

Abercrombie & Kent



## SOUTHERN ITALY: SICILY, PUGLIA & THE AMALFI COAST - A LUXURY SMALL GROUP JOURNEY (2025)

Experience the glories of Southern Italy on a panoramic journey revealing authentic cuisine and culture as well as the slow pace of rural life.

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Small Group Journeys, Luxury Small Group Journeys



Europe, Italy



12 days from AU\$22,185 pp



18 Guests

## Journey Overview

Experience the glories of Southern Italy on a panoramic journey revealing authentic cuisine and culture as well as the slow pace of rural life. Discover Sicily's ancient ruins, exotic landscapes and the colourful cliffside of the Amalfi Coast.

### Journey Highlights

- Step back in time to explore Sicily's incredible Greek and Roman remains, as well as the mountain-carved city of Matera
- Savour the flavours of Italy with a private buffalo mozzarella tasting and a visit to a Puglian olive oil producer
- Take an A&K-exclusive guided tour of Palazzo Francavilla with the owner, and savour refreshing aperitifs
- Drive the stunning Amalfi Coast Road to Positano and taste the fruits of Sorrento's famous lemon orchards, during a three-night stay in the sunny Campania region
- Stop in Corleone for an introduction to the Sicilian Mafia, an aspect of life in the region for years



## Itinerary

### **Day 1: Arrive Palermo, Italy**

Arrive in Palermo, Sicily’s lively capital, and transfer to your hotel located in the city’s historic centre. Sicily has a long history of stubborn independence from the political forces of mainland Italy, and today remains an autonomous region with its own distinct history and culture. Join your Resident Tour Director tonight for a welcome dinner.

***Grand Hotel et Des Palmes | Meals: D***

### **Day 2: Palermo | Treasures of Norman Architecture**

Join a local guide for a walk through a ninth-century Norman Royal Palace with its glittering, mosaic-laden chapel. Still in use today as the headquarters of Sicily’s Parliament, the palace is the oldest royal residence in all of Europe. Then, journey to the hillside town of Monreale and enter its extravagant cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Dating from 1170, it is perhaps the finest surviving example of Norman architecture anywhere in the world, and its mosaic-lined walls are breathtaking to behold. Return to Palermo with the rest of the afternoon at leisure to explore more of this unique port city. Later, enjoy an A&K-exclusive visit to the beautiful Palazzo Francavilla for a private tour and an apéritif with the owner.

***Grand Hotel et Des Palmes | Meals: B***

### **Day 3: Agrigento | The Dark History of Cosa Nostra**

Today, travel across Sicily’s rugged, mountainous countryside to the southern coast. Stop in the small village of Corleone, birthplace of several Mafia bosses (including fictional characters in *The Godfather*). The Mafia — or, as its members call it, Cosa Nostra (literally, “our thing”) — has vexed Sicily for well over a century, thriving in this land so famously resistant to official authority. Learn more about this troubled aspect of Sicilian history from a local expert. Proceeding to coastal Agrigento, discover the ancient Valley of the Temples, which includes the Temple of Concord, a superb example of classical sacred architecture. Explore the ruins before checking in to your hotel in nearby Favara.

***Alba Palace | Meals: BLD***

#### **Day 4: Piazza Armerina | Ancient Villa**

Journey east to Piazza Armerina, a graceful countryside town, where you visit the incomparable Villa Romana del Casale. A prime example of a luxurious Roman villa, this UNESCO World Heritage Site houses breathtaking mosaics originally laid in the fourth century. Continue to the east coast of Sicily and up to the 1,828-metre-plus heights of smouldering Mount Etna, taking in panoramic views of the landscape and coast. Later, arrive at your lush resort above the sparkling coast. Conclude your day of exploration with a refreshing Scenic Sundowner.

***Donna Carmela | Meals: BLD***

#### **Day 5: Taormina | Majestic Vantage Point**

Transfer to charming Taormina, where you begin your day with a private cooking class in a villa overlooking the sea, enjoying what you’ve created for lunch, for a lively Chef’s Table experience. Afterward, join a local expert who introduces you to the town’s spectacular Greek amphitheatre, set high above the sea. Still in use as an arts venue today, its permanent “show” is its extraordinary view of Mount Etna, rising in the far distance beyond the stage. Return to your resort to relax.

***Donna Carmela | Meals: BL***

#### **Day 6: Matera | In the Mountainous Città Sotterranea**

Rise early for the journey to Messina, where you board a ferry to cross the strait between Sicily and the Italian mainland. Disembark in Villa San Giovanni in Calabria, and drive into Basilicata and to Matera, the ancient Città Sotterranea (Underground City) carved into the Apennine Mountains. Then, settle in to your hotel in the heart of this UNESCO World Heritage Site.

***Palazzo Gattini | Meals: BD***

#### **Day 7: Matera | Stories of an Ancient City**

Explore Matera, thought to be one of the oldest cities in the world, walking its narrow, jagged lanes with a guide to get a feel for the daily life of locals. Then, explore a bakery that preserves the artisanal traditions of the local bread.

***Palazzo Gattini | Meals: B***

### **Day 8: Alberobello | The Trulli Houses of Apulia**

Journey into Puglia to nearby Locorotondo, one of Italy's most beautiful towns, for a walking tour. Meet an olive oil producer for a private tasting, followed by a lunch featuring local products. Later, visit Alberobello and its rows of fantastic trulli houses, conical limestone dwellings unique to this province of Bari.

