THE HIDDEN SALENTO



DAY 1

Arrival at Rome FCO/Bari-Brindisi airport, meeting with our English speaking guide, and transfer to selected 4 star hotel in Conversano. In the evening, transfer to Tenuta Lauro.
We will walk in a sensory garden with a scent of Mediterranean essences - as thyme, rosemary, lemon balm, citronella, oregano, stevia, wild fennel, mint, sage, elderberry, and incense - through a path capable of triggering emotions and memories.
Dinner in the exclusive setting of the estate.

TENUTA LAURO

THE ESTATE HAS RECENTLY BEEN RESTORED WHILE PRESERVING ITS ORIGINAL STRUCTURE AND THE TYPICAL FLAVOR OF RURAL ARCHITECTURE, WHERE OPTICAL WHITE DOMINATES. AROUND THE HOUSE, LENTISK PLANTS, HOLM OAKS, STRAWBERRY TREES, ROSEMARY, AND LAVENDER OFFER AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY INTO THE PERCEPTION OF COLORS AND FRAGRANCES. PAYING ATTENTION TO THE HARMONY BETWEEN PRESENT AND PAST, THE MATERIALS USED IN THE RESTORATION ARE TYPICAL “PUGLIESE CHIANCHE“ AND RECLAIMED STONES.





DAY 2

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to Massafra for a visit to the Amastuola Estate accompanied by the owner Peppino Montanaro.
In the afternoon, we walk in the characteristic village of Locorotondo
Return to the hotel and typical dinner.

TENUTA AMASTUOLA

CRISPIANO (TA)

DESIGNED BY THE RENOWNED LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT FERNANDO CARUNCHO. HE REDESIGNED THE ENTIRE LANDSCAPE, RECOVERING 1500 ANCIENT OLIVE TREES, TRANSPLANTED AND SAVED FROM ABANDONMENT OR DESTINED FOR FIREWOOD, AND PLACED ALONG THE HISTORIC ROADS OF THE FARMHOUSE.









LOCOROTONDO

PERCHED IN THE HEART OF THE WILD VALLE D'ITRIA, ON THE MURGIA PLATEAU, BETWEEN THE ADRIATIC AND IONIAN SEAS, LOCOROTONDO IS A VILLAGE THAT EMERGED IN THE YEAR 1000. ITS NAME, DERIVED FROM LATIN "LOCUS ROTUNDUS," LITERALLY MEANS "ROUND PLACE" AND RECALLS ITS CIRCULAR SHAPE. THE PICTURESQUE VIEWS ARE A DELIGHT FOR THE EYES, AND THE VILLAGE DESERVES TO BE VISITED CALMLY, RETRACING THE ROAD TAKEN THE FIRST TIME, ALSO IN THE REVERSE DIRECTION, TO ADMIRE THE PERSPECTIVE THAT EVERY CORNER OFFERS.





DAY 3

Breakfast at the hotel and meeting with our guide. Transfer to Altamura, a famous city of DOP bread with many ancient wood-burning ovens.
With the help of master bakers, we participate in the preparation of bread and focaccia, two symbols of Puglian tradition. We will become experts and learn all the secrets of kneading and producing these delicious baked products so that we can make them at home. Everything created, in addition to being tasted, you can take it with you after the experience.
While waiting for the baking, we will walk through the streets of the historic center to admire the sumptuous Cathedral in full Puglian Romanesque style and the entire village.







DAY 3

In the afternoon, transfer to Lecce with a stop in the white city of Ostuni.
Later on we will enjoy a sunset aperitif in a private home.
In the evening we will arrive in Lecce where we will check in at charming 4 star hotel in the historical centre of Lecce.







