



PATH

WALKS TALKS & BEYOND

ABOUT PATH

Not your average active tour DMC,
we place authenticity at the core of our credo.

Stemming from Puglia, not only do we grasp the
essence of southern Italy, but are also eager to convey
enthusiasm and passion for our country *with gusto*.

Our logo, in fact, aptly recalls Neolithic graffiti from
the *Grotta dei Cervi* in Porto Badisco, south of Otranto.

Targeting the B2B and B2C markets, we plan, organise and oversee
every aspect of an all-inclusive holiday, anticipating the client's needs,
assisting with any enquiry and providing the utmost flexibility; every
experience becomes an exclusive, intimate affair that will exceed
expectations. Creative and innovative, we deliver matchless
bespoke active and culinary experiences for individuals,
small groups and families, where beauty really lies in the
journey. Socialising with the locals, you will capture
their secrets, explore hidden gems across several
regions and learn that feelings and emotions go hand
in hand with culture and identity.




ABOUT US

Angela Venturi, CEO & founder, grew up between Veneto & Puglia from an Apulian family, sipping prosecco and Primitivo wine from the baby bottle. More wine than blood in her veins, and her huge passion for the food and wine cultures inspired her to unveil Italy through its culinary heritage.

A fully trained AIS (Italian Sommelier Association) and ONAV (National Organization of Wine Tasters) sommelier, if she is not searching for natural wines, bikepacking across Salento, or cooking, you might find Angela taking care of her bees or making her own extra virgin organic olive oil. She joined the travel industry in 2000.

Andrea Arnesano, co-founder, is a certified GAE guide (environmental-hiking/cultural guide), a cyclist, IDM music producer, former lawyer, and he joined the travel industry in 2003, when he quit the London Club scene to return to Puglia by bike, and start a new life unveiling Puglia to the most discerning travellers. Born & bred between Sicily, Naples and the remote villages of Puglia, he hiked the Etna volcano at the age of 3, started to harvest his grandmother's vineyard in Puglia at the age of 5, and raced his first mountain bike on the wildest streets of Naples as a toddler.





Carefully planning your ideal Italian holiday, thanks to our insider knowledge and expertise we can craft exciting, out of this world, authentic experiences. Whether it's an active, culinary, cultural or family experience you are after, we can offer advice and guide you through our ample set of services.

Be inspired by one - or more - of the following:

- » Walking & Hiking
- » Biking
- » Culinary
- » Cooking Classes
- » Family Travel
- » History, Art & Culture
- » Adventure
- » Tailor made tours
- » Bespoke Experiences
- » Travel Concierge
- » Luxury and Boutique Hotels
- » Villas (with our concierge services)



WHERE

In a country that never fails to excel and impress, it is possible to discover exciting corners where the magic still happens. Deep down in Italy's "heel", this fascinating stretch of land is, quite simply, the place to be. Revealing a stunning combination of pretty much anything the *Belpaese* is so cherished for, you will see ancient towns steeped in history, a stunningly preserved artistic heritage, a dramatic coastline with pristine beaches and turquoise waters, seasoned with landscapes that stretch well beyond the horizon. And of course the most genuine, exquisite food, one you'd only expect a proper *nonna* to prepare. From the Maldives of the Mediterranean, *Pescoluse*, to colourful villages basking in the sun, Puglia is a jigsaw of marvels that exceed expectations.

PUGLIA

A stretch of land surrounded by the sea that was subject to invasions from all fronts: this is Puglia.

Hence a mosaic of diverse, unique and highly original styles, attitudes and traditions that are blatant in the food varieties, the local language – more akin to Greek than Italian – and the architecture. Everywhere is a surprise: **Lecce** dates back to Roman times, yet it was mostly built by Spanish rulers in the mid 17th c.; here you will find fanciful Baroque churches alongside a 2nd c.

AD Roman theatre, right in the town centre, while *Pietra leccese* dons a warming glow at night when the lights come on. Pretty **Cisternino** hosts a 13th c. church and its rows of blinding white houses make a gorgeous backdrop for a lovely *centro storico*.

Ostuni is indeed the white city, its staggeringly beautiful 15th c cathedral stuns for its articulated rose window and unusual façade, a blend of Byzantine, Romanesque and Gothic influences.

