



Hermione Homes



Live a unique experience by staying in a
UNESCO World Heritage site



ENJOY YOUR *PUGLIA*
ENJOY YOUR *TRULLO*

with



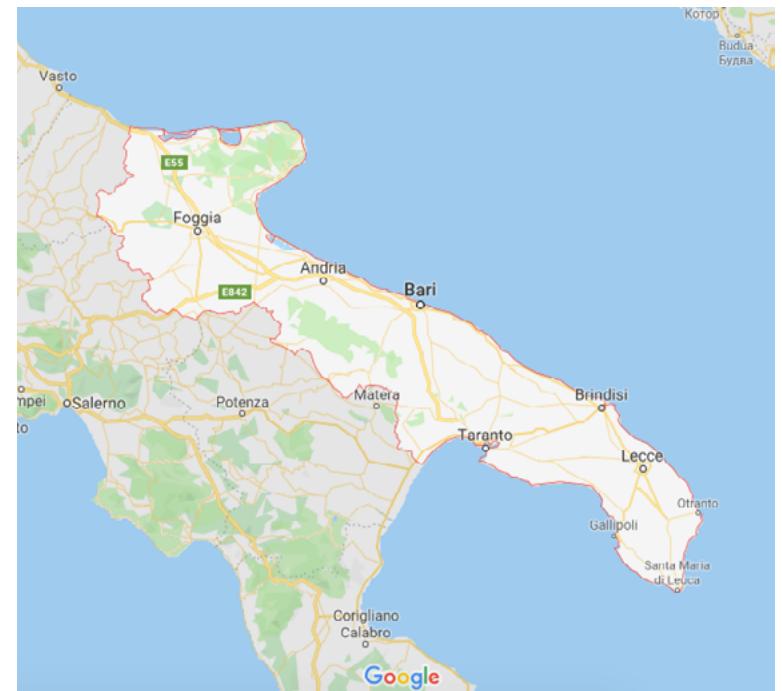
Discover the wonderful beauties and the thousand millennial
cultures of Southern Italy in Puglia!



Puglia is a magic land, crossroads of ancient cultures and populations that came from the farthest corners of Earth.

Located in the Italian boot's heel, between the Ionian and the Adriatic Sea, in the Easter part of the Bel Paese and a few km from the Balkan coasts, a multitude of peoples have walked on the Apulian soil: from the Illyrians to the Greeks, from the Romans to the Arabs, from the Byzantines to the Normans to the Swabians, ending up to become a natural bridge between West and East.

Travelling through Puglia you could find ancient treasures such as Greek and Roman Temples, the characteristic trulli, Byzantines and Baroque churches, fascinating castles and much more...



1. Click to open on Google Maps



PUGLIA: A “UNESCO” REGION

Puglia is a so fantastic land that it is home to just four UNESCO sites

The trulli: unique and characteristic dry masonry constructions typical of Alberobello and the whole Itrian Valley, just where you can find Villa San Domenico and Trullo Pietro.



2. Click to open the website

Castel del Monte: incredible octagonal castle built by the Great Frederick II, king of Sicily, Swabia, Germany and Holy Roman Emperor in the 13th century.



3. Click to open the website

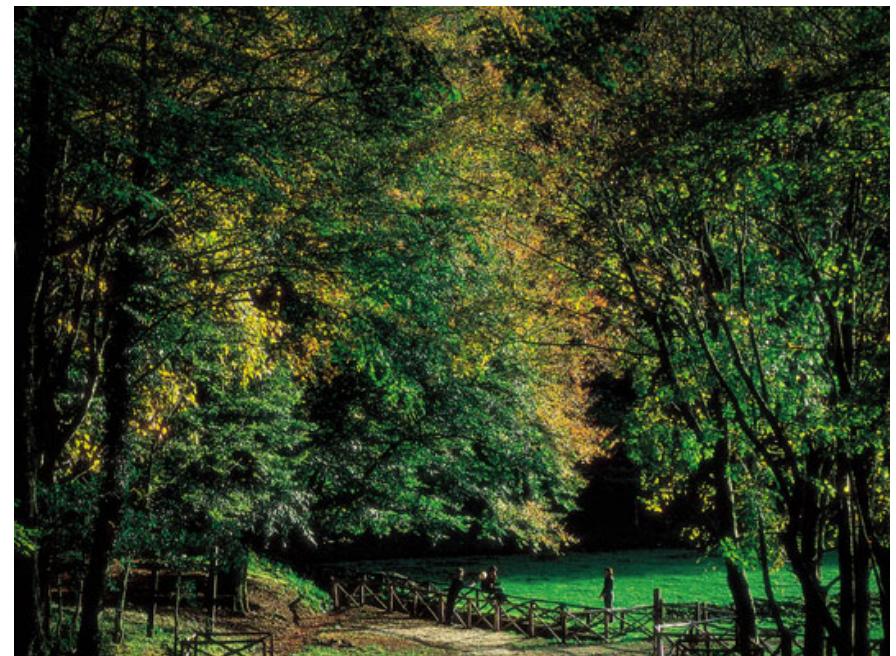


The **Sanctuary of San Michele Arcangelo**: within the serial circuit “The Longobards in Italy, Places of Power, 568 – 774 A.D.”.