DAY 4

Breakfast at the hotel. Meeting with our guide. The day will be dedicated to the rich and sumptuous city of Lecce. In the company of Fabio Ippolito, director of the Puglia Villas and Gardens Association, we will discover the garden of Villa Carrelli-Palombi.
Following, still in the company of Dr. Ippolito, we will visit the Garden of Palazzo Giaconìa, one of the most renowned palaces in Lecce.
In the late afternoon, we will be welcomed by the owners of Palazzo Tamborino Cezzi, originally built in 1500, it has one of the most beautiful secret gardens in the historic center of Lecce.
Dinner will take place at Palazzo Famularo, hosted by Gabriella Famularo. The dinner will be accompanied by a performance of traditional dance called “Pizzica”.
Return to the hotel for the overnight stay.

VILLA CARELLI-PALOMBI

LECCE

VILLA CARELLI-PALOMBI KNOWN AS VILLA REALE BECAUSE IT TAKES THE NAME OF THE CURRENT OWNERS, WHO CREATED THE INTERESTING PARK IN THE 1930S, SIGNED BY THE NOT YET FAMOUS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT PIETRO PORCINAI AT THE BEGINNING OF HIS CAREER.

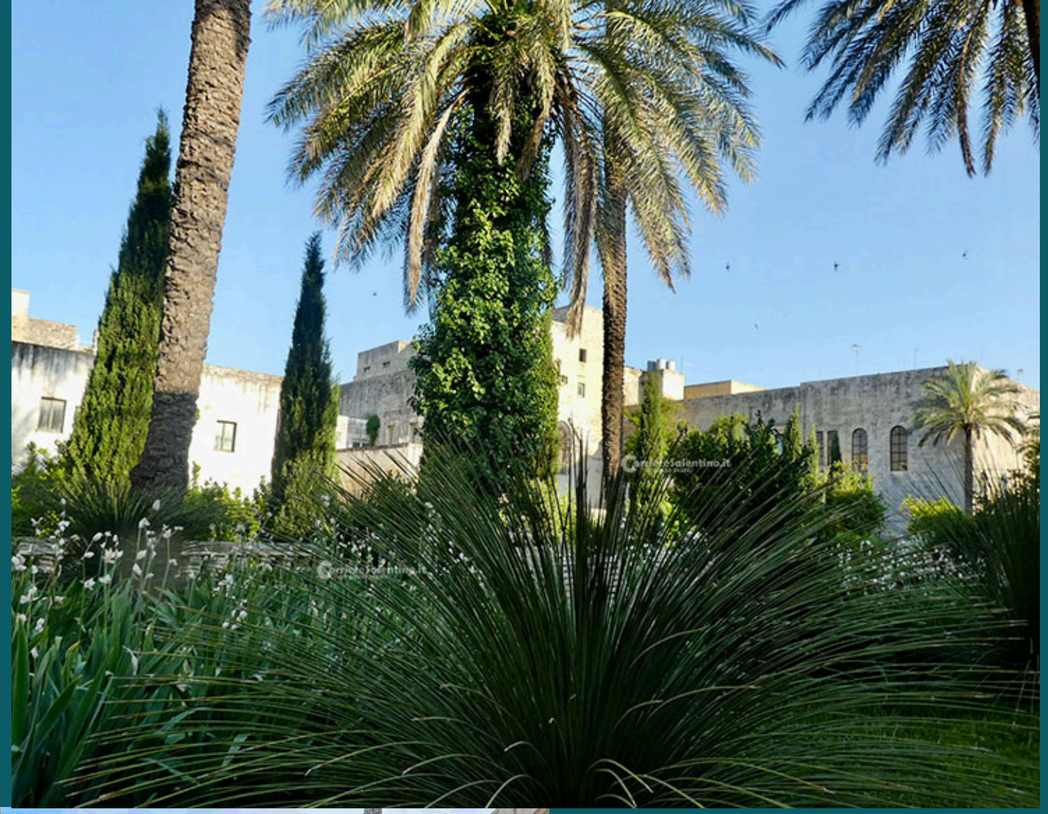




PALAZZO GIACONIA

LECCE

THE HISTORY OF THIS IMPOSING BUILDING BEGAN IN THE 16TH CENTURY, ON THE INITIATIVE OF MONS. ANGELO GIACONIA, BISHOP OF CASTRO, WHO BUILT HIS RESIDENCE NEAR THE CHURCH OF SANTA MARIA DEGLI ANGELI AND THE CONVENT OF THE MINIM FRIARS OF S. FRANCESCO DI PAOLA AND THE MIGHTY WALLS OF THE CITY. A HUMBLE WOMAN, ANNA ANTONACCI, BLIND, GAVE THE MOST PRECIOUS GIFT TO THE BUILDING: IN 1906, SHE FOUNDED THE PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE FOR THE EDUCATION AND INSTRUCTION OF BLIND CHILDREN IN THE PALACE. THEN, WE WILL WALK THROUGH THE STREETS OF THE BEAUTIFUL HISTORIC CENTER AND VISIT THE WORKSHOP OF MASTER PAPIER-MÂCHÉ ARTIST CLAUDIO RISO, LOCATED BEHIND THE DOOR OVERLOOKING VIA VITTORIO EMANUELE, IN THE HEART OF THE ANCIENT VILLAGE OF LECCE. RISO'S WORK IS SLOW, METICULOUS, PATIENT, AND WE WILL FOLLOW IT WITH ATTENTION. FEW BUT PRECIOUS ARTIFACTS ARE BORN FROM HIS HANDS. GLUE, NEWSPAPER, WATER. NOTHING ELSE IS NEEDED IN THIS HUMBLE ART, EXCEPT SKILL AND KNOWLEDGE INHERITED FROM OTHER MASTERS.



