

GARDENS OF SOUTHERN ITALY AND THE AMALFI COAST

SEPTEMBER 9 - 19, 2025



AN EXCLUSIVE TOUR ESCORTED BY
C. COLSTON BURRELL &
GUIDO GAMBONE



Join **Garden and Nature Tours with C. Colston Burrell**, local guide **Guido Gambone**, **Friendship Tours** and **Minnesota State Horticulture Society** in Naples, Italy to begin exploring both iconic and personal gardens in the historic cities, charming towns and sublime landscapes of Southern Italy and the Amalfi Coast. This bucket-list trip offers exciting opportunities for exploration, discovery and enjoyment.



Meet Your Escort and Guide



C. Colston Burrell is a lifelong naturalist, plantsman, and gardener. He is principal of Native Landscape Design and Restoration, which specializes in blending nature and culture through artistic design. When Cole is not traveling, he is designing gardens for his clients, or tending his own 10-acre property designed to display the plants he loves while letting natural succession serve as head gardener. He shares his garden with birds, butterflies, and a wealth of amphibians.

Cole escorts garden and natural history tours throughout the United States and abroad. The New World tropics are a favorite destination. He has traveled in Costa Rica, Panama, Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela, and Ecuador, as well as Vietnam, Japan, and throughout Europe.

Guido Gambone was born in the US to an American mother and Italian father. He grew up in a culturally vibrant, globetrotting family and worked professionally in the US, Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Guido enjoys a uniquely rich and worldly network of friends and colleagues. His Grandfather, also named Guido, was one of the most important and influential Italian ceramic artists in the mid 20th century. This passion for art was passed down to Guido's father, Bruno, and ultimately to Guido, who has spent his life in and around the arts.

His professional path also crossed over into the world of wine and travel, thanks to his relationships with some of the foremost winemakers in Italy and his prior work as a country manager with Butterfield & Robinson.



WELCOME TO ITALY

Travel with C. Colston Burrell and Guido Gambone along stunning coastlines above azure waters of the Mediterranean to discover the rich history, private gardens, grand villas, and sumptuous cuisine of Southern Italy and the Amalfi Coast!

We begin by exploring the ruins of Pompeii and discovering the charms of Sorrento, Salerno and Naples, including markets, churches, cathedrals, artisan shops, and outdoor cafes.

Our journey includes visits to Giardino della Minerva, Villa Cimbrone, Villa Rufalo and more. On the Isles of Ischia and Capri, we visit Giardini la Mortella, Villa Jasmine, and Villa San Michele. The ruins at Gardens of Ninfa are a fantasyland awaiting discovery. In Rome we visit two iconic gardens, Villa d'Este and Villa Borghese.

Stunning scenery, glorious gardens, delicious meals and warm companionship await. This is a popular tour so register early.

See you in Naples!



Tour Itinerary Highlights

- Gather with your fellow travelers for a welcome dinner that we prepare together during a cooking class in a beautiful private garden
- Explore the history and culture of four cities - Sorrento, Naples, Salerno, and Rome
- Visit the iconic landscapes of the Italian coast, with azure seas and terraced villas
- Explore the ruins of the ancient city of Pompeii
- Savor a wine tasting and light lunch at Vineyards of Pompeii
- Enjoy guided tours of Villa Cimbrone, Villa Rufolo, Giardino della Minerva, Gardens of Caserta, and Naples Botanic Garden
- Escape to the Isles of Capri and Ischia to explore Villa San Michele, Augustus Gardens, Giardini la Mortella and Villa Jasmine
- Tour San Severo Chapel, the Amalfi Cloister, and local cathedrals
- Explore the scenic ruins of the Gardens of Ninfa
- In Rome, visit Villa Borghese and Villa d'Este



