

TOUR THE LAND OF SWORDS AND KINGS
VIP TOURS of ITALY



CONNECTITALIA-NZ

<https://www.connectitalia-nz.com>

SEPTEMBER



info@connectitalia-nz.com

Come with us!

ABOUT CONNECTITALIA-NZ LTD

Our company's mission is to promote greater liaison between Italy and New Zealand, reflecting the different but complementary backgrounds of the company's two directors, Beniamino Petrosino and Anne Scragg. Our principal focus is planning and escorting exclusive small group tours in Italy offering a cultural experience with a difference. Our tours are most definitely not of the whistle-stop "Today is Tuesday so it must be Belgium" kind. We pride ourselves in providing you with the time and comfort to really enjoy what you are seeing and doing and you will never feel rushed. Our tours start and finish in Italy so you are most welcome to join us from anywhere in the world. Whether you are travelling on your own or with others, you can expect individual care and attention from two escorts who are willing to go the extra mile to ensure you have an unforgettable time. We also encourage travellers wanting to visit New Zealand from overseas to contact us and we will be very happy to provide you with a New Zealand tour package tailored to meet your particular needs and interests. We use accredited tour operators to ensure our tours are trouble free and we insist on the highest standards of customer service in all situations throughout our tours. Your comfort and security are of paramount importance to us. Whether you are planning a trip to Italy or a trip to New Zealand with us, it will be our pleasure to look after you throughout your tour. We are confident you will enjoy a unique cultural experience and a lot of fun along the way.

OUR AMBASSADORS

Richard Scragg



"In 2017 and 2019 I travelled with Connectitalia-NZ throughout the north and south of Italy and had an absolutely marvellous time. Every day produced a new highlight.

If you want to enjoy the Italy the Italians know, Connectitalia-NZ has the tours for you. Your principal tour escort Beniamino comes from the Mezzogiorno and you will be immersed in Italian culture in all its varied aspects.

You will stay in carefully chosen first class accommodation in out of the way places and travel in a comfortable private vehicle with your own driver. You will see some amazing historical sites and stunning countryside. As you enjoy local food and wine, you will learn the fascinating history of what you are eating and drinking. I am proud to promote Connectitalia-NZ. tours, which offer visitors to Italy the experience of a lifetime."

Richard Scragg is an Honorary Professor of Law at the University of Auckland. He began his working life as a practising barrister and solicitor, joined the Institute of Professional Legal Studies as a Senior Instructor and then embarked on an academic career at the University of Canterbury where he became Dean and Head of Law before joining the University of Auckland.

Robert Watson



"Following a brief career in the law I travelled and worked in Europe spending time in northern Italy where I taught and visited some of its great gardens. On my return to NZ I studied landscape architecture as a post graduate student at Lincoln University.

This course included the history of Italian gardens for which I have a passion. I have since then returned to Italy on several occasions and visited more of its gardens for the sheer pleasure of being there and to better understand their place in the history of garden design.

I am delighted to be an ambassador for Connectitalia-NZ's wonderful tours and an escort on its stunning Garden tours. I hope you will join us!"

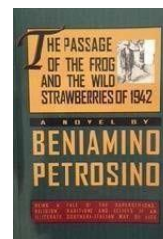
Robert Watson is a landscape architect based in Christchurch and he has been involved in a wide variety of major projects around New Zealand over the last 35 years. He is a Fellow of the NZ Institute of Landscape Architects and an Assessor for the NZ Gardens Trust. Robert's work has won numerous prizes including a Gold award at the 2009 Ellerslie Flower Show for a garden he designed for the Canterbury Horticultural Society. Another of Robert's projects is the renowned Broadfields Garden, a NZ Garden Trust Garden of International Significance, for which he was a finalist in 2015 NZILA Awards.

VACANZE ITALIANE – Come with us!

