



PETER GEE'S ITALIAN ODYSSEY: FROM COASTAL VILLAGES TO HILLSIDE HAMLETS

featuring Sicily, Amalfi Coast, Matera, Rome, and the charming hill towns of the North.



SMALL GROUP ESCORTED TOUR 23 day tour, departing 9th September 2019

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE

- Wander a number of historical sites, from the UNESCO World Heritage Listed Valley of the Temples, the Greek Theatre in Taormina, the ornate Duomo of Santa Maria Assunta, and the magnificent Ponte delle Torri, a 13th-century aqueduct.
- Travel to "Sassi di Matera," an ancient town known for its cave dwellings.
- Venture to the breathtaking Amalfi Coast.
- Experience the excavated ruins of Pompeii at the foothills of Mount Vesuvius.
- Sample local specialities at family-owned vineyards and a limoncello factory, and savour delicious regional fare, including a cooking class in a 16th-century Umbrian farmhouse.
- Take the road less travelled visiting small villages in Italy's countryside, including Orvieto and Spoleto.
- Journey to Florence, the "Cradle of the Italian Renaissance."



Peter Gee is a well-known Tasmanian, recognisable from his roles as News Broadcaster and Sports Reporter with the ABC for over 35 years. A keen cyclist, trivia buff, and music connoisseur, Pete has recently returned from a holiday in

Southern Italy, and is excited to share his knowledge with you. Pete has a happy and infectious personality, and is looking forward to escorting you on your journey of discovering the secrets of unique Italy.

Andrew Jones
T R A V E L

KNOWS TRAVEL

MONDAY 9 SEPTEMBER**DEPART TASMANIA**

Today we depart Tasmania to begin our Italian adventure.

TUESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER D**ARRIVE PALERMO, SICILY**

Explore the hidden treasures of Southern Italy and Sicily. We will find breathtaking scenery, historic cities, centuries-old hilltop villages and wonderful cuisine.

This evening in Palermo, we enjoy a welcome dinner featuring authentic Sicilian cuisine.

WEDNESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER B,D**PALERMO - MONREALE - PALERMO**

Today we get to know Palermo on a tour featuring its lovely squares - Quattro Canti, Piazza Pretoria and Piazza Bellini. Along the way, we discover an exotic mix of Moorish, Norman and Spanish Baroque styles. View the Palace of the Normans, La Martorana church, and the cathedral which houses the Imperial Crown of Constance of Aragon. In the nearby town of Monreale, visit the 12th-century cathedral with its dazzling interior of multicoloured marbles, paintings, mosaics and cloisters. This afternoon, set off for the stunning seaside town of Cefalù on Sicily's northern coast. Stroll the charming medieval streets with a local guide and visit its magnificent cathedrals that showcase popular Norman architecture. Next, journey to a family-owned farm set in the mountains. Meet the owners and discover what a typical day on a Sicilian farm is like and learn about its traditional products. Later, sit back and relax as a chef prepares local specialities for you featuring the farm's own products and secret recipes. Then, sit down to a hearty dinner - Italian-style, complete with wine of course!

THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER B,D**PALERMO - AGRIGENTO - GIARDINI NAXOS**

This morning we will depart Palermo to travel over the countryside's rolling hills and through peaceful farmland towards the town of Agrigento. Stop to explore the stunning Valley of the Temples, one of the most important archaeological sites in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Here you get an up-close view of the temples of Juno, Concordia, Hercules and Jupiter. Continue on to Giardini Naxos, the "garden of Sicily," where we will stay for three nights.

FRIDAY 13 SEPTEMBER B,D**GIARDINI NAXOS - TAORMINA - GIARDINI NAXOS**

We set off for beautiful Taormina this morning, known for its charming atmosphere, historic monuments and flowering gardens. We will meet a local guide for a tour of the city, before enjoying

some free time this afternoon. Our evening begins with a typical Italian antipasto and continues with a variety of local specialties and fine Sicilian wines. Delight in the lively music performed by talented local musicians who are sure to have you clapping and singing along. Sit back and savour the flavours of Sicily over a four course meal, during a fun-filled evening with true Italian ambiance.