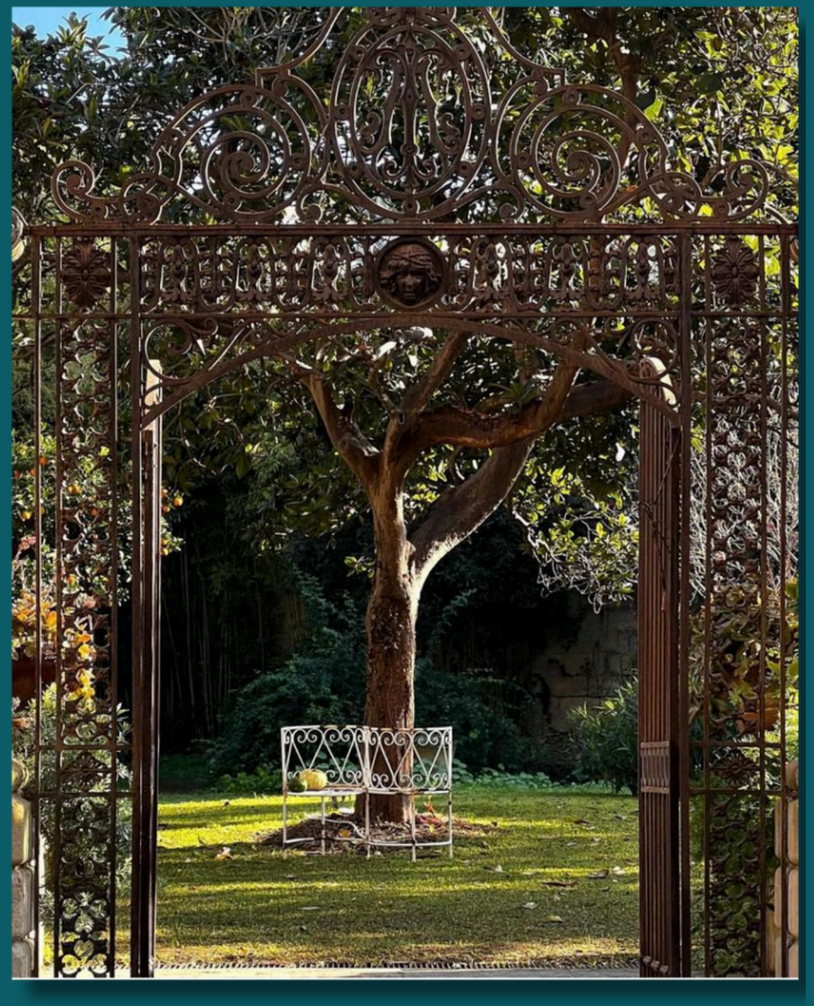


PALAZZO TAMBORINO CEZZI

LECCE

SURROUNDED BY WALLS AND PROTECTED BY BAMBOO CANES, IMMENSE BOUGANVILLAE CLIMBERS, WITH A ROSE GARDEN AND A SMALL ORANGE GROVE, IT REPRESENTS A QUIET AND HIDDEN GREEN OASIS BEHIND THE IMPOSING FACADE OF THE PALACE.





PALAZZO FAMULARO





LECCE

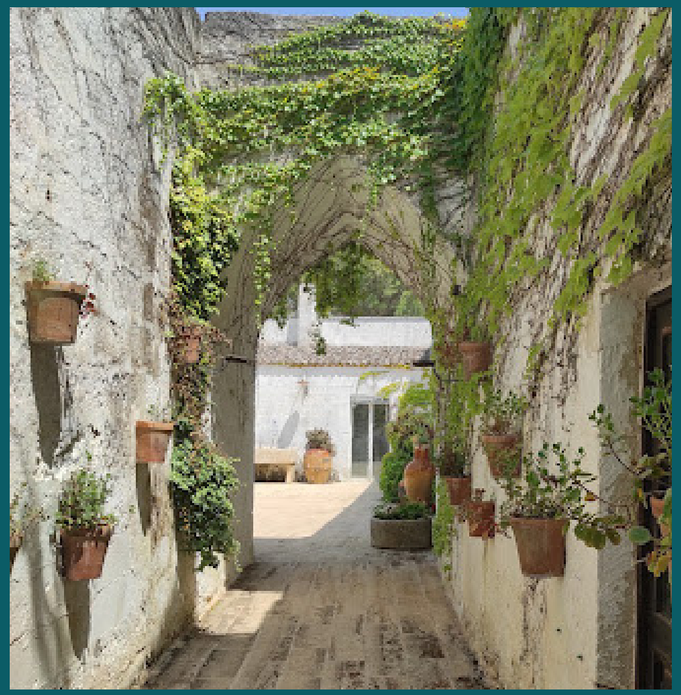


THE HOUSE IS A TRUE MUSEUM OF ANCIENT FAMILY LIFE MEMORIES. THIS PRESTIGIOUS RESIDENCE, ONE OF THE MOST SPECTACULAR IN ALL OF SALENTO, HAD SEVERAL OWNERS SINCE 1619, AND THE FIRST WAS MARQUIS GIROLAMO MONTENEGRO. THROUGH ONE OF THE BUILDING'S FIRST DOORS, YOU REACH A LARGE NEOCLASSICAL ATRIUM. IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PORTICO IS AN ENTRANCE THAT LEADS TO THE LARGE GARDEN AT THE BACK, WHERE YOU CAN ADMIRE AN IMPRESSIVE "FICUS MAGNOLIDEUS."
AN OVAL STAIRCASE LEADS TO THE UPPER TERRACE. THE NOBLE FLOOR IS A TREASURE CHEST THAT HIDES TREASURES OF RARE BEAUTY THAT HAVE BEEN EXCELLENTLY PRESERVED TO THIS DAY THANKS TO THE CARE OF THE FAMULARO FAMILY, THE CURRENT OWNERS OF THE PALACE

DAY 5

Breakfast and meeting with our guide. We will reach the “La Cutura” botanical garden.
Following, we will go to the weaving workshop at the Le Costantine Foundation in Casamassella. Afterwards we will indulge in a tasting of typical products and wine in the exclusive setting of the estate.
In the afternoon, transfer to Otranto for a guided walk-tour through the city that dates back to prehistoric times and has been a hinge town with the East for centuries.
At the end, return to Lecce and visit Palazzo Morisco-de’ Secly-Galante, behind Piazza Duomo.
Return to the hotel for overnight stay.







