

ITALIAN JOURNEYS

Ancient Roots

12 Days · Private Journey

Sorano & Hidden Tuscany · Siena · Matera · Alberobello · Lecce & Otranto · Bari

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THE JOURNEY

Italy before the crowds found it — twelve days through the lesser-traveled heart of the country, where ancient villages cling to cliffsides, cave dwellings glow in golden light, and the rhythm of life still runs slow and soulful. Begin in Sorano, sleeping in a 12th-century fortress; walk Siena with guides who can open a private villa's doors; taste your way through Matera's extraordinary Sassi; and finish among the trulli of Alberobello and the baroque streets of Lecce. Private drivers, expert local guides, characterful hotels, and every entry arranged in advance — you simply show up and enjoy.



DAY BY DAY

Day 1 — Arrive in Italy. Land at Rome Fiumicino, where your private driver greets you and escorts you to Sorano, a scenic countryside town in Tuscany's wild south; settle into your peaceful surroundings.

Day 2 — Hidden Tuscany. A six-hour private guided tour: medieval Sorano, Sovana's Etruscan tombs and Romanesque charm, the iconic cliffs of Pitigliano, and Vitozza, a ghost village carved into the stone — a day steeped in mystery and timeless grace.

Day 3 — To Siena. Travel north to Siena for a four-hour private walking tour tracing the city's ancient spirit, including a beautifully preserved private villa and exclusive hidden gems most visitors never see.

Day 4 — Siena at leisure. Revisit the Duomo, sip wine in Piazza del Campo, browse artisan workshops — the day is yours. Options: farm & Chianti wine tour; clay hills & winery tour; Siena & San Gimignano; Montepulciano or Brunello wine tours; Chianti or Brunello cooking class.

Day 5 — Siena to Matera. A private transfer south across the peninsula to Matera, where stone caves and sweeping plateaus define the landscape; evening at leisure.

Day 6 — Flavors & Stone. A four-hour private walking and tasting tour through Matera's iconic Sassi districts — cheeses, breads, cured meats and sweets, set against one of Italy's most cinematic cities.

Day 7 — Matera at leisure. Artisan shops, dramatic canyon views, or a glass of wine overlooking the rooftops of the Sassi. Option: tours of the surrounding area on request.

Day 8 — Matera to Lecce, via Alberobello. A two-hour private tour of Alberobello, the fairytale town of conical trulli houses, before continuing to Lecce, the baroque jewel of Puglia.

Day 9 — Lecce & Otranto. A private full day among Lecce's ornate stone façades, lively squares and local traditions, then on to the coastal town of Otranto, where medieval history meets the deep blue Adriatic; return to Lecce in the evening.

Day 10 — Lecce at leisure. Quiet cloisters, a caffè leccese, and the relaxed pace of life under the southern sun.

Day 11 — Locorotondo, Polignano & Bari Vecchia. Travel north with stops in circular, whitewashed Locorotondo and cliff-perched Polignano a Mare, then a guided tour (or gastro-tour) through the maze-like streets of Bari Vecchia — handmade orecchiette to Roman ruins.

Day 12 — Departure. Private transfer to Bari Airport for your flight home — carrying the flavors, landscapes and stories of a lesser-known Italy.

Included throughout: private airport and intercity transfers, private drivers and guides as listed, all scheduled entries and tasting fees, and 11 nights with breakfast — a 12th-century fortress hotel in Sorano, 4- and 5-star hotels in Siena and Lecce, a luxury boutique hotel in Matera, and luxury suites in Bari. Optional experiences are quoted separately, and every journey can be tailored — longer stays, different hotels, extra days in the south.



Every journey begins with a conversation. Tell us where Italy has been calling you, and we will design the rest — privately, personally, and entirely around you.

Booking your journey: a deposit of 20% confirms your dates, with the balance due two months before arrival. Payment by bank wire or Zelle carries no surcharge; credit card payments add 5%.

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