Southern Italy

PLEASURES OF PUGLIA AND THE AMALFI COAST

October 4 to 14, 2016

a program of the stanford alumni association
We have had our eye on southern Italy for a long time and have been working to develop a comprehensive survey of the famous landmarks and lesser-known gems of this rustic region. So we are very pleased to offer this new itinerary to you in 2016. We start in the little-visited region of Puglia in the heel of Italy, where we are introduced to superb cuisine and fascinating village life. Next we visit Basilicata with its rugged landscapes dotted with rock churches and the famous sassi, or cave dwellings, of Matera. We head west to conclude our tour with three glamorous nights on the sun-splashed Amalfi Coast. We hope you’ll come along with us on this fabulous new Travel/Study program!

BRETT S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Highlights

DISCOVER the World Heritage site of Alberobello with its 1,500 beehive-shaped stone huts called trulli.

EXPLORE the haunting ruins of Pompeii, buried in volcanic ash more than 1,900 years ago by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius.

REVEL in the beauty of the Amalfi Coast and explore the dramatic cliffside towns of Amalfi and Positano.

COVER: MATERA
ROBERTO D’ALIMONTE is dean of the political science department at LUISS Guido Carli, an independent university in Rome, after teaching at the University of Florence for 30 years. Professor D’Alimonte has taught many courses over the years at Stanford’s Bing Overseas Study Program in Florence. He has also served as visiting professor at Stanford’s main campus on numerous occasions and is a frequent lecturer at Stanford Business School’s Executive Program. Well-known as a political journalist, Professor D’Alimonte covers Italian political events for Il Sole 24 Ore, Italy’s major financial newspaper and is often sought by a number of U.S. and European newspapers and magazines for commentary on current Italian and European politics.

— At LUISS Guido Carli, Rome, Italy: dean, department of political science, since 2014; professor, political science, since 2011
— Director, Italian Center for Electoral Studies, since 2005
— PhD, political science, University of Florence, 1972

"Roberto is one of my favorite professors. His lectures were relevant and interesting. He was also wonderfully available to the group and a delightful fellow traveler."

PATRICIA LEICHER, '70, PIEMONTE WALK II, 2013

OR BY PHONE: (650) 725-1093

POSITANO
TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4 & 5
U.S. / BARI, ITALY / SAVELLETRI
Depart the U.S. on overnight flights to Bari, the capital of Italy’s picturesque Puglia region. Upon arrival on Wednesday, transfer to our hotel south of Bari near the small coastal village of Savelletti and housed in one of the beautiful masserie, or fortified farmhouses, for which Puglia is renowned. Settle into our rooms and enjoy free time to explore the lovely grounds before our welcome reception and dinner.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6
SAVELLETRI / VALLE D’ITRIA / ALBEROBELLO
Today tour the lovely Valle d’Itria, traveling through landscapes of brick-red earth, olive trees and trulli—fairy-tale-like stone dwellings found throughout this region. After visiting the charming village of Martina Franca with its elegant marble-paved streets, call at Alberobello, a UNESCO World Heritage site, where over 1,500 trulli offer a unique immersion in this mysterious style of architecture, which dates back to prehistoric times. MASSERIA TORRE COCCARO (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7
SAVELLETRI / LECCE
Travel to the town of Lecce, known for its baroque architecture and its Roman amphitheater, which is still partly visible under the present-day main square of the city. We have some time to explore and enjoy lunch on our own before we return to our hotel for an afternoon of swimming, biking or relaxing at the spa. Gather tonight for a wine tasting followed by a dinner of traditional Pugliese dishes. MASSERIA TORRE COCCARO (B,D)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8
PUGLIA / BASILICATA
This morning tour the incredible olive groves in the area, some with trees over 1,000 years old that are now protected by a regional law. Then visit the archaeological site of Egnazia, where digs continue today, revealing Bronze Age and Roman ruins. After lunch, journey into the mountainous region of Basilicata, where our destination is the fascinating town of Matera. In the 1950s, Matera was referred to as “the shame of Italy” for the miserably poor conditions in which the local people lived. After 40 years and extensive restoration, Matera is now a UNESCO World Heritage site in large part because of its old town, which is made up of dwellings carved out of the rock face of a deep ravine. Our hotel the next two nights is one such dwelling! LE Grotte della Civita (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9
MATERA
Spend a full day soaking up the unique ambience of Matera. Explore the steep streets that climb up and down the sassi, the rock dwellings spread throughout Matera’s two historic districts, Barisano and Caveoso. Visit one of these dwellings, still furnished as it was in the past when multiple families lived there together with their livestock. Water for the houses was collected in a fascinating system of terracotta pipes and cisterns, now considered one of the most remarkable examples of primitive hydraulics. Matera is also famous for its chiese rupestri,
or “rock churches,” some of which still have their original fresco decoration. Le Grotte Dell’Avita (B,D)

