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“TRAVEL WITH PURPOSE”
JOURNEYS WITH HEART PRESENTS

BENVENUTI A PUGLIA E IN SICILIA

MAY 15 TO MAY 31, 2019*

Hosted by Acclaimed Chef, Restaurateur & Author John Bishop

A Small Group Fund Raising Tour to Benefit Jewish Family Services

Taormina, Sicily



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“Travel with Purpose” | Thank you for your generous support over the past ten years. | To-date JWH has donated C\$130,000

**Combined itineraries.*



Palermo, Sicily



Ragusa, Sicily

BENVENUTI A PUGLIA E IN SICILIA | Hosted by Acclaimed Chef, Restaurateur & Author

PRIMA PARTE – SICILY

(Inside visits and special features are shown in UPPERCASE.)

MAY 21, 2019: Depart Canada.

MAY 22, 2019 | DAY 1: TAORMINA RIVIERA.

Enjoy a full day at leisure. Tomorrow meet your Tour Director and fellow travellers.

DAY 2: TAORMINA RIVIERA.

In the morning, an exciting excursion to MOUNT ETNA, the largest active volcano in Europe. Later, in hilltop Taormina, visit the ancient GREEK THEATER, dating back to the 3rd century BC. Why not stop at a CITRIUS FARM & pick fresh produce from the farm's working gardens which will be used in a cooking class featuring traditional Sicilian recipes paired with local wines. (B, L)

Hotel: Hilton Garden Naxos (2 Nights)

DAY 3: TAORMINA RIVIERA – SAVOCA – CATANIA – SYRACUSE.

Start your day off with a traditional Sicilian breakfast of granita and brioche at Bar Vitelli. Then, on to the traditional village of Savoca. See the Church of Santa Lucia, made famous as a location for Michael Corleone's wedding in the movie *The Godfather*. In Catania, see St. Agata Cathedral and spend some time on Piazza del Duomo and Via Etnea. Visit the fish market of Catania: an authentic insight to the wonderfully, colorful Italian way of life. You'll be surprised with the huge offer of fresh fish and with the oddities the sea provides. It is the biggest and most well-known fish market throughout Sicily. Later, arrive in Syracuse, birthplace of the mathematician Archimedes. Enter the ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE for a guided visit of the 5th century BC sparkling-white Greek Theater, the Garden of Paradise, the Ear of Dionysus, the Altar of Hieron II, the Roman Amphitheater, and the Cordmakers' Cave. Tonight, an included dinner in the enchanting Ortigia district begins with a cruise. (B, D)

Hotel: Des Etrangers (1 Night)

DAY 4: SYRACUSE – NOTO – RAGUSA.

Arrive in the baroque town of Noto, renowned for its beautiful historic center that was almost entirely rebuilt in the early 18th century following the 1693 earthquake. Meet your Local Guide for a walk along Corso Vittorio Emanuele to admire the magnificent architecture, and visit SAN NICOLÒ CATHEDRAL. Next, enjoy a WINE TOUR at Planeta Winery and continue to Ragusa. (B)

Hotel: Poggio Del Sole Resort (2 Nights)

DAY 5: RAGUSA. EXCURSION TO MODICA.

Ragusa, known for its remarkable cheeses, here you'll learn about the local cheese of the region from a master cheese maker. Next visit a charming herb farm to explore the many varieties herbs and flowers. Guided sightseeing features a walk through Ragusa's oldest district, the IBLA, a UNESCO World Heritage Site with its beautiful palaces and churches. Walk through the Giardini Iblei, the pleasant public gardens laid out in the 19th century and then, visit the iconic baroque ST. GEORGE CATHEDRAL. Time on your own to further explore or maybe relax at an outdoor café! In the late afternoon, travel to nearby Modica with its steeply stacked medieval center and spectacular baroque churches. Wander along Corso Umberto I and stop at the famous

Dolceria Bonajuto, Sicily's oldest chocolate factory, for a TASTING. End the day with a special dinner at a local restaurant. (B, D)

DAY 6: RAGUSA – CALTAGIRONE – PIAZZA ARMERINA – AGRIGENTO.

En route to Piazza Armerina stop in Caltagirone to discover the imposing STAIRCASE OF SANTA MARIA DEL MONTE, covered with different tiles in a beautiful pattern. In Piazza Armerina enjoy a guided visit of the VILLA ROMANA DEL CASALE, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Admire the largest and most complex collection of Roman mosaics in the world, including the famous "Bikini Girls," discovered in 1960. (B, D)

Hotel: Dioscuri Hotel (1 Night)

DAY 7: AGRIGENTO – SCIACCA – MARSALA.

