

SICILY AND ITS CULINARY TREASURES



Day 1: PALERMO – night in Palermo

Arrival at Palermo airport. Individual transfers to the hotel in the city centre. Leisure time. Overnight stay.

Day 2: PALERMO AND MONREALE – night in Palermo

After breakfast, the morning is dedicated to the discovery of Palermo's historical centre. Meet your English-speaking guide in the hotel lobby to explore the city centre. Your visit includes a walking tour in the old town to admire the **Cathedral**, **I Quattro Canti**, the enormous renaissance fountain of **Piazza Pretoria**, the red Arabic domes of the church of San Cataldo, and the baroque church of Santa Caterina. Enjoy a visit to one of the local historical Sicilian food markets and walk following the strong smell of spices and fried food. Taste the typical "panelle" with a generous sesame bread roll or "pani cà meusa", tasty traditional Sicilian "street food", for the more adventurous. Born with the Arabs, Sicilian ancient markets preserve their Arab roots intact in contemporary Sicilian culture. The displays of fresh fruit, oranges above all, exotic products, spices and olives will remind you of middle-eastern markets. Wonderful are the ample fish trays with large swordfish that dominate the scene. The last stage of this truly Sicilian experience will be a *street food lunch*. We will leave in the afternoon for Monreale to admire its majestic Cathedral, a pearl of Arab Norman art, where biblical stories are represented with unique mosaic works on the walls and ceiling all accented in gold leaf. Then it's back to Palermo. Dinner at your leisure. Overnight stay.

Day 3: PALERMO → ERICE → SEGESTA - night in Palermo

Leave for Erice after breakfast. Erice is a lovely medieval town atop the mountain for which it's named. It was founded by the Phoenicians and dedicated to Venus, the Goddess of Love. Have a guided tour of the town, taste the local almond pastries and enjoy the beautiful view of the Egadi Islands. Enjoy lunch in our favorite restaurant. In the afternoon go to Segesta where a winding and fascinating path brings you to the archeological area. Visit the temple, a perfect example of Doric-style architecture, and the intact remains of a Greek theatre. Return to Palermo. Dinner at your leisure and overnight stay.

Day 4: SALT ROUTE AND WINERY - night in Agrigento area

After breakfast, proceed to Marsala area via the spectacular "Salt Route", a captivating road bordered by the glittering ponds of the salt pans, windmills, and the "salt houses" (piles of salt covered with tiles) ... (here they still extract the sea salt as the Phoenicians did!). Take a boat excursion to the isle of **Mothia**, an ancient Phoenician colony where you will visit the archaeological area and the Whitaker's museum, hosting the famous Young Man from Motya. Continue with a visit to the small salt museum and enjoy a very special light lunch: A salt-tasting accompanied by local products.

Then you'll move to Agrigento with a stop in a winery known for its Marsala to enjoy a tasting of local wine. Dinner at your leisure. Overnight stay in the Agrigento area in a restored farmhouse with its own orchard or in a nice hotel located a short distance from the Valley of the Temples.

Day 5: PIAZZA ARMERINA AND VALLEY OF THE TEMPLES – night in Agrigento area

Depart for Piazza Armerina after breakfast and visit the **Roman Villa del Casale**, built in the first quarter of the 4th century, containing the richest, largest and best-preserved collection of Roman mosaics in the world, portraying mythological and daily life. Light lunch/tasting in Piazza Armerina city centre in our favourite deli shop before we return to Agrigento to visit the **Valley of the Temples**, an UNESCO World Heritage site and the largest area of Greek vestiges beyond Greece. Return to your accommodation, dinner at your leisure and overnight stay.