Monsunday, October 10
Matera / Paestum / Sorrento
This morning travel through rugged countryside into the region of Campania, stopping en route to explore the ancient archaeological site of Paestum. This evocative and less-visited site is famous for having even more magnificent Greek temples than Athens. After lunch, continue to the lively and elegant town of Sorrento, set on steep coastal cliffs and overlooking the Bay of Naples. Grande Hotel La Favorita (B,L)

Tuesday, October 11
Sorrento / Positano / Amalfi
Spend today driving along the Amalfi Coast, considered one of the most beautiful natural areas in the whole of Italy, where sheer and dramatic drops to the sea are punctuated by picturesque villages clinging to the cliffs. At Positano enjoy some time to wander the steep streets and explore this beautiful little town, perched high above the sparkling waters of the Gulf of Salerno. Continue to Amalfi, once one of Italy’s four great maritime republics, the others being Pisa, Genoa and Venice. Today Amalfi is a fraction of its original size, but still home to beautiful architecture, such as the Romanesque cathedral we visit. Grande Hotel La Favorita (B,L)

Wednesday, October 12
Sorrento / Pompeii / Mt. Vesuvius
Journey to Pompeii today to visit the most important sections of this vast archaeological area, which provides a unique opportunity to learn about life in a major Roman city, frozen in time by a volcanic eruption in C.E. 79. Continue up the slopes of Mount Vesuvius, one of the world’s best-known and most dangerous volcanoes, where a short hike with a volcanologist brings us to the crater’s edge. From that lofty vantage point, take in the spectacular views of the ancient sites of Pompeii and Herculaneum, as well as the modern city of Naples, spread out beneath us along the shores of the Bay of Naples. Grande Hotel La Favorita (B,L)

Thursday, October 13
Sorrento / Naples
Enjoy a morning at leisure and lunch on our own in Sorrento before we make our way to Naples. Explore the Naples Archaeological Museum, home to a stunning collection of Roman artifacts from Pompeii and Herculaneum, including engraved gems and the “Farnese Cup,” a cameo cup carved out of agate and dating from the 2nd century B.C.E. Check in to our hotel and gather for a final seaside dinner to celebrate our journey together. Grande Hotel Santa Lucia (B,L)

Friday, October 14
Naples / U.S.
Transfer to the Naples airport this morning for return flights home. (B)
Trip Information

**DATES**
October 4 to 14, 2016 (11 days)

**SIZE**
Limited to 32 participants (single accommodations limited—please call for availability)

**COST**
- $7,995 per person, double occupancy
- $9,495 per person, single occupancy
  *Association nonmembers add $300 per person

**INCLUDED**
- 9 nights of hotel accommodations
- 9 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 7 dinners
- Welcome and farewell receptions
- Gratuities to guides, drivers and hotel staff for all group activities
- All tours and excursions as described in the itinerary
- Pre-scheduled group airport transfers on program arrival and departure days
- Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance
- Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information
- Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

**NOT INCLUDED**
- International and U.S. domestic airfare
- Passport and visa fees
- Immunization costs
- Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
- Independent and private transfers
- Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance
- Excess baggage charges
- Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for non-group services

**AIR ARRANGEMENTS**
Airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare on United Airlines from San Francisco to Bari, Italy, and return from Naples is approximately $1,675 as of January 2016 and is subject to change without notice. Information on recommended flight itineraries will be sent to confirmed participants.

**WHAT TO EXPECT**
We consider this to be a moderately strenuous program that is at times physically demanding and busy. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. The centers of many of the towns we visit are closed to traffic. You must be capable of extensive walking—one to three miles daily—in historic city centers, in museums and on city tours, as well as be able to stand for extended periods during excursions to archaeological sites. Participants will encounter uneven terrain, including some dirt and cobblestoned paths. For our two-night hotel stay in Matera, you must climb several flights of steep, uneven stairs cut into the rock in order to reach the guest rooms. All rooms have uneven floor surfaces, stairs without railings, low lighting and bathtubs without handrails. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.
Deposit & Final Payment
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold your space. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip/italy2016 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations & Refunds
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. Information will be provided to travelers with their welcome materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within 14 days of written confirmation of your participation on the trip.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $300 more than the members’ price. Families and trip companions may travel on one membership. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford/goto/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in January 2016 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.
"I found the fellow travelers delightful, the coordinators terrific, the accommodations excellent, the lecturers extraordinary and the sites we visited wonderful."

JOYCE MAXWELL, TUSCANY SEMINAR, 2015