4. Click to open the website

The **Umbrian forest**: the millennial and magnificent green lung of the Gargano National Park.



5. Click to open the website



Did you want to spend your holiday in a World Heritage site?
Now you can... with Hermione Homes!

Thanks to Hermione Homes you can stay in *real trulli* in the heart of the Itrian Valley, a few km from Martina Franca, Locorotondo, Alberobello and other incredible cities...

Let's find out more!



FOCUS ON OUR CITY, MARTINA FRANCA: THE BAROQUE TOWN OF THE ITRIAN VALLEY

Martina Franca is a hilltop town towards the Northern end of the Itrian Valley. The town has a beautiful *centro storico* with some impressive Baroque architectures. The countryside surrounding the town is dotted with lush farmland, *masserie* and *trulli*, and some quarters characterized by white little houses.

Martina is known as the *Città del festival* – city of festivals – and during the Summer months there are parades, celebrations and a rich cultural programme of art and opera. The *Festival of San Martino*, the patron saint of Martina, is in early July and the whole town seems to turn out in the *centro storico* for the parade.



6. Martina Franca's photo



The passeggiata – the Southern Italian tradition of taking an early evening stroll with family and friends between about 6 and 8pm – is also practiced daily. Early evening is a beautiful time to be out in Martina.

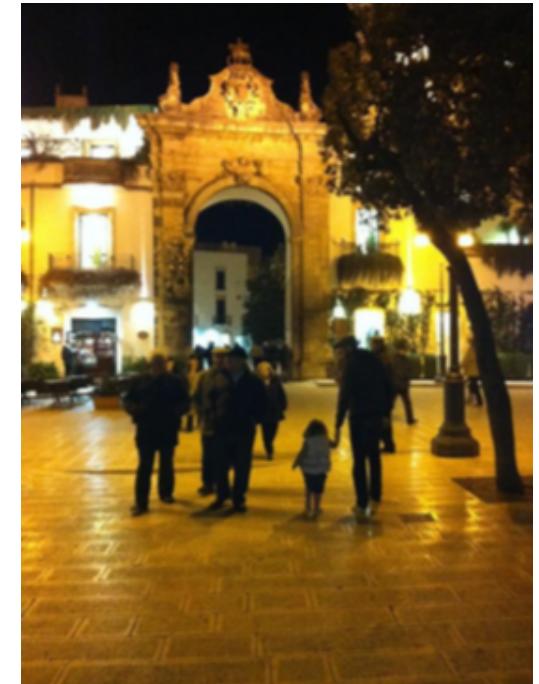
A good place to start a *passeggiata* is Piazza XX Settembre, a large open square with cafes and *gelateria*. From there you can walk up, through the arch, into Piazza Roma and past the *Palazzo Ducale*, and then follow the winding cobbled streets up to the *basilica* and into Piazza Plebiscito. At weekends and festival days there is often a small fair for children and an antiques market just off Corso Italia, leading downhill from Piazza XX Settembre.

Eating out:

Puglia is known for its amazing food. The local cheeses, olive oil and vegetables are delicious. The local pasta is called *orecchiette* – little ears – and is fabulous with fresh tomatoes and ricotta cheese. There is also a local cheese called *burrata*, which is like mozzarella but sweeter and softer. If you're a vegetarian or pescatarian you can find plenty of pasta and vegetable dishes on offer.

Martina has some great restaurants and *pizzerie*. *Ristoranti* and *osterie* are generally more formal, and trattorie less so. In some trattoria, especially at lunch, there will be no menu and you will be brought *antipasti*, a *primo dish* (usually pasta) and a meat *secondi* dish with *contorni* (sides of vegetables). Budget options, apart from pizza, are a bit more limited and mostly found on the far side of town around Corso Messapia.

The most important thing to know about eating out in Puglia is that most restaurants open at very set times and if you don't realise this you can spend a lot of time searching for somewhere open to eat. Lunch (*pranzo*) is generally not before 1pm and some restaurants won't open for lunch. Hardly anything opens in the evening before 8pm, but restaurants do stay open very late. Eating out with children who want to eat early can be a bit tricky, but Italians welcome even very young children in their restaurants at later times.





