returning to Alghero, we'll have time to freshen up before enjoying a fabulous farewell dinner at a local trattoria.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 8 Departure

We transfer to Olbia airport for our flight to the UK.

Meals included: Breakfast



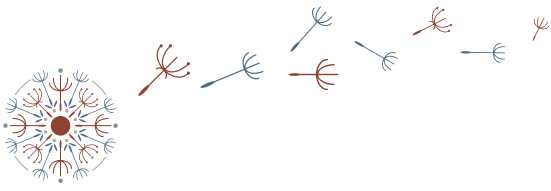
6 Nights Inclusive
From £1645 per person



Secluded Tuscany

Velvety hills woven with cypress-lined avenues, grand villas and medieval hill towns - Tuscany is a vision of beauty. Yet beneath its gentle scenery and medieval treasures lies a richer, deeper Tuscany - one of rustic produce, aromatic wines, and towns and villages overlooked by typical touring itineraries.

We balance this hidden Tuscany with must-sees like Siena and Montepulciano on this 6-night tour. Staying in the quiet town of Castel del Piano, we discover Renaissance-era Pienza, ancient Orvieto, and seaside Castiglione della Pescaia, intertwining them with enriching local culinary experiences. Dine at humble trattorias, sample fragrant truffles, taste wines and cheeses at artisanal estates, and more - and leave having experienced the true taste of Tuscany.



Handpicked Highlights

If it isn't included, it isn't worth it

- Enjoy six nights in the authentic small town of Castel del Piano, located in one of south Tuscany's most secluded areas
- Stay throughout in the 4-star Grand Hotel Impero, without the need to change hotels during the tour
- Visit gorgeous Tuscan towns away from the tourist trail, such as Grossetto and Pienza
- Enjoy a guided tour of magnificent Siena, one of the Italy's finest medieval cities and known for its Palio horse-race
- Savour classic Tuscan cuisine during experiential inclusions such as wine and cheese tastings at artisanal local farms and producers
- Indulge in an exclusive truffle, olive oil and honey tasting experience at your hotel
- Eat at authentic trattorias and enjoy the superb Grand Hotel Impero restaurant, renowned for its fantastic Tuscan dishes and wines



Castiglione della Pescaia



Chianciano Terme

Grand Hotel Impero

★★★★

Castel del Piano

Occupying a former manor house standing in its own gardens on the edges of Castel del Piano, the 4-star Grand Hotel Impero combines aristocratic looks with high standards of accommodation and warm local hospitality. The owners are passionate about delivering exemplary service and top notch cuisine - the well-regarded restaurant here uses locally sourced ingredients to serve food and wines as good as or better than those at typical local trattorias.

The lovely salmon-pink façade of the hotel opens to a swish, whitewashed interior with a smart lobby lounge, two stylish restaurant rooms and a lounge bar. The contemporary guest rooms are in keeping with everywhere else, each decorated in understated modern style and offering garden or mountain views, a flatscreen TV, safe, minibar and private bathroom with shower. After a day's sightseeing, guests can also visit the peaceful spa (additional cost) to enjoy its inviting sauna, steam room and wellbeing treatments.



DEPARTURE DATES

8 September & 29 September 2024

PRICE INCLUDES

Return flights London Heathrow
Fully escorted holiday
Meals as stated in itinerary
All Handpicked Highlights listed above

Contact your local travel agent

Your Day to Day Itinerary

Day 1 Arrive in Tuscany

We fly to Pisa airport where we meet our tour manager and travel to the delightful walled city of Lucca to glimpse its charming piazzas, elegant lanes, and exquisite churches. We continue to the small town of Castel del Piano, where we check in to our hotel, the Grand Hotel Impero, for the next six nights. A welcome prosecco or spritz accompanied by local delicacies precedes a rich Tuscan buffet dinner at our hotel, where we enjoy the chance to get to know our fellow travellers.

Meals included: Dinner

Day 2 Montepulciano, Pienza & Wine and Cheese-Tastings

We travel to the Renaissance hill town of Montepulciano, soaking up the 'can't-miss' landscapes of southern Tuscany's Val d'Orcia en route. There is free time to admire Montepulciano's handsome piazzas, palaces and churches before we leave for the nearby authentic Bindella Wine estate for a tour and taste of some delicious wines of Montepulciano region. Finally, we visit the pink-walled Renaissance town of Pienza, where you have time free for lunch at a restaurant of your choice. As we journey back to our hotel, we pause to sample local cheeses at the Il Seggiano cheese factory. This evening we enjoy dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 Castel del Piano & Chianciano Terme Wine-Tasting

