

Tony Tardio invites you to join him on the 2026

HIDDEN ITALY



Exploration of Rome, Puglia,
the Amalfi Coast & Sicily

7 to 23 June 2026



TRAVELRITE
INTERNATIONAL

HIDDEN ITALY

Exploration of Rome, Puglia, the Amalfi Coast & Sicily

with Tony Tardio



The advantages of a relaxed group tour

Experience intimate and personalized travel with our experienced Italy host, Tony Tardio. He has been to the places and knows the locals. Immerse yourself in Italian culture food and history. Discover Hidden Italy!

Unveil the secrets of Hidden Italy with Travelrite International. Whether you're drawn to the whitewashed hill towns of Puglia or the spectacular Amalfi Coast, this adventure offers a unique glimpse into Italy's hidden wonders. Experience authentic Italian culture and hidden gems with our expertly guided tour.

On this tour we are able to make the most efficient use of time in the most relaxed way possible. Forget about navigating your way through an unfamiliar road system or dealing with parking. No stress and no hassles. Everything is taken care of. Everything is planned. We have found the most interesting places to see, so come and let us look after you.

DAY 1 Sunday 7 June 2026

Rome, Italy

Meet at our group hotel in Rome where we stay for two nights. We will have an included group dinner this evening to meet Tony Tardio and welcome everyone on the tour.

DAY 2 Monday 8 June 2026

Rome

Today we will enjoy a sightseeing tour of Rome with a local guide. We will see the famous Colosseum, the Spanish Steps, Piazza Navona, the Pantheon and the Trevi Fountain, where you can throw two coins over your shoulder into the fountain and wish to return to Rome. We will also stop at St Peter's Square to see the Vatican, home of the Pope and St Pauls Basilica.



DAY 3 Tuesday 9 June 2026

Lecce, Puglia, Italy

We depart Rome and take a short flight to Bari, the capital of Puglia. We then travel south to the heart of Puglia and Lecce, our base for the next four nights.

DAY 4 Wednesday 10 June 2026

Puglia

Lecce is over 2000 years-old and has a long affinity with Greek culture. This morning will have a tour of the town and visit Piazza Sant'Oronzo, the big civic heart of the town. We will visit the Roman theatre and its museum in the centre of Lecce, as well as the principal archaeological museum, the Museo Provinciale. There will be free time to wander through little lanes to find the more far-flung baroque churches.

DAY 5 Thursday 11 June 2026

Puglia

Today we travel to the seaside village of Castro on the eastern coast and visit the beautiful Grotto of Zinzulusa. We wander through the town before heading south towards Santa Maria di



Leuca, the most southerly point on the "heel" of Italy. There will be time for an included lunch in Masseria with the local music, La Pizzica, before returning to Lecce.

DAY 6 Friday 12 June 2026

Puglia

Today we will take a short coach trip to the town of Gallipoli, situated on the west coast of the Salento Peninsula in the Gulf of Taranto. We will have a tour of Gallipoli's Old Town and stroll through its maze of alleys. The 17th-century Baroque Sant' Agata Cathedral is in the centre of the town. The walls and bastions surrounding the old town are believed to have been built in the 15th century to fend off attacks, especially from pirates. Castello Angiono stands near the entrance to the old town, built on old Byzantine fortifications, originating in the 11th century. The fortress guarded the old port, once part of an important trade route, and was connected to the mainland by a drawbridge. After free time for lunch, we will enjoy a wine tasting in nearby Catania Coppola before returning to our hotel.

DAY 7 Saturday 13 June 2026

Matera, Italy

Today we travel to Matera for a two-night stay. The town lies in a small canyon and contains ancient cave dwellings. Matera was one of the 2019 European Capitals of Culture. On the way we stop in Castellana, birthplace of Rudolf Valentino the famous silent film actor.

