



Press

Ostuni Art Resort

Coming Home

There are places that seem to have always been there. Places that the soul recognizes, even though the consciousness is barely aware of them. Sometimes even a fleeting scent or soft breeze suffices to awaken a childhood memory or evoke an image that says: I am home.

The Ostuni Art Resort is just such a place. Just the sight of these ancient trulli nestled amidst an olive grove seemingly forgotten by time is like meeting a soulmate. There's nothing alien here, no unease. You reach out and touch the gnarled trunk of an olive tree that has stood in this very spot for centuries, even millennia. The aromas of lavender, citrus blossoms, rosemary, basil and dry soil somehow soothe and invigorate at the same time. The chirping of crickets and the faint rustling of the treetops are the only intrusions to the eternal silence of this untouched landscape.

When Giorgio and Giulio Angella came to Ostuni, the White City, in search of a unique piece of land, they surely sensed the still breath of time. These trulli among the gnarled trees had fallen to ruin, yet the brothers knew immediately that here they would bring their dream to fruition.

The two Romans, one an architect and the other a real estate expert, wanted to create a nucleus for their families and friends. A place where they could come together with loved ones and wile away the minutes, hours, days; a place where time stands still. They also conceived it as a place of coming together for groups of friends or families; a place for celebrating shared cultural roots and for bolstering interpersonal relationships. The Angella brothers deeply understand the importance of doing so, and created the Ostuni Art Resort with this vision in mind.

After years of painstaking restoration, the resort blends into the landscape as if it had always been a part of it. Following the modern principles of bio-architecture, the brothers placed their trust in local craftsmen, favoring formal harmony and precious materials: there's hardly a stone or architectural detail about which the brothers do not have a story.

Today, groups of up to 16 friends or family members can immerse themselves in ancient rhythm of the South, staying in five faithfully renovated trulli, some of which are connected to the modern yet restrained main house. Giorgio and Giulio have not only managed to bring back to life the original feel of the complex and provide the most modern of comforts, but have also found here an ideal "living space" for their impressive collection of contemporary art. The old and the new go hand in hand, enriching each other.

The Angella brothers have truly created a place of timeless beauty in the Ostuni Art Resort: here, archaic forms of landscape and architecture are imbued with sensory pleasures and togetherness.

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A Shared Dream

The best things in life simply happen. Looking back, it's usually hard to say who was the spark and who actually had the sparkling idea. That's how great companies often come into being; it's how true love frequently happens; and it's how the collaboration between Giorgio and Giulio Angella came about.

When one meets the two quite dissimilar brothers for the first time, one immediately senses a warmth that binds them together. Beyond the family ties, these are two men who are traveling the pathway of their lives together, each brother trusting and attentive to the opinion of the other. All the jokes, all the ironic swipes at the supposed weaknesses of the other attest to a strong awareness of a bond that is both valuable and formational for them.

Giorgio, the elder of the two, is an architect who has devoted himself wholeheartedly to sustainable, high-quality bio-architecture. He works with the utmost respect for the environment, ensuring that no lasting marks are left on the landscape. Both brothers understand the fragility of natural resources and the finiteness of their own creative power.

Giulio is a real-estate expert. He develops projects with his brother, together out of the starting gate. Although he usually oversees the bureaucratic and financial aspects of their projects, the brothers make all decisions during the planning and execution phase together. Sometimes the lengthy discussions this requires delays things a bit but, in the end, they always find a compromise that ultimately benefits the project itself.

It's admirable – to the point that it almost seems anachronistic – how much confidence they have in each other's judgment, how they are able to weigh and examine alternative opinions, and how they challenge each other and themselves in the process. "Every cent that one of us earns flows into our joint company," says Giulio, smiling. The brothers need neither collateral nor signatures. From their father, they've learned to build upon each other and approach life as a team.

Forming a company together was originally their father's idea: today, angellastudio3g mainly caters to selected private clientele. The synergy of their individual expertise with the family's long-standing experience in the real-estate industry allows the brothers to offer a full range of services in this sector. From buying and selling to feasibility studies, from financing and administration to project planning, whether a renovation or new construction, the brothers advise their customers personally, competently – and together, of course.

Their father was Giovanni Angella, a celebrated director of documentaries about art and artists. He instilled in Giorgio and Giulio a love of contemporary art, and for years they have been collecting works by young, aspiring artists from Italy and abroad. They not only support the work of these artists, but also sit on various expert juries for scholarships and artistic prizes in Rome. Over time, the Ostuni Art Resort has become home to an extraordinary art collection. This presence of contemporary art enlivens and

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stimulates the atmosphere of the resort: idyll meets zeitgeist.

The Angella brothers create beautiful things, but were not in the least interested in building some kind of monument. The resort was simply born out of a desire to create a special place for friends and family members, or for groups who book the whole complex exclusively.

