



PALAZZO MARGHERITA



Easter 2017 at Palazzo Margherita!

If you want to sound like a local, don't call it Easter... call it Pasqua!

Time: 5 days

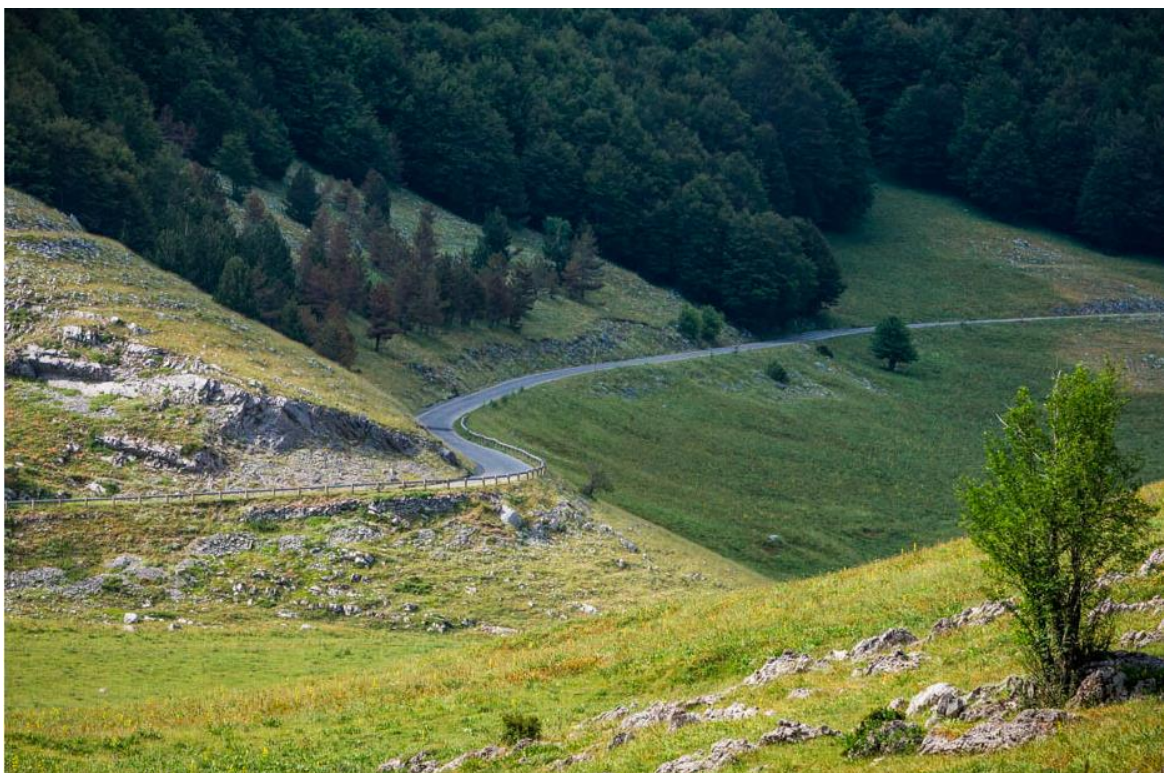
Transfer: Included for all excursions listed in the package.

Cost: The exclusive cost of the activities outlined below is **Euro 950 per person** (5 full days of activities). The cost includes everything stated below as well as driver and guides at your complete disposal. Room rates are additional and start from € 350 (for Garden Room Two per night for double occupancy) and € 700 (for Suite Six per night for double occupancy). The final price is determined by room or suite chosen.

“Natale con i tuoi, Pasqua con chi vuoi” (Christmas with your family, Easter with whomever you want), we say in Italy! So why not start planning your trip to Basilicata this year and spend some time with us?

Easter is the official start of “high” season but still less crowded than at the season’s peak! It’s a great time to experience the culture of Southern Italy, including not only some of its food traditions (more on that in a moment), but religious traditions as well.

Set in the charming town of Bernalda, where Francis Ford Coppola’s grandfather was born, Palazzo Margherita delights guests with palatial rooms and suites, delicious authentic cuisine, endless amenities, and hospitality so heartwarming that some visitors choose never to venture beyond the Palazzo walls.



Day 1 – Thursday April 13th, 2017



- Arrival at Palazzo Margherita;
- Cooking lesson in the warmth of our dine-in kitchen, where you will learn how to prepare some of our traditional Easter week recipes;
- Unique welcome dinner;
- Classic Italian movie screening in our Salon.

Day 2 – Friday April 14th, 2017

- 8.30 am: Light Breakfast before an easy walk to our *casaro*, who will invite you to experience the production of typical mozzarella and ricotta cheeses.

The “*casaro*” will produce cheese with traditional and artisanal methods used for centuries on farms (“*masseria*”).

