

# *Magical Puglia Tour*

## *Passeggiate in Puglia*

October 16 - 25, 2020

*with Mariana Fiorentino and YLTOUR*

Our Magical Puglia Tour takes us to three regions of Puglia: the Itria Valley, the Griko villages and to Lecce, Baroque capital of the Salento, also known as the land between two seas - the Ionian and Adriatic. The Tour is organic and so while we adhere to a daily schedule we also may stray off the beaten path should an opportunity for a unique magical experience present itself!

The magic begins when you land in Bari. You will be treated to a most breathtaking view from the hotel balcony. A welcome dinner is planned where everyone enjoys a sumptuous meal while meeting and learning of the magic to come in the following days.

Together with the most experienced guide in all of bella Italia, we will visit several World Heritage sites, such as Alberobello and Matera. We step into the Middle Ages in churches with exquisite frescoes. The Tree of Life ceramic tile floor in Otranto will wow you. We sit under thousand year old olive trees, walk the beach along the Adriatic, visit impressive gardens and a few museums.

We learn to make pasta, bread and and create rose shaped desserts. Slow cooking - farm to table cooking lessons with Francesca at her masseria, and the Mamas at the Puglia Cooking School, and of course, Ylenia who will teach you much more than how to make Focaccia Pugliese and Pears Girelle! You will become an expert in the tasting of the Negroamaro and Primitivo wines thanks to Michele at La Strada del Vino and a local winery. And you will slurp a variety of olive oils. Don't forget to pack your scarf for your Pizzica dance lesson!

Lecce - the Florence of the South is, in its own right, a Baroque jewel. We will walk the narrow streets and visit the ruins, the castle, the Duomo and palaces with our accomplished guide, Samantha. Lecce underground - a walking tour with Mariana takes you to the Library and the cemetery and supermarket. We will experience the art of Cartapesta and enjoy a chocolate tasting.

We will dine at award winning restaurants and at small local trattorie. We will stay in a small B&B along the Adriatic, a country Masseria in the Griko region of the Salento, and finally at a small boutique hotel in Lecce across from the Castle.

The tour is unhurried with time for taking photos, journaling, resting and shopping. Are you ready to experience the magic?