Day 6: AGRIGENTO → RAGUSA AREA WITH "MICHELIN LUNCH" – night in Ragusa area

After breakfast, leave for **Ragusa Ibla**, a definite architectural jewel with its medieval roads, churches and palaces that are among the most beautiful late-Baroque buildings, decorated with burlesque masks and golden stone laces. Your walking tour includes visits to three secluded places in Ragusa Ibla: the Donnafugata Theatre, privately owned and the smallest theatre in Europe with an aristocratic history; the garden of Palazzo Arezzo-Bertini; and the Circolo di Conversazione, with its unique atmosphere. Enjoy a lunch in one of the starred restaurants of Val di Noto area. You'll have some free time in the afternoon to enjoy a short walk on your own in the city before proceeding to your accommodation: a nice hotel located in the Hyblean countryside. Dinner at your leisure and overnight stay.

Day 7: VENDICARI RESERVE→MARZAMEMI→ MODICA - night in Ragusa area

After breakfast, leave for the **Vendicari Nature Reservation** to spend a relaxing day walking through the beautiful scenery of the park: its mixture of lagoons, sand dunes, and beaches makes it an ideal habitat for a wide variety of flora and fauna. This is sure to be an unforgettable tour through history, culture and nature. It's a place of rare beauty chosen as a privileged stopover in the long journey of migration for over 100 species of birds. Continue south to visit the small charming village of **Marzamemi** where you will stop for lunch with a special tasting of tuna products. In the early afternoon proceed to **Modica**, the town of 100 churches, for a walking tour of the town and a chance to taste the famous Modician chocolate. History of the local chocolate dates to the 15th century, when the Spaniards dominating Sicily brought chocolate seeds from Mexico and taught the locals how to use them according to Aztec traditions. Return to the hotel. Dinner at your leisure and overnight stay.

Day 8: CHEESE TOUR AND COOKING CLASS EXPERIENCE – night in Ragusa area

After breakfast, you'll travel to a charming location with an ancient watermill, surrounded by the river, falls and small lakes for an amazing "hands-on" cooking class experience. Guided by the expertise of your chef, you'll use local and natural ingredients to prepare your own Sicilian meal. During your cooking class, enjoy a ricotta cheese demonstration, where a dairyman will explain how to work with sheep's milk to create delicious ricotta and other typical Sicilian cheeses. Then, enjoy the lunch you've prepared during your class in the relaxing peace of the terrace, surrounded by the breathtaking view of the falls and the smooth sound of the river in the background. A selection of Sicilian wines completes the menu. Visit **Noto** in the afternoon, a tiny baroque jewel and another UNESCO World Heritage site. It is one of the most elegant cities of the Val di Noto area. Return to your accommodation. Dinner at your leisure and overnight stay.

Day 9: SIRACUSA – night in Etna area

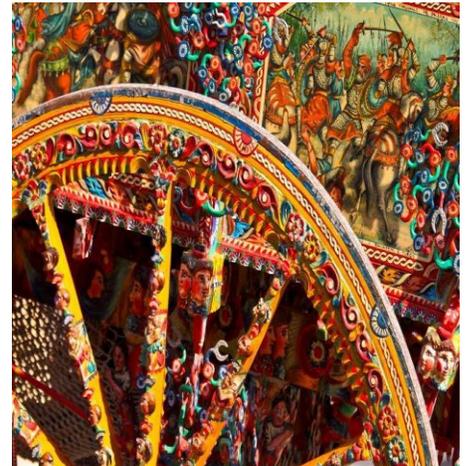
After breakfast, leave for Syracuse, the town of the Greek myth. Visit the archaeological area: the Greek theatre, the Roman amphi-theatre, the Altar of Hieron II, and the Ear of Dionysius. Proceed to Ortigia and have a walking tour of the island, including a visit of its lively street market and a stop in our favorite deli shop to enjoy a tasting of local charcuterie and cheese products and a few glasses of wine. In the afternoon proceed towards the Etna area and the resort accommodation situated on the slopes of the volcano. Dinner at hotel and overnight stay.