Naples to the Amalfi Coast



Tour Details

TOUR DURATION - 10 Nights /11 Days

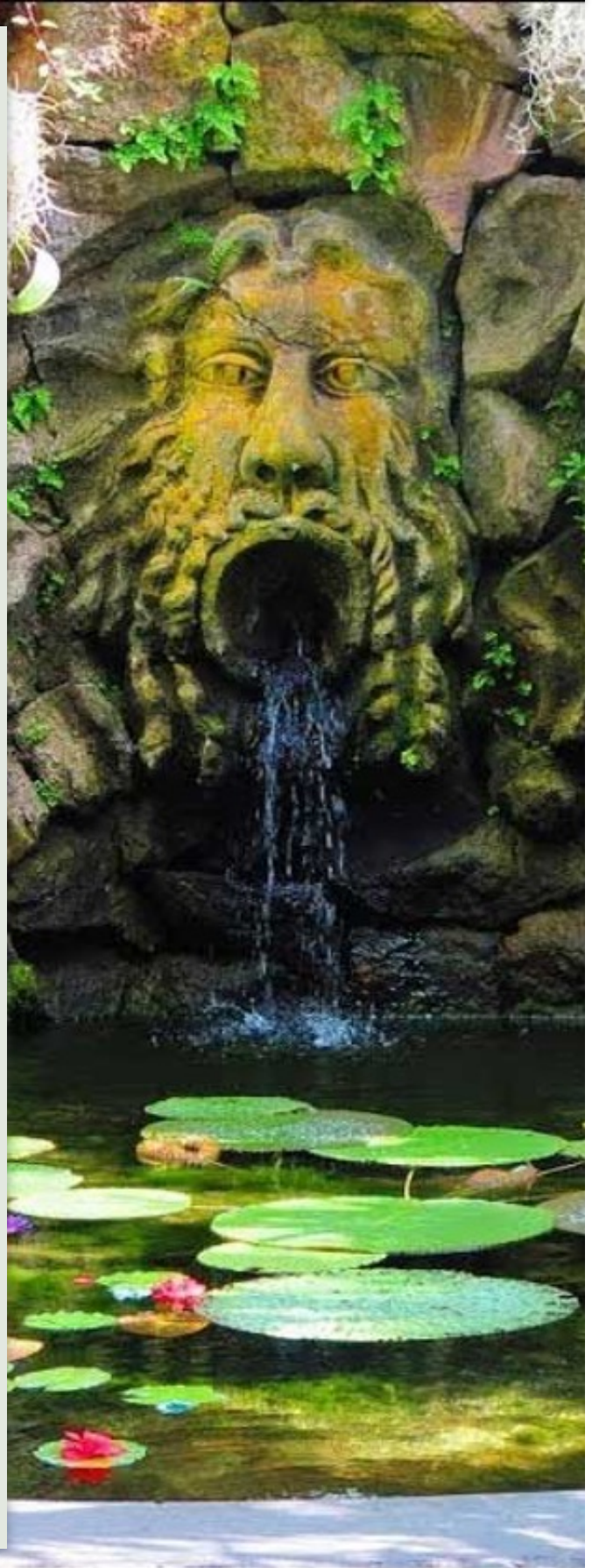
September 9 - 19, 2025

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- † Airport transfers
- † Ten nights accommodations in 4 & 5-Star hotels
- † Breakfast daily and nine group lunches
- † Welcome dinner and farewell dinner
- † Cooking class in a private garden
- † Wine Tasting at Vineyards of Pompeii
- † Sightseeing and transportation by motor coach as outlined in the program itinerary
- † Transfer by ferry to the Isles of Ischia and Capri
- † Local Guide — Guido Gambone
- † Host throughout tour — C. Colston Burrell
- † Admission to public and private gardens
- † Hotel taxes and service charges
- † Gratuities to your coach driver
- † Gratuities to your guide and host

NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR

- † Round-trip airfare from home cities
- † Travel insurance
- † Airport fees, taxes and portorage charges
- † Optional sightseeing or recreational activities
- † Gratuities to servers, luggage handlers or housekeeping
- † Alcoholic beverages during the trip not mentioned in itinerary
- † Any other items not specifically mentioned as included in the itinerary



Tour Pricing and Registration

TOUR DURATION

10 Nights /11 Days

PRICING

\$8,050.00 Land Price, Double Occupancy

\$1,750.00 Single Supplement

- ~ Fewer than 21 travelers may result in a surcharge
- ~ Itinerary subject to change without notice
- ~ Pre- or post-night accommodations available upon request

DEPOSIT

\$3,000.00 per person with reservation to secure your spot*

*Once deposited, cancellations are subject to a \$2,500.00 fee, In the event the tour is cancelled, a full refund will be given

TO REGISTER AND VIEW TERMS AND CONDITIONS VISIT:

<https://www.friendshiptours.net/group-travel>

Select "Group Sign In". Enter the Tour Code **25SEP09ITALY** in the box labeled "Make a New Reservation."

