



VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Southern Italy & Sicily

with Apulia & the Amalfi Coast

March 31-April 14, 2021

15 days for \$5,174 total price from Washington, DC

(\$4,695 air & land inclusive plus \$479 airline taxes and fees)



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BEST
AWARDS

This tour is provided by
Odysseys Unlimited,
six-time honoree
Travel & Leisure's World's
Best Tour Operators award

An Exclusive Small Group Tour for
Members of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

*Featuring Dr. Colleen Yarger, Assistant Curator of
European Art and the Mellon Collections*



VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Dear VMFA Members,

Join us on an exclusive 15-day journey to discover enchanting Southern Italy and the remarkable island of Sicily. Beginning with the cross-cultural heritage, ruins, and magnificent landscapes of Sicily, this unique tour then traverses the "boot" of Italy, combining the traditional and unspoiled region of Apulia with the breathtaking Amalfi Coast. Traveling with you will be Dr. Colleen Yarger, Assistant Curator of European Art and the Mellon Collections at VMFA.

Begin your tour in Taormina, on the island of Sicily, where you visit the "Valley of the Temples" and the well-preserved Temple of Concordia. Venture to Europe's largest active volcano, Mt. Etna, before traveling to the Apulia region to visit the cave dwellings of Matera and Alberobello's medieval white-washed buildings. Discover Lecce's Baroque-era churches and maze of narrow streets on a walking tour, then continue on to Otranto, overlooking the Adriatic. Traveling to Sorrento, tour the UNESCO site of Pompeii, enjoy a day trip to the storied Isle of Capri, and experience a breathtaking drive along the Amalfi Coast. For those who wish to extend their Italian adventure, an optional 4-day/3-night post-tour extension in Rome is available.

Space on this exciting program is limited and will fill quickly. Your deposit is fully refundable up until 95 days prior to departure. Book risk-free today!

Sincerely,

Adele "Hutch" Livingston
Coordinator of Member Travel

VMFA RESERVATION FORM: SOUTHERN ITALY & SICILY

Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$_____ (\$500 per person) for _____ person(s) on Southern Italy & Sicily, departing March 31, 2021. I/We understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, VISA, or by personal check. Please make check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., and send, with completed reservation form, to: Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., Attn: Special Interest Groups, One Newton Place, 275 Washington Street, Suite 300, Newton, MA 02458. You may also call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765.

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____

E-mail(s) _____ Badge Name(s) _____

Please book my/our air from _____ I/We request an air upgrade to _____

I will share a room with _____ I request a single room (limited availability)

Post-Tour "Rome – On Your Own" Extension: Please sign me/us up

Please Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for Southern Italy & Sicily, March 31-April 14, 2021, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

Method of Payment Check American Express Discover MasterCard VISA

Account # _____ Security Code _____ Exp. Date _____

Name of Cardholder _____

Signature _____

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure, and is payable by check or credit card.

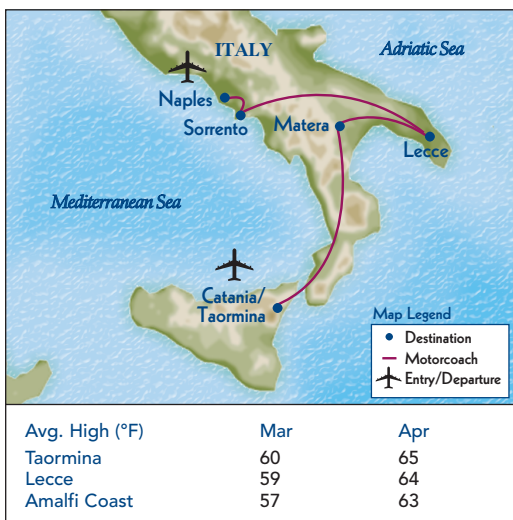
Southern Italy & Sicily

with Apulia & the Amalfi Coast

15 days for \$5,174 total price from Washington, DC

(\$4,695 air & land inclusive plus \$479 airline taxes and fees)

Delight in a special exploration of Italy's southern climes, from striking Sicily and the breathtaking Amalfi Coast to unheralded Apulia, the alluring "boot heel" where a vivid history, unique architecture, and bountiful plains join the sun and sea in creating a prized (and crowd-free) region. Add Italian hospitality, outstanding cuisine, and notable lodgings for la dolce vita, small-group style.



