Tour of Venice and the Veneto

with optional 10 day Art and Architecture Tour in Sicily



Photo by Tyler Scheviak



Photo by Carrie Borden

Tour Overview

September 2027

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

October 2027

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16

- Belluno, Asolo, Verona, Lake Garda and Venice
- Optional Art Tour of Sicily

Designed for curious Australian travellers aged beyond when you want to travel in a large coach, eat from a bain marie, and sleep in 2 star motels, this small-group journey explores the Veneto beyond the usual highlights.

It combines mountain scenery, historic towns, artisan food and wine, Palladian architecture, Lake Garda and the Venetian Lagoon at a relaxed, sociable pace.

The itinerary allows time for guided visits, leisurely meals and independent exploration, with private vehicle travel between regions.

Your Guides

This tour will be led by Outback Beds Tours founder Bill Balding, and chef Liam Sibillin.



Bill Balding

Bill brings decades of travel and hospitality experience, a talent for creating personalised small-group journeys and a genuine interest in local people, landscapes and produce.



Liam Sibillin

Born and raised in Veneto to an Italian father and Australian mother, Liam combines local cultural knowledge with professional kitchen experience. As the founder of OM Taste, he shares Italian food, language and heritage with warmth, making him an ideal culinary host for this journey through the Veneto.

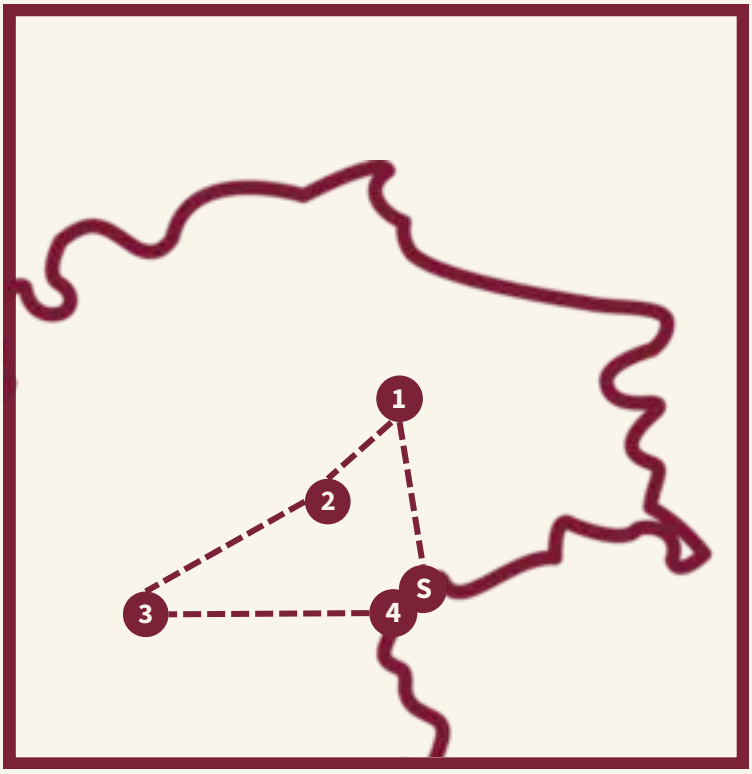
Our Tours

Outback Beds Tours handcrafts experience-based journeys for small groups, that emphasise genuine local insight over rushed sightseeing.

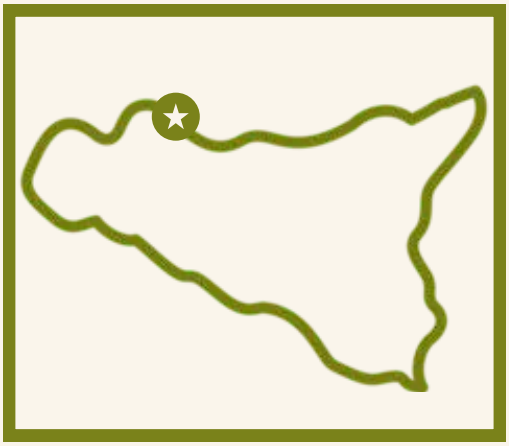
Our tours bring together distinctive landscapes, local people, cultural heritage, good food, short walks and charming accommodation. The small-group format encourages a friendly atmosphere, meaningful encounters and time to appreciate each destination. International journeys are thoughtfully curated around places where we have lived, worked, studied or developed trusted local connections.

