



October 20 - 27, 2018

The Wonders of Sicily

Day 1 – Arrival in Sicily – Palermo

Welcome to Palermo! Our 3 night stay is designed to discover what makes this lively city so special and why it's Italy's 2018 Capital of Culture. After settling in to our hotel in the city center we have an orientation tour and dinner in the heart of the city.

Accommodation at Hotel Piazza Borsa, or similar, 20,21,22 October.

Day 2 – Palermo and Monreale

Today we begin with a guided walk in Palermo's historic center – famous for its contrasts and beautiful squares, at once opulent and decadent. We go behind the facades where the aristocracy once lived to see the finest examples of Sicilian Rococo, frescoes, and a stunning Murano glass chandelier with 99 arms, the largest in Europe.

We explore Palermo's main sights, including the Quattro Canti, the famous baroque square with its 12th century Duomo, and conclude our day at the Cathedral and Cloister of Monreale – a synthesis of Sicily's Norman and Arab architectural past.

Day 3 – Cooking Class and Exclusive Villa Visit



Today we visit a colorful open-air market with an engaging Duchess. Together we buy the fresh seasonal ingredients for our cooking class in her 18th century palace, the last home of Prince Giuseppe di Lampedusa – author of the world famous “Il Gattopardo”. She will show us how to create a Sicilian menu in the magical atmosphere of her home kitchen and then invite us to lunch in her elegant, private dining room.

Day 4 – Salt Pans of Marsala, Gorgi Tondi winery, and Valley of the Temples

We say Arrivederci to Palermo and head to Agrigento, stopping at some fascinating points along the way. First, the Salt Pans of Marsala, where locals extract salt from seawater much the same way as the Greeks and Phoenicians did in ancient times. Watching windmills moving the seawater through the pans is a uniquely interesting sight. Next, we continue to one of Sicily’s intriguing wine estates, the Gorgi Tondi winery. Located in the midst of a Nature Reserve, its wines are faithful to the environment and to the hard work of winemaking.

We end the day in the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento, one of the archeological must-sees in Sicily. You’ll see why!

Overnight (23 October) at the Mandranova Estate, a picturesque working olive and almond farm; including a farm dinner and tour of the estate.

Day 5 – Ragusa Ibla, Aromi Farm, Modica

A few short hours’ drive from Mandranova is the region of the Baroque towns of Ragusa Ibla and Modica. The tour starts with Ragusa Ibla exploring the magnificent Church of San Giorgio, Hyblean Gardens, and La Rocca Palace. We drive to nearby “Gli Aromi Farm” an amazing cultivation of over 120 varieties of plants and herbs using traditional methods. We get to sample some varieties and enjoy a wonderful farm lunch. A very memorable experience.

The hillside town of Modica has been ravaged by numerous earthquakes. Nonetheless, it boasts some of the most remarkable examples of the Sicilian Baroque. We will stop for a tasting of the famous Modican chocolate and then continue our day’s journey to Siracusa and the island of Ortigia.

Accommodation at Antico Hotel Roma in Ortigia (Siracusa), 3 nights 24,25,26 October.

Day 6 – Catania and Siracusa

Today we take the short drive north to Catania, where a tour of the famous open-air “Pescheria”, a daily fish and vegetable market, is sure to impress you. After lunch at Trattoria Antica Marina, we have a lovely tour of the Riviera Ciclopi (Coast of the Cyclops) visiting Acitrezza and Acicastello, and its Medieval Norman Castle built a thousand years ago on a prehistoric lava flow. This coast is famous for the dramatic spikes of black lava that rise up from the water; a visual link to the ancient legends of the Greeks and Romans.

In the afternoon, back in lovely Ortigia, we enjoy a relaxed tour of some of its treasures; the Jewish Quarter with its ancient Mikveh, intact after 1500 years, the great Cathedral built on the ancient Temple of Athena, and Ortigia’s picturesque winding streets and elegant piazzas. There is no finer place and no more ancient locale in all of Sicily to enjoy a stroll and some free time.



Day 7 – Etna Volcano & the Cottanera winery tour



For those hoping to go to the summit of Mt. Etna where all the tourists are headed, this is not the day for you. Instead, we offer a different kind of Etna experience, one that few visitors will have. This is an exploration of the eastern and northern slopes, searching out old lava flows, eruptive cones and a kaleidoscope of breathtaking viewing points. While on the northern slope we visit the Cottanera Winery, one of the notable stops on our trip. It is one of the most important wineries in Sicily and in the world of enology.

We return to Ortigia and get ready for our Farewell Dinner.

Day 8 – Oct 27 – Arrivederci and Departure

The tour ends this morning. You take with you the wonderment of Sicily, new friendships, and a continuing desire to see more of our world.

Tour Information

DATES

October 20 - 27, 2018

Group size: Maximum of 10 guests per trip

PRICE

\$5695.00 per person, double occupancy

\$700.00 single supplement

Price Includes:

DETAILS

Included:

- Round trip group transfers – Palermo Airport (PMO) incoming, Catania Airport (CTA) departing (see below*)
- 7 nights accommodation
- All transportation, entrance fees, and guide services for all excursions and tours included in the program
- Wine & olive oil tastings
- Cooking class in an exclusive private villa
- All breakfasts and lunches
- 5 dinners
- Wine at lunch and dinner
- VAT and all local taxes
- Tips and gratuities

Not Included: Airfare, airport transfers other than with the group*, trip insurance, incidentals, wine, cocktails or liquors other than what is ordered for the group. *, 2 dinners.

Contact Us

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