Day 1: Depart U.S. for Taormina (Catania), Sicily

Day 2: Arrive Taormina We arrive today in Catania on Italy's autonomous island of Sicily then transfer by motorcoach to Taormina and our boutique hotel overlooking the Ionian Sea. Tonight we gather for a welcome dinner at the hotel. *D*

Day 3: Taormina Highlights of our morning walking tour of this delightful medieval town include the spectacular ancient Greek theater dating to the 3rd century BCE, the popular 13th-century cathedral, and grand Piazza Vittorio Emanuele. This afternoon is at leisure: perhaps to relax by the hotel pool, visit a lovely Taormina beach; or stroll along Corso Umberto, lined with shops and restaurants. With lunch and dinner on our own today, perhaps a culinary adventure is in order ... and thanks to Sicily's strategic Mediterranean location that lured many invaders, Sicilian food incorporates Italian, Arabic, and African influences into a singular, and delicious, cuisine. *B*

Day 4: Taormina/Agrigento On today's excursion we visit the "Valley of the Temples," the archaeological zone of Agrigento, whose Doric temples and sanctuaries date to Greek rule in the 5th century BCE. Known in its heyday as the "most beautiful city of mortals," Agrigento's highlight is the stunning, well-preserved Temple of Concordia (c. 430 BCE). A visit to the museum here lends context to our explorations. Late this afternoon we return to our hotel, where we dine tonight. *B,L,D*

Day 5: Taormina/Mount Etna This morning's tour ventures to Europe's largest active volcano. The ancients believed Mt. Etna to be the forge of Vulcan, god of fire; today, modern-day Sicilians have a very personal relationship with the volcano, which frequently erupts but is seldom destructive. Centuries of lava flows have resulted in a rich, fertile landscape where citrus groves and vineyards thrive. Mid-day we enjoy a small group highlight: lunch at a family-run working farm amidst acres of lemon and kiwi. After returning to our hotel mid-afternoon, the remainder of the day is at leisure. *B,L*

Small Group Tour Highlights

Sicily's intriguing cultural and historic heritage • "Valley of the Temples," Agrigento • Mt. Etna excursion • Lunch at a working Sicilian farmhouse • Two Apulia UNESCO sites: Cave dwellings of Matera and Alberobello's medieval white-washed buildings • Neapolitan cooking demonstration and dinner • Lecce, the "Florence of the South" • Fascinating, uncrowded Apulia region • Stunning Amalfi Coast • Tour of ancient ruins at Pompeii (UNESCO site) • Day trip to Isle of Capri • Unique, well-located small-group style hotels • Pleasing mix of touring and time at leisure

| Day Itinerary | Hotel | Rating |
|---------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Depart U.S. for Taormina (Catania) | |
| 2-5 | Taormina Eurostars Monte Tauro | First Class |
| 6-7 | Matera Locanda di San Martino | First Class |
| 8-10 | Lecce Patria Palace Hotel | Sup. First Class |
| 11-14 | Sorrento Hotel Antiche Mura | First Class |
| 15 | Depart Naples for U.S. | |

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.

Cover photo: Taormina's 3rd-century Greek theatre overlooks Mount Etna, which we visit on Day 5.



