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ITALY IN SPRINGTIME
Active Dolce Vita in Amalfi, Sicily, & Puglia

TORONTO, Canada — At springtime, Southern Italy is blanketed in wildflowers. From red poppies to vibrant yellow Spanish broom, the landscapes become all the more dramatic. Fruit blossoms are also ubiquitous, as fragrant grapes, lemons and olive trees are warmed by the sunshine. The best way to explore regions such as Sicily, Puglia, and the Amalfi coast is slowly—by two feet or two wheels.

Gray & Co.'s Southern Italy comprises carefully chosen *masserias*, hotels, and resorts; quiet trails and well-paved roads through vineyards, olive orchards and along coastlines; authentic *trattorias* and local specialties such as *pasta alla Norma*, *orechiette* and *limoncello*. Gray & Co.'s team of local experts know just the right time to visit the Greek ruins of Selinunte, the cathedral in Amalfi, and the white-washed conical *trulli* of Alberobello. See and experience it all in active Gray & Co. style—with plenty of choice, flexibility, and fun for all ages.

With its fascinating mix of Byzantine, Spanish, Arabic, and Norman cultures, Sicily is a large and richly diverse island. Our explorations go well beyond Palermo to include the southern coast with its olives, grapes, beaches, and ruins—including the biggest in Sicily, Agrigento. Cooking demonstrations and Nero d'Avola wine tastings are a given. On the west coast, we explore the outstanding Baroque towns of Ragusa Ibla and Modica. It's best to cap it all off on the northeast coast with the famously scenic town and beaches of Taormina, which lies in the shadow of the snowy volcano, Mount Etna. Cocktails on the patio of the Grand Hotel Timeo offer the best view of any natural fireworks. *Andiamo!*

Puglia, the heel of the Italian "boot", is the land of ancient olive trees, whitewashed villages, Adriatic beaches, wheat fields, vineyards and *trulli*—those iconic stone conical buildings. This agriculturally rich part of Italy is not the country's most affluent, but the great tertiary road system and terrific weather make for great walking and some of the best biking in Italy. Puglia has one of the longest coastlines of any region in Italy. Between Otranto and Bari to the north lie the baroque city of Lecce and the scenic villages of Alberobello, Ostuni, Locorotondo and Monopoli to name a few. *A presto!*

West of Puglia lies the überchic Amalfi coast, best explored by foot and by private launch. We think of the Amalfi Coast as one of the world's great paradoxes—it doesn't get more glamorous, with luxurious hotels like the Sirenuse in Positano and impossibly stylish boutiques and cafés. And yet, there is something perfectly rustic about the walking trails that follow former mule tracks, stone staircases, and coastal paths that have been trod for centuries. Everywhere, cliffs drop dramatically into the Mediterranean. The towns of Capri, Amalfi, and Ravello famously inspired dozens

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of legendary writers and artists. With so much history and culture to experience, not to mention so much fabulous food and wine to taste, Amalfi is truly a Gray & Co. walker's paradise.

Gray & Co. crafts custom journeys for active travellers to many corners of the globe. With first-hand knowledge and local connections, they can orchestrate almost any adventure with style and precision. They cater to groups of friends and families, design corporate retreats, and more. For more information, please visit www.grayandco.ca.