Day 10: ETNA → TAORMINA – night in Etna area

After breakfast, enjoy a 4x4 excursion on Mount Etna, the highest active volcano in Europe at 10,991 ft, including a short walk on the old lava flows. The slopes of Mt. Etna are home to the finest vineyards on the island, so we'll stop for lunch in a local winery and have a guided wine tasting accompanied by a light lunch of local products. Return to the hotel for some rest. Later in the evening, around 5:00pm, proceed to Taormina to visit the Greek Theatre and enjoy a pleasant walk in the lovely city centre. It's quite simple to fall in love with Taormina, thanks to its majestic setting. The city is perched on a rocky promontory that features a wonderful view over the sea and the valley. Farewell dinner in one of our favorite restaurants in Taormina. Back to the hotel and overnight stay.

Day 11: CATANIA AIRPORT

After breakfast, meet your English-speaking driver and individual transfers to the airport.



The order of the visits and activities may change due to technical reasons. The overall content of the program will be preserved.

SICILY AND ITS CULINARY TREASURES - September 25th – October 05th 2019

Quote per person sharing a double room – booking deadline 10th May 2019

From 10 to 14 participants	€ 2.850,00	Single use supplement	€ 450,00
From 15 to 20 participants	€ 2.500,00	Single use supplement	€ 450,00
From 21 to 30 participants	€ 2.300,00	Single use supplement	€ 450,00

Including:

- 10 days private first-class coach and driver for the whole program
- 10 days English speaking authorized guide for the whole program
- 3 nights in Palermo city centre at Htl Piazza Borsa or similar
- 2 nights in Agrigento at Fontes Episcopi or Htl Costa Azzurra or similar
- 3 nights in Ragusa at hotel Poggio del Sole or similar
- 2 nights in Etna area hotel Talè or similar
- 10 breakfasts in hotel;
- Meals and tastings as per program:
 - Street food lunch in Palermo
 - Lunch in restaurant in Erice
 - Salt tasting + Wine tasting in Marsala area
 - Light lunch/tasting in Piazza Armerina
 - Lunch in a Michelin restaurant in Ragusa area
 - Lunch in Marzamemi with tuna products
 - Chocolate tasting in Modica
 - Cooking class with lunch and cheese tasting
 - Light Lunch/tasting in Ortigia market
 - n. 1 dinner in hotel in Etna area
 - Wine tasting + light lunch in winery on Mount Etna
 - Farewell dinner in Taormina
- Visits and entrance fees as per program, tips included:
 - Palatine Chapel in Palermo
 - Monreale Cathedral
 - Segesta Archaeological Park
 - Salt Museum and Mothya
 - Valley of the Temples in Agrigento
 - Roman Villa del Casale in Piazza Armerina
 - Ragusa Ibla
 - Siracusa Archeological Park and Cathedral
 - 4x4 excursion on volcano Etna
 - Taormina Greek Theatre
- Lodging and meals for driver and guide;
- Parking;
- Local City Taxes;
- VAT

Not Including:

- Flights
- Drinks
- Entrance fees not specified
- Everything not mentioned as included
- Private arrival and departure transfers to be booked on request at least one week before arrival:
 - € 70,00 per car 1/2 pax from Palermo airport
 - € 110,00 per car 1/2 pax to Catania airport

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

Booking: Please fill in the reservation form. Send to our e-mail address within May 10th.

Payment A deposit of 30% will be required at time of booking, to be paid by bank transfer or credit card with 2% surcharge.

Balance required 30 days before arrival.

NOTE: The tour is guaranteed with a minimum of 10 participants.

Cancellation Policy: Any cancellation should be made in writing by e-mail.

Following penalties will apply for cancellations made:

- 1) up to 60 days before arrival date 30%
- 2) from 59 to 31 days before arrival date: 50%
- 3) from 30 to 15 days before arrival date: 75%
- 4) from 15 to 1 day before arrival date: 100%
- 5) no show: 100% of the entire stay

Cancellation insurance can be added on request at 7% of tour cost.