Minnesota State
**Horticultural
Society** 



FRIENDSHIP TOURS
THE SHIP SHOP

Terms and Conditions

Gardens of Southern Italy & Amalfi Coast

Escorted by C. Colston Burrell

Sep 9-19, 2025 10 Nights / 11 Days

ARRIVAL: Tuesday, Sep 9, 2025 at Naples International Airport (NAP). Plan to arrive by 1:30PM to meet in baggage claim and be transferred to the hotel.

RETURN: Friday, Sep 19, 2025 transfer from Rome hotel to Rome Airport - Leonardo da Vinci-Fiumicino Airport (FCO) for your flight home. Arrange for afternoon flights.

COST (with 21 paying guests):
\$8,050. per person based on double occupancy
+\$1,750. per person single supplement
Fewer than 21 travelers may result in a small surcharge.

AIR TRAVEL: Do not purchase air until you have been advised that the minimum number of travelers for this tour has been reached. This trip is based on 21 travelers. Flight arrangements are not included in this tour package.

RESERVATIONS VIA FRIENDSHIP TOURS:

CALL: 800-243-1630 and ask for **Southern Italy & Amalfi Coast tour with C. Colston Burrell**

ON LINE : www.friendshiptours.net/group-travel
and select "Group Sign In." Enter the Tour Code **25SEP09ITALY** in the box labeled "Make a New Reservation."

DEPOSIT: \$3,000. per person with reservation to secure your spot.

FINAL PAYMENT: balance due June 16, 2025

Please reserve now. Small group tour.

Commitment required in order for trip to operate.

CANCELLATION POLICY: If a passenger cancels after deposit and before June 16, 2025, the fee is \$2,500. pp; no refunds if cancelled after June 16, 2025. If Friendship Tours needs to cancel due to lack of participation, a full refund will be processed.

PASSPORT: U.S. Citizens: Valid Passport required and must be valid 6 months past the return date. Non U.S. Citizens are responsible for obtaining proper documentation for travel.

PRICES & ITINERARY: Prices are valid at time of publication. Friendship Tours shall not be liable for any fluctuation in price or change in schedule or equipment

or accommodations for any travel booking or travel service to be provided by a Travel Supplier. We reserve the right to make adjustments to these prices arising from any change in VAT and tax rates and tariffs, currency exchange rate fluctuations or seasonal supplements at any time. Changes to itineraries may become necessary. These changes will not be considered a material change and will not be cause for cancellation or refund. This itinerary is planned & operated by Your Private Italy. Friendship Tours acts solely as the liaison between Your Private Italy & Garden & Nature Tours.

TRIP PROTECTION COVERAGE is strongly recommended. Friendship Tours can assist with the purchase of trip protection coverage through Travel Insured International's Worldwide Trip Protector Plan.

Travel Insured International offers the Worldwide Trip Protection plan with the option to add upgrade benefits (available for additional cost) including CANCEL FOR ANY REASON coverage (CFAR) when purchased within 21 days of your initial deposit. Other upgrades include Electronic Equipment, Event Ticket Fee Protection, Travel Inconvenience. Insurance Premiums are non-refundable. Ask Friendship Tours for more information- 860-243-1630 or 800-243-1630.

To review the Travel Insured International plan, go to: <https://www.travelinsured.com/docs/comp-charts/wtp.pdf>

Or request a quote online:

<https://www.friendshiptours.net/protection-plan>

Agency #18649

RESPONSIBILITY: This package is subject to our full terms and conditions which can be found on our website at <https://www.friendshiptours.net/tour-policies>. Paper copies are available upon request. **By signing up for the tour, making a payment and continuing to use our services, you are agreeing to be bound by the Terms and Conditions.**



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THE SHIP SHOP

705 Bloomfield Ave, Bloomfield, CT 06002
860-243-1630 • 800-243-1630
www.friendshiptours.net

Itinerary - Arrival Day

Monday, September 8 - DAY 0 **Depart Home Cities for Naples**

Tuesday, September 9 - DAY 1 **Arrival in Naples and Sorrento City Tour**

Upon arrival at Naples International Airport, proceed through immigration, collect your luggage and pass through customs. Upon entering the Arrival Hall, look for Cole Burrell and our Italian tour leader Guido Gambone, holding a sign reading "Garden and Nature Tours". Plan to arrive in Naples by 1:30 pm, and grab lunch at the airport before we meet as a group. After we have all gathered, we transfer to our coach to begin the tour. We travel to the picturesque seaside town of Sorrento and check in at the **Hotel Cristina Sorrento**.