SATURDAY 14 SEPTEMBER B**GIARDINI NAXOS - CATANIA - MT. ETNA - GIARDINI NAXOS**

This morning we journey to vibrant Catania where we have a choice of activities. The first option is to join a local guide to visit the cathedral and view other iconic sights of this historic Baroque, UNESCO listed city; then witness the daily spectacle of bartering for fresh fish and produce at the local market. Or, we can explore the Museo dello Sbarco (Allied Landing Museum). This moving museum is dedicated to the Allied troops who landed on the southern coast in 1943. The two groups will meet in the afternoon to discover the impressive Mt. Etna Volcano National Park with a local expert and take in the spectacular landscapes sculpted by nature. Return to Giardini Naxos for the evening at leisure.

SUNDAY 15 SEPTEMBER B,D**GIARDINI NAXOS - MATERA**

Venture to Messina for a short ferry ride to Villa San Giovanni on Italy's mainland. Pass through the beautiful and unspoiled region of Calabria and into the Basilicata region. We make a stop along the way at one of the area's local wineries. We will have the opportunity to explore the cellars and vineyards before sampling their wines at a tasting. Linger over dinner featuring regional cuisine in the winery's own "agriturismo" restaurant, before we continue onto Matera.

MONDAY 16 SEPTEMBER B,D**MATERA - ALBEROBELLO - MATERA**

Explore the "Sassi di Matera," an ancient settlement of carved cave dwellings. A local guide shares the history of the site

and reasons why it has recently caught the eye of many film producers. We will then sample some regional produce at a local shop, before enjoying free time in Matera to browse the boutiques or taste the local cuisine. This afternoon we head to mystical Alberobello, a UNESCO listed town, to marvel at some of its most unusually built homes - known as Trulli - white washed houses with distinct cone-shaped thatched roofs. We return to Matera in the evening.

TUESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER B,D**MATERA - SALERNO - SORRENTO**

This morning we will travel towards Campania and the Bay of Naples, one of the most breathtaking areas of Italy. We will make a stop in Salerno to explore the historic city centre at leisure. Take a moment to gaze at its impressive cathedral, considered to be the most beautiful medieval church in Italy. We arrive at the Sorrento Peninsula in the late afternoon with time to sit back and take in the views of this magical place.

WEDNESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER B**SORRENTO - AMALFI - MINORI - SORRENTO**

We have time this morning to savour in the lovely seaside resort town of Sorrento. Then, we begin our adventure traversing the breathtaking Amalfi Coast. We will make a stop in the charming town of Amalfi where we have time to explore, before we head to Minori. Take this opportunity to sample regional specialities at a family-owned limoncello factory. Later, sit down for a traditional Italian afternoon break at a local café. The evening is at leisure.

THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER B,D**SORRENTO - POMPEII - ROME**

Today we drive along the Bay of Naples to the excavated ruins of Pompeii, nestled at the foothills of Mount Vesuvius. A local guide will provide an in-depth view of this remarkable archaeological site. We will be immersed in history as you explore the preserved buildings of this 2000-year-old



Roman town. Later, travel to Rome.

FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER B
ROME

Today is at leisure before we indulge in a wonderful four course dinner tonight.

SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER B
ROME

Today is at leisure to explore everything that Rome has to offer.

SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER B,D
ROME

Today is at leisure to explore everything that Rome has to offer. Meet the group this evening for dinner in preparation for the next part of your tour, discovering northern Italy!

MONDAY 23 SEPTEMBER B,D
ROME - ORVIETO - UMBRIA

Today we depart Rome and travel to the Etruscan hill town of Orvieto for a walking tour amid the town's treasures, including a visit to its prominent Gothic cathedral, home to a Signorelli fresco. We then have time to explore the many sides of Orvieto on our own. Perhaps pause for a leisurely lunch, sip on some white wine and become a part of the local scene. We then continue to Umbria to spend the next four nights immersed in country life in a pristine hill town.

TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER B,D
UMBRIA - SPOLETO - UMBRIA

Set off for a guided walking tour of historic Spoleto. We will see medieval palaces, the ornate Duomo of Santa Maria Assunta, and the magnificent Ponte delle Torri, an aqueduct dating back to the 13th century. Then, enjoy free time to peruse the town's shops and cafés. We will reconvene to visit a country restaurant housed in a 16th-century farmhouse to enjoy a hands-on cooking class! We also have the opportunity to stroll through the herb garden and see how they make their own cheese. We will indulge in an early dinner in the countryside before turning in for the evening.

WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER B,L
UMBRIA - MONTEFALCO - WINERY - BEVAGNA - OLIVE OIL FARM - UMBRIA

Today we explore charming Montefalco, the "Balcony of Umbria", named as such due to its unobstructed views of the Umbrian countryside. Step back in time as we explore independently. Then, it's on to a local winery to sample some of this region's most prized wine, Sagrantino. Next, we savour a lunch of authentic Umbrian dishes. Continue to Bevagna where we meet a local expert for a walking tour of Roman and medieval archaeological and architectural marvels. We cap off our day by learning about another locally made product - olive oil - at a family-run 'frantoio' (olive-presser).

THURSDAY 26 SEPTEMBER B,L
UMBRIA - ASSISI - UMBRIA

This morning we will travel to Assisi, and enjoy a walking tour with a local guide. Come to know its history as we stroll the medieval streets, pausing along the way to see the famed Basilica of St. Francis. Next, we are in for a treat when an Umbrian family welcomes us to their country home as they prepare a delicious home-cooked meal, which we will enjoy as we share stories.

FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER B,L
UMBRIA - WINERY - TUSCANY

It's on to Tuscany! You'll fall in love with the picturesque Renaissance landscape of hills and villages as we make our way through the Val D'Orcia region. Of course we'll make a stop at a local winery to see the wine cellar, family estate, vineyards and olive groves. The winery's chef creates an authentic Tuscan lunch, expertly paired with wines produced on-site. Later, we will make ourselves at home in a restored Tuscan palazzo.

SATURDAY 28 SEPTEMBER B
TUSCANY - FLORENCE - TUSCANY

Today it's Florence, "Cradle of the Italian Renaissance." Join a local guide for a walking tour of the city's iconic sights. Return to another age as we view the Cathedral of Santa Maria Del Fiore, located in the religious centre of the Piazza Del Duomo and the Palazzo Vecchio. Catch a glimpse into the creative side of Florence when we meet a local artisan in his workshop to see how and where he refines his craft. Then, take some time to explore Florence at your leisure.

SUNDAY 29 SEPTEMBER B
TUSCANY - SIENA - MONTERIGGIONI - TUSCANY

Travel to the city of Siena. During your locally guided walking tour, visit the historic piazza famous for the Palio Horse Race. Then, the choice is yours! Explore the 14th-century Torre (Tower) del Mangia, the 3rd

tallest tower in Italy at your own pace, or join our guide to get to know local life in a Contrada (neighbourhood). Each of these small, close-knit communities is unique and has traditions all their own. Then it's off to the walled town of Monteriggioni. Stroll its quaint streets, seemingly frozen in time. Take an afternoon break and try some local snacks before heading back to our quiet Tuscan retreat.

MONDAY 30 OCTOBER B,D
TUSCANY - VOLTERRA - SAN GIMIGNANO - TUSCANY

Today we continue along country roads to Volterra, a former Etruscan city perched high above the countryside. We spend time at the Guarnacci Museum, one of the oldest public museums in Europe. Then it's on to an alabaster carving demonstration at a local workshop. Later, we travel to San Gimignano, known as the "City of Beautiful Towers", where the town's fourteen medieval towers date back to the 13th century. Enjoy a stroll along Piazza del Duomo and Piazza della Cisterna. Tonight, enjoy a farewell dinner, featuring a fun presentation on wine by the restaurant's sommelier.

TUESDAY 1 OCTOBER B,L
TUSCANY - TIVOLI - ROME

Venture to the Sabine Hills and the hilltop town of Tivoli, where we enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Next, visit Villa Adriana, the most complete estate to have survived the fall of the Roman Empire. Explore the gardens and spectacular surroundings. This evening, we make our way to Rome airport for our flight back to Australia.

