



Gardens of Southern Italy

Rome * Amalfi Coast * Sicily

with Garden Host Joe Lamp'1

October 17 - 29, 2026



Discover the flavors and gardens of Southern Italy with Joe Lamp'1! Embark on an unforgettable journey through the heart of Southern Italy with renowned garden expert **Joe Lamp'1** and guide **extraordinaire, Aurélien Clavero!** This exclusive adventure blends the best of Italian gardens, art, archeology, cuisine, and culture into one extraordinary experience. Wander through some of the country's most breathtaking gardens and indulge in the region's rich culinary traditions.

Along the way, step back in time as you explore the ancient Greek temples of Magna Grecia, where history and myth intertwine beneath the Mediterranean sun. Travel with Joe Lamp'1 and Aurélien Clavero and a community of fellow enthusiasts, immersing yourself in the beauty, flavors, and stories of Southern Italy. Space is limited.

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**EARTHBOUND
EXPEDITIONS**

YOUR JOURNEY

2 Night	Historic Rome
3 Nights	Sorrento, Amalfi Coast
1 Night	Overnight ferry from Naples to Palermo
2 Nights	Palermo, historic Capital of Sicily
1 Night	Agrigento, Valley of the Temples
3 Nights	Taormina, the Jewel of the Adriatic



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

Ancient Pompeii • A visit to Naples' stunning archeological museum • The glistening Amalfi Coast • The Isle of Capri • Taormina and her Greek theater • Temples of Agrigento • Visit multiple gardens • An outing to the base of Mount Etna • Visit a Pistachio farm • Colorful outdoor markets • The Byzantine - Norman mosaics of Palermo • Historic walks with local guides • Wine, cheese and olive oil tastings • A fun small group of fellow like-minded travel companions

IT'S INCLUDED!

- * Hosted by garden guru Joe Lamp'l
- * With Earthbound Expeditions program director and guide Aurélien Clavero!
- * Twelve nights of accommodation in hand selected superior four-star hotels
- * Private guided tours to spectacular botanical gardens
- * All breakfasts and twelve additional multi-course meals
- * Transportation by private air-conditioned bus
- * Overnight ferry from Naples to Palermo. Seaview cabins are requested.
- * An excursion to wineries, honey producers and a Pistachio farm
- * Entrances to Greek temples & museums
- * Historic walks with knowledgeable local guides
- * Gratuities for your guide and driver and local guides
- * Travel with friends who share your passion for gardening, travel, and culture!

TRIP FACTS

13 Days/12 Nights

\$7,750 per person, double occupancy (land)

\$1,950 Single Supplement (waived if you are willing to share and a roommate is found)

Tour begins in Rome: Oct. 17, 2026

Tour ends in Taormina: Oct. 29, 2026

SAVE UP TO \$200: Alumni save \$100. Pay your final balance by check and save \$100



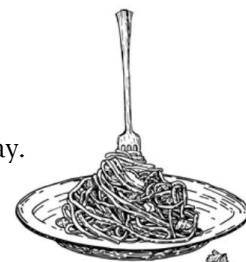


Discover the gardens of Ravello, Amalfi Coast

Your adventure to Bella Italia begins....

Dining in Italy - a culinary note

Italian cuisine is all about rich flavors and joyful indulgence. After years of experience, we've found the best way to enjoy a traditional multi-course meal is to make lunch the star of the day.



Day 0: Depart the US for Italy adventure!

Remember you'll need to depart the US no later than October 16. **Travel tip:** We highly recommend that you fly over a day or two earlier, rest, relax and take in additional sights in Rome, such as, the Coliseum, the villa Borghese, Vatican Museum and Forum.

Day 1: Saturday, October 17 – Buongiorno! Welcome to Bella Italia!