Sorrento is a land of myths located along a breathtaking stretch of the Mediterranean coastline, blanketed in lush vegetation, vineyards and citrus groves. We will get a glimpse into historic churches and ancient monasteries and stop at the Cathedral, which was built at the beginning of the fifteenth century.

After a brief moment to refresh ourselves, we head out for a guided tour of **Sorrento** to experience the cultural and architectural influences of different empires that have historically ruled this city. Since pre-roman times, Sorrento has had a solid defense system ensured by its imposing walls encircling the entire town. Today, we can see a few ruins of the most ancient walls under the roadbed of Porta Parsano Gate, thanks to excavations that took place in 1921.

After our city tour, we return to our hotel for the first of five nights. The evening is at leisure and dinner is on your own. Night in Sorrento, Hotel Cristina Sorrento.



Itinerary - Day 2

Wednesday, September 10 - DAY 2 Pompeii Ruins, Vineyard, and Cooking Class

After our included breakfast at the hotel, we transfer by motor coach to visit the ruins of the ancient city of **Pompeii** for a private guided tour. This world famous archaeological and historical site of the ancient Roman explores a town that was buried under ash and lava during the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 A.D. The public buildings and private villas will leave you with a lively impression of the grandeur and organization of daily life in this Roman town inhabited over 2000 years ago.

Following our tour, we stop at **Vineyards of Pompeii** to enjoy a wine tasting and light lunch.

We return to the Hotel Cristina Sorrento for a brief rest before walking to Luciana and Luigi's wonderful private villa, **Villa Monda**, where we will tour their beautiful gardens before beginning our hands-on **cooking lesson**. We will prepare homemade Italian pasta or gnocchi, a main course and a traditional lemon cake dessert made from the world-famous lemons indigenous to the town of Sorrento. After the demonstration and all preparations have been made, we will take a seat on the patio to enjoy the fruits of our labor.

After dinner we return to our hotel where the remainder of the evening is at leisure. Night at Hotel Cristina Sorrento. **B, L, D**



Itinerary - Day 3

Thursday, September 11 - DAY 3

The Amalfi Coast to Maiori and Salerno

After our included breakfast we board our coach for the scenic drive towards the Amalfi Coast. Our destination is the privately-owned **lemon estate of the Land family**. The Land family has been growing lemons for generations, following age-old local agricultural practices and traditions. The estate stretches from the mountain cliffs all the way down to the Mediterranean Sea near the little town of Maiori along the Amalfi Coast. Our visit will include a tasting of lemon-specialties in their beautiful garden as well as a picnic lunch with drinks and wine on one of the lower-lying terraces about 350 steps below street level.

After lunch, we continue our drive along the Amalfi Coast to Salerno. Upon arrival we will embark on a guided tour of Salerno where we will enjoy a stroll through the old town and see the sights of major interest. We will end the day with a tour of the **Minerva Gardens**, a historical, medical garden with plants known since the Middle Ages for their therapeutic uses. The location of the garden on the hillside, its system of springs and fountains, and its exposure to the north winds create a special, damp, humid microclimate.

The evening is at leisure and dinner is on your own. Night at Hotel Cristina Sorrento. **B, L**



