

## SOUTHERN ITALY & SICILY



**Join concert pianist Paul Barnes for his Amalfi Coast Music & Art Festival performance.**

**Explore Southern Italy and Sicily  
on a remarkable food  
and wine tour**



**July 2-18, 2018**



OLLI and Valden Tours are offering in July, 2018, what can be described by many as a once in a lifetime cultural travel experience. Our first stop will be Italy's Amalfi coast for a three-day visit to their annual **Music & Arts Festival**. We will then travel **southern Italy's toe and the island of Sicily** for a cultural exploration that will feature the food and wine of the region.

The **Amalfi Coast Music and Arts Festival** is celebrating its 23rd year this coming July with a month of concerts performed at a variety of venues in the Amalfi coast region. The festival is based in Maiori, Italy, and concerts are performed at sites such as Ravello, Agerola, and Tramonti. A featured pianist at the festival is Paul Barnes, the Marguerite Scribante Professor of Music at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. We will attend one of Paul's concerts. The festival is a Chautauqua-style social experiment in the arts on an international level. It brings together performing artists, visual artists, writers and poets, students, teachers and music aficionados from many different countries. We will have an unparalleled opportunity in cultural tourism. We can attend rehearsals, master classes and pre-concert lectures. We can take advantage of the many educational offerings at the festival, such as art courses, Italian language classes, cooking lessons, and excursions to various sites in the Amalfi Coast area.

Following our three day visit to the Music Festival, we will embark on an 11 day visit to **Southern Italy and Sicily**. Most international tourists visit northern Italy and sites such as Milan, Venice and Florence. This trip offers a unique view of Southern Italy, an area of this Mediterranean country that is much different from the northern environs. We will visit remarkable historical and cultural sites as well as sample the superb food and wine of the region. Join us!

## OUR ITINERARY

**Monday, July 2:** We start our journey from Omaha's Eppley Airfield and an overnight flight to Naples, Italy. Free parking is available in Lincoln and we will travel to Omaha via motorcoach.

**Tuesday, July 3:** Upon arrival in **Naples** we will travel via motorcoach to the village of **Maiori**. Our lodging will be in a four star hotel (superior rooms.) The remainder of the day you will be free to explore the area and receive orientation to the Festival. (D)

**Wednesday, July 4:** Today's included excursion will take us to **Pompeii**, the ancient city which was mostly destroyed and buried under 13 to 20 feet of volcanic ash and pumice in the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79. Many of the buildings and objects were preserved for more than a millennium before excavation began. Today it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is one of Italy's most popular attractions.

This evening we will participate in the annual Independence Day celebration which is held in **Maiori** in conjunction with the Festival. (D)



Pompeii

**Thursday, July 5 and Friday, July 6:** All festival activities and events will be available to our group, including excursions to areas in the Amalfi coast region. Concerts and receptions are available, along with master-classes, lectures and rehearsals. One of the evenings we will attend pianist and chanter Paul Barnes Recital: ***Love, Death and Resurrection in the Musical Vision of Philip Glass, Franz Liszt, and Ancient Chant.*** The specific program details for these two days will be available closer to our Lincoln departure when the specific Festival program is finalized. (D)

**Saturday, July 7:** This morning we will check out of our Maiori hotel and be met by our Go Ahead tour guide and driver to begin the next portion of our trip via deluxe motorcoach. Today we will visit the **Taurasi** wine region. We will tour a local vineyard and taste local varietals and learn about wine production. The Taurasi red wine grapes come from vineyards at elevations of 2,100 feet or higher. The mixed soils are often credited with providing the tannic bite so profound in Taurus wines while the volcanic soil provide a smoky factor. We will continue onto Salerno, a lively port town steeped in cultural tradition. This evening we will participate in a special Welcome Dinner. Overnight in Salerno. (W, D)



Taurasi Wine Region rina



Capri

**Sunday, July 8:** Today we will explore the island of **Capri** on a guided tour. We will board a mini-cruise around the island to the cliff of Salto di Tiberio, the majestic caves of Grotta del Corallo and Ma-Piccola, the charming little harbor on the south side of the island. Later we will take the funicular to the upper town where a local guide will lead us on a walking tour of the Gardens of Augustus. The gardens were established by the German industrialist Friedrich Alfred Krupp in the early twentieth

century to build his mansion in Capri. You can marvel at the 180 degree panoramic of the island of Capri. Dinner is on your own this evening in Salerno. Overnight in Salerno. (B)



