

# THE TRAVEL CLUB

Pre-departure Itinerary

## The Magic of Cilento

Stunning landscapes, rich history, culinary heritage  
9 DAYS: Saturday, October 17-Saturday, October 24, 2026



The coastal region of Cilento, with its breathtaking landscapes, millennia-old history, and vibrant culture, is one of Southern Italy's most fascinating and still unknown destinations. Located in the Campania region, stretching along the Tyrrhenian Sea from Paestum to the Gulf of Policastro, Cilento is known for a diverse landscape that includes mountains, valleys and over 100 kilometers of pristine beaches. This unique trip to a most unique region of Italy is an experience you won't want to miss! Our home base is Santa Maria di Castellabate, a charming small seaside town in south-west Italy famous for its **wide sandy beaches**, clear turquoise sea and a coastline that regularly wins the **Blue Flag** award for cleanliness. Tip: Take an evening stroll along the palm-lined promenade of **Lungomare Perrotti** with views of the sea and the silhouette of the old town above you. Our trip begins with a walk through Castellabate's cobblestone

streets, scenic arches, lively squares and a chance to view the sweeping views of the Tyrrhenian Sea. We'll head into the Cilento countryside for a wine-tasting experience and sip fine local wines paired with artisanal delicacies. Discover the underground world of the Pertosa-Auletta Caves - the only natural cave in Europe that offers a voyage on an underground river. Visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Charterhouse of Padula - a monastic complex with a precious artistic heritage of baroque art. Explore Acciaroli, a quaint seaside village 40 miles south of the Amalfi Coast which sports the legend that an aging local fisherman took Ernest Hemingway fishing and became the inspiration for his *Old Man and the Sea*. Head to Pioppi and see the Mediterranean Diet Museum. Today, we'll meet with local chefs and participate in a hand-on cooking class. Prepare - and eat! - a full Cilentan meal using fresh, organic ingredients from the region. Next, we'll start the day at the Archeological Park in Paestum. Seemingly wild and unexplored, this is nothing like over-crowded Pompeii. Our day ends with a visit to a local mozzarella farm for a tasting before a farewell dinner at the hotel.

### **RATES**

**\$3599 per person double occupancy**  
***INCLUDES round-trip airfare, fuel surcharge and all air taxes and fees. Single supplement is \$360.***

*Triple accommodations may be available upon request. Fuel surcharge, air taxes and fees subject to change. Passport required. Per person deposit is \$500. Please note - If you wish to extend your tour or request air or hotel upgrades, please advise us at time of booking.*

### **FEATURES**

Castellabate visit. Wine tasting experience with snacks. Pertosa-Auletta Caves and Padula excursion. Visits to Acciaroli and Pioppi. Hands-on cooking class with lunch. Excursion to Paestum Archeological Park and visit to Mozzarella farm.

### **INCLUDES**

- Round-trip regularly scheduled ITA Airways flights from Boston to Naples, via Rome.
- Six nights' four-star accommodations: Grand Hotel Santa Maria dei Castellabate (or similar)
- Eleven meals: 6 continental/buffet breakfasts, welcome and farewell dinners with wine
- Wine tasting with local specialties
- Lunch at an agriturismo
- Hands-on cooking class followed by lunch
- Escorted, private, round-trip airport/hotel transfers
- Services of professional local Tour Manager

### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

***Grand Hotel Santa Maria***  
***Via Senatore Peppino Manente Comunale***  
***84048 - Castellabate (SA)***  
***Phone: (+39) 0974 961001***

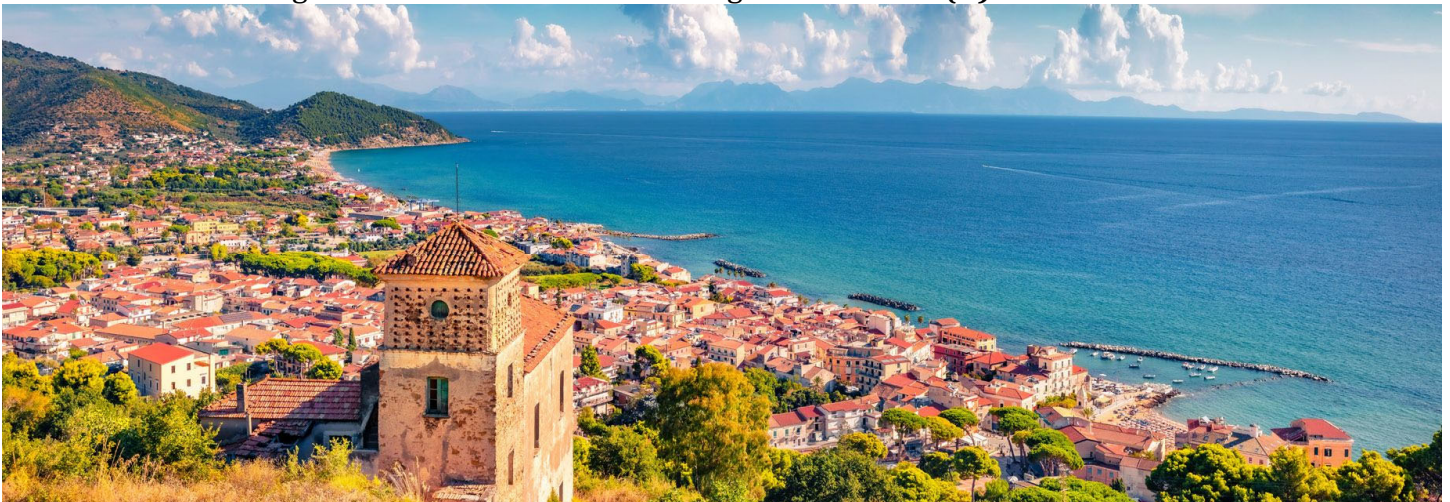
Set on its private beach, Grand Hotel Santa Maria is 984 feet from Santa Maria di Castellabate center. Its restaurant offers Cilento specialties and a buffet breakfast. Rooms have pastel color schemes and tiled floors. All air-conditioned, they also feature a TV and mini-bar. Breakfast is both sweet and savory, while the restaurant is open daily for lunch and dinner. The medieval town of Castellabate is 5 mi away.



