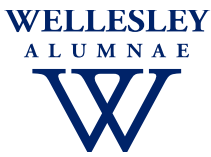


TREASURES OF ITALY'S FAR SOUTH:

Exploring Puglia, Basilicata & Calabria

May 28 – June 6, 2024





Dear Wellesley Alumna,

We are pleased to announce this unusual and exclusive journey, tailored especially for Wellesley alumnae, exploring the wonderful yet largely “undiscovered” treasures of Italy’s Far South. The regions of Puglia, Basilicata and Calabria are rich in history and natural beauty, with ancient cities that feature glorious architecture, important archaeological remains, and bucolic villages.

Known in antiquity as Magna Graecia (“Greater Greece”), this part of Italy, along with Sicily, is an area that attracted Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Normans, and others for its fertile land and the potential for trade. You begin your travels in Puglia, in the heel of Italy’s boot, and explore the incredible village of Alberobello, a UNESCO World Heritage site that features over 1,500 ancient trulli buildings. In the neighboring region of Basilicata, you visit another UNESCO site in Matera’s old town called the Sassi. Its labyrinth of cave houses includes frescoed churches and chapels carved out of limestone rock. In Calabria, the toe of the Italian boot, you will tour ancient hilltop villages including Rossano, Gerace, and Santa Severina, which house treasures in their cathedrals and other sites revealing Calabria’s long rich history. Conclude in Reggio di Calabria, which guards the Strait of Messina, the narrow waterway that separates mainland Italy from Sicily. Reggio’s superb museum exhibits the incredible Riace Bronzes, two outstanding bronze statues from the Greek Classical period (5th-century BC).

Accompanying you will be **Claire Fontijn**, Phyllis Henderson Carey Professor of Music, who will bring to life some of the many varied musical traditions in this region of Italy.

One of the great pleasures of the trip is the magnificent countryside through which you will travel, replete with vineyards, ancient olive groves, and picturesque hill towns overlooking the Ionian Sea. Life has changed little through the centuries in many of these villages, and in some, a dialect derived from ancient Greek is still spoken. Feast on the local cuisine, including fruits and vegetables fresh from the garden, and regional specialties, including cheeses and wines. Leisurely lunches and dinners – many of which are included – are sure to be among your fondest memories of your travels. Throughout the trip, expert guides will provide insight into the history and culture of Puglia, Basilicata and Calabria, which make this part of Italy so special.

We hope you will join Wellesley on this memorable exploration of Italy’s Far South.

Warm regards,

Kathryn Mackintosh '03
Executive Director
Wellesley College Alumnae Association

FACULTY

CLAIRE FONTIJN



Claire Fontijn is Phyllis Henderson Carey Professor of Music at Wellesley College where she teaches courses on Early Music; the Symphony; Music, Gender, and Sexuality; and Music in Public Discourse. She is the author of three books: a monograph, *Desperate Measures: the Life*

and Music of Antonia Padoani Bembo (2006; 2013); a set of essays, *Fiori Musicali: Liber Amicorum Alexander Silbiger* (2010), and another monograph, *The Vision of Music of Saint Hildegard’s Scivias—Synthesizing Image, Text, Notation, and Theory* (2013). Early in her career, she was an award-winning semi-professional baroque flutist; currently, she plays the renaissance alto flute with the Wellesley College Collegium Musicum. She is an avid Europhile who has lived and worked in France, the Netherlands, and Italy.



Typical street in Scilla



The Old Town of Matera

FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL **THALASSA JOURNEYS** TOLL-FREE AT **866-633-3611**

ITINERARY



Tuesday, May 28, 2024

DEPART THE UNITED STATES

Wednesday, May 29

BARI/MONOPOLI, Puglia, Italy

Arrive in Bari, the capital of Puglia, the region in the heel of the Italian "boot." Transfer to Monopoli, a scenic coastal metropolitan city where we will spend the next three nights at the *Masseria Il Melograno*, a

luxury 5-star hotel. Gather this evening for a Welcome Dinner. (D)