Our tours are small group (max of 14 guests), experience focused and immersive. For more information about Outback Beds Tours, our approach and our Australian and international tours, visit **outbackbedstours.com.au**.

Tour Map







S: Start
1: Belluno and the Dolomites
2: Asolo and the Proscecco Hills
3: Lake Garda
4: Venice

★: Palermo, Sicily

Ciao! Ready for an adventure?

For our tour through the Veneto, we will be basing ourselves in villas in three provinces of northern Italy, unique in both their geography and their flavours:

1. Belluno and the Dolomites,
2. Asolo and the Proscecco Hills, and
3. Venice and Lake Garda.

From these bases we will make daily excursions to eat through and explore our surrounds. And we will take the occasional rest day, allowing us to inhale the serenity.

For those up for an extra adventure, our 10 day Art and Architecture Tour of Sicily goes beneath the surface of this popular destination, peeling back fascinating layers of art, archeology, history and culture.

Part 1

Belluno and the Dolomites



Photo by Tomáš Malík

Day 1 | Friday 10 September

Venice to the Belluno Area

We meet in the morning at Venice airport and travel into the foothills of the Dolomites. Pause beside Lago di Santa Croce for the views and lunch if the timing is right. Stretch our legs with a gentle lakeside stroll before continuing to the group's base in the Belluno area. Settle in, meet your fellow travellers and enjoy a hearty regional dinner with welcome drinks included. This will be our base for the next 5 nights.

Meals included: L/D

Day 2 | Saturday 11 September

Cansiglio Forest and Caglieron Caves

Explore the beech woods and high meadows of the Foresta del Cansiglio with a local guide. Continue to Fregona for the Grotte del Caglieron, where a series of caverns, waterfalls and historic quarry passages is linked by paths and footbridges. Finish with a relaxed cheese tasting at PER Bottega & Cheese Bar in San Pietro di Feletto.

Meals included: B/L/D

Day 3 | Sunday 12 September

Val Visdende and Mountain Food Traditions

Spend the day in peaceful Val Visdende, surrounded by forests and peaks near San Pietro di Cadore. Visit Malga Dignàs to learn about seasonal alpine farming and taste local produce. Continue to Latteria Tre Cime–Mondolatte in Dobbiaco for an introduction to the area's dairy traditions. Today includes scenic drives and easy walking, with time to enjoy the landscape.

Meals included: B/L/D

Part 1

Belluno and the Dolomites

Day 6 | Wednesday 15 September

Truffles, Mushrooms and Feltre

Join a local expert for a seasonal mushroom and truffle experience, subject to conditions and availability. Later, explore Feltre's handsome historic centre. The evening introduces the region's unexpected Japanese influence with a sake tasting at Risosake and an optional dinner at Fermentazioni Osteria Giapponese.
Meals included: B/L/D

Day 5 | Tuesday 12 September

Cortina and the High Dolomites

Travel through dramatic alpine scenery to Cortina d'Ampezzo. Join an orientation walk through the elegant town centre, then enjoy free time for lunch, shopping or a café terrace. Weather permitting, we take a scenic cable car to the top of the mountain peaks for a panoramic viewpoint before returning to the Belluno area in the afternoon ready to prepare a meal featuring the foraged mushrooms.
Meals included: B/D



Photo by Andrea Cairone

Part 2

Asolo and the Prosecco Hills

Day 6 | Wednesday 15 September

Mel, Zumelle Castle and Asolo

We meet in the morning at Venice airport and travel into the foothills of the Dolomites. Pause beside Lago di Santa Croce for the views and lunch if the timing is right. Stretch our legs with a gentle lakeside stroll before continuing to the group's base in the Belluno area. Settle in and enjoy a hearty regional dinner with welcome drinks included. This will be our base for the next 5 nights.

