

let's go travelling

ADVERTISING FEATURE

travel options for the mature west australian



From left to right; Grotta Palazzese - La Nicchia - Polignano Mare - Trulli

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As a former cabaret singer of no repute I know what I'm looking for next. Overlooking the sea, just a five minute walk from the Ponte dei Lapilli is a full theatrical stance statue of Domenico Modugno. This wonderful singer and songwriter co-wrote and performed *Nel Blu Dipinto Di Blu* in 1958, the song that came third in the 1958 Eurovision Song Contest. In 1959 the song won two Grammy Awards and was recorded by Dean Martin under the title, *Volare*.

While I'm there, I am interviewed for an Italian travel television program and we encourage the crowd to sing the song with me. I'm pretty sure I heard a cry of 'Bravo!' although it's possible that was because I'd finished singing.

It's been a busy morning and it's time to make my lunch appointment. On the other side of the Ponte dei Lapilli is a restaurant that has been catering for parties and banquets since 1700 and has become synonymous with amazing food; the Grotta Palazzese.

This restaurant sits on a natural limestone terrace, in a cave on the edge of a cliff overlooking the Adriatic Sea. This restaurant is about more than food, it is about magic. It is about the smile it puts on your face and the tingle of excitement you feel as you're escorted to your table, each with its own view of sea, sky and cliff.

As I drink extraordinary local wine and as slowly as possible caress each mouthful of roasted octopus with chickpea and pesto pearls, it is the view around me that is

demanding the same attention I'm giving my tastebuds. Below me, through the balustrade against my table, are the brilliant, blue waters of the Adriatic while around me and above me are the natural limestone cave walls where it's as if light itself has come alive and is dancing with the same amount of joy I feel in my heart.

Come mid-afternoon and it's time for me to leave the Grotta Palazzese and as I walk through quiet, white washed streets that are just about to enter their traditional siesta I stop and talk to the owner of La Nicchia, a small purveyor of local produce, including olive oil and wine. She is about to close for the afternoon but invites me in to learn about the local produce she is so proud to sell.

Realising that my

Polignano a Mare stories will go long into the night I purchase a bottle of wine and then swag-ger, sway and sing my way back to the railway station for my short journey south and inland to Alberobello, a small town that is famous for its trulli huts that have held UNESCO heritage status since 1996.

The trulli story dates back to the 15th Cen-

tury and was a quirky solution to having your house demolished if you failed to pay your taxes. Each circular trulli is built without mortar with overlapping, flat stone and a conical roof decorated on the pinnacle with an adornment that can be of prestigious, mystical or religious significance.

The Walking in Puglia Tour with Exodus Travels has been an opportunity

to experience a much loved culture at a pace I've never previously been able to achieve. Italy is often about the bucket list; get a photo of me in front of it and move on to the next attraction. This is a tour completely achievable by everyone I know in my life and I wish they could all do it. I know why I feel this way. It's love.

Just like taking your girlfriend home to meet mum and dad for the first time, sharing Puglia with family and friends has been something I am so proud of. Puglia is an undiscovered land in a well discovered country and the quicker you get there, the quicker you will fall in love too. With thanks to the lyrics of *Volare*, no wonder my happy heart sings.

FAST FACTS

The Walking in Puglia and Matera Tour is available throughout the year. Tours support all age groups and fitness levels.

www.exodus Travels.com or call 1300 131 564.

When to go:

All year is good walking weather in Puglia. Visit Matera in 2019 as it celebrates being a European Capital of Culture.

You have to dine and recline at Grotta Palazzese in Polignano a Mare and then buy some local Puglia olive oil and wine from La Nicchia. In Matera, stay at the Hotel Sassi which has cave rooms with views over the historic town site.



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tions from northern Italy through to the south including stunning Sicily.

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The itineraries and packages include accommodation with a personal driver who is also an assistant, whose goal is to satisfy their clients' wishes, providing good service, assistance and making them feel comfortable and happy throughout their tailored trip.

They operate with 'duty of care' and hold a current first aid certificate in CPR.

A sample of one of their itineraries is a

pick-up at Milano airport and drive to your hotel.

Sightseeing at Lake Como and a drive to Lugano in Switzerland and fashion outlet shopping.

A visit to the city centre of Milano including the grand Duomo, Galleria, and other highlights.

Tours can be designed to include other locations/lakes in Northern Italy, Venice, Tuscany, Lazio or head south to Sicily, a region with so much to offer besides sightseeing.

For enquiries contact: Sam on 0413 832 016 or email: sam.let@optusnet.com.au or visit www.myitalyyourway.com

Paying for travel by lay-by

JENNIE from British Travel explains her lay-by facility for travellers.

"Layby allows you to pay for travel by interest-free monthly instalments using your credit or debit card. You can choose to pay over two, three, four, five or six months. she said.

We asked Jennie that if this is so, does it mean that travellers now don't have to apply for a loan or separate credit card.

"Correct, we don't need to see any payslips or employment details. No credit checks, it's perfect for the over 55s if they are no longer working full time or retired."

Jennie told *Have a Go News* people use lay-by for most airline tickets, car hire, travel insurance, hotels, cruise or coach holidays as long as your last in-

stalment is paid at least 14 days before your departure.

"A payment plan is available to anyone over the age of 18 years of age. Skilled workers, parent visa holders and retirees can also apply," she said.

Traditionally lay-by was limited to your wardrobe and home appliances but now the British Travel concept has been extended to travel.

"Often while saving for your dream holidays, the money ends up being spent on something else and dreams get put aside with your chance of an overseas holiday disappearing," she said.

Dreaming of your next holiday? Contact British Travel to find out the best lay-by deal for you. Give them a call now 1300 857 434.

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Camp Q is for you! Phone 9492 9773
MONDAY 4-8 FEBRUARY 2019