Itinerary - Day 4

Friday, September 12 - DAY 4

The Isle of Capri

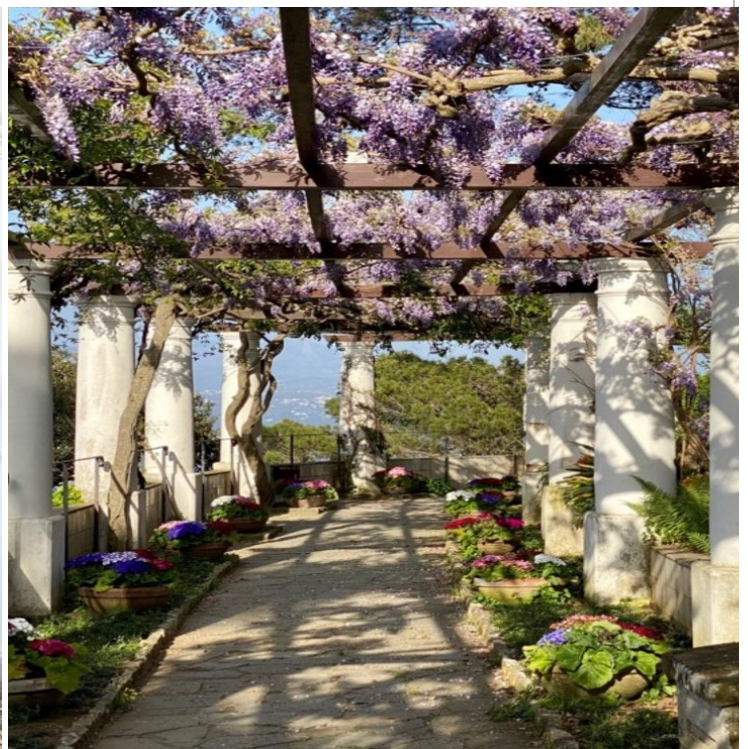
After our included breakfast, we transfer to Sorrento Port where we take a 25-minute hydrofoil ride to Capri. Upon arrival to Capri, we will transfer to Anacapri and the **Villa San Michele**. Here our guided tour explores the 18th century villa with a terraced garden once belonging to the Swedish doctor and art collector Axel Munthe. This is a magical place that must be experienced. Some speak of Feng Shui perfection, others about a node for magnetic flows, and everyone acclaims its enchanting beauty.

Lunch is served all'aperto at **Ristorante La Pigna**, a true temple of Caprian gastronomy serving exquisite meals for 141 years!

Next we visit **Augustus Gardens**, established by the German industrialist Friedrich Alfred Krupp in the early twentieth century to build his mansion in Capri. Initially the gardens took on the name of "Krupp Gardens", a title held until 1918, when the gardens were renamed "Gardens of Augustus", the title they are known as today. Designed in terraces overlooking the sea, the gardens are a testament to the rich flora of the island of Capri, with various ornamental plants and flowers such as geraniums, dahlias and brooms.

We then travel to the town of Capri for a tour of the famous La Piazzetta and a visit to the famous blue grotto. Following the tour, you may explore the town on your own to visit the fabulous shops or take a pleasant, guided walk to the Natural Arch (approximately 30 minutes from the town center).

After our tour we return by ferry to Sorrento for an evening at leisure and dinner on your own. Night at Hotel Cristina Sorrento. **B, L**



Itinerary - Day 5

Saturday, September 13 - DAY 5 Along the Amalfi Coast

Today we travel along Divina Costiera, the breathtaking road that traverses the Amalfi Coast along the cliffs. Along the way we will stop close to Positano to enjoy stunning panoramic views and take photos. We then continue to the city of Amalfi where we will take a guided tour of the city and visit the **Duomo** and the **Paradise Cloister**. We then depart for the romantic hillside village of Ravello, a magical place located between the blue sea and the sky. Ravello has historically served as a destination for artists, musicians, writers and chiefs of state, including Richard Wagner, Virginia Woolf, D.H. Lawrence, Gore Vidal, Ingrid Bergman, Greta Garbo and John F. Kennedy, to name a few. Here we set off to the historic town center to visit **Villa Rufolo**. The villa and its beautiful gardens date back to the 13th century, when they were built for the wealthy and prominent Rufolo family. This family held court in their extensive villa, which at one point was noted as having "more rooms than there are days in a year."

Located just a few steps from the Villa Rufolo is the **Ristorante del Moro** where we will stop for lunch. Here we will be able to enjoy a stunning view as well as a delicious, typical, local meal. After lunch we take a 20 minute walk to the gorgeous **Villa Cimbrone**, whose gardens are laid out along the cliff tops. The villa's lush garden, dotted with statues, temples, fountains, epigraphs, natural grottos and artistically created recesses, culminates in the spectacular Belvedere of Infinity from which the view sweeps wide to take in a panorama which Gore Vidal said was "the most beautiful in the world."