Thursday, May 30

ALBEROBELLO AND THE TRULLI VILLAGES

Meet this morning at the hotel for an introductory lecture. This afternoon explore Alberobello, a UNESCO World Heritage site that features over 1,500 trulli buildings. These remarkable white washed structures have pyramidal, conical or domed roofs built of corbelled local limestone without mortar, using a prehistoric building technique that has survived to this day. Continue to nearby Locorotondo, rated as one of the most beautiful towns in Italy. Set on a hilltop, the stone-paved streets lead to the pedestrian historic center, where the lovely public garden offers panoramic views of the Valle d' Itria, the surrounding valley. Independent dinner in Monopoli. (B)

Friday, May 31

MONOPOLI/MATERA, Basilicata/MONOPOLI

In the morning, drive into the region of Basilicata to reach Matera, one of the most extraordinary cities in Italy. Inhabited since prehistoric times, Matera's old town is situated on the edge of a ravine and it consists of the Sassi, a labyrinth of cave houses, churches, frescoed chapels, alleyways and staircases carved out of the limestone rock. Explore this incredible and unusual place, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit other landmark buildings outside the Sassi area, including the fine 13th-century Romanesque cathedral, with its richly decorated chapels; the Palombaro Lungo, a grand underground cistern with arches carved out of the rock; and the Museo Nazionale d'Arte Medievale e Moderna della Basilicata, housed in a 17th-century palazzo and exhibits sacred and contemporary art, including paintings by Carlo Levi. Lunch will be served in Matera. (B, L)

Saturday, June 1

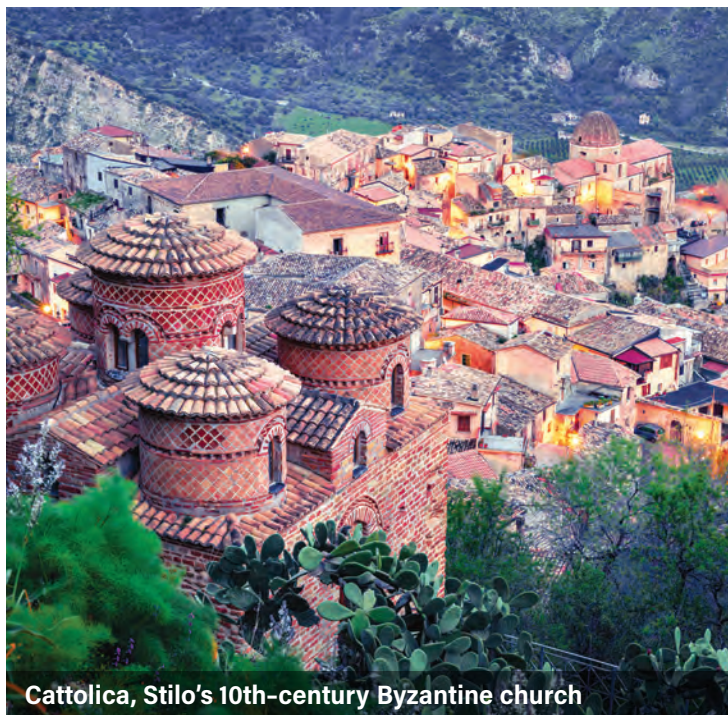
MONOPOLI/ROSSANO/CROTONE, Calabria

Leave in the morning for Sibari, the ancient Sybaris, founded in 720 BC by settlers from the western Peloponnese. The luxurious and excessive lifestyle of its citizens gave us the words "sybarite" and "sybaritic" to connote opulent luxury and the pursuit of excessive pleasure. Very little remains of the city, which was destroyed by Croton in 510 BC, but the museum exhibits artifacts from the excavations. Enter Calabria and stop at the hill town of Rossano to visit its cathedral, which houses the celebrated 6th-century Codex Purpureus (Purple Codex), believed to be the oldest illuminated gospel. Then on to Crotona, which occupies the site of ancient Kroton. Founded in 710 BC, Kroton rose to become one of the most important and powerful cities of Magna Graecia. Here Pythagoras founded his famed school of philosophy. Check into the *Hotel Lido degli Scogli* for two nights. (B, L, D)