DAY 8 Sunday 14 June 2026

Sorrento, Amalfi Coast, Italy

In the morning, we will enjoy a walking tour of Matera with a local guide. We will visit the world-

famous ancient cave dwellings known as "Sassi," which are carved into limestone and have been inhabited for thousands of years. This UNESCO World Heritage site offers visitors a unique glimpse into history, with its labyrinthine streets, rock-hewn churches, and stunning views of the Gravina Gorge. We continue on to Sorrento.



DAY 9 Monday 15 June 2026

Amalfi Coast

This morning, we will visit the town of Ravello, known as the City of Music which sits high up above the Amalfi Coast. Here we can visit the famous Villa Cimbrone. From its terrace, nicknamed Terrace of Infinity, you can enjoy incredible views of the Amalfi Coast. Later we will visit Positano, which enjoys an unsurpassed position along the Amalfi Coast, where delightful white and pastel-coloured houses litter the hillside. Along with the beautiful beaches, its ancient fishing port, the splendid majolica dome of the church of Santa Maria Assunta and artisan shops, you'll enjoy a taste of the dolce vita as you enjoy a wonderful day tour of the Amalfi Coast. We return to Sorrento by ferry late afternoon.

DAY 10 Tuesday 16 June 2026

Amalfi Coast

Today we catch the ferry to the island of Capri. We will board a boat on arrival and cruise around the island, hopefully entering Capri's famous "Grotto Azzurra", the Blue Grotto (weather permitting). The afternoon will be free to wander the picturesque paths, shop, or enjoy a cappuccino and some people-watching in the famous Piazzetta. We return to Sorrento late afternoon.



Tony Tardio

Tony Tardio has been a constant on Melbourne radio for over 40 years. He works as a journalist for 3AW, part of the Nine media company. Tony has covered Federal and State elections, crime, Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games and every major story in Melbourne since 1982. Tony was born in Melbourne, grew up on a banana plantation in Coffs Harbour and began his radio career in Alice Springs. His family hails from the beautiful region of Puglia in Italy, famous for its beaches, history and food.

Tony presents a radio program on the Rete Italia radio network which broadcasts around Australia to the Italian community and people who love Italy. In 2021 he was awarded a knighthood from the Italian government for services to the Italian community. He speaks Italian and has been to Italy at least a dozen times since first visiting in 1986, setting foot in every region in Italy except for Sardegna.

He loves nothing more than wandering off the usual tourist track and exploring beautiful and often unknown Italian towns. Lecarra Friddi where Frank Sinatra hails from, Isola Delle Femina the home town of Joe Di Maggio and Castellaneta the little town in Puglia where an 18 year-old Rudolph Valentino left to go the United States and becoming the biggest silent movie star of his era. Tony especially loves Palazzo Adriano, a picturesque town in central Sicily where the Oscar-winning movie *Cinema Paradiso* was filmed and where almost the entire towns people appeared as extras in the film.

During his journeys Tony has accumulated many anecdotes, information and knowledge about Italy and its amazing history. He looks forward to sharing all this with you!



DAY 11 Wednesday 17 June 2026

Amalfi Coast

A highlight of the tour, today we will visit the ancient ruins of Herculaneum, the Roman city destroyed by an eruption of the volcano, Vesuvius in 79AD. The impressive ruins help us to understand what life was like at the height of the Roman Empire, 2000 years ago. We will have a guided tour of this ancient city with a local expert. We will see two-story domus homes with the internal architecture and décor intact, including features in wood and marble, decorations, jewellery, and even organic remains like food, providing a unique view into the daily lives of the ancient population of Herculaneum.



DAY 12 Thursday 18 June 2026

Taormina, Sicily

This morning we travel to the famous resort town of Taormina, where we will spend the next three nights. On the way we drive up the side of the spectacular volcano, Mt Etna, powdered with the grey ash left by many eruptions. We will see the fertile citrus plantations, vineyards and recent lava flows, with views of the snow-topped Mt Etna. Taormina is spectacularly located high on a

200-metre rocky outcrop, surveying the mountain. The town, founded by the Ancient Greeks, has an ancient theatre that also overlooks Mt Etna. Since the 18th century, Taormina has been a popular travel destination.