LA CUTURA

GIUGGIANELLO (LE)

AN AUTHENTIC STONE PARADISE WHERE ORDER IS NEVER ARTIFICIAL. LA CUTURA, AN ANCIENT COUNTRY ESTATE BUILT IN THE CLASSIC LATE NINETEENTH-CENTURY RURAL STYLE, IS NOW A RENOWNED BOTANICAL GARDEN THAT COVERS 35 HECTARES AND HOUSES ONE OF THE RICHEST COLLECTIONS OF RARE, SUCCULENT, AND TROPICAL PLANTS. A PARADISE BORN FROM STONE (CUTURA - FROM "CUTE," A DIALECT SYNONYM FOR STONE), UNIQUE IN ITALY, RICH IN FLORA, A PLACE OF KNOWLEDGE AND RECREATION WHERE PLEASURE AND NATURE MERGE IN PERFECT HARMONY, IN A TRIUMPH OF SCENTS AND COLORS. FOLLOWING A BOTANICAL PATH ALONG ROSE AVENUES, GARDENS OF AROMATIC PLANTS, AND BEDS OF MEDITERRANEAN AND OFFICINAL PLANTS, BETWEEN THE PAPYRUS AND WATER LILY POND, THE ROCK GARDEN, THROUGH THE CITRUS GROVE, AND THE HOLM OAK FOREST, YOU WILL REACH AN IMPRESSIVE GREENHOUSE OF A THOUSAND SQUARE METERS WHERE OVER 2000 SPECIMENS OF RARE, SUCCULENT PLANTS OF VARIOUS ORIGINS ARE COLLECTED AND CATALOGED, PRECIOUS FOR RARITY, TYPE, AND SIZE.

LE COSTANTINE

UGGIANO LA CHIESA (LE)



THE WEAVING WORKSHOP "CANTANDO E AMANDO," OPENED IN 2002, FOLLOWED THE WILL AND LOVE OF DONNA GIULIA STARACE AND, EVEN EARLIER, HER MOTHER DONNA CAROLINA DE VITI DE MARCO, WHO ALWAYS WANTED TO ECONOMICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY ELEVATE THE WOMEN OF CASAMASSELLA. ANTICIPATING THE TIMES AND WITH GREAT ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT, THEY TRANSFORMED AN ANCIENT AND PRECIOUS TRADITION, ROOTED IN THE PAST, INTO AN ORGANIZED ACTIVITY ABLE TU GENERATE INCOME AND DEVELOPING THE TERRITORY. THE WORKSHOP PRODUCES TEXTILE ARTIFACTS MADE ON ANCIENT WOODEN LOOMS WITH 4 SHAFTS, OBTAINED WITH NATURAL RAW MATERIALS SUCH AS COTTON, LINEN, WOOL, SILK, AND CASHMERE.





PALAZZO MORISCO-DE' SECLY-GALANTE

LECCE

LOCATED ON ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT URBAN ROUTES OF ROMAN TIMES. IN THE 1950S, THE PROFESSOR NICOLA GALANTE, SON-IN-LAW OF DE' SECLY, RESTORED THE ENTIRE COMPLEX. OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE IS THE HISTORIC GARDEN, ON MULTIPLE LEVELS AND WITH PRECIOUS TREES, OVERLOOKING THE ROMAN THEATER. IN THIS ARISTOCRATIC RESIDENCE, WE WILL BE WELCOMED BY THE OWNER ROSSELLA GALANTE ARDITI DI CASTELVETERE. DINNER IN THE EXCLUSIVE SETTING OF THE PALACE.