Puglia Romanesque churches are, in fact, mesmerizing: from Trani to Bari, Otranto to Bitonto, there is a maze of sensational works that stood the test of time and will beguile you.

PUGLIA

WHERE




PUGLIA

And it's the Salento county you'll want to head to, to find out what is probably the most authentic soul of an extraordinary region. From Valle d'Itria, awash with olive trees, to Lecce, the *Florence of the South* thriving with its very own *Barocco leccese* and the stone "embroideries", to UNESCO World Heritage Alberobello, the capital of mysterious *trulli*. Locorotondo is among Italy's prettiest borghi, the sensational Gothic cathedral in Galatina dazzles for its vivid colours, while Martina Franca, once a walled city, is famous for its local *barocchetto* and the splendid Palazzo Ducale: white features everywhere, reflecting the splendid light that dons a painterly hue on every dwelling. *Lu Salentu* is, in fact, a region within a region: *lu sule*, *lu mare*, *lu jentu* come to the fore in what is a "mysterious poetry that speaks an oriental language."

WHERE





Any trip to the largest island in the Mediterranean will be a revelation. Sicily's timeless beauty hits a chord with visitors wanting to explore its quilted history – invaders and settlers span from the Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs and on to the French (Normans). Be mesmerized by its charming sophistication, a diversity of places that stuns and somewhat confounds, with hilltop cities and unique towns, pristine beaches and an active volcano to top it all. And of course gourmet cuisine to tempt you at all hours.

East to west, north to south, the seduction of a postcard-pretty, history-laden land will capture your heart. Start from the capital: Palermo's history spans millennia and its motley past is seen in its odd names and the vast range of architectural styles. Hosting Italy's largest opera house, Gothic palaces rub shoulders with next-gen buildings, seasoned with noisy, yet refined streets hosting vibrant eateries. Further east, Cefalù is dominated by a monolith promontory dotted with cultural ruins such as the temple of Diana and a Norman castle; its grandiose cathedral, built in Sicilian Romanesque style, is decorated with interlacing pointed arches.

SICILIA



WHERE

Move on to *the pearl of the Ionian Sea*: charming, sophisticated and exclusive **Taormina**. Founded in the 4th c. BC, DH Lawrence once lived here and the town is a favourite among VIPs. Sitting on a rocky plateau, it enjoys splendid vistas across the sea: visit the scenographic Greek theatre, the second largest in Sicily, for a glimpse of the magic. Move south and reach **Mount Etna**, the highest volcano in Europe (3,329m) and one of the most active in the world: this fire-beating

mountain counts several craters, the most spectacular eruptions occurring from the top four. Its harsh, rugged, lunar-like landscape is decidedly captivating and is counterbalanced by lush vineyards, where a renowned DOC wine, Etna, is produced. Youthful **Catania**, under the shadow of the mighty volcano, hides its 2,700-year long history well: a UNESCO listed wonder, the city was destroyed by an Etna eruption and then an earthquake in 1693, subsequently rebuilt

with grey basalt lava rock in baroque style. Once the greatest city in Greek history, **Syracuse** sits on the Ionian coast and has captivated visitors for centuries. The birthplace of Archimedes, the city hosts dazzling Greek and Roman amphitheatres, sensational squares - Piazza del Duomo is a timeless showpiece - and the atmospheric quarter of **Ortygia** that comes alive with body and soul. Visit the *Neapolis archaeological park* to learn about its exciting past.