### **Day 1: Overnight flight from Boston to Rome**

### **Day 2: Arrive Rome – Connecting flight to Naples – Transfer to Castellabate**

After passport control and immigration, proceed to baggage claim and retrieve luggage. Pass through customs and move into the Arrivals Hall where we'll meet our Tour Manager who will accompany us for the length of our holiday. Board the transfer coach to the **Grand Hotel Santa Maria** in Santa Maria di Castellabate. After receiving room assignments the rest of the afternoon is free to get acquainted with the hotel and surroundings. Dinner with wine and overnight at the hotel. **(D)**



***Santa Maria di Castellabate***

### **Day 3: Excursion to Castellabate and winery visit**

After breakfast we'll transfer to the medieval town of Castellabate, whose old town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and features narrow streets, historical buildings, and local shops. Founded in the 9<sup>th</sup>-century, Castellabate is perched on a hill, providing stunning views of the Tyrrhenian Sea and the

experience in the Cilento countryside paired with artisanal delicacies. **(BL)**



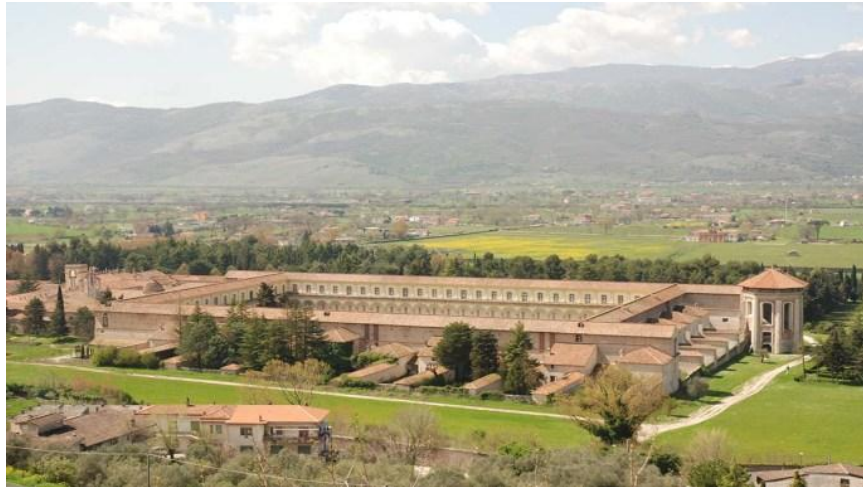
*Castellabate*



#### **Day 4: Excursion to Padula and the Pertosa Caves**

An amazing experience awaits us today as we visit the Pertosa-Auletta Caves – a stunning attraction known for their stunning underground formations. It is the only natural cave in Italy where we can take a boat ride on an underground river and view village remains from the second millennium B.C. Next, we'll visit the UNESCO World Heritage of the Charterhouse of Padula – one of Italy's grandest monastic complexes with a historical and artistic heritage that showcases a blend of Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque architectural styles. We'll have lunch at an agriturismo near Padula before returning to our hotel. **(BL)**





### **Day 5: Excursion to Acciaroli and Pioppi**

Today we'll visit the charming coastal village of Acciaroli with a rich history that dates back to ancient times including architecture and local traditions. There is a lovely seaside promenade lined with shops, cafes and restaurants. Take a short drive to the picturesque village of Pioppi – also sitting on the Tyrrhenian Coast – and the birthplace of The Mediterranean Diet. Enjoy the charming streets and laid-back atmosphere as well as a visit to the Mediterranean Diet Museum. **(B)**



***Acciaroli***



***Pioppi***



### **Day 6: Cooking Class**

Local chefs come to the hotel today and we'll join them in a hands-on cooking class. Learn age-old recipes passed down through generations as you prepare – and eat! – a full Cilentan meal using fresh, organic ingredients from the region. **(BL)**



### **Day 7: Excursion to Paestum**

Today we'll visit the ancient Greco-Roman city of Paestum – a UNESCO World Heritage Site – set in an idyllic landscape. As we wander the archaeological ruins we'll see incredibly well-preserved temples, an amphitheater and forum. Later we'll head to a mozzarella farm for a unique tasting of the creamy Mozzarella di Buffala. After we return to our hotel we will enjoy a Farewell Dinner. **(BD)**





**Day 8: Return to Boston**

Today you will depart the hotel in the very early morning for the transfer to Naples airport. Details of departure will be posted. Upon arrival in Milan you will connect with your international flight to Boston.



Proof of Citizenship is required for all trips outside the United States. U.S. citizens require a valid passport to travel; with at least 6 months' validity. All non-US citizens should check with the appropriate foreign consulate for additional entry requirements. Passports are the responsibility of each traveler.

PLEASE NOTE: This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured. We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.

PLEASE NOTE: This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.