Meals included: L/D

Day 7 | Thursday 16 September

Asolo at Leisure

Discover Asolo's historic centre, including the castle, Civic Museum and Teatro Duse, followed by a panoramic walk for those who wish to continue uphill. The afternoon is free to browse boutiques and galleries or linger over gelato at Panna & Storti. Gather later for a signature drink at 31034 Cocktail Bar.

Meals included: B/D

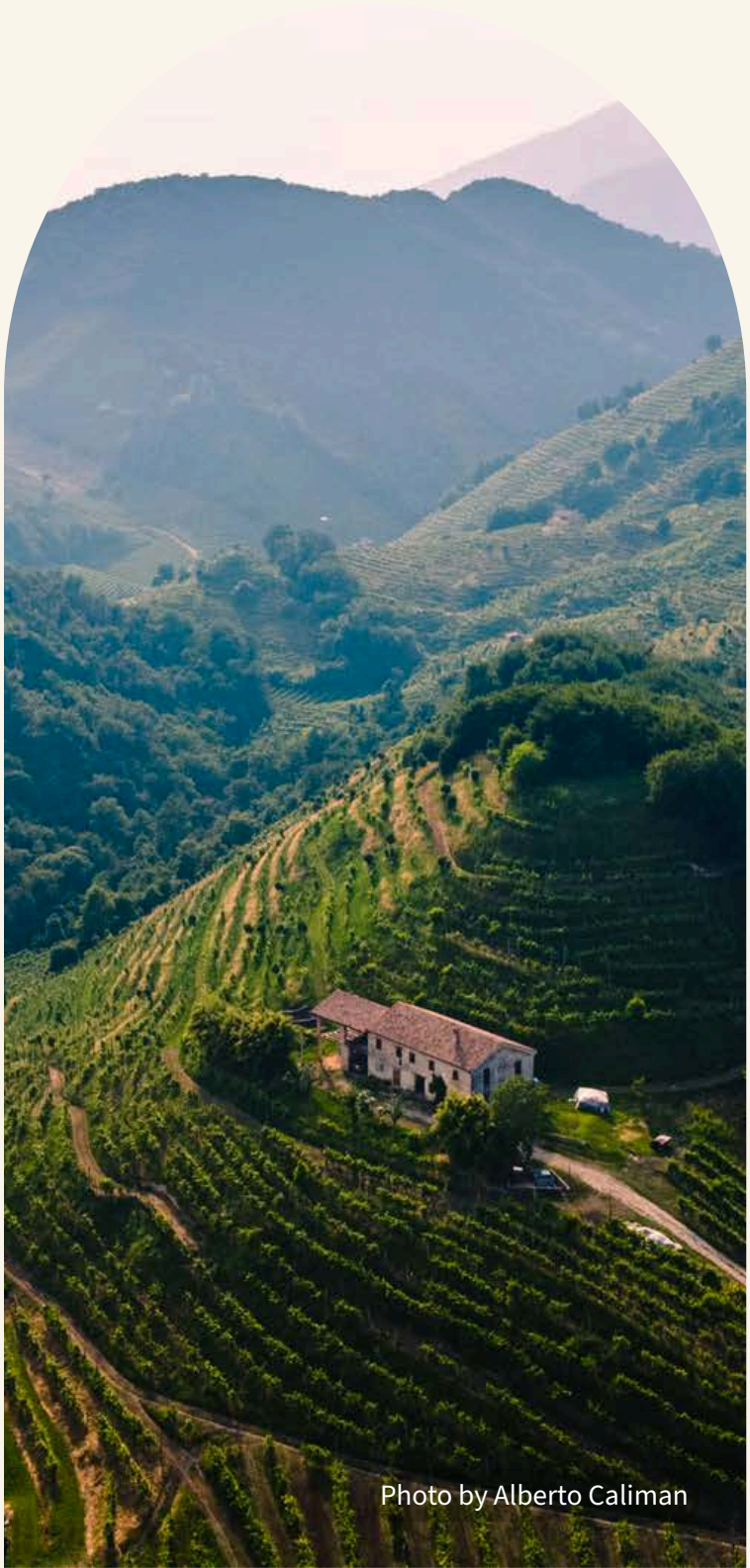


Photo by Alberto Caliman


Photo by Martina Pastore

Part 2

Asolo and the Prosecco Hills

Day 8 | Friday 17 September

Canova and Palladio

Travel to Possagno to visit the Tempio Canoviano and Gipsoteca, home to Antonio Canova's plaster models and a compelling account of his neoclassical art. Continue to Maser for Villa Barbaro, Palladio's celebrated country villa, with Veronese frescoes and a carriage collection. Return to Asolo for a cooking afternoon or an afternoon at leisure.