DAY 13 Friday 19 June 2026

Taormina, Sicily

This morning we will have a tour of Taormina with a local guide, walk around the medieval centre and see the terrace, Piazza IX April, with its views of Mt Etna and the sea. We will visit Torre dell'Orologio, a restored 12th-century clock tower and the famous ancient Greek theatre founded in the 3rd century BC, rebuilt by the Romans at the end of the 1st century. This afternoon we visit Messina, known as the gateway to Sicily. Just five kilometres separate Messina from mainland Italy. It's hard to imagine that a devastating earthquake levelled Messina in 1908. During World War II the town was subjected to several intensive bombing raids.

DAY 14 Saturday 20 June 2026

Taormina

A free day to enjoy some independent sightseeing, relax or do some shopping.



DAY 15 Sunday 21 June 2026

Palermo, Sicily

Today we continue on to the city of Palermo. Along the way we travel to the charming city of Piazza Armerina, where we will stop at Villa Romana del Casale. It is the richest, largest and most complex collection of late Roman mosaics in the world. The Villa Romana del Casale is a UNESCO World Heritage Site (some areas are closed for renovations). We continue on to Palazzo Adriano the setting for the film *Cinema Paradiso*, before arriving in Palermo late afternoon.

DAY 16 Monday 22 June 2026

Palermo

Founded by the Phoenicians in the 7th century BC, Palermo has been home to numerous settlers including the Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans, Germans and Spanish, before finally becoming part of a unified Italy in 1860. This morning we have a sightseeing tour of the city with a local guide. We will visit the medieval Cassaro Quarter which contains the cathedral, 14th-century palazzos and gardens. We will also visit the La Kalsa Quarter which is in the old Islamic area, the centre of the city when it was ruled by the Arab emirs. This afternoon we travel to the beautiful medieval town of Monreale in the hills behind Palermo. If the weather is clear, we will have a panoramic view of the city and, beyond, to the sea. Monreale is also known for its Norman abbey, which is famous for its spectacular mosaics. In Monreale there will be time for lunch and a leisurely walk through the town. We will return to Palermo via Isola Delle Femina, a picturesque beachfront town and the birthplace of Joe Di Maggio. This evening we have an included Farewell dinner to celebrate a wonderful tour.

DAY 17 Tuesday 23 June 2026

Departure

Tour arrangements conclude after breakfast.



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TOUR INCLUSIONS

Accommodation

- Accommodation in carefully selected, centrally located, three and four-star hotels with private facilities
- Hotel taxes and service charges

Transport & Sightseeing

- Travel in a first-class chartered coach
- Sightseeing tours in Rome, Lecce, Gallipoli, Matera, Herculaneum, Taormina and Palermo
- Entry fees to museums and sights as detailed in the tour itinerary
- Arrival Transfer from Rome Airport
- Flight from Rome to Bari

Dining

- Continental breakfast daily
- Welcome & Farewell Dinners
- Lunch in Masseria with the local music
- Wine tasting in Puglia

Expert Guidance

- Tour Hosted by Tony Tardio
- Tour management by an experienced Tour manager 24/7

Per person twin-share \$ 9,590

Single supplement \$ 2,400

NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE:

- Airfares.
- Passport and visa fees.
- Travel insurance.
- Sightseeing and general expenses not specified in the itinerary.
- Items of a personal nature.
- Additional travel arrangements – these will be quoted for separately.

Extending: You can stay longer in Italy for minimal extra cost.

Please contact Travelrite on 1800 630 343 for more information.



TRAVELRITE
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GENERAL INFORMATION AND BOOKING CONDITIONS

International touring can involve a considerable amount of walking and stair climbing in the places visited and it is important that all tour participants have a level of physical fitness that allows them to take part in this activity without the need of assistance from others.

TOUR OPERATOR: Travelrite International Pty Ltd, (ABN 64 005 817 078) is the tour operator.