Piazza Plebiscito has a number of restaurants that are easy to find but you will pay a mark-up for location. At the very far end of the Piazza, about as far as you can walk, there are also some nice places in the small stone houses. You can also find hidden gems in the lanes off the main drag.

Maybe, the best restaurant you could find just off the centro storico and set back down some steps off the Via Mercadente, is [Osteria del Coco Pazzo](#). The chef and owner, **Stefano**, is a proud host who welcomes all guests himself, speaks excellent English and serves amazing food. There is a nice little seating area on the steps if you want to eat outside.

Further down Via Mercadente, towards the Corso Italia, is [Ristorante Torre di Angelucco](#), very much appreciated by Trip Advisor feedbacks... It is tiny so you need to book. Look out for the wooden terrace built out into the road.

Ristorante [I templari](#) is not far from Palazzo ducale, a short walk down Via Vincenzo Bellini and near to some great views out over the Itrian Valley. It is quite hidden so look for signs and head down some steps. There is no outside seating but the inside is beautifully furnished and they do amazing pasta, including a tasting menu option.

There are a number of *Michelin starred restaurants* in Martina. [La Tana di Colucci Nicola](#) is just behind Palazzo ducale and is tiny, so booking is recommended in the evening.

It serves *cucina tipica*, traditional Puglian food, with lots of meat, vegetables and cheeses.





Further out of *centro storico*, just at the top of the Locorotondo road past the roundabout, is a reasonable budget restaurant next to a bar. It has its own car park just over the road and is close to great views, although the restaurant itself is quite canteen like inside. There is limited outdoor seating, close to the road. The bar next door has a lovely roof terrace overlooking the valley towards Cisternino. There are also several *bracerie* around the town, which are basically butchers that will serve platters of cuts of meat with bread. Cafes will do pastries, and occasionally salads and sandwiches.

The best budget option is pizza. Just up from *Palazzo Ducale* towards the *basilica* is a small pizzeria, **Don Giovanni**. You can sit on small tables on the edge of the cobbled street, or there is a pleasant small wooden interior. However, the smaller *pizzerie*, found on every corner, are great value. They often only have a couple of tables but the pizza is cheap, freshly made and usually delicious. You can take pizza away to eat at home if preferred. The two nearest to the *Trullo Pietro* are [Pizzeria da Jonny](#), on Via Giuseppe Guglielmi, and **La Vecchia Lanterna**, on the Viale della Stazione.

Drinking:

Italians tend to drink in cafes or at the dinner table, with the **Gran Caffè** on Piazza XX Settembre being a good place to have a beer and people watch. There is a small bar on the walk up from Piazza Umberto I which does a good mojito and has some outside seats. There is an Irish bar just off Piazza Umberto I and the roof garden bar on the Locorotondo road. There are several excellent Puglian wines to try.



LOCOROTONDO: THE CIRCULAR COUNTRY

This is the nearest town, and can be seen from Martina on the facing hill. It has a tiny, beautiful circular centro storico with a maze of lanes and houses and several churches.

The same name, [Locorotondo](#), just means “circular place”. From the streets on the edge and the park you get great views of the valley. It’s a very little and cute town, with a lot of beautiful and ancient churches, and it is nice to wander and have a coffee or gelato in. It also has very good local wine.

You will see Locorotondo on the hill opposite Martina. Follow signs for *centro storico*.



7. Locorotondo's village



8. Locorotondo's panorama



ALBEROBELLO: THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE

Perhaps the most famous town in the valley, [Alberobello](#), la città dei trulli is a [UNESCO World Heritage](#) site 30 minutes drive from Martina Franca. It has the highest concentration of *trulli* in the world. Most of these in the centre, on the slope of Rione Monti, are now restaurants and souvenir shops, but you can wander round the narrow lanes and look at them. The slope opposite the central *trulli* also has a lovely Piazza with cafes, restaurants and good views across to the *trulli*. Behind the main church here is a museum, [Trullo Sovrano](#), furnished in period style. There are several other museums in town, olive oil, wine. Market day is Thursday.



Typical Trulli of Alberobello





CISTERNINO

Like the other ancient towns of the Itrian Valley, [Cisternino](#) has a beautiful *centro storico* with a central Piazza.

It is a lovely town for a *passegiata* in the evenings, with amazing viewpoints over the valley and excellent restaurants for dinner, including one of my favourites **Osteria Bell'Italia**, one of the best restaurants of the Itrian Valley, with very taste vegetarian menus. The butchers here are famous for their fresh cooked meat that you choose and eat. You will find several to cater to a range of budgets in the *centro storico*. If you don't eat meat, many also do pasta and salad dishes, and there is even a vegan restaurant at the far side of the *centro storico*. Monday is market day and Cisternino apparently has one of the best markets.



