

27 NOVEMBER 2017

GRAZIA

PARTY ON!



INTERVIEW

**NAOMI
CAMPBELL**
'WE'RE
LIVING
IN AN
AMAZING
MOMENT'

'MY DAUGHTER
DOESN'T THINK
I'M BEAUTIFUL,
AND THAT'S OK'

EXCLUSIVE

Gwyneth's plot to oust Oprah

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GRAZIA'S EDIT OF THE WORLD'S MUST-SEE DESTINATIONS

Why do so many Italians stay in their own country for the summer break? The answer is simple: Puglia and the Amalfi Coast! *Alice Tate* takes us on an Italian road trip...

ITALIANS HAVE BEEN spending their summers in Puglia for decades, but it's only in recent years that the rest of the world has woken up to its glimmering waters, delectable food, wisteria-draped backstreets and charming towns. It's a lot more relaxed and slower-paced than the glamorous Amalfi Coast – its easy-to-drive roads make it perfect for exploring and you can definitely go for dinner in your beachy flip-flops rather than dolling up in your glad rags. That said, the Amalfi Coast is a heart-stopper with its combination of higgledy-piggledy houses, spectacular sunsets and age-old, unbeatable Italian glitz and glamour. If you're in southern Italy, you'd be a fool to miss it – so don't! Instead, do both for the ultimate Italian road trip.

Polignano a Mare beach



Polignano a Mare



Cinquevite

DAYS 1-2: BARI TO POLIGNANO A MARE

Pick up a hire car at Bari airport and let the sat nav guide you the 45-minute journey to Polignano a Mare, a seaside town that's small enough to do in a day but charming enough to stretch over one-and-a-half or two. At Polignano, the beach is a real highlight – a pebbly cove, sheltered by cliffs, with crystal clear waters overlooked by a bridge. Do as the locals do, and head to the bridge to admire the sunset. The tiny old town, reached via the Porta Vecchia gate, combines charming, white-washed streets with stunning old churches and quaint little eateries and gelato stops. Stay at Cinquevite (£102; cinquevite.it) with its spacious rooms and small rooftop pool. Eat at Pescaria for fresh tuna tataki, fried mussels and the real winner: the fried octopus panini with figs, ricotta, peppers and anchovy oil (£7pp; pescaria.it).



SCHELEDDO

A typical Ostuni street

DAYS 3-4: POLIGNANO A MARE TO OSTUNI

Back on the road, travel south with a lunch stop at the pretty seaside town of Monopoli – we shared some to-die-for bruschetta and a plate of cavatelli ai frutti di mare at Osteria Perricci, a great value, family run trattoria in the heart of town (*Via Orazio Comes, 1*). Then go inland just a little to Ostuni, dubbed the ‘white city’ – a cluster of whitewashed buildings on a hilltop with narrow staircases and splendid 360° views of the olive-carpeted surroundings and Adriatic sea. It comes alive at aperitivo time – try Parisi Café (*Via Cattedrale, 41*) for great snacks (complimentary platter of olives, bruschetta and nibbles) with your drink. Finish the night with cocktails at the stylish lounge Gipas 111 (*Largo Spennati, 4*) and stay at Casa D’Autore (*from £70pn; casadautore.it*).



A house in Ostuni



Gipas 111 bar



La Fiermontina

DAYS 4-6: OSTUNI TO LECCE

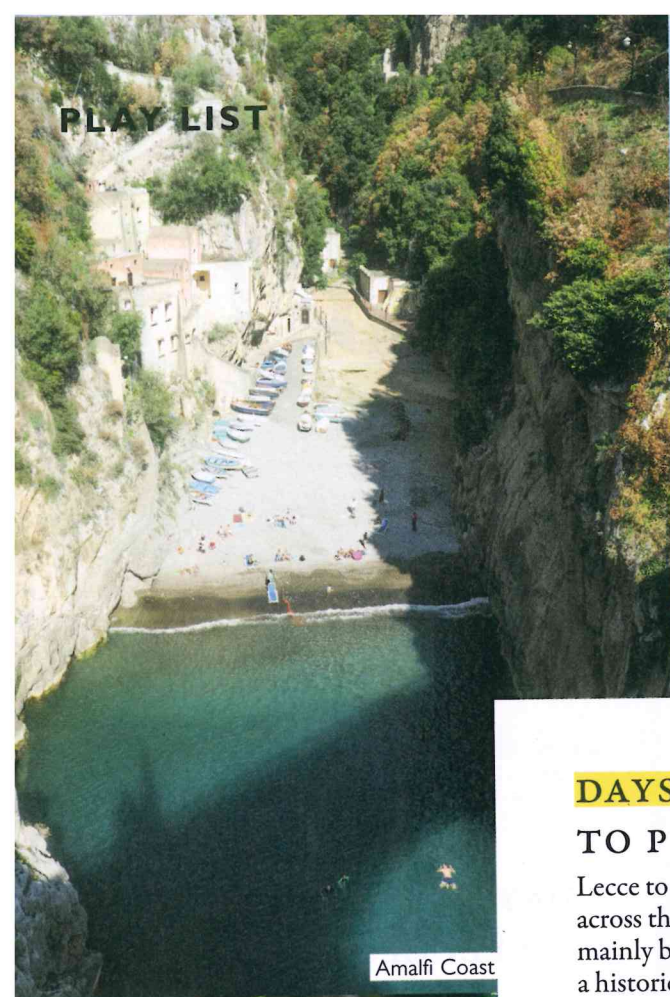
After a quick morning coffee, an hour’s journey on the motorway brings you to Lecce, a beautiful city of cobbled streets, baroque architectural masterpieces and golden stone buildings, near to stunning beaches and swimming coves. La Fiermontina (£210pn; lafiermontina.com) is a perfect base: a 16-room hotel within the old town with sumptuous modern rooms, picturesque courtyard and an orange and olive tree-scattered garden.

