

Travel

Headed to Italy for the Art and Design
Fairs? Here's Your Guide to La Dolce
Vita in Milan and Puglia

How to have a splendid time in Italy.

In Partnership With NetJets, August 30, 2021



Massimo Vitali, *Torre Palì, Puglia* (2010). Courtesy of the artist and Benrubi Gallery, NYC.

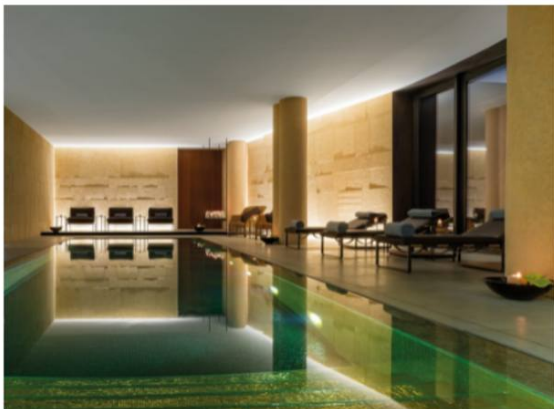
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If we were to rank the travel destinations of our lockdown dreams, Italy would surely top the list. With its famously varied and invariably stunning landscape—not to mention the food, the fashion, the fair bit of art history—vacationing on the boot-shaped peninsula is pretty much as good as it gets.

Thankfully, a year and a half after it shut down, the Bel

sketches of jewels adorning the linen walls of its 58 rooms and suites, the garden-flanked **Bulgari Hotel** would be a fitting choice for Italy's fashion capital. We'd highly suggest a visit to the spa, with its glass-walled, gold-tiled swimming pool.



The gold-tiled swimming pool in the Bulgari Hotel Milano spa. Courtesy of Bulgari Hotels & Resorts.

Fly from Milan to Puglia

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PUGLIA: Days 4-5



Ostuni, Puglia's "White City." Courtesy of Paragon 700.

See and Do: With its turquoise waters, limestone cliffs, olive groves, and many an old *masseria* (farmhouse),

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invited Shanghai's Antenna Space, Bram & Lee from Los Angeles and Tokyo, Sadie Coles HQ from London, and other contemporary art dealers from around the world to stage "**Palai**" (until September 15), a group exhibition in the 16th-century Palazzo Tamborino-Cezzi.

Eat and Drink: Set in a natural cave overlooking a private cove at Polignano a Mare, the ca.-1700 **Restaurant Grotta Palazzese** is a stunning spot for a candle-lit seafood dinner (think fresh Adriatic sea bass with broad bean purée, Tabasco chicory, and tomato powder).

With its vaulted brick ceilings, the 18th-century dining room (formerly an olive press) within the whitewashed, 40-room **Masseria San Domenico** serves traditional Puglian dishes such as orecchiette with *cime di rapa* (broccoli rabe) made using the house's own olive oil and vegetables grown on site.



A guest room at Paragon 700, in Puglia. Courtesy of the hotel.

Stay: Standing out amid Puglia's "White City," in a 17th-century Pompeii Red palazzo that was once home to the first mayor of Ostuni, **Paragon 700 Boutique Hotel & Spa** was recently restored with its original fireplaces, frescoes, and private garden intact. Expect 11 old-meets-new rooms, a majolica-tile bar, and a wine cellar where there was once an olive oil chamber; not to mention, the former water chamber has been converted into a spa with a natural whirlpool.

With their respective backgrounds in architecture and real estate, Roman brothers Giorgio and Giulio Angella worked with local craftsmen to restore a ca.-1800 *masseria* and four 16th-century *trulli* (traditional Puglian huts with conical limestone roofs) following the principles of bio-architecture. The exclusive-use **Ostuni Art Resort** houses their collection of contemporary art from Italy and abroad, and up to 16 guests.

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