All roads lead to Rome, which happens to be perfectly located to begin our deep dive into southern Italy. Let's meet at 6:00pm for an introduction, orientation and "Welcome to Italy" feast. *Sleep in Rome (D)*

Day 2: Sunday, October 18 – An outing to Tivoli Gardens

The **Villa d'Este in Tivoli**, with its palace and garden, is one of the most remarkable and comprehensive illustrations of Renaissance culture at its most refined. Its innovative design along with the architectural components in the garden, like fountains and ornamental basins, make this a unique example of an Italian 16th century garden. The Villa d'Este, one of the first *giardini delle meraviglie*, was an early model for the development of European gardens. After our guided visit, enjoy lunch and after, return to Rome. *Sleep in Rome (B)*





Explore quaint villages

Day 3: Monday, October 19 – Rome to Sorrento via Castel Gandolfo, summer palace and gardens of the Pope: The gardens of **Castel Gandolfo** stretch across the volcanic slopes above Lake Albano, blending Renaissance formality, Roman ruins, and the natural beauty of the Alban Hills. The Barberini Gardens feature terraced parterres, citrus groves, and clipped hedges that reflect the grandeur of 17th-century papal design. Scattered among the greenery are remnants of Emperor Domitian's villa, showing the site's role as a retreat since ancient Rome. For more than 400 years, it served as the papal summer residence, shaped by successive popes and their eras. Today, gardens stand as both a horticultural treasure and a vivid link to the cultural and historical life of the papacy.

Note: If, for any reason, the gardens of Castel Gandolfo are not available, we will instead visit the 6th century **Abbey of Montecassino**—an inspiring hilltop sanctuary where sweeping views, quiet cloisters, and a rich monastic history create a wonderfully rewarding alternative.

Arrive in Sorrento in the late afternoon and enjoy a welcome dinner with your host and guide.
Sleep in Sorrento (B, L, D)

Day 4: Tuesday, October 20 – The Isle of Capri

Today we set off for a full-day excursion to enchanting Capri, highlighted by a visit to the **Gardens of Villa San Michele**. Perched 1,000 feet above the sea, these intimate gardens offer sweeping views of the Bay of Naples, the Sorrentine Peninsula, Mount Vesuvius, and on clear days the island of Ischia. Though small, the gardens brim with color, history, and layered design. Enjoy lunch at a local trattoria before riding the chairlift up **Monte Solaro** for unforgettable panoramas over Capri and the bay. Return to Sorrento for an independent dinner. *Sleep in Sorrento (B, L)*



Day 5: Wednesday, October 21 – The Stunning Amalfi Coast

Enjoy a sun-kissed day on the Amalfi Coast, beginning with a scenic drive along winding cliffs lined with fragrant **lemon groves***. Arrive in **Amalfi**, once a powerful maritime republic whose seafaring legacy shaped Mediterranean trade. Today, its grand Duomo, medieval lanes, and sunlit harbor still echo that storied past. Our journey continues upward to **Ravello**, a charming hilltop village famed for its enchanting gardens and timeless elegance. Here, terraced blooms, quiet pathways, and sweeping sea views create a dreamy escape and unforgettable highlight of any Sorrento stay. *Sleep in Sorrento (B, L)*

**Depending upon local regulations, we may visit the coast by ferry.*

Day 6: Thursday, October 22 – Pompeii and the Naples Archaeological Museum

After a leisurely lunch, we travel to ancient Pompeii to explore its remarkably preserved gardens and villas providing an unforgettable window into Roman horticultural life. We then continue to the famed National Archaeological Museum in Naples for a private guided tour of its world-class collection.

This evening, enjoy Naples' most iconic creation—authentic Neapolitan pizza—before boarding the ferry in the Bay of Naples. Settle into your private cabin and relax as we sail into a Mediterranean sunset enroute to Palermo, Sicily. *Overnight on board the ferry. (B, D)*

Note: If for any reason, the ferry is not running as scheduled, we will fly to Palermo.