We will return to Sorrento through the greenery of the Lattari Mountains. This evening is at leisure and dinner is on your own. Night at Hotel Cristina Sorrento. **B, L**



Itinerary - Day 6

Sunday, September 14 - DAY 6

Naples and Giardini la Mortella

After our included breakfast we we check out and say farewell to Sorrento. We transfer to the port for a 60-minute hydrofoil journey to Ischia Porto, the main town on the island. Our luggage will be transported directly to our hotel in Naples. Ischia is the largest of the Partenopean Islands and has acquired international fame due to its numerous thermal and thermo-mineral springs, a result of the island's volcanic origins.

Upon arrival, we transfer by motor coach to the village of Forio. There we will enjoy a two-hour guided tour of **Giardini la Mortella**. This garden spreads over two hectares and is designed to take advantage of the natural landscape and its opening toward the Mediterranean Sea. The garden boasts a major collection of exotic, rare plants and is constantly curated and expands year after year. The garden boasts three tropical greenhouses: the Victoria House, the Orchid House and the Temple of the Sun.

After our visit we will transfer back to Ischia Porto where we will be greeted at **Villa Jasmine**, a private villa in the town center, by its owner Ms. Bruna. We will enjoy an aperitif and then join Ms. Bruna for a tour of her garden. After our tour, we enjoy a divine lunch with drinks and wine in the garden. (If weather does not allow for this, we will dine in her elegant living room.)

After a short motor coach transfer to the Port of Ischia, we take the ferry to Naples and transfer to our hotel for the first of three nights. The evening is a leisure and dinner on your own. Night at Grand Hotel Santa Lucia. **B, L**



Itinerary - Day 7

Monday, September 15 - DAY 7

Secrets of Naples

Today we explore the wonders of Naples. We begin with a walk through the **Botanical Gardens** of Naples, known for its preservation of endangered plant species. We then return to the city center to continue our walk along the streets of Via Toledo, viewing some of the city's most remarkable monuments, such as the Royal Palace and the San Carlo Theater, on our way to the famous 17th - century **Piazza Plebiscito**. Here we will stop at the charming and famous Neapolitan pizzeria, **Ristorante Ciro a Santa Brigida**, for lunch.

Next, we walk toward the old town to see a very unique and special place which is actually quite unknown and is indeed a hidden treasure of Naples. This is the **Sansevero Chapel Museum** in the historic heart of Naples. In this baroque chapel, creativity, dynastic pride, beauty and mystery blend to create a unique and almost timeless atmosphere. Here we will find masterpieces such as the famous Veiled Christ, renowned world over for the remarkable tissue-like quality of the marble: feats of virtuosity such as Disillusion, and enigmatic creations such as the Anatomical Machines. We continue our exploration of Naples down narrow streets to discover **Pignasecca Market**, artisan shops, chocolatiers and bakeries.

After our tour, we return to our hotel for an evening at leisure and dinner on your own. Night in Naples at Grand Hotel Santa Lucia. **B, L**



Itinerary - Day 8

Tuesday, September 16 - DAY 8

Royal Palace Gardens of Caserta

After breakfast, we board our motor coach for a tour along the Bay of Naples on our way to the **Royal Palace Gardens of Caserta**. In an effort to replicate the courts of Versailles, King Charles III of Bourbon ordered the famous Italian architect Vanvitelli to design his royal palace. Construction began in 1751 and Vanvitelli created a spectacular, monumental complex designing both the palace and its gardens in a neoclassical style. The Royal Palace is set in a garden of extraordinary beauty which extends for three kilometers toward the hills. It is a fascinating mixture of alleyways, fountains, waterfalls and statues. Our guide will lead us through this enchanting palace and gardens. Among the sites is a botanical garden called The English Garden. It is here we will do as the locals do – enjoy a picnic lunch.

After our tour we return to our hotel. The evening is a leisure and dinner on your own. Night in Naples at Grand Hotel Santa Lucia. **B, L**



Itinerary - Day 9

Wednesday, September 17 - DAY 9 Ninfa Gardens and Rome

After our included breakfast, we check out and head north towards Rome. En route we stop at the **Gardens of Ninfa**, an otherworldly paradise often described as "The Most Romantic Garden in the World", Ninfa has a unique setting among the ruins of a medieval town. The site is one of sublime romantic beauty, where time seems to stand still. The garden has achieved cult status among the English and American gardening cognoscenti.