Giorgio and Giulio have poured countless hours of work and passion into the project, and their determination has brought success; allowing the international public and happy guests to become part of this vision has enriched that success. The Ostuni Art Resort conveys the authentic Puglia lifestyle and, with the help of a rich network of sophisticated, local experts, offers unique and unforgettable culinary, scenic, cultural and human experiences.

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Sustainable, naturally

The pathway running through ancient olive groves is bordered by dry stone walls on both sides. Beyond an unassuming gate in the midst of a sunny clearing, the Ostuni Art Resort comes into view, completely out of the blue. The complex is so at one with nature that it practically melts into the fertile landscape that surrounds it. The natural stones of the walkways, perimeter walls and building complex blend seamlessly into the rich green and earth tones of the surrounding landscape. The whitewashed slate roofs of the five trulli, the green-blue frames of the doors and windows, and the dazzling pool in the heart of the resort add a dash of color and joy. The meticulously detailed design has been inspired by the shapes and colors of the Apulian countryside. Arriving here feels like entering a safe haven, a bucolic idyll.

The carefully renovated lamia, or former farm building, and the five trulli form the architectural backbone of the resort. In these structures, spacious bedrooms and bathrooms welcome up to 16 guests. Each is individually designed, equipped with the most modern of comforts and decorated with high-end furniture and luxurious textiles. Each suite has its own restrained color palette, a balm not only for the eye but also the soul.

Trulli are traditional structures made of carved stone, with pointed-dome roofs and meter-thick walls to protect against the heat and sun. Their open, round floor plan allows for a truly unique experience. Inside these walls, once covered with straw, one feels as if in another time, sheltered and protected.

The Trullo Saraceno is discreetly tucked away and boasts its own veranda. This trullo is wider and more massive in structure than most, and has a terraced dome-roof from which one can contemplate the landscape undisturbed: olive groves and flowering grasslands immediately transform into a lush, well-tended lawn – a wonderful spot to relax, play and sunbathe. A paradise of aromatic plants surrounds the pool, bewitching the senses: in addition to countless flowers and shrubs, prickly pears, almond trees and citrus trees thrive amidst the olive groves. Fragrant herbs and a vegetable garden provide sun-ripened treasures for the kitchen, and require only the most valuable of all ingredients in order to be ready for the table: guests have free use of organic olive oil, cold pressed in-house. Puglia's Gold.

The legend about how trulli, the most typical of Apulian structures, came into being is also lovely: It is said that in the early seventeenth century a certain Count Gian Girolamo Acquaviva d'Aragona, a dreaded local lord, called on his peasants to build dry-stone houses. They could be easily taken down again, stone by stone, if necessary. In this way, the cunning count deceived the messengers of the King of Naples when they came to collect taxes for new buildings.

This creation legend of the trulli – an original form of construction in the southern and eastern Mediterranean – corresponds to the principles of bioarchitecture, a philosophy to which the brothers Giorgio and Giulio Angella have committed themselves: natural materials that are processes naturally and locally and that are, of course, also degradable. Sustainability is the brothers' main concern. Man should leave no indissoluble traces of himself in the landscape but rather live, as a richly gifted guest, from what he is generously offered.

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Pure joie de vivre

The Ostuni Art Resort is an ode to joie de vivre and to the company of like-minded people. Giorgio and Giulio Angella have designed the entire complex as a natural, open living space: in particularly beautiful spots, they've created shady verandas and secluded arbors and have set up two large dining tables outdoors, just in front of the kitchen and close to the barbecue and pizza oven.

Like everywhere in the South, life takes place mainly outdoors at the Ostuni Art Resort; you can relax on stylish loungers, hang out in casual bean bags or sunbathe poolside on masonry sunbeds. A pleasant retreat from the sun can be found in cosy corners of the terrace and in the living area of the main house.

The light, unassuming construction of the main building helps integrate the trulli into a single ensemble. Simple in form and boasting excellent craftsmanship, this building is also keeping with the building philosophy of the proprietors: nothing is overdone, everything is "at rest" in its intended place. Every guest will find his or her perfect spot, inspired by the many works of contemporary art that the two passionate collectors have placed throughout the estate - with a trained eye and often after lengthy discussion. Conceptual art, references to the Arte Povera, large-scale abstract paintings and light installations communicate strong aesthetic impulses amidst the otherwise-restrained features of the resort, giving emphasis to the charisma of not only the architecture but also the owners.

As beautiful as it is to while away Southern Italian days, the Apulian lifestyle revolves around friends and family. It's all about chatting, joking and relaxing - and usually plans for dinner are already underway by lunchtime. Here, too, the two brothers have followed their passion for authentic culinary pleasures. They've set up a beautiful, fully equipped kitchen in the main building and have also come up with a fabulous concept for pampering guests: Signora Antonia!