Beniamino Petrosino



I am the founder of CONNECTITALIA-NZ. I came from Italy to live in New Zealand in the 1980's and have worked as a chef, restaurateur and consultant in the hospitality industry in New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia and the United States of America. I have taught Italian in schools and privately and also English to refugees. In 2003, Hazard Press published my novel "The Passage of the Frog and the Wild Strawberries of 1942" set in the Mezzogiorno regions of Italy where I grew up and it would give me great pleasure to introduce you to this magical land and its people.



In late 2015 I met Anne Scragg when she became one of my Italian language students. In 2016 we ran a successful cultural programme in Christchurch showcasing many special Italian foods and wines and introducing our guests to delightful Italian locations off the beaten track.

Now Anne and I take our guests to see the enchanting places we have talked about and ensure they have a cultural experience like no other. Our future plan is to secure a home in Italy so you will even be able to put down your luggage and forget about it!

Anne Scragg



I initially trained as a lawyer and worked in private practice for some years. I had a few years off work while my family was young and then returned to work as an adjudicator and mediator. Over time I became involved in designing and establishing specialist dispute resolution schemes in the public and private sectors. In 2015, I retired from a senior management role with the intention of doing something entirely different. One day my husband came in from the letterbox with one of Beniamino's business cards and I thought Italian language lessons might be just what I needed!

I have been to Italy several times and have loved every visit. I am confident I know what non-Italians need and want when travelling and I want to share my passion for Italy with others. I also want to show our guests from other countries the treasures that my homeland, New Zealand, has to offer and would be delighted to work with you to plan your trip through the land of the Lord of the Rings.

Exclusive Tours of Italy

"Over the last few years we have got together to bring people a genuine glimpse into Italian culture and customs. Now our intent is to take you there for an experience unlike any other."

For any queries email
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Tour the Land of Swords and Kings

with Beniamino and Anne



The Land of Swords and Kings tour - 15 days (14 nights)

NZ\$6,795pp (single supplement may apply)

This price is subject to change. Also please note that this price may be adjusted if fewer than 14 people register for the tour or if there are significant changes to currency exchange rates. The final price will be settled prior to confirmation of the tour and before any payment is requested.

On this tour, you will:

- Gain real insight into Italian life and customs
- Enjoy maximum freedom to do what you want to do while being appropriately looked after
- Enjoy charming accommodation in a range of different settings
- **Not** be getting up every day at 7am and moving on to your next stop
- Have the opportunity to learn some Italian from Beniamino and put your learning into practice
- Dip your toes in the Mediterranean and Adriatic Seas (so you can boast you too have completed a coast to coast event - 😊)
- Potter round the stalls and enjoy a fritto misto in Amalfi
- Marvel at the Greek temples and Roman archaeological treasures
- Visit Beniamino's birthplace and see the church-yard where he gathered edible confetti at his aunt's wedding
- Keep a look out for local food producers and learn about the regional cuisine from a real Italian chef – food and wine will be a major feature of this tour
- **Not** have absolutely everything mapped out for you- there will be surprises along the way that you will want to tell all your friends about when you get home, assuming you still want to go back home by then ...(lol) and **MOST IMPORTANTLY** you will have fun!- 😊



The Land of Swords and Kings

Tour Outline:

Start date: 15 September 2021

End date: 28 September 2021



Note: The tour package is a land package only. Flights to suit your individual needs can be arranged for you through us or you can make your own flight arrangements if you prefer.

Commencement of the tour: Rome

On 15 September the tour group will meet in the late afternoon at a charming hotel in the heart of Rome where the group will stay for the first night. That night we will enjoy a traditional Roman dinner at a local restaurant and get to know the two tour escorts. The following morning the tour group will be picked up by our driver and taken to the Amalfi Coast where the party will stay for 2 nights. We will enjoy a gelato and a limoncello in the charming hidden piazza of Amalfi beneath the gleaming Byzantine cathedral, steps away from wonderful cameo and ceramic shops.



