



You needn't be a scholar of southern Italy to know that Puglia's dominant colour is white. And you'll see it all around in Savalletri, the seaside village close to the Puglian town of Fasano, which is home to Masseria Calderisi (hotel.qantas.com.au/masseriocalderisi).

If the colour scheme at the boutique hotel (there are just 24 suites) seems excessively pristine, don't be put off – your glass of local primitivo wine could splash onto the white tablecloth or couch and no-one would raise an eyebrow. Lounge décor, bed linen and even the white-coated waitstaff at the on-site bars and La Corte restaurant may be impeccably well-kept but the mood is decidedly relaxed. With the crackling fire, piles of woven blankets in reserve and golden light bathing jars of lemons (which adorn the walls like trophies) there's no sense of being in a showroom – dreamy setting aside.

Contemporary twists on Pugliese comfort foods, like soothing eggplant parmigiana served in locally made terracotta and fava bean purée with gently bitter chicory, only add to the sense that you're in family-like territory. Pizza-making nights at the woodfired oven and village festival-inspired events held in the courtyard at summer's peak help, too.

And while white may be the "warmest" colour around Calderisi, it's far from the only one. Bright accents abound: think sunshine-yellow tiles, a brilliant blue swimming pool (heated in autumn and flanked by bistro Gioia Bar) and ikat-patterned pillows in common areas like the Aperò terrace bar. But nothing lends as much vibrancy as the labour of gregarious Donato, one of Calderisi's gardener-landscapers. Some of the olive trees at the front entrance are "only" three or four centuries old, he says. You'll have to stroll the property's eight hectares of groves to find the real long-haulers.