Meals included: B/D

Day 9 | Saturday 18 September

Prosecco Hills and Local Flavours

Wind through the vineyard-covered Prosecco DOCG hills to Valdobbiadene. Visit Col Vetoraz for a guided tasting and learn why altitude, slope and grape growing shape the wine's character. A possible hands-on cheesemaking visit at a small family producer adds a personal connection to local life. Dinner is at Ristorante Da Gerry in Monfumo.

Meals included: B/L/D

Day 10 | Sunday 19 September

Monte Grappa and Bassano del Grappa

Visit the Monte Grappa war memorial, an important site of remembrance with expansive mountain views. Continue to Bassano del Grappa for its covered wooden bridge and historic lanes. Tour either Poli or Nardini for an introduction to grappa, then visit Conca d'Oro educational farm for a tasting workshop.

Meals included: B/L/D

Part 3

Verona, Valpolicella and Lake Garda

Day 11 | Monday 20 September

Asolo to Verona

Travel to Verona and check in for a three-night stay. A guided walk introduces the Roman Arena, Piazza delle Erbe, the lanes associated with Juliet's story and the riverside Castelvecchio. The remainder of the afternoon is free before dinner at a traditional Veronese restaurant.
Meals included: B/D

Day 12 | Tuesday 21 September

Valpolicella and Lake Garda

Begin in Valpolicella with a tailored Masi winery experience and an introduction to Amarone. Continue to Lake Garda for a boat journey between picturesque waterfront towns. Lunch at a waterfront restaurant to soak up the views, then return to Verona.
Meals included: B/L

Day 13 | Wednesday 22 September

Day trip to Mantua and Borghetto

Depart Verona for a day trip to Mantua. We take a guided visit to Piazza Sordello and the historic centre, with a choice of Palazzo Ducale or Palazzo Te. Pause in riverside Borghetto sul Mincio to see its medieval lanes and watermills. Return to Verona and find your own dinner.
Meals included: B/L



Photo by Marcus Ganahl

Part 3

Padua, the Venetian Lagoon and Venice

Day 14 | Thursday 23 September

Padua, Riviera del Brenta and Venice

We change locations to our last stop Venice. En route to Venice we stop at Padua for a visit to Padua's Scrovegni Chapel to admire Giotto's frescoes, then continue to the Basilica of Saint Anthony and the UNESCO-listed Botanical Garden. Travel along the Riviera del Brenta and visit one of its grand Venetian villas, such as Villa Pisani or Villa Foscari. Arrive in Venice where we will stay for our final 3 nights.

Meals included: B/D

Day 15 | Friday 24 September

Venice Tour

Start early with Venice's classic highlights: Rialto, St Mark's Square, the Doge's Palace and a guided canal side walk. Find your own lunch and enjoy a couple of hours free time in this beautiful city.

Meals included: B/D

Day 16 | Saturday 25 September

Venice Lagoon Tour

Continue our tour of the Venice area by lagoon boat to Murano for a glassblowing demonstration and Burano for a visit with traditional lace artisans. Return to Venice for a farewell meal before the tour concludes.

Meals included: B/D

Day 17 | Sunday 26 September

Tour Concludes

Transfer to Venice Airport for your onward travel. Travel to Sicily for those guests who have opted for the optional extension Art Tour of Sicily.

