

made by mixing together beef, sweet sausage, veal, olive oil, parsley, garlic, lemon, pepper, eggs, seasoned breadcrumbs and finely grated Parmesan.

Cheese of the Apulia Region, as throughout much of Italy, is simply superb. Many of the best are “fresh cheese”, meant to be eaten soon after they are made. The one cheese that seems to stand out is Burrata, fresh mozzarella filled with buttery cream. Many of the farmers in the region, as their families have for generations, make their own fresh Scamorze, Provolone and Mozzarella. Ricotta, from sheep’s milk, is also popular. Italian Bread – In the 1st Century BC, during the reign of Emperor Julius Caesar, the famous Roman poet, Quintus Horatius Flaccus, better known as Horace, wrote that the bread of the Apulia region of the country was the best in all the world.

Every region of Italy produces a number of very good quality wines. Until a few years ago most of the wines of Apulia, Italy’s heel, did not stand well on their own merit. Rather, they were used by more famous central and northern regions to add to their own varieties. Now the winemakers from Italy’s more northern climes have spread south to Apulia and have brought along not only their “old world” skills but modern production techniques as well. The results have been impressive as many of the wines of the region are now highly respected and sought after. Some of the best of Apulia, one of the largest producing regions in the world are: Primitivo, a lighter, slightly more acidic elder cousin of the American Zinfandel. Aglianico, one of the varieties of grapes that were brought to the region when the Greeks were colonizing the area. It is used to make Castel del Monte. The Negro Amaro grape is grown in the south of the Salento Peninsula, It is used to produce the full bodied and earthy Salice Salentino. As well as wine, throughout Italy there are many coffee bars, often without seating, where great Espresso and Cappuccino are served. Bottled water is recommended.

SHOPPING The best tourist shopping is in Old City. There are a number of shops where you can find interesting gifts and souvenirs. Shopping hours are generally from 9:00am to 1:00pm and 3:00pm to 8:00pm Tuesday thru Saturday. Most shops are closed on Monday mornings. There may be some tourist-oriented stores open on Sundays, but in general, most will be closed.

Value added Tax (VAT), is added to most purchases. Visitors who spend over a certain amount may be entitled to re-claim some or all of the tax paid, however, regulations and conditions governing the refund of VAT are subject to change and RCCL cannot guarantee the cooperation of local authorities.

LOCAL CURRENCY The unit of currency in this port is the euro. There are 8 euro coins with a common face. On the reverse, each member state contributes a design. There are 7 euro notes. All euro coins and notes are legal tender in member states. Foreign currency and Traveler’s checks can be changed at banks and most major hotels. Most major credit cards and Traveler’s checks are widely accepted. Small shops and restaurants may accept cash only.

POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES There is a post office at Largo San Sabino. 5 minutes from the pier in Bari Vecchia (Old City). And at Piazza Umberto Primo 33.

Most public telephones take local coins and/or telephone cards which

can be purchased at the Post Office or Tobacconists.

A coin or telephone card may be required to dial these access numbers:

AT&T: 800.172.444

MCI: 800.90.5825

TOURIST INFORMATION There is a local tourist office at Piazza Aldo Moro, near the railway station.

TRANSPORTATION If you decide to take a taxi keep in mind that they can be quite expensive even over short distances. A few taxis will be available at the pier. It is important to negotiate a fare before departing.

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

Yes • Si

No • No

Good Day • Buon Giorno

Good-bye • Arrivederci

Thank-you • Grazie

You’re Welcome • Prego

NOTES

This information has been compiled for the convenience of our guests and is intended solely for that purpose. While we work to ensure that the information contained herein is correct, we cannot accept responsibility for any changes that may have taken place since printing.

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PORT EXPLORER & SHOPPING GUIDE

Bari ITALY

GENERAL INFORMATION Bari is both ancient and modern. Founded around 1,500 BC Bari eventually became an important port on Italy’s southeast Adriatic coast. The first groups to reach the area and establish a settlement are believed to have been the Illyrian who sailed across the Adriatic from the western Balkans, primarily from the regions of modern day Montenegro and Albania.

Today the city of Bari is the capital of the province by the same name in Italy’s southeast region of Apulia, or, as the Italians refer to it, Puglia. The city is still an important port and industrial center having grown over the years into a metropolitan area of over 500,000 inhabitants.

There are two main sections of Bari. The first is the Old City, built out on the peninsula and known as Bari Vecchia. Centuries old, it has narrow streets and alleys, historic forts and cathedrals and of course, the old port. It is truly a step back in time.

The new part of Bari is referred to as the Murattiano. Much of it was laid out and built in the early 20th century. This is the commercial and shopping area with wide boulevards lined with businesses and sophisticated stores.

Bari is also home to many young people from countries other than Italy. One of the main reasons for so many young foreigners is the University of Bari, founded in 1925. There are also a number of language schools in Bari that attract many students from the United States and the United Kingdom.

There are various regional dialects throughout Italy. Many of the older fishermen in Bari Vecchia (Old City) speak a dialect that is more heavily influenced by Greek than Italian.