When we leave the Amalfi Coast, we will visit the temples at nearby Paestum where you will see and learn about some impressive remnants of the Magna Grecia. A star in the local museum is the 5th century BC fresco Tomba del Tuffatore (Tomb of the Diver) discovered in 1968, which is thought to represent the passage from life to death with its depiction of a diver in mid-air.



We will pass through the unspoiled countryside of the Cilento on our way to Padula, home of the impressive Certosa and importantly the birthplace of Beniamino's relative, the legendary Lieutenant Joe Petrosino, who fought against organised crime in New York in the late 19th Century. He will feature in a new film "The Black Hand" with Leonardo di Caprio starring as Joe Petrosino.

We will stay in Padula for two nights and then we will move on to our next base across the border from the region of Campania and in the region of Basilicata. On the way we will visit Beniamino's birthplace in Montesano sulla Marcellana. In Basilicata we will stay for four nights in an Agriturismo in the lush countryside near where Beniamino grew up and explore this ancient land of castles and monasteries.





Beniamino's book is valuable reading before the tour! You will see where he went to school and where he worked as a shepherd at the age of 9. This is really off the beaten track.

We will then set off for Matera. On the way, we will visit Aliano, where in the 1930's the writer and philosopher Carlo Levi was exiled by the fascists and inspired to write 'Cristo si e' fermato a Eboli' (Christ stopped at Eboli). At the time Basilicata was used as a kind of open prison for political dissidents.



I Sassi di Matera is a magical place to visit. It is one of the world's oldest towns, dating back to the Palaeolithic Age and has been inhabited continuously for around 7000 years. People lived there in caves and UNESCO has named the whole town a World Heritage Site. After publicity resulting from a number of high-profile films using Matera as a biblical landscape, the town is now undergoing a transformation and it has recently been designated the European Capital of Culture 2019 by the European Commission.

We will have two nights in Matera in a spectacular hotel and spend a full day viewing ancient frescoes and generally marvelling at the sheer antiquity of the place.

When we leave Matera we will head for Metaponto's magnificent museum of Greek and Roman artefacts. This little-known treasure-house stores some amazing objects from the Magna Graecia and into the times of Horace. Here we will see temple remains standing proud amongst the oleander trees.



Then we are off to Polignano a Mare on the Adriatic Coast in Puglia for the next three nights. Think white buildings and blue sea and you'll be halfway there: food, relaxation, sunshine, you won't want to leave. From Polignano a Mare we will visit Alberobello. This little town looks like a film set and is home to the famous 'Trulli'. Initially established as a tax dodge, these beautiful homes are now highly sought after. While in this area we will visit the famous Grotte di Castellana discovered by cavers in the 1930's. These beautiful caves are 90 million years old and geologically very precious.





There will be time for you to relax. Puglia is made for relaxing. And we want you to be fully rested before we sadly leave this area for Bari on 29 September. We will be transferred to Bari Airport or Central Railway Station at the end of the tour. We will assist you with your onward travel plans and look forward you joining us again on one of our other wonderful adventure next year.

Tour inclusions

- All accommodation costs sharing a double or twin room including breakfasts. Note - a single supplement may apply for single travellers wanting their own room. We will discuss this with you prior to confirmation. All accommodation will be of a high standard
- All tour travel costs including coach or minibus transport and associated charges such as fuel, tolls, taxes, with local drivers
- From our main bases we will undertake sightseeing and it will be completely up to you whether you want to participate or spend the day independently
- One group dinner including wine and soft drinks
- Entry to Paestum Archaeological site and Museum and the Archaeological Museum at Metaponto
- Local tour guide - Matera

Tour exclusions

- Meals and beverages other than those included
- City taxes, room service meals and mini bar refreshments
- Telephone/internet charges
- Porterage
- Gratuities
- Individual sightseeing not undertaken as part of the tour
- We do not arrange travel insurance
Comprehensive travel insurance is highly recommended.



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