Meals included: B



Photo by Rafael Peier

Optional extra

Art Tour of Sicily in Palermo Sicily

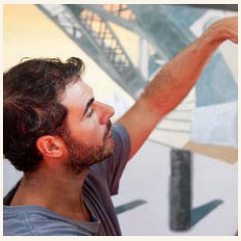
Overview

Join us for an intimate ten-day journey, from 29 September to 8 October 2027, designed for curious travellers who wish to experience the island through art, architecture, archaeology and local culture, immersing ourselves in three millennia of history.

Travelling with a small group of just seven guests, we move beyond the surface of Sicily to explore its many layers. From ancient Greek temples and Arab-Norman mosaics to Roman villas, Baroque towns, and one of Caravaggio's final masterpieces, this is a side of the island tourists don't often prioritise.

Guided by expert scholars and enriched by thoughtful local encounters, authentic cuisine, and carefully chosen accommodation, this is a journey for those who value depth, beauty, conversation, and a more personal way of travelling.

Your Guides



Eolo Paul Bottaro

Eolo, an Australian artist of Sicilian heritage, is known for his evocative works rooted in classical Italian art. Though raised in Australia, Sicily is central to his artistic identity and inspiration. He splits his time between Australia and Sicily, where he has a studio and home. In addition to his art, Eolo curates small-group journeys focused on art, architecture, and archaeology, providing travelers with an insider's view of Sicily's treasures.



Serena Firera

Serena, born in Sicily, blends her psychology and publishing background with a passion for art and culture. She founded Sicily Art Tours to provide travelers with authentic experiences of her island's artistic heritage and traditions. By collaborating with scholars and local experts, she curates unique cultural journeys that highlight Sicily as a destination rich in history, creativity, and warmth.

More Information

Tour Style and Practical Notes

- **Pace:** Comfortable but active, generally with one principal morning visit and a lighter afternoon. Some early starts are required.
- **Walking:** Expect uneven paving, steps, slopes and waterside paths. Good mobility and supportive footwear are essential.
- **Transport:** Private coach between regions, with boats used on Lake Garda and the Venetian Lagoon. Venice itself is explored mainly on foot.
- **Accommodation:** Suggested bases are five nights in the Belluno area, five nights in or near Asolo, two nights in Verona, one night in Padua and one night in Venice.
- **Meals:** A balance of included regional meals and free evenings, allowing travellers to choose according to appetite and budget.
- **Seasonal arrangements:** Mushroom and truffle hunting, cheesemaking, mountain access and boat outings remain subject to weather, harvest conditions and supplier confirmation.









Tour Costs

$ 11,500 per person, twin share
Single supplement: $1,500 per solo traveller
Tour deposit is $1,000 payable on booking

Optional Extension Tour – Art and Architecture of Sicily.
€4,990 per person, based on two guests sharing a twin or double room (non-smoking).
Single occupancy supplement: €900.



More Information

Tour Inclusions

- Fourteen nights' twin-share accommodation in comfortable, characterful hotels, villas or agriturismo-style properties, with private bathrooms
- Breakfast daily, plus lunches and dinners shown in the day-by-day itinerary
- Private air-conditioned transport and transfers during the tour as set out in the itinerary
- Lake Garda and Venetian Lagoon boat travel specified in the itinerary
- Entry fees, guided visits, activities, workshops and tastings specified in the final itinerary
- Services of tour leaders Bill Balding and chef Liam Sibillin
- Experienced local guides where specified
- Hotel taxes, road tolls and parking associated with the included program

Tour Exclusions

- International and domestic airfares
- Airport transfers or pre- and post-tour transport not expressly listed in the itinerary
- Travel insurance, which is compulsory for all participants
- Passport, visa and other personal travel-document costs
- Meals not indicated by B, L or D in the itinerary
- Optional excursions or activities, and any additional admissions not specified in the final itinerary
- Alcoholic drinks, coffee, snacks and refreshments unless expressly included
- Items of a personal nature, including laundry, telephone charges, minibar purchases and hotel incidentals
- Single-room supplement
- Medical expenses, excess baggage charges and costs arising from delays or events outside the tour operator's control



Photo by Niels Baars

Ready to join us?

Email Bill for questions and a copy of our booking form.

Ciao,
Bill and Liam

outbackbedstours.com.au | info@outbackbeds.com.au