9. Cisternino



OSTUNI, THE WHITE TOWN

Ostuni, *la città bianca* (*the white city*), is one of the most known towns of Puglia.

The beautiful whitewashed old town sits on a hill surrounded by an ancient wall, with the Gothic cathedral at its centre. The walk up the hill through the *centro storico* is beautiful, with a number of viewpoints looking out over the Itrian Valley and the coast. There are lots of small lanes, steps and arches, all with pretty white houses.

The main route is mostly shops. It gets very busy in the Summer, but caters well for tourists. It is worth wandering off the main track a bit to find places to eat.



10. Ostuni's view



Enjoy the Puglian Sea in some of the most beautiful beaches of Mediterranean



Martina Franca is in the hills in the centre of Puglia, so it is about halfway between the two coastlines of the Adriatic and the Ionian Sea. The beaches near Salve are meant to be the best sandy beaches. The Adriatic coast is very popular with Northern Italians as it boasts some of the cleanest and most beautiful beaches in Italy. However, Italians tend to like to holiday in *lidos* – beach resorts. These have private sandy beaches with loungers but are often quite crowded and have bars with loud music and entertainment. They also tend to charge. It is possible to find smaller private beaches all up and down the coast if you look.

Every beach in Puglia is good for enjoying the sea. You are spoiled for choice, but if you really want names, we can suggest you:

- [Savelletri](#)
- [Torre Canne](#)
- [Torre Guaceto](#)
- [Polignano a Mare](#)
- [Monopoli](#)



Plus attractions

Want to live alternative experiences? Do you like animals, water parks or much more? Then visit...

Grotte di Castellana

[Grotte di Castellana](#) is a huge and fantastic natural cave complex that you can take tours around. You do have to book a tour and it isn't easy to do this other than on site. However, this may mean you have a wait and there isn't much else to do there. There is a picnic area for lunch though and a small souvenir market. Also, nearby is an adventure park for kids, Indiana Park, with rope climbs, swings and slides. It is only open at weekends though.

ZooSafari

The [Fasano ZooSafari](#) is a safari park on the hills just outside Fasano that is well signposted from the main road from Martina to Fasano. It is pretty pricey but there is a large variety of animals and kids enjoy it. Animals seem well cared for, although in some bits the enclosures are quite small. You can feed the animals with nuts you buy there. There is a section you drive round with bigger animals like lions and giraffes, and then a section you walk round with monkeys, hippos and others.

Besides children can fun also in **Fasanolandia**, the amusement park attached to the ZooSafari.



Acquapark Egnazia

[Acquapark Egnazia](#) is great for children. It has a large pool with smaller slides, statues and games for young kids, and a pool with bigger slides and a wave machine for older ones. There is plenty of room for sitting in the sun, either on loungers or under umbrellas on grass. There is a small cafeteria or you can take a picnic. It is quite pricey but you can pick up vouchers for money off in lots of places, including the local masseria. Especially on weekends, arrive early to get a lounger.

Egnazia Roman ruins

The Roman ruins of Egnazia are near the Acquapark and Savelletri – take either exit and look out for brown signs. They are still being excavated and there are tombs and crypts to explore as well as other artefacts in a small museum. The entrance fee is cheap. There isn't much shade though so avoid the hot part of the day.

Horse riding

There is a riding school, **Centro Ippico Valle d'Itria**, about 20 minutes away, on the Via Alberobello. Christina, the owner, is helpful but doesn't speak much English. They can generally book lessons or hacks for any time, and any age or ability, for very reasonable prices. The stables are clean and well equipped and the horses well cared for. However, it is best to turn up to try and book as it isn't always possible to get through on the phone. You will just need long trousers and trainers/boots. They provide hats.



Matera: the European Capital Culture 2019

Nearby Martina Franca and our trulli Pietro and Villa San Domenico, you can also leave Puglia and reach Matera, in the region of Basilicata.

Matera is the [European Capital Culture](#) for the year 2019.

Matera is a famous World Heritage site that has a subterranean town, with houses built into the rock, like caverns. The streets run on the rooftops of many houses in this area, known as *Sassi*. There is also a beautiful old city. Matera is quite large and it is worth taking a tour to get round.

Basilicata is one of Italy's poorest regions and is mostly farmland. There are some lovely beaches though, if you drive far enough away from Taranto.



11. Matera's view



Thank you again to have downloaded this gift for you and to
have showed your interest for Hermione Homes

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explanations or to leave us your comments and reports.

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