



SONIA JONES
T R A V E L



Sonia's Italian Gems

Ciao Tutti!

I'm back from a wonderful trip to Southern Italy! Talk about La Dolce Vita - the sweet life!

I thought I'd share with you ten gems that truly made it a magical journey. While I still ticked off all the must-see tourist spots like the Trevi Fountain, Colosseum, Amalfi Coast and Sicily's White Lotus hot-spot of Taormina, it was the unexpected destinations and experiences that really proved to be the highlight. With so many SJT travellers heading to Italy this year and 2025 I thought I'd let you in on these secrets!

It's a bit of a read so grab your glass of vino (or your limoncello spritz!), sit back and enjoy!

Grazie e Buon Viaggio,
Sonia xo

1. The Jewish Ghetto, Rome: Unveiling History and Culinary Delights

I've lost count of how many times I've been to Rome, but I never knew about the Jewish Ghetto. While Rome's ancient landmarks often take centre stage, the Jewish Ghetto remains a relatively undiscovered jewel. This area is steeped in rich history and boasts a vibrant food culture. Don't miss trying the local specialties and exploring the cobblestone streets that tell the stories and bear the scars of centuries past.



2. Villa Spalletti Trivelli Hotel: An Aristocratic Roman Oasis

Turn left out of the front door and the Colosseum is in sight! However, inside the villa is an aristocratic Roman home that is full of warmth, heritage, art, and history. Sit in the garden with your favourite book, smell the jasmine, listen to the birds, sip Prosecco in a hot tub on the rooftop, or indulge in traditional home style recipes, just like Nonna used to make.



3. Borgo Santandrea: Utterly spectacular in every way!

Perched above the Amalfi Coast, Borgo Santandrea is the very definition of a bucket-list hotel. It isn't just a place to stay — it's a destination! Every moment here is crafted to ensure a memorable escape, blending the natural beauty of the Amalfi Coast with the comforts of a world-class retreat. Expect to be speechless at every turn. It is an absolutely extraordinary destination experience. And on a side-note, I refuse to stay anywhere that doesn't have its own Breakfast Ambassador from now on.



4. The Island of Ischia: A Hidden Gem of the Bay of Naples

Just a short ferry ride from Naples, Ischia offers a charming alternative to its more famous neighbours. Discover authentic Italian towns, enjoy stunning sunsets, and relish the local cuisine all at a fraction of the cost. Warm hospitality and picturesque views make Ischia a delightful escape.



5. Exploring by Boat: The Ultimate Way to See the Coast

Whether you're gliding along the Amalfi Coast or island-hopping in the Mediterranean, travelling by boat is unparalleled. Find secluded bays for a refreshing swim or bask in the sun while taking in the stunning coastal scenery. It's absolutely the best way to explore the coastline - I cannot recommend it highly enough.



6. Cefalù: A Seaside Charmer

Nestled on Sicily's northern coast, Cefalù offers a blend of long sandy beaches and a captivating old town. Wander through its charming streets, browse local artisan shops, and savour the freshest seafood. It's perfect for a quick stop or an extended stay to soak up the local culture. Fun fact: for those "White Lotus" TV show fans, the beach in the show is Cefalu's main beach - blue and white umbrellas and all!



7. Taormina – Beyond Corso Umberto: Hidden Charms Off the Main Path

While Taormina is known for its bustling Corso Umberto, stepping off the main street reveals quaint squares, cozy cafes, and unique stores. For those staying a few days or longer, a day at one of the nearby beaches is a must, offering both relaxation and exploration. Don't be afraid to wander and get off the tourist path!



8. Limoncello Spritz: The Perfect Italian Aperitivo

Having sampled various versions across Italy, the Limoncello Spritz remains my favourite. This refreshing drink combines the zesty flavours of limoncello with the sparkle of Prosecco. It's the perfect companion for your summer evenings. I encourage you to continue your own research into finding the best one — your *vacanze* awaits!



9. Cannoli in Sicily: A Sweet Sicilian Tradition

In Sicily, breakfast often means indulging in a *cannolo* (or two!). These crispy shells filled with sweet ricotta are easier to find than scrambled eggs. Embrace the local custom and enjoy this delightful treat with your morning coffee. As they say, when in Sicily... “Buon appetito!”



10. Noto: A Vibrant Sicilian Town

What an utterly delightful, beautiful, and vibrant town. Known for its Baroque architecture, Noto is a feast for the senses. Music fills the squares, art and culture abound, and the dining is superb. Use Noto as your base to explore nearby beaches, Siracusa, and the ancient ruins. It's conveniently just an hour's drive from Catania airport.



From the historic and gastronomic treasures of Rome's Jewish Ghetto to the ultimate bucket list hotel of Borgo Santandrea on the Amalfi Coast, the idyllic splendour of Ischia, and Sicily, with its captivating towns like Cefalù and Noto. Each destination added a unique touch to our itinerary.

As I return to work and reminisce about these magical experiences, each is a testament to Italy's endless capacity to surprise and delight, I can't wait to add some of these to our clients' itineraries.

Whether you're planning your own Italian adventure or simply dreaming from afar, we hope these highlights inspire and enchant you as much as they did us.

You know who to call when you're ready to start planning!

NEW Office Address - 59 Lugg Street, Bardon QLD 4065

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NEW central phone number:

Phone - Office (07) 3778 3849

Make sure to update us in your contacts!

Book an online appointment!

Yours in Travel

Sonia, Amy, Christine, Tiana & Ferial
The Sonia Jones Travel Team



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