About the Ancient Gardens of Pompeii

When Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 AD, it brought tragedy to the people of Pompeii but it left behind an extraordinary gift for garden lovers. More than 500 domestic gardens were preserved beneath layers of ash, offering an unparalleled glimpse into the horticultural life of the ancient Mediterranean. Although parts of the site were damaged during the 1942 bombings, much of Pompeii's garden heritage still survives, and new discoveries continue to emerge with ongoing excavations.

Day 7: Friday, October 23 – Explore Medieval & Ancient Palermo

Begin your morning in Palermo with an expert local guide leading you through two of the city's greatest treasures: the Palatine Chapel and the Norman Cathedral. As the sun warms the ancient stones, your guide reveals the stories behind the chapel's golden Byzantine mosaics, delicate Arabic carvings, and elegant Norman details. A short walk through the lively historic quarter brings you to the Norman Cathedral, where layers of Arab, Norman, Gothic, and Baroque influences unfold in its striking architecture. Bathed in early light and rich history, your morning becomes a vivid journey through the many cultures that shaped Palermo.

Sleep Palermo (B, L)





The opera house of Palermo!

Day 8: Saturday, October 24 – Botanical gardens of Palermo

Step into the enchanting world of **Palermo's Orto Botanico**, one of the oldest and most influential botanical gardens in the Mediterranean. Founded in 1779 under King Francesco I, this ten-hectare oasis became a major center of scientific discovery, introducing hundreds of tropical and semi-tropical species to Europe. Today, its historic greenhouses, seed and herbarium collections, and shaded avenues form a living museum of global plant life in the heart of Sicily's capital.

On this private visit, you'll explore the garden's grand 18th-century design, learn how it catalogs Sicily's wild flora, and discover its ties to Palermo's aristocratic past. With an expert guide illuminating its history and beauty, you'll experience one of Europe's most captivating botanical treasures. *Sleep in Palermo (B, L)*

Day 9: Sunday, October 25 – Palermo to Agrigento, the Valley of the Temples

Leaving vibrant Palermo, we journey south toward Agrigento, pausing at the captivating **temple of Segesta**, one of Magna Grecia's most unforgettable treasures. Admire the elegance and ingenuity of ancient Greek design before continuing through Sicily's rolling countryside to a breathtaking first view of the **Valley of the Temples**.

At the **Archaeological Park of Agrigento**, history and horticulture converge. Stroll among majestic ruins, marveling at sunlit Greek temples, then wander the serene **Kolymbethra Garden**, a lush oasis of citrus groves, flowering plants, and native herbs, restored to reflect centuries of Sicilian cultivation. This rare combination offers an immersive glimpse into Sicily's archaeological heritage and vibrant garden traditions. Join a local expert for a guided walk through the ruins, enjoy dinner together, and toast to Magna Grecia.

Overnight in Agrigento (B, D)





Discover ancient Greek & Roman treasures

Day 10: Monday, October 26 – Mount Etna, Pistachio Farm Visit, Wine Tasting & Arrival in Taormina: Your day begins in the town of Bronte, set along the fertile slopes of Mount Etna—an active volcano soaring more than 10,900’ above the coastline and long celebrated as Europe’s most storied peak. Here, amid Etna’s mineral-rich soils, you’ll tour a working pistachio farm, learning about the cultivation of Bronte’s world-famous nut. Enjoy a traditional lunch accompanied by curated wine tastings that highlight the distinctive flavors of this remarkable terroir.

Later, continue to Taormina—an exquisite Mediterranean jewel perched at about 650’ above the Ionian Sea. Founded by the Greeks in the 8th century BC, Taormina has enchanted visitors for centuries with its sun-drenched terraces, winding lanes, and cinematic views. By the 19th century it had become a chic refuge for the English aristocracy, attracting literary luminaries such as Oscar Wilde and D. H. Lawrence, who found inspiration here for *Lady Chatterley’s Lover*. Today, Taormina’s blend of ancient history, natural beauty, and refined sophistication makes it one of Sicily’s most captivating destinations. *Sleep near Taormina (B, L)*

Day 11: Tuesday, October 27 – A Day of Leisure in Taormina

This morning, join a local expert for a gentle stroll through elegant Taormina, taking in its graceful piazzas and refined boutiques. Pause for a gelato before delving into the legacy of Magna Grecia with a visit to the amphitheater—an awe-inspiring 2,000-year-old masterpiece still hosting performances today.