WEDNESDAY 2 OCTOBER
IN TRANSIT

THURSDAY 3 OCTOBER
ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

Today we arrive home and say goodbye to our newfound friends.



TOUR PRICE

Twin Share \$14899 per person
ex Australia

Single \$16599

(strictly limited availability)

While this pricing is current as of October 2018, fluctuating fuel surcharges, currency exchange rates and taxes may result in an increased cost. Available business and mixed class airfare upgrades available. Price on application.

INCLUDED IN THE TOUR COST*

- Economy class airfare ex Hobart including all fees, taxes and levies
- Tour Escort from Hobart
- Meals as specified (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Entrance fees to all specified attractions
- Gratuities
- All excursions as stated in the itinerary

NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR COST

- Meals other than mentioned
- Local airport departure taxes (if applicable)
- Laundry, telephone calls, beverages, and other expenditure of a personal nature
- Any services other than mentioned
- Travel Insurance
- Visa costs
- Passport

HOBART

6221 3499

Level 1, 61 Salamanca Place, Hobart 7000
hobart@ajtravel.com.au

LAUNCESTON

6331 1214

44 Charles Street, Launceston 7250
launceston@ajtravel.com.au



KNOWS TRAVEL

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

TOUR PAYMENTS A non-refundable deposit of \$3000 per person is payable within 7 days of booking. The balance of payment is due not later than 28 June 2019. Travel Insurance is recommended at the time of purchase.

CANCELLATIONS Deposits are strictly non-refundable. Cancellation fees may also apply to any additional services, reserved prior to, during and after the tour. Notice of all cancellations must be made in writing to Andrew Jones Travel on or before final payment due date 28 June 2019. Loss of deposits. After final payment due date: 100% of total price. Cancellation fees also apply to any additional services, reserved prior to, during and after the vacation.

If flight changes, including flight cancellations, are requested, revision fees or airline cancellation fees will apply. Andrew Jones Travel Pty. Ltd. and the carriers, accommodations, and other suppliers providing tour services shall all be known as the 'Operators' and reserve the right to cancel or re-schedule any vacation departure. If cancellation is made prior to departure of the tour, the only responsibility of the Operators will be to refund to the passenger the amount we have received for the reservation. We will try to re-book the same vacation with a different departure date, or a similar tour. Where the Operators have confirmed flights, we will try to confirm air seats for the selected new dates, subject to availability. The Operators cannot assume responsibility for any additional costs or any fees relating to the issuance and/or cancellation of air tickets or other travel arrangements.

REVISION FEES A fee of \$250 per transaction will be charged for any alteration or revision made to a reservation, plus any additional costs from Operators. Airline penalties may also apply. A change to traveller name, vacation date or tour itinerary at any time will be treated as a cancellation and new reservation; standard cancellation fees apply.

PARTICIPATION For the benefit of everyone on your holiday, the Operators reserve the right to accept or reject any person as a holiday participant, and to remove from the tour any participant whose conduct is deemed incompatible with the interests of the other participants.

TRAVELLERS WHO NEED SPECIAL ASSISTANCE You must report any disability requiring special attention to Andrew Jones Travel at the time the reservation is made. All travellers must be able to handle their own suitcase. The Operators will make reasonable attempts to accommodate the special needs of disabled travellers, but is not responsible in the event it is unable to do so, nor is it responsible for any denial of services by carriers, hotels, restaurants, or other independent suppliers. Most transportation services, including the touring motor coach, are not equipped with wheelchair ramps. We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance to a tour participant for walking, dining, getting on and off motor coaches and other vehicles, or other personal needs. A qualified and physically able companion must accompany travellers who need such assistance, and must assume total responsibility for the handicapped participants well-being. Motorised scooters are unsuitable for touring vacations in this brochure.

SMOKING Smoking is not allowed on transportation or accommodations.

PRICE GUARANTEE Air tickets booked via Andrew Jones Travel are guaranteed when we receive full payment. This does not include any Government/airport tax increases and currency fluctuations. Vacation prices are per person, based on two persons sharing a room. Single room supplements are listed where applicable.