DAY 6

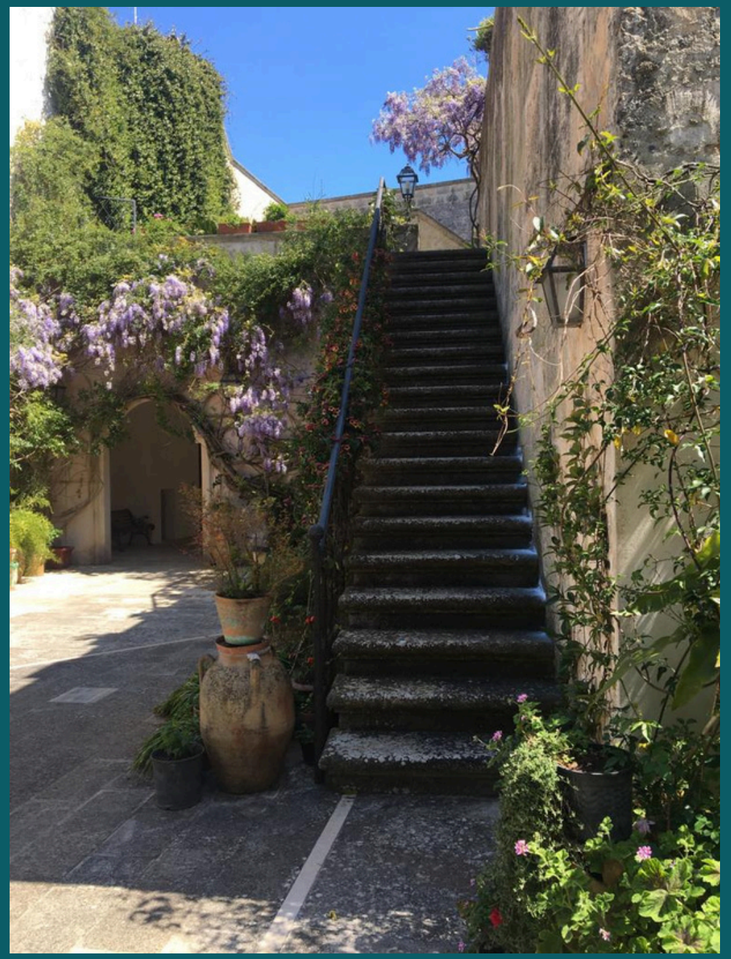
Breakfast and meeting with our English speaking guide. Transfer to Presicce, one of the "Most Beautiful Villages in Italy," where we will have the chance to visit the lush garden of Palazzo Rollo.
In the afternoon, transfer to Alessano, a Byzantine village a few kilometers from the sea, for a visit to Castello al Borgo, hosted by the Sangiovanni family.
Aperitif offered in the splendid setting of the Castle.
Return to Lecce. Dinner and overnight stay.



PALAZZO ROLLO

PRESICCE (LE)

AN EXAMPLE OF EXTRAORDINARY AND VISUALLY IMPACTFUL RECOVERY: A WATER-DRAWN PATH RUNS THROUGH THE GARDEN AND LEADS DIRECTLY TO A VOTIVE SHRINE, WHERE THE MOST VENERATED SAINTS OF THE SURROUNDING AREA ARE FRESCOED.
THE ARDITI DI CASTELVETERE FAMILY WILL OPEN THE DOORS TO THEIR GARDEN. THE NINETEENTH-CENTURY LAYOUT HAS REMAINED INTACT; THE ENTRANCE OF THE PARK IS LOCATED ON THE LONG PERGOLA AVENUE. FROM THE OUTSIDE, NOTHING SUGGESTS THE RICHNESS OF THE SUGGESTIVE "GREEN SOUL." TIME FOR A WALK IN THE BEAUTIFUL VILLAGE DOTTED WITH EXAMPLES OF BAROQUE ART.