***Palazzo Gattini | Meals: BL***

### **Day 9: Paestum | Making Mozzarella**

Depart for the sparkling Amalfi Coast area. Stop en route in Paestum, an ancient Greek city known for its well-preserved temples; see them after a tour and lunch at a nearby mozzarella-making farm. Arrive in Naples and check in to your hotel by the harbour. Tonight, enjoy an iconic Neapolitan specialty at a traditional pizzeria.

***ROMEO Hotel | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 10: Positano | Glories of the Coast**

Drive to Sorrento to visit a lemon nursery and learn about this iconic fruit of the Amalfi Coast. Enjoy a demonstration of traditional Neapolitan cooking, followed by lunch. Then, drive the Amalfi Coast to Positano to take in the stunning views and continue via Amalfi to Ravello for an engaging photo stop. Return to Naples.

***ROMEO Hotel | Meals: BL***

### **Day 11: Naples | Design Your Day**

This morning, enjoy one of these **Design Your Day** activities.

- **Join a Guide to Tour Herculaneum**, a Roman settlement destroyed by the lava flows of nearby Vesuvius in AD 79.
- **Explore the Flavors of "Hidden Naples"** on a foodies' walking tour of this charming city noted for its cuisine.
- **Cruise to the Isle of Capri**, where you discover the charms of this sun-kissed paradise.

Tonight, celebrate your journey with a special farewell dinner.

***ROMEO Hotel | Meals: BD***

## Day 12: Depart Naples

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

**Meals: B**

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## Journey Details

Minimum age is 10 years.

First group event: welcome dinner at 5:30 p.m. on Day 1.

Last group event: farewell dinner at 7:00 p.m. on Day 10.

Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.

Please note that alternative accommodations for Days 1-2 will be featured on the following departure dates: May 2, May 30, Sep 5, Sep 26 & Oct 17, 2025. Guests will be staying at *Villa Igiea, A Rocco Forte Hotel*.

## Included with every Luxury Small Group Journey

- English-Speaking Resident Tour Director® and Local Guides
- Hand-Selected Luxury Accommodations
- Airport Meet and Greet with Private Transfers
- Travelling Bell Boy® Luggage Handling
- Full Breakfast Daily; Select Lunches and Dinners
- Traveller's Valet® Laundry Service
- Internet Access
- Entrance Fees, Taxes and All Gratuities Except Resident Tour Director
- 24/7 A&K On-Call Support
- Guaranteed Departures with Just Two Guests

## Customise this Journey

**Talk to one of our expert Journey Designers** or your travel agent about booking this tour as a private journey for your own small group with family or friends. Or, if you would prefer to travel privately, find out more about creating the perfect bespoke tailor-made journey based on this itinerary.

## Map



## Accommodation

### Palazzo Gattini, Puglia



Palazzo Gattini was once the residence of Italian nobility. It retains much of its historical character to this day, with cream stone archways throughout its 20 suites. Choose from a range of unique rooms, from junior to deluxe, each with mod cons, Italian-made bathrobes and French-made toiletries. Located within Matera, it boasts stunning views of prehistoric Sassi, and is the ideal accommodation from which to explore the Basilicata region.

Sample seasonal Italian cuisine at the on-site restaurant, Le Bubbole, which includes adaptable menus to suit dietary requirements. Just outside in the Cathedral square, there's also the charming Duomo café, offering breakfast, lunch and aperitifs.

For a little R&R, descend the stairwell to the subterranean spa. In warm stone surrounds, enjoy an individual or couple's massage, relax in the buoyant waters of the Floating Room or glide out into the large swimming pool.

Palazzo Gattini artfully celebrates the history of Matera while offering five-star luxury and the comforts of modernity.

### Why we like it

- Stay in rooms, which showcase the property's history as a former residence of Italian



nobility

- Relax mind and body with the spa's new floating therapy
- Indulge in a selection of local meats and dairy products in the ancient cheese room
- Gather with friends or family in the sunshine of the terrace, overlooking Matera
- Sip in a tipple at the wine bar beneath the hotel, sculpted out of tufa rock

## Dates & Pricing

Prices are in AUD, per person, based on double occupancy

### May 2, 2025 - May 13, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$22,955 pp</b>	AU\$9,175	AU\$0	Call for Availability

### May 9, 2025 - May 20, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$22,185 pp</b>	AU\$8,105	AU\$0	Call for Availability

### May 30, 2025 - Jun 10, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$22,955 pp</b>	AU\$9,175	AU\$0	Call for Availability

### Jun 6, 2025 - Jun 17, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$22,185 pp</b>	AU\$8,105	AU\$0	Call for Availability

### Jun 13, 2025 - Jun 24, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$22,185 pp</b>	AU\$8,105	AU\$0	Call for Availability

### Jun 27, 2025 - Jul 8, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$22,185 pp</b>	AU\$8,105	AU\$0	Call for Availability

### Jul 11, 2025 - Jul 22, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$22,185 pp</b>	AU\$8,105	AU\$0	Call for Availability

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**Jul 25, 2025 - Aug 5, 2025**

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$22,185 pp</b>	AU\$8,105	AU\$0	Call for Availability

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**Aug 29, 2025 - Sep 9, 2025**

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$22,185 pp</b>	AU\$8,105	AU\$0	Call for Availability

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**Sep 5, 2025 - Sep 16, 2025**

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$22,955 pp</b>	AU\$9,175	AU\$0	Call for Availability

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**Sep 12, 2025 - Sep 23, 2025**

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$22,185 pp</b>	AU\$8,105	AU\$0	Call for Availability

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**Sep 26, 2025 - Oct 7, 2025**

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$22,955 pp</b>	AU\$9,175	AU\$0	Call for Availability

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**Oct 17, 2025 - Oct 28, 2025**

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$22,955 pp</b>	AU\$9,175	AU\$0	Call for Availability

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