ACCOMMODATIONS The accommodations listed in this brochure are intended to be used on this departure; however, if a change becomes necessary for any reason, the accommodations substituted will be equivalent in standard to those shown. Every effort is made to reserve your preferred room request. It may occasionally happen that an accommodation provides some double-bedded or twin-bedded rooms, as room configuration is at the discretion of individual hotels. Please note that accommodation check-in times vary worldwide.

Paying for a single supplement ensures own room, not necessarily a twin bedded room.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE Porterage for one suitcase on vacation is included in the tour price. Airport porterage at beginning and end of the vacation is not included. Due to limited coach capacity, this single bag should have dimensions not exceeding 76x53x28cm (30x21x11"). We regret we are unable to accept a second suitcase, or any luggage exceeding these limits. Please talk to your agent for baggage weight restrictions. We recommend you consult your air carrier as size and weight limitations vary from airline to airline and even according to destination, and are becoming more restrictive. The Operators are not responsible for additional fees imposed by air carriers. Regulations within most airports require that travellers handle their own luggage through customs.

Your carry-on bag should not exceed the dimensions of 30x28x14cm (12x11x6"). For safety reasons wheeled carry-on bags are not suitable as hand luggage on motor coaches and mini-buses.

No responsibility is accepted for loss of or damage to baggage or any of the tour participant's belongings. Baggage insurance is recommended.

DINING A restaurant or date of a dinner may be substituted at any time due to reasons beyond the Operators' control.

NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE Airport taxes which are payable directly at the airport: passports; visas and vaccinations, tips to local city guides or staff; laundry, telephone, mini bar, alcohol beverages and food not on the regular table d'hote menu (these extra items will be billed to you before leaving the hotel or restaurant); optional excursions; travel insurance, excess baggage fees; all other items of a personal nature.

HOLIDAYS During local or national holidays, certain facilities such as museums and restaurants, sightseeing tours and shopping may be limited or not available. Alternatives will be offered whenever possible.

SAFETY Please be aware that during your participation in vacations operated by the Operators, certain risks and dangers may arise beyond our control including, but not limited to, the hazards of travelling in undeveloped areas; travel by boat, train, automobile, aircraft or other means of transportation; the forces of nature, political unrest and accident or illness in remote regions without means of rapid evacuation or medical facilities. The Operators will not have liability regarding provision of medical care or the adequacy of any care that may be rendered. It is understood that the Operators will use its best efforts to ensure that adequate measures are taken.

TRAVEL INSURANCE Passengers are strongly advised to take out travel insurance to cover any unforeseen circumstances which may arise (including, but not limited to; cancellation fees, loss of luggage, early return following death of a relative as defined in the respective proposal forms). We recommend passengers investigate all Department of Foreign Affairs warnings regarding the safety of travelling to certain destinations. The Operators will not be held liable for any act of government, terrorism, revolution or other act. The Operators reserve the right to cancel the tour at any stage due to an act of government or terrorism.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS All passengers must have a valid passport with at least 6 months validity from return date. It is the responsibility of each passenger to ensure any applicable visas for all countries visited have been obtained prior to departure. Failure to obtain correct documentation will mean the passenger will be unable to participate in particular shore excursions and may be denied boarding and/or entry into certain countries. Meeting necessary passport and visa entry requirements and costs is the sole responsibility of passengers.

TOUR ESCORT The inclusion of an Andrew Jones Travel tour escort is subject to minimum passenger numbers. A substitute tour escort may be used without notice if unforeseen circumstances arise.

* Conditions apply. Price is per person, twin share. Price is correct at time of publication October 2018 but may fluctuate due to changes in taxes, charges, surcharges and currency. Airfare included is based on a group airfare and all passengers will need to fly on these flights, dates and destination only. Price does not include taxes imposed directly by third parties. Tour is subject to availability and terms and conditions as listed. Minimum tour numbers apply, see booking conditions for more details. A service fee and credit card surcharge will apply.

www.ajtravel.com.au