The Puglia region of southern Italy has changed hands countless times over the centuries, from the early Illyrian to the Romans, Byzantines, Saracens and Lombards. Each of the periods and peoples has left their mark upon the province and city of Bari.

HISTORY The history of Bari, as with much of Italy and Europe, is one of seemingly continuous war and conflict ... big and small ... long or short. There always seemed to be some vainglorious Emperor or King, some Pope or want-to-be potentate that was sweeping through, on their way to somewhere else. Bari and the region of Apulia, though of little to no strategic or economic value, were continually getting caught up in the middle of events greater than themselves and over which the people of the town and region had no control.

Originally founded by people that came across the Adriatic from the western Balkans around 1,500 BC, Bari soon became a Greek colony, though one of little if any importance. During the Roman Empire the town would grow as the significance of her port became more evident. By 180 BC Bari was already recognized as an important fishing town and outlet to the Adriatic.

Christianity had already spread to Bari by the early 300s when a priest named Gervasius was elevated to Bishop of the region. The Bishops that followed would remain under the authority of the patriarch in Constantinople until the late 900s.

The Gothic wars in 535-556 AD were disastrous for the region of Bari as well as the remainder of Italy. Crops had been destroyed or requisitioned to feed armies. Fields were no longer being planted due to the fact that much of the population had been displaced. The people that remained on the land or in the villages and towns were left destitute and often hungry. The great resources of the Roman Empire had been drained. The invading Lombard, from Germany, swept over much of Italy in 568 AD. Bari was conquered once again.

In 852 the Islamic Saracens swept over the region and, yet again, Bari was conquered. The Moslems, to the disappointment of many in Bari who had enjoyed freedoms granted by their rule, were driven out by the Byzantines in



871. After less than one generation of relative peace, little Bari is conquered again. The people were not pleased and eventually rebelled against Byzantine rule. The revolt was crushed and old scores were settled.

Next came the Normans under the rule of Robert Guiscardo, the first King of Sicily, in 1071. Not long after, Bari would see a number of famous visitors come to the town and sail from her port. Among them were Count Hugh of Vermandois, brother to the king of France and Duke Robert of Normandy, a son of William the Conqueror. They, together with their armies and the blessings and flags of the Roman Catholic Pope, Urban, were on the first crusade to free the Holy Sepulcher, the city of Jerusalem and the Holy Land itself from Muslim domination and rule.

Other rulers and conquerors of Bari would follow. The Hohenstaufen with Fredrick II from Germany, the rulers of Aragon and Angevin, then Isabel of Aragon followed by Bona Sforza, Queen of Poland. The list does not stop there. When Bari came under the rule of a Spanish viceroy from the Kingdom of Naples in the 1700s, the town and region were worn out and quickly fell into decline. It took a young Corsican Artillery Officer turned Emperor and his favorite general, Jacques

Murat, turned brother-in-law and soon to be named King of Naples, to finally start Bari on the road to recovery in the early 1800s.

Italy was basically united under King Vittorio Emanuele II in 1861. Italians refer to the unification as “Risorgimento”, the Resurgence. From 1922 to 1943 Fascist dictator, Il Duce, Benito Mussolini ruled Italy as a member of the “Axis” (Nazi Germany, Imperial Japan and Italy). A few years later Mussolini’s lifeless body, along with that of his mistress and five other fascist leaders, would be ignominiously hung up by the heels in the Piazzale Loreto in Milan as public testimony to the death of this buffoonish tyrant.

On June 4, 1944, Supreme Allied Commander Dwight Eisenhower’s deputy, Gen. Mark Clark and his soldiers from the US 5th Army rolled their tanks into The Eternal City and freed Rome. It was soon widely reported that in their efforts and hopes of finding favor with the beautiful young women of Italy. Hundreds of new Italian war brides would soon sail from ports like Bari ... to America.

Italy, in 1950, became one of the founding members of the European Union.

BARI PLACES OF INTEREST

1 Bari Vecchia is the old part of the city. It is a maze of narrow streets and alleys that wind through houses and buildings that date back centuries. There are two squares, Piazza Ferrarese and Piazza Mercantile. The promenade is called the Lungomare. This is the original port area.

2 The **Basilica di San Nicola** was begun in 1087 to honor and house the remains of Saint Nicola. The Saint, in 343 AD, had originally been buried in the town of Myra, Lycia, modern day Turkey. When the Islamic Saracens took control of Myra in 1087, the remains of Saint Nicola were smuggled out and brought to Bari. The crypt was finally dedicated in 1089 by Pope Urban II. As the patron saint of children, sailors and fishermen, the Basilica di San Nicola is still an important site of pilgrimage for Roman Catholics and Orthodox Christians. The transfer of the Saint’s remains is celebrated annually on May 9th.