Colorful fishing boats along a Sicilian harbor

Day 6: Taormina/Matera We leave Sicily today for the mainland region of Basilicata, a day-long transfer that includes a ferry ride from Sicily to Calabria. Late this afternoon we reach Matera, whose historic troglodyte churches and dwellings (*Sassi*) have been designated a UNESCO site and where our hotel is a renovated cave dwelling in the city's historic district. *B,D*

Day 7: Matera Today we explore this city of art and folklore, with its unique ancient urban structure still intact. Home to more than 100 rock churches, Matera resembles ancient Jerusalem and has been used by international film directors as a stand-in for the holy city. Following a guided walking tour, the remainder of the day is at leisure to explore independently before dinner tonight at a local restaurant. *B,D*

Day 8: Matera/Alberobello/Lecce Departing Matera this morning, we stop in Alberobello, whose 400 or so *trulli* – whitewashed conical houses with grey-stone roofs – rank as a UNESCO World Heritage site. We take a walking tour along the pristine cobblestone alleys, stepping inside an artisan's workshop or *trullo tipico*, a recreation of an inhabited home. After lunch at a local restaurant, we continue on to Lecce, one of the oldest cities in Apulia, (Italy's "boot heel"), in time for dinner together at our hotel. *B,L,D*

Day 9: Lecce We discover the "Florence of the South" on this morning's tour, so named for the unique decorative style for which Lecce is known: *barocco leccese*, the ornate and intricate sandstone carvings of cherubs and monsters, fruits and flowers that adorn local buildings from top to bottom. We see Palazzo Vescovile (c. 1632), the exuberantly decorated church of Santa Croce, and the *Duomo* with its lovely *piazza*. This afternoon is at leisure to explore this town of 100 churches as we wish; tonight we enjoy dinner together. *B,D*

Day 10: Lecce/Otranto Today's excursion takes us to the beautiful walled town of Otranto, overlooking the Adriatic. On a walking tour here we see the imposing 15th-century Aragonese castle with its traditional moat, and the Romanesque cathedral whose impressive wall-to-wall mosaic floor was created in 1166. We continue on to a local winery for a tasting and lunch then return to Lecce mid-afternoon. Dinner tonight is on our own. *B,L*

Day 11: Lecce/Sorrento This morning we depart by coach for Sorrento, overlooking the Bay of Naples. En route we stop for a traditional *trattoria* lunch in the small town of Polignano a Mare. Dinner tonight is on our own in lively seaside Sorrento. *B,L*

Day 12: Sorrento/Pompeii Today we visit the evocative UNESCO site of Pompeii for a guided tour of

Post-Tour Extension

April 14-17, 2021

Rome – On Your Own

4 days/3 nights for \$795 total price

Single Supplement: \$295

Explore the Eternal City at your leisure.

Your Tour Price Includes

- Air transportation Naples/Rome, inclusive of airline taxes and fees
- 3 nights' accommodations at Empire Palace Hotel (Superior First Class)
- 3 meals: 3 breakfasts
- Transfers to/from airport



A LONG JOURNEY BEGINS
WITH A SINGLE STEP.”

– SICILIAN PROVERB

the city frozen in time by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 CE (the city was accidentally rediscovered in 1749). Late this afternoon we gather for a hands-on Neapolitan cuisine cooking lesson, followed by dinner to savor the fruits of our labors. *B,D*

Day 13: Sorrento/Capri Today we travel by hydro-foil to the storied Isle of Capri, a popular resort since Roman times. We explore cozy Capri town; visit the terraced Gardens of Augustus, rich with Mediterranean flora, coastal pines, and stunning views of the azure sea; then enjoy free time for lunch and to explore on our own before we return to Sorrento early afternoon. The remainder of the day is at leisure to enjoy this city with views of Mt. Vesuvius as we wish. Dinner tonight is on our own in Sorrento. *B*



Day 14: Sorrento/Amalfi Coast We embark this morning on a breathtaking drive along the winding, cliff-top Amalfi Coast road. This stretch of terraced coastline from Sorrento to Amalfi has inspired movies, music, and books; indeed, it is one of the most glorious drives in the world. During our leisurely excursion, we make several photo stops along this spectacular, hair-raising coastline, with the dazzling Mediterranean