Today we can take a leisurely and level stroll into the centre of Castel del Piano about 10 minutes' away on foot. We enjoy time free to explore here and maybe sample some local delicacies on our wanders. Afterwards, we drive to the spa resort of Chianciano Terme for a wine-tasting at a traditional winery. This afternoon brings a fabulous tasting of typical Tuscan olive oil, honey and flavourful truffles at our hotel before we sit down to dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4 Grosseto & Castiglione della Pescaia

After breakfast we head toward Tuscany's Tyrrhenian coast for a day of sightseeing. Winding through undulating landscapes dotted with cypresses, we arrive at tucked-away Grosseto, the capital of the Maremma region, and a pretty place to explore. You may want to use free time here to visit the city's medieval-style square, relax over frothy cappuccinos or browse the shops. Our tour continues to the castle-topped seaside town of Castiglione della Pescaia there is further free time to

relax and stroll the picturesque seafront before savouring a succulent local seafood lunch. After returning to Castel del Piano this afternoon, enjoy time to unwind or stroll into the town before dinner at our hotel.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5 Orvieto

Today we venture into neighbouring Umbria to experience the history-steeped hill town of Orvieto. Perched on a volcanic rock, this striking place once controlled the trade route between Rome and Florence, and boasts a majestic Gothic Duomo, fresco-painted churches, medieval palaces and subterranean Etruscan-era caves and tunnels. The unmissable sight here is the golden Duomo façade, which shimmers in the sun and boasts 14th century reliefs of biblical scenes. After absorbing this and other sights, we enjoy lunch at a wonderfully authentic restaurant burrowed into the volcanic rock. While the homemade fare here is terrific, the highlight is descending the restaurant's stairway into the Etruscan catacombs below - unforgettable! This evening we enjoy a light dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6 Siena & Azienda Trottolo Wine-Tasting

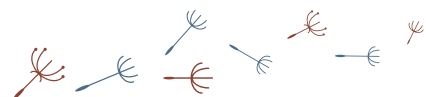
Nowhere exemplifies a classic Tuscan town better than Siena and this morning we immerse ourselves in this UNESCO-protected gem. During a half-day walking tour introducing its treasures and storied past, we visit its ethereally beautiful, oval-shaped Piazza del Campo, (the backdrop for the twice-yearly Palio horse race), the Gothic-Romanesque Duomo and other sights. Following our guided tour, you have time spare to meander the cobbled streets and have lunch at a restaurant by yourself. Our last stop is the classically Tuscan, family-run Azienda Agricola Trottolo winery, nestled near the celebrated Montalcino wine region, where a tasting of excellent local reds awaits us. This evening we enjoy dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 7 Departure

On our transfer to Pisa airport, we stop in the historic walled town of Volterra for a farewell lunch of classic Tuscan fare - a special finale before we catch our flight back to the UK.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch



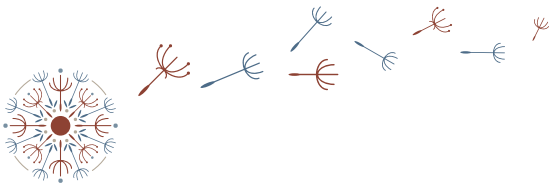
6 Nights Inclusive
From £1745 per person



Lake Garda Like a Local

With its azure waters and postcard-perfect towns, Lake Garda has drawn travellers since Roman times. Yet while visitors flock to lakeside towns like Sirmione and Malcesine, Garda's southwestern Valtènesi region is less-known and quieter. Here, charming villages and towns like Salò melt into sunny, green hills and traditional wineries and olive oil estates run by the same families for generations.

Based in the village of Montinelle, our 6 or 7 night tours uncover the hidden gems, forgotten history and hearty menus of this lovely area. We explore unsung cities like Mantova, discover the Tyrolean jewel of Merano, and taste fruity wines at Tuscan-like estates - all interspersed with flavourful north-Italian 'cucina' in simple, hand-picked trattorias.



Handpicked Highlights

If it isn't included, it isn't worth it

- Unpack and relax: stay six or seven nights at the 4-star Splendid Sole in little-known Montinelle in Lake Garda's charming Valtènesi region
- Explore the morainic hills behind the lake where Italy's Second War of Independence took place and the Red Cross was born
- Tour the enchanting cities of lake-framed Mantova and Cremona, home to Stradivarius' violins
- Discover the handsome lakeside town of Salo, a headquarters for Mussolini in the last days of World War II
- Visit two wineries, including the Tuscan-like Cantina Redaelli De Zinis, to enjoy delicious wine tastings
- Experience the South Tyrolean spa town of Merano: bringing an Austrian twist to your Garda discoveries
- Feast on fresh, typically Lombardian specialities at simple, authentic trattorias favoured by locals



Cremona



Salo

Hotel Splendid Sole

★★★★

Manerba del Garda

Set in Manerba del Garda about 800 metres from Lake Garda's shores, the 4-star Splendid Sole overlooks olive groves near the scenic Rocco di Manerba promontory. Run by a local family dedicated to creating a relaxing and welcoming retreat, the hotel pays particular attention to eco-sustainability and enabling guests to feel at one with the beautiful natural surroundings of the lake and Valtènesi.