Signora Antonia, the very soul of the Ostuni Art Resort, lovingly looks after the guests and also happens to be an inexhaustible source of stories and recipes. There is nothing that Antonia cannot organize or do, whether a lesson in how to make typical orecchiette, teach you about growing culinary herbs, advise you about the best trattorie in the area or point out must-see sights.

Antonia's joie de vivre is an inspiration to all. She not only conjures up a sumptuous, homemade breakfast and small meals throughout the day, but is also happy to go out of her way to fulfil the wishes of the guests entrusted to her, whether it's finding the best pizzaiolo around to lead the guests in pizza making, or hand-pulling mozzarella. In addition to Antonia, a small team takes care of all aspects of the resort. This is a very personal concierge service that truly cares about the wellbeing of the guests.

In addition to a good-sized swimming pool, guests can keep in shape using the small, well-equipped gym inside the pool house: there's a treadmill, exercise bike, weights and floor mats. The ping-pong table outside guarantees fun as well. Anyone who loves the great outdoors will love taking a guided hike or going biking; and then of course there's always sailing or diving, with the sea being so nearby. To the

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delight of adults and kids alike, the two football-loving brothers have also thought to provide a foosball table. The freedom of their guests is of the utmost importance to the Angella brothers. For this reason, all offers are individually bookable and custom made. Every guest can express his or her wishes, though nobody must.

The Ostuni Art Resort is thus an experience that uniquely offers exclusive privacy, joyful exchange and cultural discovery. The freedom of the guests is the supreme principle of the hospitality of Giorgio and Giulio Angella. The brothers provide options; guest choose individually, day by day.

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Puglia and the white city by the sea

Anyone who travels south from Bari towards the heel of the Italian peninsula is certain to be enchanted by Apulia's soft light and seemingly endless horizon. Here the land stretches languidly into the sea, the Adriatic on one side and the Ionian on the other. And the fertile, sun-kissed soil yields up all man needs for a happy life. As you travel along the coastal road towards Ostuni, the South's legendary White City, images emerge from the depths of the unconscious mind, out of focus and without contours, as if from another time. People had already settled on these hills 30,000 years ago. They cultivated the rich soil and looked out across the landscape: on a clear day, you can see the sparkling blue of the Adriatic, eight kilometers away. The Messapians, the Greeks and the Romans all left their mark; even the legendary Carthaginian general, Hannibal, built his camp nearby and devastated the whole area. After the fall of the Roman Empire, everyone who hoped for wealth and success in the sunny South of Italy came here: Goths, Normans, Saracens, Spanish Aragonese, Turks, Bavarian Guelphs, French Anjou and Bourbons, innumerable feudal lords, pirates, crusaders, traveling merchants, preachers and warmongers.

The olive trees and whitewashed villages inland didn't take much notice though. They still stand today, indestructible, immersed in the countryside, with full knowledge about the course of the world. At this extreme outpost of Italy, the bygone ages have left a rich cultural heritage, which has nothing in common with the splendors of Rome, Naples or Venice. Here, every little town is a millennia-old hodgepodge of various cultural influences and, at the same time, a mirror of the land's eventful history. Whether Foggia, Bari, Lecce or one of the smaller towns in the interior or even on the shores of Gargano or Salento: every city tells its own story and impresses visitors with Roman, Arab, Medieval or Baroque artifacts

Ostuni itself is only 15 minutes by car from the coast. It was built atop a defensive rock, and its proud city walls dominate the surrounding landscape. Its Greek name alone is a testament to the city's long history and political significance. The picturesque up and down of old town's lanes, which wind around the cathedral, well worth seeing together with the Baroque Church of Santa Maria Maddalena, make Ostuni one of the area's most important cultural attractions. In addition, there are olive groves dating back three millenia, countless little fishing villages, fields of grain and tracts of land where fragrant macchia shrubland thrives: the best way to enjoy these sights is to just roam around and take it all in quietly.

But in the end, it's about the people, the sun-tanned and cheerful local people, so proud of their work and their Apulia, who constructively strive to connect tradition and progress everywhere. For example, anyone who has ever danced a real Salento taranta knows just how lively the ancient Apulian cultural heritage actually is. And understanding this exponentially multiplies the guest's appreciation about the extraordinary range of authentic experiences offered by the Ostuni Art Resort.

A network of carefully selected guides and other local experts allows guests to experience Apulian culture up close, as well as to have personalized requests fulfilled: biking and hiking guides, art historians, city guides, sailboat captains, pizza-makers, masseurs and personal trainers ... all you have to do is ask, and the Angella brothers and Signora Antonia will do everything they can to make it happen. A custom-tailored holiday in the South of Italy.

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