SICILIA

Explore Baroque towns and start in cinematic Noto, a Baroque sensation, then move to UNESCO-listed Modica, the city of a 100 bells and a 100 churches: it is famous for its chocolate, that comes in dizzying flavours like chilly, cinnamon and vanilla. Ragusa and its evocative Piazza Duomo in Ragusa Ibla are amazing, then end at Chiaramonte Gulfi, known as *the Balcony of Sicily* for its sweeping views. Proceed east and meet incomparable Agrigento, a hilltop city hosting the UNESCO-listed, unforgettable *Valley of the Temples*, featuring the best preserved Doric temples outside Greece. Its archaeological museum is also one of Sicily's finest, while Selinunte's archaeological park is the largest in Europe. Medieval, hilltop Erice is a maze of quaint streets overlooking the coast, while further inland, Segesta is another astonishing ancient site with evocative ruins of temples and a theatre - occasionally used for fairy-tale, open-air concerts. Head to San Vito Lo Capo for a sensational, 3-km long bay of soft white sand: overlooked by Monte Monaco, a climbers' paradise, the combination of azure and turquoise waters is unique. End in Scopello and the *Riserva Naturale dello Zingaro*, a haven for flora and fauna and a mesmerising wild coastline. Make sure you'll include a stop at the Egadi or Aeolian Islands, or even venture as far as Pantelleria, the "daughter of the wind", home to delicious food and wine and natural beauties, as well as a profoundly rich history, like pretty much everywhere on this extraordinary island.

WHERE

SICILIA





Squeezed between Campania to the north and Calabria to the south, Basilicata is a stunning region that boasts scenic coasts, two national parks, nature experiences aplenty and seriously appetizing food. Also known as Lucania, the region has seen invaders from all fronts across the centuries, with the Lucani population living here in the 5th c. BC. Basilicata is a more modern term with Byzantine origins and

first appeared in 1175. Spanning across two Rivieras, on the Tyrrhenian and on the Ionic seas, expect rugged cliffs south of Campania, with **Maratea** offering secluded coves and turquoise waters. Visit its staggering forty-four hilltop churches for splendid views and then hit the statue of *Christ the Redeemer* – the second largest in the world – for a glimpse of its wild coast, featuring volcanic sands and pebble stones.

WHERE

BASILICATA

BASILICATA

Metaponto, across to the other side, is home to endless, sandy beaches that ooze relaxation and splendour. Founded in the 7th c BC, its archaeological park includes an ancient Greek theatre and a Doric temple.

The star of the inland is certainly renowned UNESCO World Heritage Matera, the city of the famous and mysterious *sassi*. Nature wonders await in the Pollino National Park - the largest in Italy- featuring hot springs, prehistoric caves, cave drawings and burial sites. Famous for its medicinal herbs, numerous excursions on foot and by bike feature in the area.

WHERE



WALKING

Italy is known for its excellent web of paths, or *sentieri*, that zig-zag the entire peninsula and walking will let you explore the country at leisure.

Reconnect with nature and enjoy untouched landscapes, touching upon lovely, remote towns and mixing with the locals: discover the potency of southern Italy's precious heritage and be amazed at how culture and traditions shaped the lives of the population.

Marvel at bluer-than-blue skies reflecting in azure waters, breathe pure air while admiring a fiery sunset, or simply sip some locally produced wine while savouring a delicious gourmet delight. We offer guided and self-guided walking tours with added sublime food and wine experiences, to make the most of a fabulous country.

All our tours can be tailored to suit your needs and fancies: do take advantage of our insider knowledge and walk your way through Italian culture.





BIKING

Unearthing new and exciting places while cycling on tranquil roads and enjoying splendid views: get to know the precious historical, cultural and gastronomic heritage of southern Italy with an inspiring cycling and culinary tour. Ride along charming villages, sleep in a luxury *masseria* or visit a vineyard, speak to the locals and learn about ancient traditions. Accompanied by certified guides or navigating safely with our provided GPS bike computer, this is the adventure of a lifetime.

We offer self-guided and guided tours along some of the most picturesque corners in this charming land, taking care of every aspect, from start to finish, throwing in a gourmet experience for food or *vino* lovers to make it extra special. Only providing state-of-the-art bikes, we offer 24/7 assistance for peace of mind. To make it extra special, all our tours can be tailor-made and additional days and activities can be arranged with pleasure. We also offer multi-active adventures, combining diving and kayaking to be at one with nature along unspoilt coastal marvels.



If visiting a country means connecting with its culture, then there's no better way than exploring the relentless, deep, unending love affair Italians have with food.

Learning to appreciate Italy's incredibly varied food traditions means understanding a life-long philosophy of eating *well*.