Guests can take advantage of an impressive array of amenities, including a seasonal outdoor swimming pool and spa with an indoor pool, whirlpool, sauna and wellness treatments. A contemporary lobby, bar with alfresco terrace and an appealing restaurant, where buffet breakfasts of fresh local produce like homemade cakes and breads are served, complete the attractions. The air-conditioned rooms offer soft tones ideal for relaxing, a balcony or terrace overlooking the olive groves, a private bathroom with shower, and flatscreen TV, safe and minibar.



DEPARTURE DATES

5 October 2024 (6 nights) 2 April 2025 (7 nights)

PRICE INCLUDES

Return flights London Heathrow
Fully escorted holiday
Meals as stated in itinerary
All Handpicked Highlights listed above

Contact your local travel agent

Your Day to Day Itinerary

Day 1 Arrive in Lake Garda

We fly to Milan and travel to the quiet village of Montinelle in Manerba del Garda, in the heart of Lake Garda's beautiful Valtènesi region. After stopping en route for a generous lunch served with wine, we check in at the 4-star Splendid Sole hotel. This evening, we gather for a welcome drink and a light buffet dinner at the hotel, a great chance to meet and get to know your fellow travellers and tour manager.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Day 2 Montinelle & Lake Garda Countryside

This morning we travel through countryside to San Martino della Battaglia, where a monumental tower commemorates the 1859 Battle of San Martino, a key moment in Italy's Second War of Independence. We also visit Solferino, where the aftermath of another bloody 1859 battle inspired Swiss businessman Henri Dunant to establish the Red Cross. After a leisurely lunch at the Trattoria Da Arturo, we call at the Ossario di San Martino, a chapel lined with the skulls and bones of the soldiers killed in the battles. This evening is yours to spend as you want, perhaps dining at one of Montinelle's charming restaurants.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 3 Mantova

Another busy day awaits as we head to Mantova, a wonderful, but often-overlooked, medieval city. Circling by lakes, this charismatic city was the setting of Verdi's 'Rigoletto' and offers arcaded piazzas and the sumptuous Ducal Palace of the Gonzagas, one of Italy's most important Renaissance families. After a guided walk and visit to the Ducal Palace, there is free time to enjoy the shops and cafés. This evening brings dinner at a local trattoria

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4 Salò & Valtènesi Cantina Redaelli De Zinis Wine-Tasting & Lunch

We visit lakeside Salò, the seat of Mussolini's fascist government in 1944-1945. This elegant town on Garda's shores is classically Italian and has a lakefront promenade flanked by cafés. After free time to stroll and absorb the views, we travel into the pretty Valtènesi countryside - a land of vineyards and olive oil farms sometimes described as the 'Tuscany' of Lake Garda. We stop at the private family-run Cantina Redaelli De Zinis estate for a cellar tour, wine-tasting and delicious lunch. Tonight, your evening is free to dine and relax as the mood takes you.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 5 Montinelle

Today is free to rest at your hotel or explore the area in your own way. Perhaps stretch your legs on a walk to the Rock of Manerba, a beautiful lakeside promontory with sublime views, or the Porto di Dusano, a pretty marina lined with eateries and cafés where you can watch the passing boats. Alternatively, take things easy at your hotel or stroll into Montinelle to visit its morning market (Fridays only) and shops. This evening we'll visit an off the beaten track venue for an authentic dinner.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 6 Cremona

Today brings an excursion to the lovely city of Cremona, once home to Antoni Stradivari, the famous 17th century violin maker. The well-preserved town is known for its Romanesque and medieval architecture, splendid Piazza del Comune, and stunning Duomo, notable for its frescoes and impressive Torrazzo bell tower. We see these sights on a guided walking tour, and explore the Violin Museum, which charts Cremona's 500-year-old history of violin-making and the masters of the craft, including Stradivari. Tonight, your evening is free to dine and relax at leisure.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 7 Merano, Caldaro Wine Route & Cantina Martinelli Wine-Tasting

This morning takes us to delightful Merano, sitting in a wide valley backed by the towering Dolomites. Formerly held by the Hapsburgs and the one-time capital of the South Tyrol, this seductive spa town unfurls arcaded lanes, imposing churches and lush gardens. After a walking tour, there is free time to wander as you wish. This afternoon, we trace a scenic 'wine route' past historic vineyards to little-known Lake Caldaro, heart of the South Tyrol's wine production. We enjoy a tour and wine-tasting at the family-owned Cantina Martinelli winery. Tonight, we'll sit down locally for a farewell dinner.

