

# PUGLIA AND BASILICATA



LUXURY  
EXPERIENCES

VISION GROUP



Puglia and Basilicata: A magic land between two seas. An extraordinary movement inside the Italian symphony, where fertile red soil and crystalline waters are drawn with the shapes of secular olive trees; white sand beaches, cliffs and grottos are all combined in a paradise region.

The Southern Italian cuisine will just add pleasure to your fulfilment of the senses. An experience of art, history, nature and food.

# HISTORY & ARCHITECTURE

- Baroque Lecce. Known as the 'Florence of the South', Lecce city hosts amazing Baroque masterpieces and treasures. An art historian will take you on a fascinating and detailed walking tour of this city rich in history, architecture and culture. From the Roman amphitheater to the noble palazzi the city is just brimming with imposing sites
- The White City of Ostuni. Discover the magical "white city" of Ostuni and its hidden treasures – an imposing citadel overlooking the olive plains all the way to the Adriatic. The tiny winding streets of the oldest quarter are known by the Arabic term the "Casbah" and certainly look more Greek or eastern than the stereotypical piazzas of northern Italy.
- Trulli of Alberobello. Go in search of Puglia's famous trulli houses, bring back the history of this picturesque town to life. These cone shaped dwellings are unique to the region and in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Alberobello you will see a concentration of over 1,000 trulli houses.
- Ruins of Egnazia. Visit the ruins of the Roman city of Egnazia, something that cannot be found elsewhere. Beside the Roman ruins, with a leading archaeologist exclusively visit a selection of Bronze Age tombs normally closed to the public.



# HISTORY & ARCHITECTURE

- Sassi of Matera, Basilicata. Travel to Matera for an in-depth visit of this unique and ancient city perched high on a beautiful hillside and only recently seen by foreign eyes. This famed UNESCO World Heritage Site is just across the border from Puglia, in the Basilicata Region. Our expert guide will privately lead you on a walking tour of the 'sassi', ancient cave dwellings restored for current use as homes, shops and restaurants.
- Ghost Town of Craco, Basilicata. Discover the ghost town of Craco. Built at the top of a 1300-foot cliff, the striking town dominated by the 14th century castle stands out amid a landscape of muted colors and soft shapes. After many years of holding off foes and enemies thanks to its dominant defensive position, Craco fell victim to natural elements. Landslides, flooding and earthquakes forced the town to be completely and permanently evacuated. This medieval village has remained eerily uninhabited ever since
- Ruins of Metaponto, Basilicata. Visit the striking Greek temples of Metaponto. This fascinating archeological site preserves monuments which tell the story of the ancient town from its foundation by the Greeks until the Roman era.
- Crypt of Original Sin, Matera. Enjoy an exclusive, private visit of the Crypt of the Original Sin, also known as the "SistineChapel" of the Rupestrian wall painting.



# NATURE & LANDSCAPES

- Sailing the Adriatic to enjoy the crystal-clear waters Embark on an imposing gulet-style tall ship, with high masts and a beautiful wooden deck or a luxurious 59-foot yacht. Just sit back in style and enjoy the sea breeze and the coastal views with a cool glass of prosecco. Weigh anchor for a refreshing swim or a stop to a secluded beach.
- Monumental Olive Groves. Experience another of Puglia's most important treasures: olive oil. We will meet the owner of a olive mill on his ancient estate, used for thousands of years, to have an exclusive and fascinating insight into olive oil production. Walk the beautiful grounds of the estate and of course enjoy some olive oil tasting.
- Dolphins of Taranto Bay. Set sail aboard a private boat and go in search of the dolphins who call the bay of Taranto home. Keep a keen eye out as the dolphins swim and play near the boat, sometimes even putting on a cheeky show and jumping out of the water. An aperitif and drinks will also be served on board.
- Hiking & Guided Cycling. For those looking for an active adventure, enjoy a guided hiking and cycling (complete with a bike guide and support vehicle) in order to explore the region in a unique way and get an alternative perspective. The activities will be tailored to the guests' interests and fitness level and cultural and gastronomic activities can be incorporated en route.