This equals to sourcing for the freshest, most genuine ingredients, taking time to learn methods and techniques, but most of all enjoying food *with gusto*. Food has sadly become an accessory in modern society, and yet this is the place where you will learn to celebrate food and the conviviality that is part and parcel of it. For here is a triumph of colours, scents and simplicity. The authenticity of southern Italy is reflected in the local cuisine, where *cucina povera* takes on a new meaning.

CULINARY



TAYLOR MADE EXPERIENCES

Effortlessly meeting every client's demands, we take pride in offering excellent bespoke holidays. Indulge, explore and relax while visiting a land of contrasts, rejoicing with your inner self and nourishing your soul. Clients will be looked after and pampered, but will also redefine their limits and enjoy the gratifying feeling of adaptation. We can design our trips to suit your interests and offer everything, from Vespa rides to sailing across the Amalfi Coast, the Aeolian Islands or all the way to Greece on a luxury caique boat. Imagine a *pietra leccese* sculpture workshop: disconnect from the world and rekindle your inner self. Capture the here and now, experience feelings and emotions in renewed harmony and balance, the outcome pure and simple joy, Whether it's a shore excursion for a daily active or culinary trip while stopping at Brindisi or Bari harbours, an old-fashioned and memorable slow journey on a local train, or a private chef at your villa, we have you covered and will assist you every step of the way for an authentic, original and touching experience.



FAMILY TRAVEL

“It’s a family affair’ really comes to life with us, as there is nothing more ecstatic than fully enjoying a proper family holiday. Our thorough knowledge of southern Italy means we will suggest options and activities that suit all tastes and ages. From playful hands-on experiences to climbing,

zip lining to cooking, walking to cycling, or simply leisurely enjoying a tasty *aperitivo*, there is something for everyone in our ad-hoc holiday options. The variety of scenery means your choices are endless: from dreamy honey-hued hilltop towns to ancient theatres and temples overlooking the sea,

adventurous hikes in the shadow of a volcano or appetizing wine tastings, the bond that makes families special will be celebrated in a land where traditions, heritage and pride are highly respected and work in unison with the whole adventure.

VILLAS

The impressive historical background that features everywhere in Italy means the country is dotted with dazzling monuments and astonishing buildings, making every town and city unique in itself. Choosing to stay in a villa will elevate your experience to another level, letting you write a page in the local history: after all, villas date back to Roman times and were used as country dwellings for affluent citizens. Make your visit an Italian dream holiday and opt for a luxury villa: overlooking the sea or a postcard-pretty countryside, perhaps with a swimming pool or large garden to enjoy alfresco dining, we know where the most scenic locations are and will make sure your stay becomes nothing short of extraordinary. When in Puglia, choose a *masseria* and capture the magic: originally built in the 16thc., these fortified townhouses were set on an estate and often comprised a courtyard. Many now offer luxury accommodation, still reflecting the soul of the region: your journey of discovery into the Italian way of life will be complete.



BOUTIQUE HOTELS

Italians are well known for their hospitality and friendliness, with open hearts warmly welcoming visitors wherever they go.

Reflecting the diversity of the cultural jigsaw that is the *Belpaese*, our boutique hotels vary in type, size and location, and yet the standards remain uncompromisingly high, everywhere.

Expect only the extraordinary when you arrive at our selected hotels: you will be met with a smile and leave as a friend. Carefully looking after every detail, you will feel pampered and spoilt, but will also delve into the local culture, getting to know the soul of a vibrant, multi-faceted country that impresses, entices and enchants today as it has done for several millennia.



» We are locals! Our matchless insider knowledge will deliver authentic experiences, seasoned with decades-long experience in the industry.

» We love our country: our identity is our strength and we love passing on our enthusiasm for the wildly diverse, evocative and colourful land that is southern Italy.

» Over the centuries, Italian pioneers have challenged fate to discover new and faraway lands: we are a country of curious souls, always in search of new adventures, and we know where to go to find fresh inspiration.

» Luxury vehicles, top-notch bikes and local guides: we strongly commit to delivering the magic and we only team with highly-skilled, certified and versatile professionals.

» Modernity meets ancient traditions in this corner of the *Belpaese*: we will reveal why Italy is so proud of its past, present and future, putting you right there in the picture.

5 GOOD REASONS





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