For extra credit, you may wish to visit the beautiful public gardens of Taormina. Once in the garden you’ll find a villa which was originally inhabited by Lady Florence Trevelyan, a Scottish noblewoman who left her country after having a relationship with the heir to the English throne, Edward VII. *Sleep near Taormina (B, L)*



Day 12: Wednesday, October 28 – Catania: Gardens of Genius and Imagination

Depart Taormina for a day among Catania's most extraordinary private gardens. Begin at Parco Paternò del Toscano, a serene historic estate of winding paths and mature Mediterranean plantings.

Enjoy a farewell lunch together, then, this afternoon, explore Le Stanze in Fiore, the celebrated seven-acre garden of Rossella Pezzino de Geronimo. Recognized as one of the great gardens of the world, it features more than 1,000 rare tropical and subtropical species arranged in sculptural landscapes inspired by the four elements. Return to Taormina enriched and inspired by a day of botanical artistry. *Sleep near Taormina (B, L)*

Day 13: Thursday, October 29 – Return home with a lifetime of memories!

If heading home to North America today, please make sure to book your flight home out of Catania airport.

Buon Viaggio!

About the Flora and Fauna

Southern Italy and Sicily offer a sun-drenched, Mediterranean climate where iconic plants like olive, carob, Aleppo pine, and citrus thrive in abundance. Here, ancient groves of **almonds, lemons, and blood oranges** share the landscape with **pistachio orchards**, especially around Mount Etna, and vineyards cultivating **Nero d'Avola, Carricante, and Frappato** grapes. Garden lovers will also discover unique regional flora such as the **Nebrodi broom**, wild myrtle, capers, rosemary, and rockrose flourishing in the warm, dry air.



Today, shifting weather patterns are transforming the island's botanical palette, allowing **avocados, bananas, and tropical ornamentals** to take root in Sicily's fertile soils, while innovative greenhouse farms line the coast with vibrant vegetables and herbs. It's a region where tradition and adaptation meet for an ever-evolving paradise for gardeners, food lovers, and anyone enchanted by the richness of Mediterranean life.





Know Before You Go!

Reservations and Deposits: A \$1,000 per person deposit is needed to confirm your space on this journey. You can make a credit card deposit online or by phone. Deposits are refundable, minus a \$250 per person cancellation fee, for 60 days from the processing date or 90 days prior to departure, whichever comes first. Deposits made 90 days prior to a trip departing are not refundable. Final payment is also non-refundable, which is why we strongly urge guests to purchase travel insurance.

Not Included: International airline tickets, alcoholic beverages, room service and gratuities for hotel staff, travel insurance, meals not listed in brochure, and any activities or items not listed in your itinerary.

Physical Requirements: It is the responsibility of each guest to be aware of their physical abilities or limitations and to be in sufficient good health to undertake the trip. [Click here](#) to read “Is an Earthbound trip right for you?” or call the Earthbound office for more details.

Travel Insurance: Earthbound Expeditions strongly encourages the purchase of travel insurance coverage. We include information on trip insurance in your deposit information.

Gardens, Events, and Hosted Journeys:

If, for any reason, a garden visit or special event changes, we'll do our best to offer another equally memorable experience. Occasionally, hosts or special guests may need to adjust their plans, and we'll ensure a knowledgeable and passionate replacement whenever possible. These changes are part of the journey and do not qualify for refunds

Terms & Conditions: [Click here](#) to read the full terms and conditions.

RESERVATIONS & QUESTIONS

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