

BEST OF Southern Italy



OCTOBER 13 – 24, 2025

Hosted by Denise Iarossi Taylor and Mike Bellomo

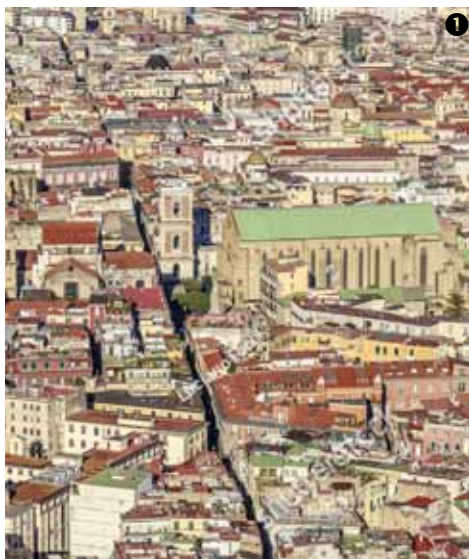
50
YEARS
OF EXCEPTIONAL
TRAVEL

witte

Journey through Southern Italy from the Bay of Naples to the Adriatic Sea.

This 12-day adventure features the ruins of Pompeii, the culture of the coastal towns surrounding the region of Puglia, the stunning Amalfi Coast, and the Isle of Capri.

The cuisine, wine, and coastlines of this region are sure to delight! A taste of Southern Italy is yours to experience and long remember.



TOUR COST

\$4,965 per person from Grand Rapids, based on double occupancy

REGISTER ONLINE AT

bookings.wittetravel.com

use booking code

101325TAYL

or complete and return the printed registration form.



HOSTED BY

Denise Iarossi Taylor



Denise Iarossi Taylor is President of the Perugia, Italy committee, one of the six sister cities of Grand Rapids. A semester abroad in

Athens and Rome during college whetted Denise's appetite for language and travel. After earning her BA in French and Political Science from DePauw University, she worked as an "au pair" in Paris where she fell in love with the many bookstores scattered throughout the city. Before retiring, her love of books inspired her to become a bookseller for more than thirty years. Now, she is a member of the Grand Rapids Sister Cities International Board. Denise's maternal grandparents were from L'Aquila in Abruzzo.

616-204-8444

dtaylor1012@hotmail.com

HOSTED BY

Mike Bellomo



Mike Bellomo is a first-generation Italian American. Mike's father was from Valenzano Puglia, Italy and his mother's family has roots in San Cono,

Sicily. He is passionate about traveling and has been to Europe and Italy many times. After researching both sides of his family's history, he's had the privilege of visiting and connecting with Italian cousins in Valenzano and San Cono. Maintaining a strong connection to his heritage, he has served as a proud member of Club Italia and the West Michigan Italian American Club. Eager to return, Mike looks forward to experiencing the culture of Italy with the group.

bellomj@aol.com



TOUR PACE

MODERATE – Travelers considering this tour of the Best of Southern Italy must be aware of existing challenges in Europe for those with mobility, balance, and respiratory issues. While picturesque landscapes and cultural experiences await, navigating cobblestone streets, uneven terrain and narrow pathways pose difficulties. **Passengers who require any mobility device, must be accompanied by a physically able companion who enables them to keep pace with walking tours on this trip.** Taxis or other transportation used to “catch up” to the group are at the passenger’s expense. Activity levels vary from day-to-day. Sightseeing is often a brisk walk over several miles each day on uneven ground. Your safety and comfort are our top priorities. We are committed to ensuring an inclusive and enjoyable experience for all travelers.

ITINERARY

Meals included: B-breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13

Depart

Today’s the day of departure! Meet at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport for our transatlantic flights to Italy. We are on our way! (D-in flight)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14

Arrive in Naples

Welcome to Naples, a captivating city in southern Italy. Following passport control, we meet our tour manager and driver. Next, we head into the city for an independent lunch and a walking tour through Naples. We explore Spaccanapoli, a narrow street that cuts through the heart of the historic center. Discover charming alleys, local markets, and hidden gems. Another highlight is the Naples Cathedral, where we admire the stunning architecture. Inside, find the Tesoro di San Gennaro (Treasury of St. Januarius). After our walking tour, we check in to our hotel for the next three nights and freshen up before our welcome dinner with a view of the sea. (B-in flight, D)