TOUR COSTS: The tour prices are based on general transport, accommodation and other costs at foreign exchange rates at 1 May 2025. Travelrite International reserves the right to alter the tour price or modify the tour if any of these factors change, giving any passenger that has booked the right to withdraw with a full refund of monies paid if the price increase is greater than 10% of the original price. No alteration to the tour price will be made within 60 days of departure from Australia.

DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS: A non-refundable deposit of \$900 per person is required at the time of booking. Full payment will be required 60 days before departure. An administrative fee of 1.5% will be added to each payment made by credit card.

CANCELLATIONS: Cancellation more than 60 days from the date of departure from Australia will incur a cancellation fee of \$900 per person. Cancellations 60 days or less from the date of departure will result in the loss of all monies paid. Travel insurance is strongly recommended to cover the cost of cancellation fees that could result from a death in the family, illness, etc.

MINIMUM TOUR NUMBERS: The tour has been priced on the basis of a minimum number of passengers having booked 60 days prior to the date of departure. Travelrite International reserves the right to cancel the tour, giving a full refund of all monies paid or offer arrangements to proceed with the tour at a modified price.

REFUNDS: The tour is based on arrangements that do not allow for any refunds in respect to sightseeing, accommodation, meals, or other services not utilised after the tour has commenced.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS: All passengers will need to be in possession of a valid passport. No visa is required for Australian passport holders.

BAGGAGE: Baggage is at own risk throughout the tour.

CHANGES TO THE TOUR ITINERARY: Travelrite International reserves the right to make changes to the tour itinerary to fit in with operational requirements. Any change to the itinerary will be replaced with similar arrangements with an equal or greater value.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Travelrite International Pty Ltd (ATAS No. A10538) is the tour organiser. Travelrite International acts only as an agent in making arrangements with carriers, hoteliers and others for the tour. As a result, we cannot accept liability for any act or omission whatsoever, whether negligent or otherwise of those carriers, hoteliers or other persons providing services in connection with the tour over whom we have no direct or exclusive control. We do not accept responsibility for any injury, damage, loss, delay, change of schedule or any other events which are beyond our direct control, such as, but not limited to, war, terrorism, flood, fire, civil disturbance, acts of God, acts of government, or any other authorities, accidents to or failure of machinery or equipment, or industrial action. The passage contract in use by the carriers concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation companies or firms and the purchasers of these tours. The contract shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Victoria and any legal action must be taken in the State of Victoria.

DELAYS AND UNFORESEEN EVENTS: You engage Travelrite to book this tour on your behalf and you acknowledge that Travelrite acts as your agent for the purpose of making contracts between you and the various providers of accommodation, transportation and other services that comprise the tour. Travelrite may without reference to you provide or make available to you, or may as your agent engage any third party to provide or make available to you, any good or service which Travelrite reasonably believes is necessary for your benefit to

maintain the tour itinerary, repatriate you or otherwise accommodate, transport or sustain you in circumstances in which the tour itinerary fails wholly or partly for any reason. You appoint Travelrite your attorney for this purpose. You agree to pay Travelrite any cost thereof and you indemnify Travelrite in respect of any cost it incurs in this regard. Travelrite advises you to obtain travel insurance generally including in respect of the risk that any such good or service may become required.

HOW TO BOOK: Bookings can be made by sending full names and addresses of intending tour members with a non-refundable deposit of \$900 per person to:

Travelrite International Pty Ltd
423 Whitehorse Road
Balwyn, Victoria 3103

Further information can be obtained by telephoning

Toll free: 1800 630 343
Phone: (03) 8803 6868
Email: sales@travelrite.com.au
www.travelrite.com.au

ABOUT TRAVELRITE INTERNATIONAL: Travelrite International Pty Ltd (ABN 64 005 817 078) is a well-established family-owned business that's been operating in Melbourne's eastern suburbs for more than 40 years. Travelrite International is a full member of the Australian Travel Industry Association (ATIA), is fully Accredited with ATAS (A10538) and IATA. As such they directly represent the major airlines of the world and all major domestic and international hotel, tour and transport operators.