Sunday, June 2

CROTONE/SANTA SEVERINA/CROTONE

This morning tour Crotona, including its castle, archaeological park and museum. After an independent lunch, proceed to the medieval hill-top town of Santa Severina, dominated by its castle,



Cattolica, Stilo's 10th-century Byzantine church



Gerace

which dates from the period of Norman domination. Of notable interest are the remains of a Byzantine church with frescoed walls and of a necropolis of the same historical period. Return to Crotona for overnight. (B, D)

Monday, June 3

CROTONE/STILO/GERACE/SIDERNO

Depart Crotona in the morning and proceed along Calabria's Ionian coast, where we find the 11th-century church of Santa Maria della Roccella, a majestic monument despite its ruined condition. View impressive coastal scenery, before arriving at Stilo, a hill village that retained its Greek character well into the modern era. Stilo's 10th-century Byzantine church, the Cattolica, is considered one of the best examples of its kind in Europe. On to Gerace, another attractive village, founded in the 9th-century by refugees from the

nearby coastal city of Locri. The well-preserved medieval town is built in a defensive mountain crag. Gerace's 11th-century cathedral is the largest church in Calabria, indicating the importance of Gerace during the Middle Ages. Nearby is the church of San Francesco d' Assisi, which contains a beautiful inlaid marble altar. Overnight at the *Grand Hotel President*, a beachfront property in Siderno. (B, L, D)

Tuesday, June 4

SIDERNO/LOCRI/SCILLA/REGGIO DI CALABRIA

This morning depart our hotel for Locri Epizephyrii, founded by Greeks in the late 8th-century BC. Taking advantage of its strategic position, Locri flourished by developing commercial contacts with other Greek cities in southern Italy and Sicily. The first Greek city to develop a written code of laws, Locri was praised for its good



Locorotondo



The castle in the Isola di Capo Rizzuto in the Province of Crotona

government, and continued to prosper until the Roman period. The extensive remains of the city include temples, a theater, other public buildings and city walls. The museum displays a collection of artifacts. Following lunch, drive along the southernmost part of mainland Italy to Reggio di Calabria, stopping en route for a stroll in Scilla, rising on a rocky cliff at the Strait of Messina. Check in at the *Grand Hotel Excelsior* for two nights. (B, L)

Wednesday, June 5
REGGIO DI CALABRIA

Formerly ancient Rhegion, the earliest Greek colony, Reggio di Calabria is home to the superb National Museum of Magna Graecia, one of the best collections of ancient artifacts in the world, which we visit this morning. Included are finds from several sites we visited. The highlight of the collection is the celebrated Riace Bronzes, two

larger-than-life Greek warriors dating from the 5th-century BC that were found in 1972 by divers off Riace on Calabria's Ionian coast. The statues are perhaps the finest surviving examples of Greek bronze statues of the Classical period. It is believed that they were built by Athenian sculptors after the victory over the Persians at the Battle of Marathon (490 BC), and dedicated at Delphi. Spend the afternoon at leisure, during which you may wish to stroll along the Lungomare, a coastal street that offers magnificent panoramic views that extend beyond the Strait of Messina to Sicily. In the evening, enjoy a farewell dinner. (B, D)

Thursday, June 6
REGGIO DI CALABRIA/USA

Transfer to the airport for the return flight home. (B)



Santa Severina



Puglia is known for its unique cuisine.



Typical Calabria landscape

RATE PER PERSON

\$6,580 per person, double occupancy
Single room supplement: \$990

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Three nights at the *Masseria Il Melograno*, Monopoli; two nights at the *Hotel Lido degli Scogli*, Cortone; one night at the *Grand Hotel President*, Siderno; two nights at the *Excelsior Palace Hotel*, Reggio di Calabria.
- American breakfast each morning at the hotels.
- Four lunches and five dinners, with wine or beer.
- Transportation by air-conditioned, Wi-Fi equipped motor coach.
- Tours and excursions as described in the itinerary with professional English-speaking guide.
- Group transfers and handling of luggage overseas at designated times from the airport to the hotel and hotel to the airport, and if applicable, hotel/pier transfers.
- Entrance fees to museums and historic sites.
- All local taxes and service charges.
- Gratuities to drivers, guides and porters.
- The services of an experienced Thalassa Journeys trip director.
- Complete pre-departure material.