The Gardens of Ninfa was created by Gelasio Caetani beginning in 1921, in the English garden style. Under the guidance of Ada Bootle-Wilbraham, who had already created a garden at Lake Fogliano, he began to plant different plant species that he brought home from his travels abroad. The plants thrived in the humid microclimate because of frequent rains and the river Ninfa. The landscape garden comprises 20 acres and contains several oaks, cypresses and poplars, grassy meadows, a wide range of exotic plants from various parts of the world, numerous watercourses and a large variety of rambling roses growing over the stone walls of the ruins.

After our day of touring, we check into our hotel for the first of two nights. Dinner is on your own. Night in Rome at Donna Camilla Savelli. **B, L**



Photo Credit: Mentnafungann, Own Work

Itinerary - Day 10

Thursday, September 18 - DAY 10 Roman Villas - Borghese and d'Este

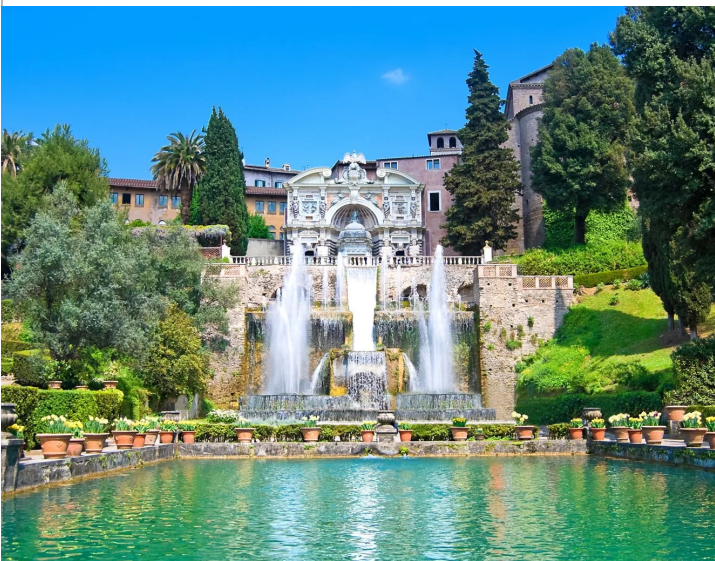
After our included breakfast, we visit two iconic gardens, Villa d'Este and Villa Borghese. Villa d'Este, located east of Rome, composed of the palace and gardens, forms an uneven quadrilateral and covers an area of about 11 acres. **Villa d'Este** is one of the most remarkable and comprehensive illustrations of Renaissance culture at its most refined. Owing to its innovative design and the creativity and ingenuity of the architectural components in the gardens it is a true water garden and a unique example of an Italian 16th century garden.

The gardens stretch over two steep slopes, descending from the palace down to a flat terrace in the manner of an amphitheater. The loggia of the palace marks the longitudinal and central axis of the gardens. Five main transversal axes become the central axis from the fixed point of view created by the villa, as each of these axes terminates in one of the gardens' fountains.

After our tour, we return to Rome for lunch at **La Montecarlo** and a peak at the **Trevi Fountain** before touring **Villa Borghese**. Located in the center of Rome, Borghese is the most popular park in Rome and is considered its green lung. The Gardens cover 197 acres and were developed in 1606 by Cardinal Scipione Borghese, who wanted to turn his former vineyard into the most extensive gardens built in Rome.

In the 18th century the gardens were transformed from formal garden architecture into an English landscape garden. Architect Antonio Asprucci and his son Mario placed statues around the park and started the construction of the Garden of the Lake and Piazza di Siena. They built the Temple of Aesculapius in the ionic style in the center of the lake. The Sea Horse Fountain was executed by Vincenzo Pacetti in 1791, based on a design by Christopher Unterberger.

We return to the hotel to freshen up before our farewell dinner, We return after dinner for a final night at Donna Camilla Savelli. **B, L, D**



Itinerary - Day 11

Friday, September 19 - DAY 11

Farewell to Rome and Italy

After our included breakfast we prepare for a late morning departure to Leonardo da Vinci-Fiumicino International Airport and flights home. The morning is at leisure. You may choose to enjoy a visit on your own to Salisbury Cathedral on this last morning of the tour. **B**

Welcome Home!