We spend two nights in ancient Matera.

a sheer 500-foot drop below. This afternoon is at leisure; tonight we bid “*arrivederci*” to Italy and our fellow travelers at a farewell dinner. *B,D*

Day 15: Depart for U.S. This morning we transfer to Naples airport, where we connect with our return flight to the U.S. *B*

Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
- 13 nights’ accommodations in Superior First Class and First Class hotels
- 26 meals: 13 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 8 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

Museum Curator



Dr. Colleen Yarger, Assistant Curator for European Art and the Mellon Collections, joined the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in 2010. She received a PhD in art history from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2014, an MA in art

history from Syracuse University in 2009, and a BS in art education and art history from Nazareth College of Rochester in 2007. Most recently, Yarger has served as co-curator of *Hollar’s Encyclopedic Eye: Prints from the Frank Raysor Collection* and was the site curator for VMFA banner exhibition *Napoleon: Power and Splendor*. Previously, she served as the Research Specialist for the Mellon Collections at VMFA. Yarger authored the catalogs for the two internationally traveling exhibitions, *Van Gogh, Monet, Degas: The Mellon Collection of French Art from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts* and *A Sporting Vision: The Paul Mellon Collection of British Sporting Art from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts*.

Tour Departs: March 31, 2021

Prices include int’l airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

| | |
|--|---------|
| New York | \$4,874 |
| Boston, Philadelphia | \$5,074 |
| Atlanta, Charlotte, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Miami, Orlando, Tampa, Washington, DC | \$5,174 |
| Dallas, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Phoenix, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle | \$5,274 |
| Land Only (transfers not included) | \$4,195 |

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of \$479, which are subject to change until final payment is made.

Single travelers please add \$1,295. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Airline upgrades on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: Business Class – \$3,795 per person; Premium Economy – \$1,595 per person, in addition to the above costs (upgrades are subject to availability and pricing is subject to change).

Please note: This trip involves a significant amount of walking uphill and on uneven or cobblestone streets, and at sites of ancient ruins. You must be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to its fullest.

For reservations and information, please call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765

Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–7:00 PM, Eastern Time

For further information, contact VMFA Member Travel at

804-340-1519



GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a \$500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

Not Included in Tour Price: Airfare when purchasing a land only package; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a land only package; communication charges; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: \$10-\$15 per traveler, per day); optional sightseeing; and travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Cancellations, Refunds, and Changes: If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.'s receipt of your notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **cancel 95 days or more before departure: full refund; cancel 94-65 days before departure: 25% of tour price; cancel 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price; cancel 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; cancel 29-0 days before departure: no refund.** If you make any changes to your reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a \$400 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. **No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure. Upon reservation, you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.**

Responsibility: The liability of VMFA, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. VMFA and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including, without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise lines, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

Health and Medical Issues: We request that you be in good health to participate in this tour. There is a significant amount of walking and you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own. We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our tour itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail us to inquire and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, VMFA and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

Air Transportation – Important Information: Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown and contracts with those airlines the company feels provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. **Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments.** Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including, but not limited to, frequent-flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. **Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.**

COVID-19 and Planning Future Travel: We understand that travelers may have some concerns about booking future tours based on the current COVID-19 pandemic. As we look forward, we are hopeful that conditions will be favorable for international travel. However, the safety and security of our guests are always our top priorities and, should U.S. authorities – Department of State and the CDC – deem it unsafe to travel to any of the destinations in the brochure, we would cancel the trip no later than 45 days before departure. In the event of cancellation on our end due to COVID-19 concerns, we will refund all participants in full.

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Richmond, VA 23220-4007

JOIN US FOR AN EXCLUSIVE VMFA TOUR TO SOUTHERN ITALY & SICILY!

Reserve risk-free: Your deposit is fully
refundable up to 95 days before departure