NOT INCLUDED: International airfare; travel insurance; expenses of a personal nature; any items not mentioned in the itinerary or the above inclusions.



One of the two life-size Greek statues at Reggio di Calabria's Archaeological Museum. 5th-century BC.

REGISTRATION

WELL 24L-0528

Enclosed is my check or credit card no. for \$_____ (\$ 1,000 per person) as a deposit to hold _____ place(s) on **TREASURES OF ITALY'S FAR SOUTH** May 28 – June 6, 2024, with Wellesley College. I understand that final payment is due ninety (90) days prior to departure and is payable by check or credit card.

For reservations, please call Thalassa Journeys at: (866) 633-3611
or make a check payable and mail with this registration forms to:
Thalassa Journeys: 8815 Conroy-Windermere Rd., Suite 406, Orlando, FL 32835

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Preference at hotels:

Double accommodation Double Bed Single Bed
 Single accommodation *Bed configuration cannot be guaranteed.*

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EMAIL _____

Each participant must sign below: I/We have read the "General Information" section and agree to its terms.

SIGNATURE DATE _____

SIGNATURE DATE _____

GENERAL INFORMATION

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Payment can be made by personal check or charged to a credit card.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: All cancellations are subject to a \$300 per person administrative fee. Cancellations received 61-90 days prior to departure will be assessed a penalty equal to 50% of the total program cost per person. Cancellations received within 60 days of departure are subject to 100% cancellation penalties. Requests for cancellations must be made in writing. No refunds will be made for any part of this program in which you choose not to participate.

INSURANCE: We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

ITINERARY: The itinerary, accommodations and arrangements are subject to change at the discretion of Thalassa Journeys.

RESPONSIBILITY: Please read carefully the following terms and conditions, which constitute the sole, legally enforceable agreements between the traveler and Thalassa Journeys. Thalassa Journeys acts solely as agents for the traveler with respect to all transportation, hotel and other tour arrangements. In that capacity, we exercise all reasonable care possible to ensure the traveler's safety and satisfaction, but, we neither assume nor bear any responsibility or liability for any injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity arising in connection with the services of any ship, airplane, train, automobile, motor coach, carriage or other conveyance, or the actions of any third-party, involved in carrying the traveler or in affecting these tours. We are not responsible for damages, additional expenses, or any other losses due to cancellation, delay or other changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, civil disturbances, acts or threats of terrorism, travel warnings or bans, termination or suspension of war risks or other carrier insurance, quarantine, acts of God or other causes beyond our control. All such losses must be borne by the traveler, and tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. In the event of cancellation, delay or rescheduling mandated by any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by us, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as we are able to recover on the traveler's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc., but, we shall not have any obligation or liability to the traveler beyond the foregoing. We reserve the right to make alterations to the tour's itinerary and to substitute hotels, transportation methods, or lecturers if this is required. We reserve the right to cancel, delay, or reschedule any tour prior to departure, and, so long as this is not due to any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall be entitled to a full refund of all monies paid to that point if he/she so desires. No refund shall be made for any unused portion of any tour. By forwarding their deposit(s), the traveler certifies that he/she and/or their dependents, minors or others covered thereby do not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that could create a hazard for them or other travelers. We reserve the right to decline to accept or to decline to retain any person as a member of any tour should such person's health, condition or actions adversely affect or threaten the welfare or safety of other travelers or impede the tour. Baggage or valuables brought on the tour shall be transported, handled or stored at the traveler's risk entirely, and, we shall bear no liability or responsibility for any damage or other loss thereto. Resolution of any disputes arising hereunder shall be affected exclusively in the state or federal courts presiding in Florida, pursuant to applicable Florida law.

RATES: Tour costs are based upon current airfares, tariffs, and currency values. While we do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change.

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Join Claire Fontijn, Phyllis Henderson Carey Professor of Music at Wellesley College on **TREASURES OF ITALY'S FAR SOUTH** | **May 28 – June 6, 2024**



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Scilla



TREASURES OF ITALY'S FAR SOUTH with Wellesley College Professor, Claire Fontijn
May 28 – June 6, 2024