- 10.30 am: Departure for Taranto.
- Trip to Taranto and guided visit of the Marta Museum;*
- Lunch in a typical seafood *trattoria* in Taranto;
- View the Easter millennial procession through the historical center of Taranto accompanied by our guide;**
- 4.30 pm: Return to Palazzo Margherita;
- Relaxation time;

- Dinner with “giropizza” in family style. With the “giropizza,” a typical Italian custom, the entire group of guests is given a series of pizzas of various kinds, allowing each participant to taste the different specialties.

* The National Archaeological Museum of Taranto is one of the most important in Italy and was founded in 1887. The Museum is located in a mid-18th century building that was originally the Convent of S. Pasquale of the Alcantarini order of monks. The structure was enlarged during the 20th century by the erection of the Northern wing, called Ala Ceschi. In 1998 a new restoration began, and a portion was completed with the official opening in December 2007.

The visit begins on the first floor of the Museum, which hosts the Greek, Roman and Apulian collections, and contains many noteworthy gold artifacts. The visitor will follow the history of Taranto and its territory in a chronological sequence: Prehistory and Proto-history, Greek Period, Roman Age, Late Antiquity and Middle Ages.



** The rites of Holy Week in Taranto are among the most important and emotional in Italy. The pilgrims, called Perdoni, slowly walk barefoot and with faces covered by hoods. They represent sinners pleading for forgiveness. Holy Week is animated by ancient Catholic rites that have been handed down unchanged for three centuries and involve the whole city from the depths of its soul.

The climax is reached on Holy Thursday, with the traditional processions of the Addolorata (Our Lady of Sorrows) and Mysteries (Good Friday).

The long procession winds through the streets of the New Town for hours, with only a few minutes of rest at night, at the church of San Francesco, and then the return to the Carmine church for the most exciting moment of the ritual: the *Troccolante* knocks with his bat at the church door and waits for the opening for the return of all the statues, welcomed by thunderous applause that signifies the anxious waiting for the Resurrection on Sunday.

Day 3 – Saturday April 15th, 2017



- Breakfast at Palazzo Margherita;
- 10.30 am: Visit the Ghost City of Craco*;

*The abandonment of the village of Craco in the early 1960s transformed the area into a ghost town often used as a film set and as a tourist destination through guided tours. Surrounded by picturesque fields and olive groves, the town is a single sculptural composition of closely aligned houses and buildings nestled on a limestone cliff. Above the vaulted alleys and steep stairways rises the Norman Tower and the 13th century castle.

- 12.30 pm: Visit the Crypt of the Original Sin and enjoy a light lunch in the nearby working *masseria* and winery to try some traditional local product;
- 3.00 pm: Return to Palazzo Margherita;
- Relaxation time;*

*Children will be invited to decorate Easter eggs for Sunday's egg hunt.

- Dinner at Palazzo Margherita.

Day 4 – Sunday April 16th, 2017



- Breakfast at Palazzo Margherita;
- Easter egg hunt in the Palazzo's gardens for the kids;
- 10.00 am: Departure for Matera.
- For those who would like to attend a Service, Easter mass in a Romanesque church of Matera;
- Easy walk in the Park of the Rupestrian Churches in Matera* to discover secrets of the rock civilization and surrounding wildlife with our guide;

*Matera is an UNESCO World Heritage Site and was recently selected as a European Capital of Culture for 2019.

- Light lunch in Matera in a typical *trattoria*, sampling traditional local food;
- 2.30 pm: Guided tour of the Sassi** district of Matera;

**The Sassi of Matera are an outstanding example of a rock-cut settlement, adapted perfectly to its setting and ecosystem, and exhibiting continuity over more than two millennia. The rock-hewn dwellings represent an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement and land use showing the evolution of a culture that has maintained over time a harmonious relationship with its natural environment.

- Free time for shopping and "*aperitivo*" in Matera;
- 6.00 pm: Return to Palazzo Margherita and dinner.

Day 5 – Monday April 17th, 2017



- Breakfast at Palazzo Margherita;
- Tour of the historical center of Bernalda, exploring ancient streets and churches;
- Return to Palazzo and relaxation time;
- Participation in the preparation of a typical Southern Italian barbecue for Easter Monday* in the paths of our garden, where we set up areas for the preparation and eating of grilled meat and vegetables, family “spaghattata,” and a sumptuous buffet of traditional Pasqua sweets.

*Holy Week in Southern Italy culminates on Easter Monday when families enjoy a lunch of roast lamb and specially-prepared cakes. Pasquetta (Easter Monday) is traditionally the first chance for a spring outing in the year, when Italians head for parks, woods and nature reserves to have a picnic.

Day 6 – Tuesday April 18th, 2017

- Breakfast at Palazzo Margherita;
- Check out.