Capri—Gardens of Augustus

**Monday, July 9:** This morning we will transfer to the **Benevento** region. We will visit the town of **San Marco dei Cavoti** to learn the art of making chocolate and other sweets. Of course, a sweets tasting is included. You can enjoy a free evening in the Benevento Region where we will overnight. (B)



San Marco dei Cavoti



Chocolate and other sweets

**Tuesday, July 10:** Today we explore the town of **Benevento** which is an important location relating to classical times and its many antiquities. The most famous is the triumphal arch erected in the year 114 by the Roman Senate. We will visit the Church of Santa Sofia, a circular Lombard edifice dating to c. 760. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We will also visit the Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta which dates from the 9th century. The façade was inspired by the Pisan Gothic style and its bronze doors, adorned with bas-reliefs, are notable examples of Romanesque art. This afternoon we will explore a vineyard on foot and sample Janare wines. We will also stroll the medieval streets of Guardia Sanframondi and Cerreto Sannita. This evening we will learn to craft traditional Campanian flavors in a cooking class and included dinner. Our overnight will again be in the Benevento Region. (B, W, D)



**Benevento's Triumphal Arch**

**Wednesday, July 11:** This morning we will transfer to **Matera**, one of Italy's most fascinating and unique places. A local guide will lead us on a tour of what's known as "the Subterranean City." The ancient neighborhoods, known as sassi, are a series of grottoes carved out of limestone, teetering on the edge of a ravine. In the past it was known as a place of poverty. Today, many of these same sites have been transformed into stylish hotels and restaurants. We will view the incredible Sassi di Maera cave dwellings, tour Palazzo del Sedile, Ruins of the Castle, Casa Grotta di Vico Solitario and Chiese Rupestri. And, we will taste the region's famous Altamura bread. Evening is on your own to explore Matera, and our overnight is in Matera. (B)



**Matera Subterranean City**



**Peglia vineyard**

**Thursday, July 12:** This morning you can pause and relax following several days of busy touring. This afternoon we will journey to the scenic **Peglia** region and tour a local vineyard to learn about its production and taste vintages of Aglianico. Often compared to the velvety reds from Barolo, the wines produced in this rich volcanic soil are some of Italy's best and most underrated. We can taste the varietals in a limestone wine cellar before enjoying local specialties for dinner. Overnight is in Matera. (B, W, D)

**Friday, July 13:** Today will provide the opportunity to relax on our motorcoach as we travel through the **Calabrian** countryside to the **Tropea** Region. The Calabrian area is a small little developed region which forms the tip of the Italian peninsula. It is a mountainous area with rather stark beauty. It is one of the oldest regions in Italy dating as far back as 70,000 years BC. Tropea is a seaside resort located within the Calabrian area. The town is famous for its many beaches, and its streets are lined with outdoor cafes and gelaterias. Tonight we will enjoy an included dinner in the Tropea Region with overnight in the region. (B, D)

**Saturday, July 14:** Our tours today will focus on the towns of **Tropea** and **Pizzo**. We will explore the region on a guided sightseeing tour, and view the spectacular Santa Maria del'Isola monastery which is perched high above the sea in Tropea. We will stop for a tasting of local pecorino sheep's cheese, salami and cipolla rossa (the sweet red onion for which Tropea is famous). And, we will stop in the coastal town of Pizzo to sample handmade gelato. Enjoy a free evening in the Tropea Region with dinner on your own. Overnight in the Tropea Region. (B)



**Tropea**



Catania & Mount Etna

**Sunday, July 15:** This morning we will travel to **Reggio Calabria** and visit the National Museum of Magna Graecia which contains discoveries from various excavations in the ancient city-states of Calabria, Basilicata and Sicily. Their most important holdings are the Riace bronzes which relate to studies of the 8th century BC. We will then take a ferry across the Strait of Messina to Sicily, then continue by motorcoach to our hotel in **Catania**. This evening enjoy an included dinner in Catania. This evening enjoy an included dinner in Catania. Overnight in Catania. (B, D)

**Monday, July 16:** Today we will start our exploration of Sicilian

culture with an excursion to the Baroque city of **Noto** and the Avola wine region. Stroll along Corso Vittorio Emanuele and visit the Noto Cathedral, sampling Sicilian pastries along the way. We will then travel to the Avola wine region for a light snack and Nero d'Avola wine tasting. A special excursion awaits us this evening. We will travel to Azienda Casabianca, the home of an Italian Contessa for an included countryside dinner at a Sicilian villa. We overnight in Catania. (B, W, D)