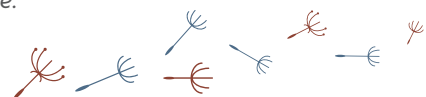
Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

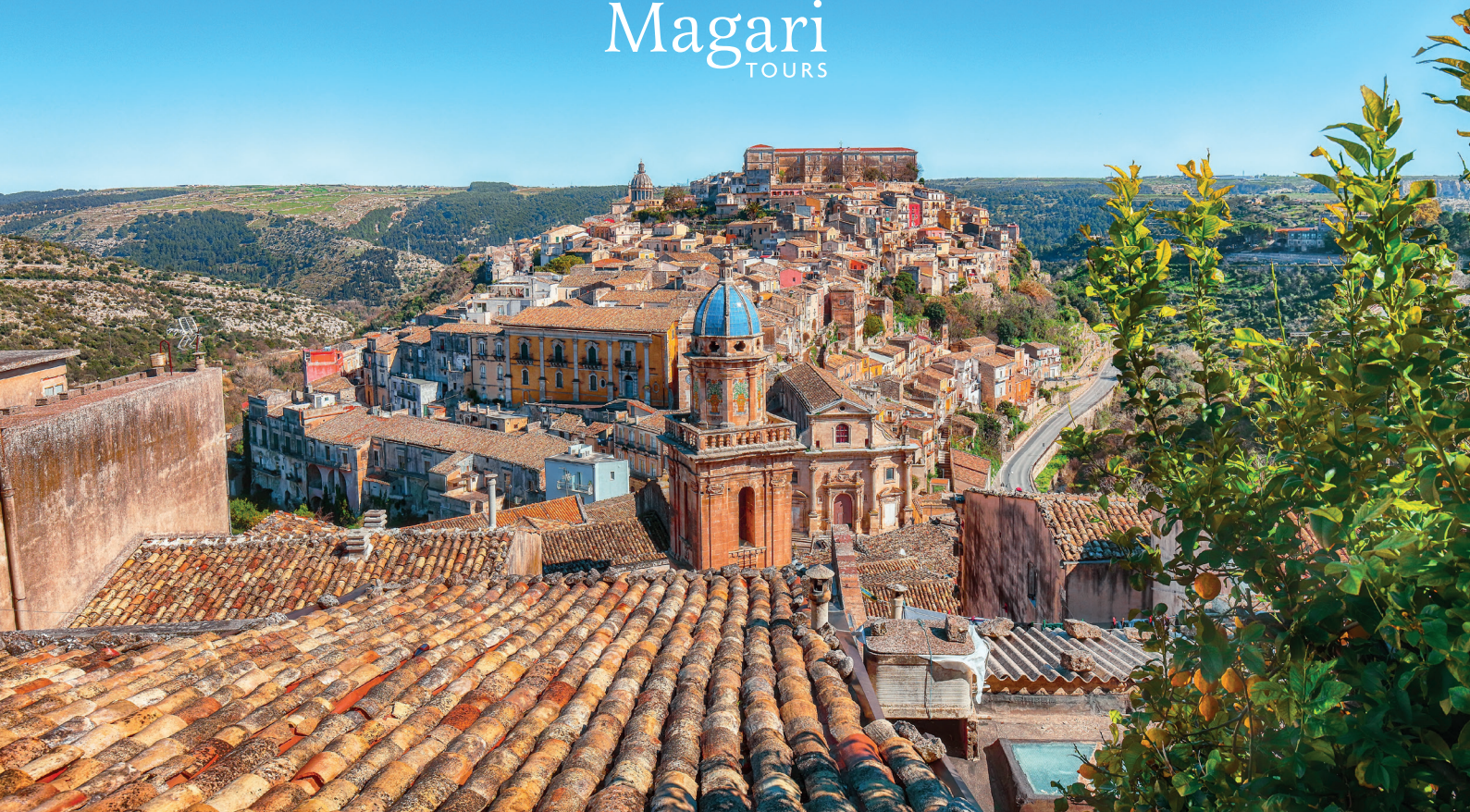
Day 8 Departure

We begin our homeward journey by driving into the countryside for lunch at an authentic trattoria. After savouring memories of our trip over the classic regional cuisine, we continue to the airport for our return flight.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

For our 6 night stay, the itinerary is as above but without Day 5 in Montinelle.





To book, visit your local travel agent

Or get in touch

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Visit our Website: www.magaritours.com

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