



September 26 – October 3, 2019

An Authentic Sicily

Day 1 – Thursday, September 26 – **Benvenuti Welcome**

Arrival at Catania Airport.

Your private driver will transfer you directly to Favara in the **Agrigento Area**. Dinner the first night at your charming hotel.

ALBA PALACE (4*) – Favara – Agrigento Area

Located in the heart of the most authentic Sicily, ALBA PALACE is a few steps from the majesty of Agrigento and from the Valley of the Temples. It is a palace of the 18th century built around an apse of the 700's, restored with an eye toward tradition and innovation.

Included: Dinner

Day 2 – Sunday, September 27 – **Sikani Day Tour**

Breakfast at the hotel, pick up by private minibus and transfer to **Sant'Angelo Muxaro**.

About 30 km from Agrigento in the hinterland of the Platani river valley is the small village, Sant'Angelo Muxaro, with an ancient history. Along the road panoramic views of wide valleys and mountain peaks will follow one another. Here everything passes slowly, the people, the flocks, the river itself. All this is the backdrop to "encounters" with the local families, artisans, and shepherds who carry on generations of tradition.



We begin our tour with a walk among the picturesque village lanes with stops, tastings and encounters; A **dairy stop** with tasting of cheeses produced daily by a local family, A **bakery stop** with a taste of "pani cunzatu " (bread with local olive oil and pepper), almond cookies, honey, and more. On the outskirts of the village we visit the young **shepherds** – a new generation who have returned to the land and to their families' ancient livelihood.. Lunch in a private home. Return to Favara. Dinner on your own.

Included: Breakfast, Light lunch with tastings

Day 3 – Monday, September 28 – Valley of the Temples and Marzipan Almond Museum



Breakfast at the hotel and short transfer to **Agrigento**.

Meet our local guide and **enjoy a walking tour** of the magnificent “**Valley of the Temples**” the world famous archeological site of the remains of seven ancient Greek temples in the Doric Style.

Most people visit the site but then completely miss the luscious oasis of the **Kolymbetra Garden**, where in ancient times the Greeks built an exquisite artificial lake that served as a reservoir for the city and a place of respite for its citizens. It has recently been restored to its former splendor thanks to the Italian Environmental Fund.

Visitors are able to explore the Mediterranean vegetation, especially the ancient varieties of citrus brought in with the Arab occupation. For lunch we will enjoy an amazing picnic of many Sicilian specialties: arancini, cheeses with homemade marmalade, olives and fresh-pressed olive oil, and “street” food like Sfincione, panelle and pani cunziatu – all in this corner of Sicilian paradise

Return to the hotel around 2 p.m and relax.

4.30 p.m. A short walk from our hotel is **Marzipan the Museum of the Sicilian Almond** which houses a research center and a permanent collection of over 200 varieties of one of Sicily's most precious products. Having been an old almond market, there is a collection of antique artifacts used in the harvest, shipping, and even the culinary uses of this not-so humble nut.



Marzipan is also a Cooking School where the delightful Chef Annalisa will guide us in a fun cooking class to prepare our Sicilian Dinner. After dinner we walk the short distance to our hotel.

Included: Breakfast, Picnic, Cooking Class, Dinner

Day 4 – Tuesday, September 29 – **Ragusa Ibla and Modica**

Breakfast and check out. Pick up by private minibus and transfer to **Ragusa**.

Discover the Baroque towns of **Modica** and **Ragusa Ibla** in a half day tour. Rebuilt after the devastating 1693 earthquake and now UNESCO World Heritage Sites. We start the tour with Ragusa Ibla to explore the magnificent churches and public spaces which are superb representations of this architectural style and true gems of the period. Visually impressive, these two are some of Sicily's most ancient and historic towns. Light Lunch in a local trattoria.



The tour continues with **Modica**, including a visit to the **Antica Dolceria Bonajuto**, the oldest confectionary shop in Sicily where the owner will demonstrate (and we will sample) some of his spectacular chocolates.

Dinner and overnight in Modica.