Dinner at Azienda Casabianca

**Tuesday, July 17:** We spend the day sightseeing in **Catania**. We will be led by a local guide to discover this historic city which sits at the base of Mount Etna. We will explore the city's center and the world-famous fish market held near the Baroque Catania Cathedral. We will visit the Cappella Bonajuto, a small byzantine chapel located inside the Baroque Bonajuto Palace and enjoy a glass of Prosecco along with a small local food tasting. Enjoy a free afternoon in Catania for last minute purchases to take home. This evening you have a choice to either spend free time in Catania, or participate in an optional excursion which will be held in the Etna wine region for a traditional Sicilian dinner and wine tasting on the grounds of a local vineyard estate. The area's volcanic soil and distinctive climate infuse the wines with an intense and pleasing minerality that perfectly complements traditional Sicilian cooking. You will sip on Etna Rosso blends made of the sleek nerello mascalese and nerello cappuccino grapes while in the view of the majestic Mount Etna. **(NOTE: There will be a very early departure tomorrow morning for the trip home. Therefore the Sicilian dinner and winetasting are offered as an optional add-on for an extra cost of \$90 when ordered at registration time, or \$110 if ordered during the tour)**

**Wednesday, July 18:** There will be an early departure via plane from **Catania** for the trip home. We will arrive in Omaha later that day and will be transported by motorcoach to Lincoln.



Mount Etna

# AMALFI COAST MUSIC & ART FESTIVAL PLUS SOUTHERN ITALY

**July 2-18, 2018**

The Amalfi Coast Music and Art Festival visit has been developed by Valden Tours in cooperation with Paul Barnes and the Festival Director. The Southern Italy and Sicily component of this tour has been developed by Valden Tours and Go Ahead Tours which is a subsidiary of Education First International.

Tour pricing is per person based on double occupancy. Single occupancy accommodations are also available. The tour price includes motorcoach transportation between Lincoln and the Omaha airport, international roundtrip airfare, motorcoach transportation within Italy, all hotels (4 star), meals as identified in this brochure (B, L, D, and W for wine tasting) as well as all admissions to identified locations and events, and gratuity for the Italy Tour Director and motorcoach driver. All tour components will be led by an experienced Tour Director and special step-on guides will lead certain activities. Items not included are generally expenses of a personal nature, those meals not identified in this brochure, and step-on guide gratuities.

A current passport is required, and the passport must be in force for at least six months following this trip.

**\$6,995 per person for Double Occupancy**

**\$7,345 for Single Occupancy**

**Registration Deadline: March 15, 2018**

**\$1,000 deposit per person required with registration**

**Note: Reservations received prior to February 15 will receive \$100 cost reduction. Those who travelled with OLLI on the recent Ireland tour will receive an additional \$50 cost reduction from Go Ahead Tours. Final payment is due by March 31. Travel insurance is available for the entire trip at a reasonable cost through Go Ahead Tours. The insurance must be ordered and paid in full at the time the deposit is sent to ValdenTours. (See registration form)**

Reservations will be accepted following the March 15 deadline only on a space available basis and at a possible price increase. Participants should be aware that in many European locations uneven cobblestone streets and walks might be encountered and stairs may not have handrails. Individuals requiring special accommodations should share this information with Valden Tours when submitting the reservation form.

**For more information or questions about this tour, please contact Lee Rockwell, Valden Tours, Inc., 2101 South 66th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506, telephone 402-486-0900 or lrockwell@windstream.net**



# OLLI AMALFI & SOUTHERN ITALY TOUR

## July 2-18, 2018

### Reservation

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Name(s) as appear on your passport \_\_\_\_\_

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Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email address (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Passenger #1:

Passenger #2:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Passport # \_\_\_\_\_

Passport # \_\_\_\_\_

Expire date \_\_\_\_\_

Expire date \_\_\_\_\_

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Emergency contact:      Name                      address                      telephone                      relationship

Tour-shared accommodations      \$6,995 #( )      \_\_\_\_\_

Tour-single accommodations      \$7,345 #( )      \_\_\_\_\_

Travel insurance-shared accmod:      \$469 #( )      \_\_\_\_\_

Travel insurance-single accmod.      \$489      \_\_\_\_\_

July 17 Mt. Etna dinner      \$90 #( )      \_\_\_\_\_

Non-OLLI Member fee      \$25 #( )      \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL      \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: \$1,000 deposit per person and full insurance fee should accompany this reservation. The reservation deadline is March 15, 2018. Reservations will be accepted following that date on a space-available basis.

Please make your check payable to Valden Tours and mail to:

Valden Tours, Inc.  
2101 South 66th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68506

Individuals requesting assistance under the American Disabilities Act (ADA) should contact Valden Tours at the time