- ❶ Spaccanapoli, Naples
- ❷ Pompeii street
- ❸ Castel del Monte, Conversano
- ❹ *Veiled Christ*, Sansevero Chapel Museum, courtesy www.museosansevero.it/en

Cover: Naples from Posillipo Hill with Mount Vesuvius in the distance

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15

Naples

After a good night’s sleep, we explore more of Naples. We visit the Sansevero Chapel Museum, a true artistic gem. The chapel houses some of the world’s most impressive artworks, meticulously crafted with breathtaking skill. We admire these sculptures, including the famous *Veiled Christ*. After our morning sightseeing, lunch will be at a local pizzeria. Naples is renowned as the birthplace of pizza! Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. (B, L)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

Pompeii > Naples

Today we visit Pompeii, once a thriving Roman town in Campania, Italy. Here we take a guided tour, to explore the archaeological excavations, which offers a fascinating glimpse into the ancient Roman city that was tragically buried by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 CE. The city’s remarkable state of preservation provides invaluable insights into everyday life during ancient Roman times. The rest of the afternoon is independent. (B)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

Naples > Conversano

After breakfast, we transfer to the ancient town of Conversano, known for its historical charm, cultural heritage, scenic beauty, food, and wine. Here we tour Castel del Monte, also known as the “Castle of the Mountain,” which is perched on a hill. It’s known for its unique architecture, boasting an octagonal plan with an octagonal tower at each corner. In 1996, UNESCO declared Castel del Monte a World Heritage Site for its medieval military architecture. It has served as a prison and a refuge during a plague, and it eventually fell into disrepair. This evening, we gather for a three-course meal at a local restaurant. Spend the next four nights in Conversano. (B, D)





SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

Bari > Mola di Bari > Polignano a Mare > Conversano

Experience Bari, Mola di Bari, and Polignano a Mare today. Bari is a bustling port city and hub for commerce and education that sits on the Adriatic Sea. Partake in a private walking tour to learn more about this captivating city. We visit the Basilica di San Nicola, a remarkable example of Puglian Romanesque architecture. It serves as a pilgrimage destination for both Roman Catholics and Orthodox Christians. Later this afternoon, we visit Mola di Bari and Polignano a Mare, two charming towns in the Puglia region. Mola di Bari is a picturesque coastal town offering a delightful blend of history, seafood, and scenic views. Natural caves are scattered around where remains of prehistoric human settlements have been found. Polignano a Mare, known as the “pearl on the Adriatic Sea,” is perched on limestone cliffs overlooking the water. Explore its ancient streets, natural beauty, and fascinating caves. The town’s oldest part offers breathtaking vistas and a glimpse into its rich history. Both towns promise an unforgettable experience. Later we return to our hotel in Conversano. (B)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

Ostuni > Lecce > Conversano

Today we visit Ostuni and Lecce for city tours and some free time. Ostuni’s citadel is built on top of a hill and is still fortified by the ancient walls. It’s commonly referred to as “the White Town” for its white walls and white-painted architecture. The enjoyable walk to the top leads to the cathedral, offering panoramic views of olive groves and the Adriatic Sea. Lecce is Puglia’s cultural heart—a city where history is alive in the ornate churches, grand piazzas, and ancient ruins, including a well-preserved amphitheater. The historic center is beautiful, vibrant, and perfect for long walks. Return to Conversano for the evening. (B)



MONDAY, OCTOBER 20

Alberobello > Conversano

Depart to Alberobello for a guided walking tour, the best way to explore this charming town and see the trulli houses, it is famous for. Trulli are traditional limestone houses with conical roofs, that create a magical atmosphere. These iconic structures have been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit the main tourist area, Rione Monti, where we find trulli used as gift shops, restaurants, and wine bars. Continue to Rione Aia Piccola, where trulli are used for residential accommodations. The Church of Saint Anthony of Padua offers beautiful architecture within the trulli district. Be on the lookout for shops with panoramic terraces, a great opportunity to see the city from a different view. After some independent time, gather this evening for dinner at a local restaurant. (B, D)





TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21

Matera > Padula > Castellammare di Stabia

Transfer to Castellammare di Stabia with stops in Matera and Padula. In Matera, we visit the Sassi, the heart of the city lying in a unique rock-cut urban core. The twin cliffside zones are carved into the tufa limestone and consist of ancient cave dwellings. The Sassi is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a testament to human adaptation over millennia. Enjoy lunch together in Matera at a cave restaurant. Stop in Padula to visit the Certosa di San Lorenzo, a magnificent Carthusian monastery within the Cilento National Park. The monastery boasts the largest cloister in the world, covering about three acres and surrounded by 84 columns. Spend the next three nights in Castellammare di Stabia. (B, L)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

Amalfi Coast > Castellammare di Stabia

We head to the Amalfi Coast today, with stops in Positano and Ravello for stunning views of the Amalfi Coast. In Positano, snap the perfect photo of colorful umbrellas on Marina Grande beach or peach-and-pink houses cascading down the cliffside to the sea. Wander through narrow streets and steep steps flanked by wisteria-draped hotels, chic restaurants, and fashionable boutiques. Positano embodies the essence of Italian coast living, while Ravello is a hidden gem that remains less crowded, allowing us to savor its beauty without the hustle and bustle. Known for its villas and gardens, we visit the historic Villa Rufolo, once a luxurious 13th-century villa. It once hosted banquets for Norman royalty and remains an inspiration for artists. Return to Castellammare di Stabia for an evening at leisure. (B)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

Capri > Anacapri > Castellammare di Stabia

Our last full day in Italy! We take an excursion to the island of Capri. The island's two charming towns, Capri and Anacapri, each offer a distinct experience. Capri is known for its glamour and cosmopolitan vibes, home to elegant designer boutiques, high-end nightclubs, chic eateries, and luxurious yachts that dock at the Marina Grande and La Piazzetta. On the other hand, Anacapri is quaint and welcoming. Known for its sleepy and timeless nature, it is an ideal place for relaxation. The famous Phoenician Steps connect Anacapri to Marina Grande, with 921 steep steps. Returning to Castellammare di Stabia, we gather for a farewell dinner with a view of the sea. (B, D)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