# EPICUREAN

- Dining with Nobles in a private palace. Enter into the private home of a local noble family for a truly unique experience. Entirely closed to the public the palace provides a fascinating insight into the life and style of Italy's elite. Enjoy a delicious dining and discuss the heraldic traditions of the family.
- Exclusive aperitif in a cave Byzantine Monastery dating from the twelfth century with surrounding caves that housed, over time, monks and peasants. The evocative crypt features frescoes of the same period recently restored. On the terraces above the rock site, surrounded by secular olive groves, enjoy the sunset for a last sip of a local wine and some tasteful delicacies.
- Private Winery Tour & Wine Tasting Lunch with the owners. Visit one of the region's most renowned wineries and join the engaging and passionate oenologist for a beautiful walk through the estate and the vineyards. Then enjoy a private wine tasting lunch together with the winery's owners in the beautiful barrel room overlooking the ageing barrels of wine.
- Ancient Wineries & Salento Culinary Traditions. It hardly seems possible, but there is a winery in this region that was founded in 1065 and for 950 years it has remained in the same family, making outstanding wines. Our visit will include the incredible cellars and a detailed tasting in the charming garden.



# EPICUREAN

- In a truly charming country estate specializing in all the traditions of Salentine products and recipes, see the ancient cheese stores, make pasta with the local ladies and taste focaccia fresh from the wood oven. Everywhere you turn you will see evidences of the history of the estate which dates back to the 1200s and the delightful décor of hanging vine tomatoes, dried herbs and vintage olive presses.
- Burrata Cheese-Making at a Local Producer. Discover the secrets of cheese-making in the ancient traditions of Puglia. You will meet local cheese artisan at his farm, where he will demonstrate the art of making fresh burrata and let you try twisting a knot of mozzarella.
- Bread-making in Altamura. Have an inside look at how the traditional breads of the region are made, you will be welcomed into the bakery where the techniques and secrets for making these special breads will be revealed. Try working with the dough yourself and shape the bread before putting into the oven to bake.
- Traditional Pugliese Cooking Lesson at a Private Countryside Masseria. In a beautiful farmhouse in the countryside immerse yourself in a hands-on cooking lesson. Learn secrets of local dishes and ancient techniques of Southern Italian cooking. After the class, sit down around the table and enjoy a glass of wine and share in the wonderful meal you have created.
- Private Dining Experiences. Extraordinary private dining experiences at restaurants, ranging from traditional trattorie to Michelin-starred restaurants, or in unexpected and whimsical locations like a consecrated cave church, a thousand-year-old olive grove, a private terrace overlooking the sea.



# TRADITIONS

- Artisans of Martina Franca. Puglia is home to many artisan traditions. The experience will take you to meet a gifted leather craftswoman with whom you could create your own bespoke leather item, and a highly skilled ceramicist known for her incredibly intricate painting with whom you could create your own tile in the “Maiolica” style typical of the Italian South.
- Visit the Workshop of a light artist and enjoy a private dinner in his enchanting terrace overlooking the sea. Enter the world of the light artist and discover his inspiration and the techniques he uses to create his ethereal pieces.
- Ceramic Artisans of Grottaglie. Discover the famous centre for incredible ceramics, its workshops and hugely tempting showrooms. Due to the excellent natural clay found nearby, this ancient town has been a haven for talented potters for thousands of years.
- Vintage Cars and the Itria Valley. Discover the beautiful landscape of Puglia, the old country lanes, picturesque hilltop towns, vineyards and olive groves from behind the wheel of stunning vintage cars. Stop at picturesque manor houses, olive oil estate and lunch by the beautiful hilltop town of Martina Franca, brimming with baroque architecture and chic boutiques, or enjoy an exclusive private picnic in the countryside between secular olive groves.
- Puglia is a region with an incredible tradition and colourful folklore: enjoy an unforgettable dance and music performance in a stunning location or while dining in your stunning panoramic restaurant.



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