





continue reading...

After our exciting and fulfilled afternoon, we headed back to the hotel for time to enjoy the pool, spa, plethora of art classes and relaxation prior to our final dinner, which was complete with a wild outdoor experience, rustic Sardinian cuisine and capping the night with a Sardinian folk group and dessert! It was an epic stay at an incredible and quintessential Sardinian mountain resort!

Days 3 & 4 of our Sardinia FAM with brought us village art, exquisite food, breathtaking views, time on the water, more wine-tasting and sunrises like no other as we also stayed with our <u>WanderLuxe Destinations</u> partner hotel, the beautiful <u>Hotel Abi D'Oru</u> which sits just around the corner from Porto Rotondo.

We left the Barbagia region to venture to Orgosolo; a local village known for fantastic murals throughout depicting everything from daily life to historical moments to political statements. It was fantastic! We then went to <u>Gallicantu</u>, a small hotel retreat where we partook in a cooking class making semolina gnocchi and classic Sardinian cookies, acciuleddi. After indulging in this delicious lunch, with a glass of rosé (of course), we headed onwards to a true highlight of the trip, to Costa Smeralda, to check into the lovely, luxurious and well-located, <u>Hotel Abi D'Oru!</u> The hotel boasts an excellent location, just 4km from Porto Rotondo, a charming and quaint village on the water exhibiting local Sardinian shops and restaurants, with the opportunity to admire world-class yachts. The hotel is perfect for couple or families, those seeking a proper vacation of sun-bathing, gastronomic indulgence and lazy days in or on the water, as the beachfront of the hotel has crystal clear blue waters, that if photographed and filmed alone, one would think is a swimming pool instead of the sea. Abi D'Oru, meaning "the golden bee", is independently-owned, with a hyper-focus on being family-friendly, having excellent service, comfortable rooms and the most gorgeous sunrises you might ever witness (and recently became Virtuoso!).

We dined both nights here; one night with fine-dining, and the other as a pizza night. Both meals had us all salivating for more. Our wonderful Director of Sales, Nicola Monella, is the most hospitable, and we enjoyed being with him throughout our days!

On our second day in this gorgeous area, we had a boat day...because boat days are the best days...and even though we were a bit early in the season, we still dipped in the gorgeous waters and enjoyed sunshine and a lovely lunch prepared for us by the hotel! Just

We ended our day at <u>Capichera Vineyards</u> with a tour of the vineyards and wine-tasting. This winery specializes in Vermentino (a personal favorite of mine). The tasting was outdoors, and honestly, it was so sophisticated and beautiful. We absolutely enjoyed our time here.

We did a quick stop on our way back in Porto Cervo to walk the Piazza, which is filled with all of the luxury brands one would suspect in this chic village. We ended our evening with pizza and gelato (perfect after this exciting day) and fell into bed.

Days 5 & 6 in Sardinia began with leaving the North to drive to the South, a 5-hour drive. We decided to split it up, with a stop at Pozzo Santa Cristina, an archeological site that encompasses a Sacred Well (very

Mayan-ruinesque), a Christian Village and a Nuragic Village. We then ventured to lunch for an incredible 7-course tasting menu that was to-die <u>Trattoria Sarda Armidda</u>. Afterwards, we continued our journey to Forte Village with an evening arrival to do our site visit and dinner.

<u>Forte Village</u> has been welcoming people for 50 years and is situated on the coast with many different hotel and villa options as well as plenty to do for all ages; from pools, to sports, to the beach, and plenty of dining, Forte Village has it all!

Our next day was filled with a city tour to Cagliari followed by a site of Palazzo Doglia where they also hosted a lunch of local seafood and elevated typical dishes at the Osteria del Forte, after which we met the chef of our wonderful meal who has studied under Gordon Ramsey and Heinz Beck.

Cagliari is built on seven hills, and we began at the top of one for beautiful panoramic views of the city and the bays. Then, we tasted our way around the Central Market, stopped past the church of the Madonna di Buonaria, and then passed through the Porta Cristina into the medieval old town of Castello. In the medieval center, you can see the remains of old palaces that were bombed out in World War II, which now are left open and provide beautiful views over the city. We passed by the Palazzo di Sardegna and then on to the Duomo di Sardegna, an important church, rich in history, where the story of Sardinian occupancy can be seen in the varied architectural styles throughout the church. After visiting the Duomo, we walked through the medieval streets, including the narrowest street, Via Stretta, into the historical Jewish Quarter. We ended our tour by passing through the porticos of the tower.

We returned to Forte Village to indulge in their Thalasso Therapy pools followed by a wine-tasting, aperitivo and sumptuous farewell dinner.

We are so grateful to <u>Italy With Class</u> for providing the opportunity to be on the leading edge of Sardinian tourism with this FAM. There was not a stone uncovered, and I know that we all said good-bye to Sardinia with a plethora of knowledge and know-how on this dynamic (and beautiful) destination!