Spend a day exploring the city; another cruising the Salento Peninsula, the road running parallel to the coast, for glimpses of glittering seas, the roads lined with endless pink-fruited prickly pear cacti. Make the sandy beachy of San Foca your first stop, followed by the breathtaking Grotta della Poesia, a 100-foot wide sinkhole with crystal clear waters. Carry on down to Torre Dell’Orso for Pasticceria Dentoni (pasticceriadentoni.com), the best gelateria in the region. ▶



Lecce

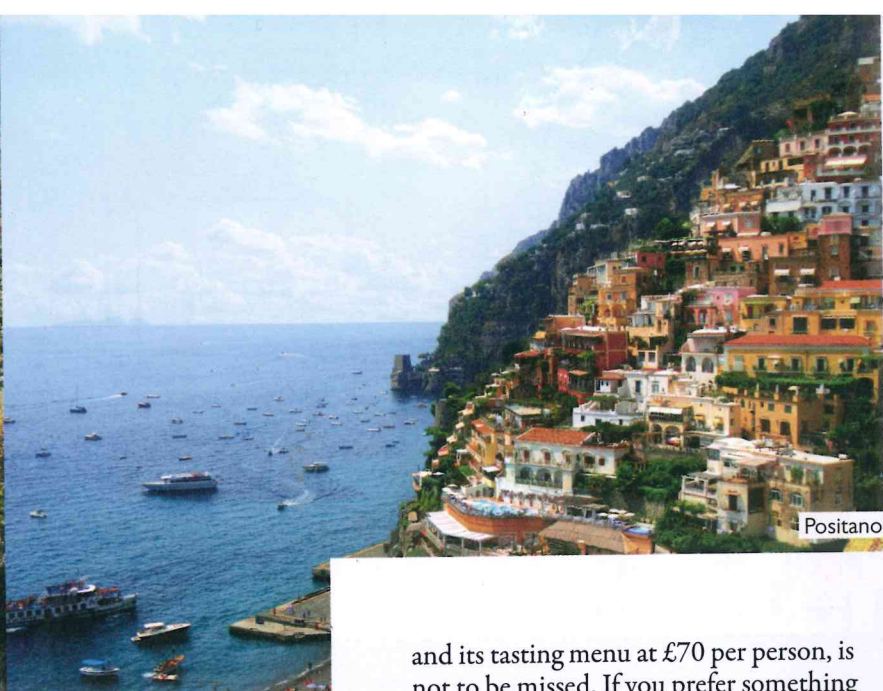
Ostuni



Amalfi Coast



A Positano lemon grove



Positano

DAYS 7-10: LECCE

TO POSITANO

Lecce to Positano is a five-hour drive across the country from east to west, mainly by motorway. Break it up at Matera, a historic gem that's been continuously inhabited for more than 9,000 years. Its caves now house cosy restaurants, cool bars and artisan shops.

Then it's on to the show-stopping Amalfi Coast. Roads are a doddle until you reach Salerno, where the 50km stretch of weaving cliff-side road with countless hairpin bends will have you clinging to your seat. But the views are worth it – sheer cliffs meet turquoise waters, terraced vineyards and lemon groves cling to hillsides, while pretty pastel-coloured fishing villages stack tall.

Positano is Instagram catnip with its pink and orange houses and wisteria-draped streets full of fashionable boutiques, gelaterias, bars and open-air restaurants. Down by the sea, sip Aperol Spritzes at beach-front restaurant terraces. Le Tre Sorelle (£24pp; le-tre-sorelle.thefork.rest) is a popular spot – don't miss the marinated anchovies to start. Right in the heart of the town, Le Sirenuse is a gorgeous hotel with bedroom balconies that open right out on to the technicolour view – and it has valet parking, which is so worth it. (£400pp; sirenuse.it/en). The hotel's Michelin-starred restaurant, La Sponda,

and its tasting menu at £70 per person, is not to be missed. If you prefer something quieter, Priano is 10 minutes away. Here, Casa Angelina (£515pn; casanagelina.com) is a chic oasis with modern bedrooms, a sun-kissed terrace bar and complimentary access to the beach club below.

Basing yourself at Positano, spend a morning in Ravello, a town high up in the hills, about a 50-minute drive away. It boasts the best views in the region, and is known for its colourful, enchanting gardens, old churches, colourful ceramic souvenirs, and laid-back Italian glamour – Greta Garbo, Jacqueline Kennedy and Tennessee Williams all famously holidayed here.

Take a day trip to Sorrento, home of limoncello, and the most popular holiday spot on the Neapolitan Riviera. It's just a 45-minute drive across the peninsula. Potter through the busy backstreets of centro storico (the historic centre) and, in the evening, watch the beautiful sunset from Villa Comunale Park, Mount Vesuvius standing proud in the distance. Stop for wine and a shared burrata cheese at Inn Bufalito (innbufalito.it) and move on to 'O Parrucchiano, a magical spot where you can feast on spaghetti alle vongole under the lemon trees (£12pp; parrucchiano.com).

HOW TO GET THERE

Fly direct to Bari with easyjet.co.uk, ryanair.com or britishairways.com. Book a car online before you fly using any of the travel comparison sites. The towns and backstreets can be a little tricky to navigate so go for a small car. Fly out from Naples airport, which is a 90-minute drive from Positano. It costs about £70 extra for dropping the hire car at a different airport.



Le Sirenuse