CASTELLO AL BORGO

ALESSANO (LE)

THE PALACE, LOCATED IN THE ANCIENT SQUARE OF ALESSANO, WAS BUILT AT THE END OF THE 15TH CENTURY AT THE BEHEST OF THE COUNTS OF BALZO, WHO HAD INHERITED THE COUNTY FROM FRANCESCO DELLA RATTA, COUNT OF CASERTA, WHOSE COAT OF ARMS, A SIXTEEN-POINTED STAR, IS VISIBLE AT THE TOP OF THE ARCH FRAMING A WINDOW ON THE NOBLE FLOOR. WITNESSES OF ANCIENT ARCHITECTURE ARE THE AUSTERE RENAISSANCE FACADE AND THE IMPOSING AND SCENIC STAIRCASE, A PERFECT PRELUDE TO THE SPLENDOR TO WHICH THE INTERNAL SPACES ARE SET.





DAY 7

Breakfast at the hotel and meeting our guide. Transfer to Santa Maria di Leuca, known as the “tip of Italy’s heel” due to its geographical position.
Visit to an exclusive private villa on the promontory of Leuca. Following, an exclusive visit to Villa Carparelli with a lush terraced garden very particular with a Basilian cave.
Return to the hotel in Lecce and overnight stay.

SANTA MARIA DI LEUCA

LEUCA, CAPUT MUNDI OF SALENTO, IS THE EXTREME POINT OF THIS LAND BATHED BY TWO SEAS: THE ADRIATIC AND THE IONIAN. ENCLOSED BETWEEN TWO NATURAL PROTRUSIONS OF THE ROCK, PUNTA MELISO TO THE EAST AND PUNTA RISTOLA TO THE WEST, IT HAS A SUGGESTIVE COAST RICH IN CAVES. ALSO KNOWN FOR ITS NUMEROUS ECLECTIC VILLAS FROM THE 19TH CENTURY, LEUCA ALWAYS REPRESENTS THE LAST LEG OF THAT LONG JOURNEY IN SALENTO, WHICH, HOWEVER, BEGINS AGAIN TOWARDS THE HORIZON. WE WILL WALK ALONG THE PROMENADE OF LEUCA WILL RETURN THE BEAUTY AND UNIQUENESS OF THE ARTISTIC PHENOMENON OF ECLECTICISM.



VILLA CARPARELLI

SANTA MARIA DI LEUCA (LE)

THE ANCIENT LAYOUT OF THE MASSERIA, DATING BACK TO THE 15TH CENTURY AND HISTORICALLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ZEVALLOS FAMILY, HAS COME DOWN TO US PRESERVING ALL ITS INITIAL CHARM; IN ITS PRIMORDIAL TIME, THE MASSERIA WAS THE CENTER OF RURAL LIFE, A PULSATING HEART IN THE LANDSCAPE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE AND ITS INHABITANTS. REINFORCED APERITIF IN THE EXCLUSIVE SETTING OF THE VILLA WHERE THE EXCEPTIONAL GUEST WILL BE THE OWNER MARIA LUISA CARPARELLI.





DAY 8

Breakfast at the hotel and departure with luggage. Possibility to visit the Monacelli Estate, a valuable rural complex with a closed courtyard layout, originally consisting of a tower, mill, animal courtyards, and a garden well. Brunch in the exclusive setting of the estate

Departure and end of services.

TENUTA MONACELLI

CERRATE (LECCE)

IN A LATER PERIOD, THE VOLUME OF THE BUILDING WAS EXPANDED WITH THE ADDITION OF OTHER ROOMS ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE TOWER. A STATUETTE PROTECTED THE ENTRANCE GATE, WHILE THE FACADE WAS ENRICHED WITH FOUR COATS OF ARMS BEARING THE ARMS OF THE OWNING FAMILIES THAT SUCCEEDED OVER TIME. THE ESTATE BELONGS TO MRS. ANNALISA FEDELE PICCINI, WHO, AFTER A MAJOR RESTORATION, MANAGED TO GIVE NEW LIFE TO THE WONDERFUL MASSERIA.







QUOTATION ON REQUEST

FROM 15 SEPTEMBER TO 30 NOVEMBER



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