Included: Breakfast, Light Lunch, Dinner, Chocolate Tasting

Palazzo Failla (4*S) - Modica - 2 nights

Day 5 – Wednesday, September 30 –

Cos Winery, Gli Aroma Farm, Ispica Caves, Scicli

This morning in the nearby town of Vittoria we visit the **COS Winery**. Their unorthodox beginning has led to an estate whose reputation is second to none. COS are the initials of the owners who decided to take over a vineyard for the summer after high school as an experiment. What started as the lark of 3 young men several decades later is a winery at the forefront of biodynamic viticulture, adopting ancient wine-making methods and a harmonious balance with nature. We will enjoy a tour of the winery, a tasting and lunch.

After Lunch we visit the unique and fascinating “**Gli Aromi Farm**” where the owner Enrico will take us on a journey through his world of 120 different varieties of local plants and herbs, all manually cultivated, which he markets and ships all over Europe. We won't leave before enjoying an unusual Aromatic Herbs tasting.

Following Gli Aromi we drive to **Scicli** for a visit to the **Ispica Caves** archeological park and then back to Modica for our second overnight.

Dinner on your own.

Included: Breakfast, Light with Wine Tasting, Herb Tasting

Day 6 – Thursday, October 1 –

Siracusa and Ortigia Walking Tour, Arrival in Catania



Breakfast and check out. This morning we continue our exploration of Sicily in **Siracusa and Ortigia Island**, two not-to-be-missed experiences.

We will enjoy an expert guided walking tour of Siracusa's famed archeological park, then on the Island of Ortigia - with its incredible depth of history and utterly charming surroundings.

This area of Sicily was once a major power in the world of the ancient Greeks, then it passed to the Romans, the Byzantines, and to the Arabs. The influences of all these cultures still rolls through here very powerfully.

We stop for a quick lunch in an historical Salumeria at the Ortigia market. We continue towards Catania, checking into our hotel in the historic center of the city in the late afternoon.

This evening will be our “**Farewell**” **Dinner** of the trip. Even though we have one more exciting day ahead, we chose tonight to be Special so we can share our thoughts (and our pictures!) with each other in a relaxed way.

Included: Breakfast, Light Lunch, Dinner

UNA Palace Catania (4*) - Catania 2 Nights

Day 7 – Friday, October 2 – Catania Fish Market, Wine Tour and Etna Jeep Excursion



After breakfast we meet our guide to visit the **Catania Old Pescheria**, the enormous, boisterous, and deservedly famous daily fish and vegetable market.

With all the energy infused from the market we now embark on our **Mt Etna day**, surely one of Sicily's greatest adventures – not only for the volcanic phenomena but also for its bio-diversity and vast variety of panoramic viewpoints. Please **NOTE** – we will **NOT** be going to the summit. (Remember, we promised you a different kind of Sicily trip)

Setting off by Jeep from Catania our excursion includes stops in Regional Parks, short walks through forests and caves, and breathtaking panoramas over land, sea, and city.

We stop for a winery tour and Lunch at **Cottanera Winery** a boutique winery on Etna's Slopes – a perfect place to drink Etna's best-made wines, learn about the viticulture of the region, and meet some very dedicated winemakers.

After lunch we continue our Etna adventure – returning to Catania and our hotel in the late afternoon.

This is **NOT** the end yet! We will meet later for an Aperitivo and a chance to say our goodbyes.

Dinner is on your own.

Included: Breakfast, Wine Tasting, Lunch

Day 8 – Saturday, October 3 – **Arrivederci Sicilia!**

Alas all good things must come to an end. You take with you the wonderment of Sicily, the connection to new friends and a continuing desire to see more of our world.

Breakfast at the hotel and check out. Private transfer to **Catania airport**.

See next page for Tour Information...

Tour Information

Price: USD \$4895 per person based on double occupancy

Single Supplement USD \$650

Price includes

- 7 nights Hotel, breakfast daily
- All transportation per itinerary
- Airport transfers
- Local Guide and entrance fees: Sant'Angelo Muxaro, Valley of the Temples and Kolymbetra Garden, Ragusa, Modica, Siracusa and Ortigia, Catania Fish Market
- Volcano Etna Jeep tour with driver guides
- Cooking class with guided tour at Marzipan – Almond Museum
- All Lunches and tastings per itinerary
- 4 Dinners included
- Wine, water, tea/coffee at meals
- **Price does not include**
 - AIRFARE
 - Individual extras (laundry, phone, etc)
 - Wine or other drinks not included in the meals
 - All that has not been clearly indicated in “Price includes”
 - Trip Insurance
 - Tips to housekeeping at hotels

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