3 The **Cathedral of Saint Sabinus** was originally founded in 1034. It is dedicated to the Saint who ran afoul of Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius Valerius Maximianus Herculius. Sabinus was a Bishop in the early Roman Catholic Church when the Emperor ordered his execution in 304 AD. 700 years later the original church was designed and constructed in the Byzantine style. In 1156 the city of Bari was the last remaining stronghold of the Byzantines in southern Italy. The city was attacked by William I, King of Sicily. The Cathedral of Saint Sabinus together with the remainder of the city was destroyed. It was not until 1170 that the foundation of the new Cathedral was laid. It was completed in 1178 in the Romanesque style. The remains of Saint Sabinus are reputed to rest in the crypt.

4 The **Petruzzelli Opera House**, built in 1903 by the Messeni Nemagna family, was one of the most beautiful in all of Italy and the cultural heart and soul of Bari. On the night of October 27, 1991 an appreciative audience watched the final act of Vincenzo Bellini’s 1831 tragic Italian bel canto opera, “Norma”. In the finale, on a spectacular operatic stage set, the hero Pollione joins his love Norma on a blazing pyre and together they confirm their love as they succumb to the flames. A few hours later the citizens of Bari stood aghast as they watched their beloved opera house burning in the night. In 1998 the courts convicted the arsonists, the villains of this true-life Italian tragedy and sent them to prison. the man who requested the fire be set in the first place ... none other than the Managing Director of Bari’s beautiful Petruzzelli Opera House.

5 **Castello Svevo** was begun in 1131 by Roger II, King of Sicily. The great fort was first built in the Norman style. It was destroyed in 1156. The castle would be rebuilt a few years later by Frederick II of Hohenstaufen, who was continually at war with someone, somewhere. Frederick II’s imperial titles included; King of Sicily, King of Cyprus and Jerusalem, King of Germany and Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire... an empire which was, to quote the French philosopher Voltaire, “neither holy, nor Roman, nor an empire”.

6 The **Provincial Archaeological Museum** in Bari is home to an interesting collection of ancient exhibits some of which date back to prehistoric times. There are coins and bronze works, earthen ware and artifacts that have been discovered and reclaimed from archeological sites all over southern Italy. The museum was established in 1895.

7 Murattiano is the New City of Bari. Much of the urban design, the uncomplicated grid of broad streets, boulevards and promenades was built during the time the city was under the rule of Murat, King of Naples, in 1808. The Murattiano district is divided from the Old City by the Corso Vittorio Emanuele II, named in honor of the first King of a united Italy, who began his relatively short reign in 1861. The New City is the main commercial and shopping district of modern Bari.

Beyond Bari

Alberobello is a beautiful little town outside of Bari. It has been designated a UNESCO world Heritage Site. The homes in the village, like many in the region, are called “trulli”. They are unique yet traditional style homes built over the centuries. They are made of whitewashed stones arranged in a circular pattern covered by cone shaped roofs.

The **Lama Balice Nature Reserve** covers over 300 acres of beautiful walking paths that wind their way through oak forests, meadows and ancient grazing lands. Visitors can see wild orchids as well as an abundant variety of wildlife. Archeologists have discovered evidence of settlements in the area dating to the Neolithic period, 4-5,000 BC. There are also a number of beautiful centuries old villas and farms in the area.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Bari and surrounding areas we suggest you take one of the organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing, consult the Shore Excursion Order Form or contact the onboard Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, guests are advised to take with them only the items they need and to secure any valuables.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Bargaining: Most items have fixed prices, but it may be possible to get a discount on a large purchase. It is normal to bargain at markets, except for food items.

Tipping: Generally a 10% service charge is added to restaurant bills, however, as this amount does not all go to the waiter, it is normal to offer a 5% tip to the waiter in addition to any service charge. For taxi drivers, a 5-10% tip is acceptable.

LOCAL CUISINE AND DRINK SPECIALTIES Southern Italy’s Mediterranean cuisine is well known for its freshness, simplicity and taste. Combining the availability of fresh seafood and good wine, bread and cheese, it all makes for wonderful meals. The region around Bari is not known for fancy or complicated cuisine. The recipes of the region have been passed down for generations as the simple food of the families of farmers, shepherds and fishermen. Here are some wonderful local favorites. Orecchiette alle Cime di Rapa is a combination of broccoli rabe, sweet garlic, olive oil, salty anchovies and chili peppers over orecchiette, the small half walnut shell-shaped pasta. Melanzanata di Lecce is a baked eggplant pie with tomato sauce and parmesan cheese. Grilled Radicchio, with the leaves stuffed with crushed red pepper flakes, extra-virgin olive oil, garlic cloves, fresh thyme, balsamic vinegar and mozzarella. Penne alla Puttanesca is pasta in a sauce of olive oil, tomatoes, parsley, olives, red pepper flakes, garlic, capers and anchovies. Frutti di Mare is angel hair pasta with extra-virgin olive oil, basil, parsley, crushed tomatoes, red pepper flakes, garlic, white wine shallots, fresh clams, calamari, mussels and shrimp. Polpette, Italian meatballs, usually eaten as a side dish,



PLACES OF INTEREST