

Puglia Trip: April 2026

<https://www.morningstarseekisavortours.com/the-heel-of-italy-puglia-italy-wine-food-culture-tour-spring-2026/>

DAY ONE arrive in **Bari**

Arrive in Bari April 8, 2026, after your overnight flight from the USA and check into your hotel. The Hotel Excelsior is a 4-star property near the lovely pedestrian shopping area.

DAY TWO April 9, 2026 **Monopoli**

On our way to Masseria Cervarolo we will stop for a half-day visit at the ancient port town of Monopoli where you will have free time to wander around this charming seaside village.

* Optional: Excellent wine-paired lunch at Piazza Palmieri Restaurante.

Palmieri offers the best warm seafood appetizer we ever had along with excellent main courses.

Menu:

Hot seafood appetizer

Seafood first course

1 glass of white wine

1 glass of red

Water and coffee

Of course, substitutes are possible. \$49

April 9 afternoon: Arrival at Masseria Cervarolo, **Ostuni**. This property is an old farm/fortress that has been beautifully restored. Many of the rooms are trulli! Replete with a beautiful pool area and a Michelin-rated restaurant, Cervarolo is perfectly located and within short driving distances of all the sites we will visit.

Afternoon

*Optional: Generous pours of local wines...wine tasting with a local Som, right at beautiful Cervarolo! This is a great opportunity to try some local wines from nearby vineyards with a really nice local som lady, Teresa. Learn a ton about the Puglian wines you will be drinking. We will do this @5:30ish. \$25

DAY THREE April 10 **Martina Franca / Locorotondo**

* Optional: AM bike ride

Spend a morning exploring the ancient towns of Martina Franca and Locorotondo on your own. A wine-paired lunch overlooking a beautiful vista will be served in Locorotondo for everyone.

* Optional: 3.5 hour ride through countryside: For active, adept bike riders, we are offering a half-day bike ride through the countryside in place of the city visits. This ride is fantastic! You will ride about 4 hours through gorgeous countryside on secondary roads with little traffic. If you love biking, DO NOT MISS THIS. It is worth every penny. The ride will end at Locorotondo where we will meet the rest of the non-biking group and have the same lunch described. It will include the same lunch as above.

COST: \$110, includes for transportation to starting point of ride, bike (electric-assist bike upon request, add \$33), and guides: \$110. This must be signed up for by time of final payment at the end of January. The fee will be added to your final invoice. We need a minimum of 10 riders. Link below to photo gallery of optional Locorotondo bike ride. [Locorotondo bike ride](#)

April 10: cooking class at Masseria Cerverola. First, a Puglian cooking class in the late afternoon. A 4-course wine-paired dinner at the Cervarolo's Michelin-rated restaurant follows, both included in your tour events. Bonus: A local som will be there during the entire meal to share notes about each wine! As with our other masserias, we will be the only guests in the hotel...all ours.

DAY FOUR April 11 Lecce

Lecce is one of the best-preserved baroque cities in the world. Two-hour-walking tour followed by free time and lunch on your own. Depart Lecce and return home to Cervarolo for some late-afternoon free time to relax and enjoy Cervarolo.

DAY FIVE April 12

Easy Bike ride through countryside

* Optional: Ride to the Sea! Half-day bike ride, Parco della Dune Costiere... The ride takes us through the **Ostuni** countryside with panoramas of the Adriatic coast and the Puglian landscape with the end point being the beach town of **Torre Canne**. Electric bike upgrade available (\$33). Easy ride with spectacular scenery! For lunch we will stop by a sea-side town for an included lunch. OR

For those not desiring to ride, you will have the opportunity to have a short walking tour at a near-by hilltop town where you will have time to meander and lunch on your own. Then you will join the riders for a late-afternoon olive oil tasting at an ancient Masseria where the same family for generations have been making olive oil.

DAY SIX April 13 Alberobello, the city of Trullos

Alberobello, a UNESCO site. This town has more trulli per square foot than anywhere in the world. Upon arrival in the morning, we will explore the village with the best guide in Alberobello! Then free time to wander, shop, and have lunch on your own.