Today, your Local Guide will take you for a spectacular walk through the magnificent VALLEY OF THE TEMPLES. Even travelers who have visited Athens and Delphi are awed by the gigantic yet graceful Greek structures that miraculously survived 24 centuries of tormented history. In Sciacca, take pictures from the panoramic viewpoint before continuing to Marsala. Visit a typical SALT MILL before enjoying dinner featuring local specialties and couscous. (B, D)

Hotel: Blu Hotel Spa (1 Night)

DAY 8: MARSALA – MOTYA – ERICE – PALERMO.

A highlight of the day: a BOAT CRUISE to the island of Motya for a perfect view of the lagoon and visit to the MUSEUM. Then, drive to Erice and follow your Tour Director for an orientation of this hilltop town, ending at the well-known Pasticceria Maria Grammatico to try out the traditional almond biscuits and Marsala wine. (B, D)

Hotel: Grand Hotel Piazza Borsa (3 Nights)

DAY 9: PALERMO.

Start your guided sightseeing with a drive to Monreale for a panoramic view of the Conca d'Oro and a visit to the 12th century NORMAN CATHEDRAL, famous for its 50,000 square feet of precious byzantine mosaics. Back in Palermo, see the ornate Piazza Bellini, Capo Market, the baroque Church of Immacolata, and visit the CATHEDRAL. Enjoy lunch with Sicilian specialties like panelle (chickpea fritters), arancini (stuffed rice balls), and cannoli (fried pastry rolls with sweet ricotta cheese) awaits at the Antica Focacceria San Francesco restaurant. After lunch enjoy The Hidden Gems of Palermo. Start your tour with a visit at Oratory of St. Lawrence features glorious stucco work by master rococo sculptor Giacomo Serpotta. Above the altar is a reproduction of Caravaggio's *The Nativity with St Francis and St Lawrence*, stolen from here in 1969 and still one of the FBI's top 10 unsolved art crimes. A short bus ride up Monte Pellegrino takes you to the Santuario, one of the most intriguing religious constructions in Italy. Finish your visit with a stop in one of the most iconic and historical Palace in Palermo, Palazzo Alliata. In the evening, a farewell dinner awaits at a local restaurant, an excellent way to say *arrivederci, Sicilia!* (B, L, D)

DAY 10 | MAY 31, 2019: PALERMO.

Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning. (B)



Capri, Italy



Matera, Italy

John Bishop | A Small Group Fund Raising Tour to Benefit Jewish Family Services

SECONDA PARTE – PUGLIA Optional Add-On

(Inside visits and special features are shown in UPPERCASE.)

MAY 14, 2019: Depart Canada.

MAY 15, 2019 | DAY 1: NAPLES – SORRENTO COAST.

Welcome to Italy! Upon arrival meet your Tour Director and continue south on the Highway of the Sun, to Sorrento. Spend a remarkable evening, enjoying fine food and wine from the Campania region as you bask in the delightful atmosphere at one of Sorrento's most beloved historical restaurants. (D)

Hotel: Grand Hotel Vesuvio (3 Nights)*

DAY 2: SORRENTO COAST. EXCURSION TO CAPRI.

Speed across the bay by JETFOIL to the Isle of Capri. Ride the FUNICULAR to Capri village for a guided visit of this pretty town. Enjoy a Lunch at the famous LA CAPANNINA restaurant & free time to explore the little shops on the piazzetta. After, the sights and sounds of Neapolitan culture come to life during a lively performance featuring traditional songs and tarantella folk dancing at a SORRENTO MUSICAL! (B, L, D)

DAY 3: SORRENTO COAST. EXCURSION TO POMPEII.

Arrive in fascinating POMPEII, the Roman city both destroyed and preserved by an eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. Your Local Guide will walk you past patrician homes, public baths, and commercial districts strikingly recalling day-to-day life when Rome was at the apex of her power. Return to Sorrento for a COOKING CLASS. Learn to prepare authentic Italian dishes from an Italian chef at a fun and interactive cooking class! (B, L)

DAY 4: SORRENTO COAST – NAPLES – BARI.

First stop is Naples, a city steeped in volcanic drama, rich archaeological treasures, and castles and churches that rival Rome! A Local Guide will get you acquainted with the many sights during your city tour. Stop in the famous Piazza Plebiscito before a traditional Neapolitan pizza lunch. In Bari, enjoy seafood at a local waterfront restaurant. (B, L, D)

Hotel: Grande Albergo Delle Nazioni (1 Night)



Sorrento, Italy

DAY 5: BARI – LECCE – ALBEROBELLO.

Follow your Local Guide for a pleasant walk through BARI VECCHIA, the city's oldest district. Next is Lecce, where your guided walking tour reveals why Lecce is called the "Florence of the South." Admire its baroque buildings and squares, and taste pasticciotto with almond-flavored iced coffee. Continue to Alberobello. (B, D)

Hotel: Victor Country (2 Nights)

DAY 6: ALBEROBELLO.