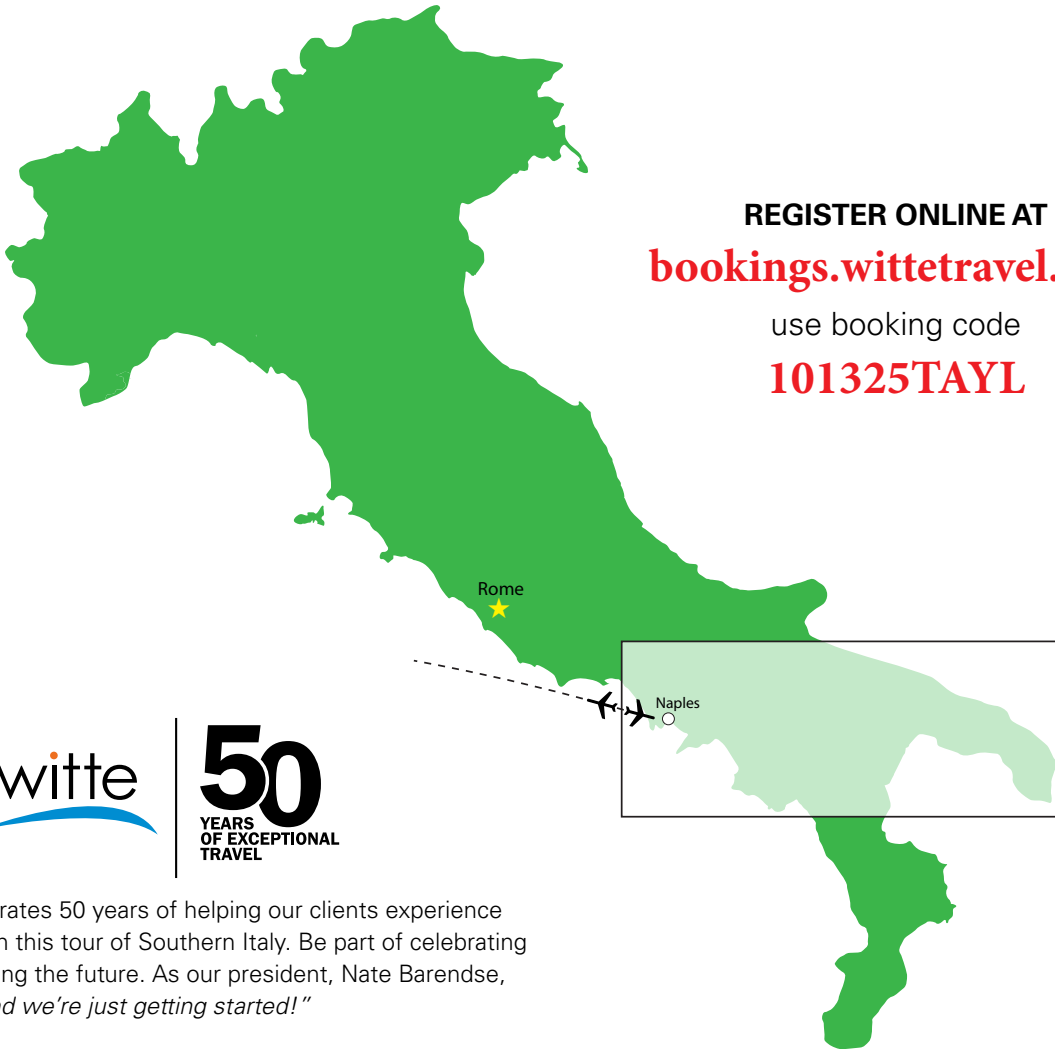
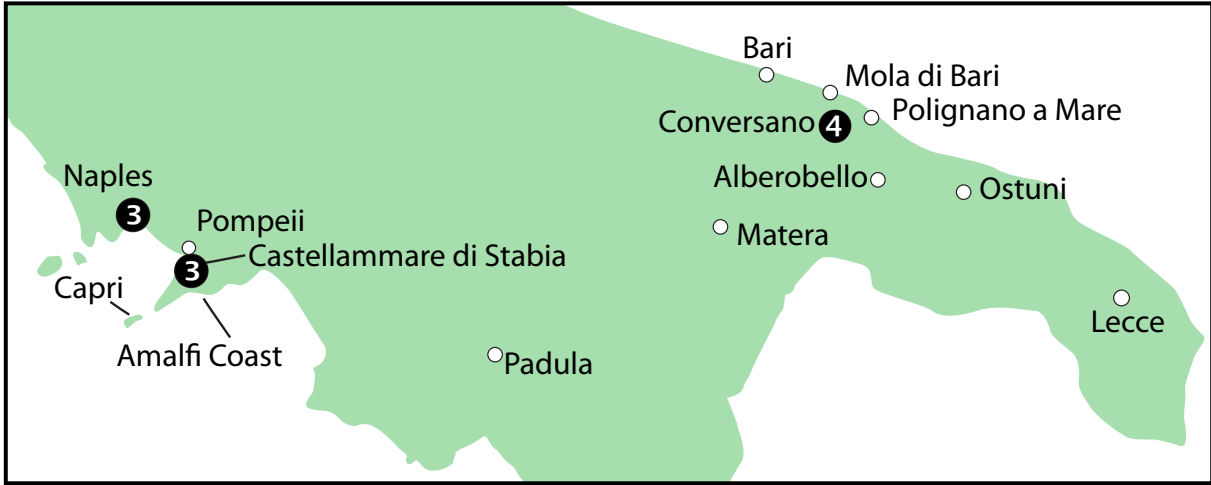
Return

Transfer from Castellammare di Stabia to Naples International Airport and check in for our return flights home, following an unforgettable experience. (B, Meals-in flight)



- ❶ Polignano a Mare
- ❷ Kitchen of the Certosa di San Lorenzo, Padula
- ❸ Positano, Amalfi Coast
- ❹ Trulli houses, Alberobello
- ❺ Sassi di Matera, historic district in Matera

Reserve your spot today!



REGISTER ONLINE AT
bookings.wittetravel.com
use booking code
101325TAYL



In 2025, Witte celebrates 50 years of helping our clients experience the world. Join us on this tour of Southern Italy. Be part of celebrating our past, and exploring the future. As our president, Nate Barendse, says, "Fifty years and we're just getting started!"



Witte Travel & Tours
3250 28th St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512
616.957.8113 | 800 GO WITTE
groups@wittetravel.com | wittetours.com