After Alberobello, it is on to Alta Mura and our next masseria experience: Masseria Pitti, a farm/fortress from the 1600s. Olive oil and wine was produced in caves under the properties. The defensive fortress-like estates were constructed to ward off pirate attacks.

Part of the group will be at Masseria Pitti, our spectacular upgraded hotel. There are only 15 rooms available at Pitti, first-come / first-served basis. Those not upgraded will be at the 4-star Hotel San Nicola in nearby Altamura.

Both properties are 10 minutes apart. The package includes the 4-star Hotel San Nicola in Altamura. The Pitti upgrade prices are on the logistics page. Three of the *included wine-paired dinners* will be at the Pitti with the fourth being a 3-hour walking dinner tour in Altamura. *Everyone will participate in all the Pitti activities, including the dinners.* Our charter bus will provide the short rides needed between properties. Best of all: we will be the only people in the Pitti...all ours.

DAY SEVEN April 14 Gravina

We arrive in the morning for a unique walking tour of this historic village, with underground olive oil and wine making facilities that date back many centuries. *Then:* Time for an amazing wine-paired lunch at one of our fav Puglian restaurants! Deb and Dan discovered Mamma Mia's restaurant overlooking the ruins of Gravina and it was one of the best meals we had on our trip. Puglia is known for its truffles and Mamma Mia's makes a memorable truffle-based pasta you will savor and love. Not a truffle fan? No problem... easy substitute pasta. This will be a 2 hour extravaganza

replete with 8 appetizers, pasta main, desserts, and of course a LOT of wine! Tellin ya: You are patzo (crazy!) if you don't have lunch! Cost: included

PS: Did we mention that this place has one of the most amazing views anywhere!

DAY EIGHT April 15

Free day in **Alta Mura** or optional bike ride in the countryside

A breather! We have added an extra 4th day and night in our Alta Mura stay for this tour. Alta Mura is a fabulous old town to explore on your own. Sleep in, relax, and choose between two activities or do nothing!

Those staying at the Masseria Pitti have the option of riding into Alta Mura with Gianni, our driver mid-morning for a fun day of exploring, shopping, lunch... whatever YOU want. Those at the Fuori Hotel are already on the edge of Alta Mura.

* Optional: Day long countryside BIKE RIDE: For those who want a more adventurous day, we are in the process of organizing an optional bike ride for the day in the countryside surrounding us.

Cost: \$110 for transport to starting point, bikes, (electric-assist bikes +\$33), guides. This must be signed up before the time of final payment, late January. Fee will be included in your final invoice amount. Minimum of 10 needed.

DAY NINE April 16 **Matera**

Get ready to be stunned. Matera, an ancient hilltop town that features 2,000-year-old cave homes under the modern city, will be our tour for the day. Free time to explore and have lunch. After some free relaxation time at the Pitti, you will be in for an extraordinary experience. Mattia, son of one of the owners of Pitti will guide us on a 3-hour walking dinner tour in Alta Mura. Prepare to eat more than you thought possible!

DAY TEN April 17 Return to **Bari**

Return for a free afternoon and night before return flights the following day to the USA.

We leave the Pitti and San Nicola hotels to return to Bari, arriving there mid-morning. You are free to enjoy Bari on your own. There are many shops, restaurants, and views to enjoy. You arrange via hotel desk taxi rides for your flight home on the following day, April 18.

* Optional: UPGRADE HOTEL On our last journey to Puglia, Deb and I discovered an uber-modern gorgeous 4-star hotel a few-minutes-walk to the sea and the old port of Bari. We loved the Dilman hotel so much we are offering it as an upgrade option for this last night. We highly recommend choosing this optional property. The included Excelsior is the same hotel you started your journey at in Bari and it is a nice property. The Dilman is a step up in luxury and location and is worth the small upgrade fee. We will have the decision point on this option in November. See room choices on the Logistics page.