In the morning, enjoy a guided walking tour of the town, and visit one of its unique trulli—whitewashed, stone, circular houses with pinnacled, conical roofs. Balance of the day is at leisure. Enjoy dinner at a traditional Apulian agriturismo. (B, D)



Alberobello, Italy

DAY 7: ALBEROBELLO – MATERA – SCILLA – REGGIO CALABRIA.

Stop in Matera, and enjoy a panoramic view of the picturesque Sassi houses. Afterwards, enjoy a spectacular drive south along the Gulf of Taranto and stop in Scilla, called the "Venice of Calabria." Leaving the coast, arrive in Reggio Calabria and enjoy a guided visit of the MUSEUM that houses the world-famous bronze warrior sculptures, Bronzi di Riace. (B)

Hotel: Grand Hotel Excelsior (1 Night)

DAY 8 | MAY 22, 2019: REGGIO CALABRIA – TAORMINA RIVIERA.

Cross the Strait of Messina by FERRY and start your discovery of the beautiful island of Sicily, the great melting pot of the Mediterranean world. Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Saracens, Normans, French, and Spanish have left their marks and contributed to its rich heritage. Arrive in Taormina, a charming hilltop town overlooking the Ionian Sea, and visit the ancient GREEK THEATER dating back to the 3rd century BC. Time to stroll and shop along Corso Umberto I. In the evening, dinner awaits at restaurant Villa Antonio. (B, D)

Hotel: Hilton Garden Naxos (1 Night)

DAY 9 – 17, 2019 | MAY 23 – 31, 2019.

As per prima parte—Sicily itinerary.

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Agrigento, Sicily

TOUR DETAILS & RATES:

PRIMA PARTE – SICILY

- DEPARTURE DATE from Canada: May 21, 2019
- ARRIVAL DATE in Taormina Riviera, Italy (tour day one): May 22, 2019
- RETURN DATE from Palermo, Italy (tour day 10): May 31, 2019
- \$4,389** CAD per person, based on double room occupancy
- Single supplement, add: \$552 CAD (limited availability)

SECONDA PARTE – start in PUGLIA

- DEPARTURE DATE from Canada: May 14, 2019
- ARRIVAL DATE in Naples, Italy (tour day one): May 15, 2019
- RETURN DATE from Taormina Riviera, Italy (tour day 9): May 23, 2019
- \$3,217** CAD per person, based on double room occupancy
- Single supplement, add: \$580 CAD (limited availability)

**ENJOY SICILY AND PUGLIA, BOOK &
DEPOSIT BY NOVEMBER 30, 2018
AND SAVE \$400 CAD PER PERSON!†**

- Non-refundable deposit of \$250 per tour is required at time of booking – SPACE IS LIMITED!
- Trip Cancellation and medical insurance extra. Quote available upon request.
- ADDITIONAL: \$300 CAD per person Direct donation to Jewish Family Services www.jfsvancouver.ca Tax receipt will be issued.
- Guaranteed departure with minimum 20 guests per tour
- Prices do not include international air travel. Quote available upon request.
- †Rates include \$400 per person savings. Some restrictions apply, please inquire.



JOHN BISHOP
Acclaimed Chef,
Restaurateur & Author

John Bishop has been in and around kitchens since his early teens. Born in Britain, John attended hotel school in Wales and served his apprenticeship at a private London club. After ten years as a chef in Ireland, John came to Canada in 1973 to further his culinary career. In 1985 he launched the restaurant that bears his name. Located in Vancouver, Bishop's was an immediate success and he continues to garner accolades today for his fresh regional and seasonal fare. In Chef Bishop's view, it makes sense to showcase British Columbia's lush bounty of seafood, organic produce and meats. His exquisite West Side restaurant blends classic and modern flavours with a casual elegance for a truly exceptional dining experience that keeps clients coming back.

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES | www.jfsvancouver.ca

For over 80 years, Jewish Family Services has been lifting up the quality of life of individuals and families in Vancouver and beyond. We are a social service organization that offers a continuum of services for individuals and families at all ages and stages of life in the Jewish and wider community. Our 5 departments are Family and Adult Resources, Seniors, Counselling, Employment Services and Settlement Services.

"Thank you for everything you have done for my family. I'm convinced that Jacque S and Jewish Family Services saved my mother's life. I'm now in tears as I write this letter..."

BOOKINGS & INQUIRIES:

Contact **Jenny Karmali, Travel Concepts**

#103–3151 Woodbine Dr. | North Vancouver, BC V7R 2S4

T: **(778) 945-9007**

E: jenny@trvlconcepts.com

www.journeyswithheart.com

BPCPA REG# 3404

Bishop's



www.trvlconcepts.com | www.womenwithings.ca

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