

Another Sicily, another Land



BUONGIORNOSICILY

*tour operator*

*Italy without Sicily leaves no image in your soul:  
here is the key to everything...*

*W. Goethe*

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**BUONGIORNOSICILY**

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## Introduction

Dream of Sicily... that's what people do before and especially after they visit this wonderful island. To travel through Sicily is to search for knowledge. And to find it! Sicily will astonish you with its thousands of different realities: the inviting sea... majestic Etna Volcano offering



ring you a panoramic sea view while you are skiing... many monuments... archaeological parks... the International E. Majorana Physics Centre in Erice.... small lakes in the mountains... sanctuaries... the smaller islands... world famous ceramics... vineyards and wineries... gastronomy... all this makes us proud to say that travelling with us is like travelling through "another Sicily", another land. But Sicily is also blessed with fascinating towns rich in art and history, allowing you to travel through space and time ... let us introduce our island to you: another Sicily, another land. All this, together with Sicilian hospitality, meant that many travellers visiting Sicily in 1800 never left again. For those who share the real pleasure of the search for vibrant colours, exquisite flavours, unique and unforgettable sensations and images, we offer a beautiful dream.

# Introduction

# Intro



## Who we are

We are a travel company with head offices in Belpasso - a delightful little town on the slopes of Etna Volcano - and a branch office in Catania, with a dynamic and experienced team (our most senior member has been working in tourism for almost 30 years). Inspired by our own love of Sicily, we all strive to provide you with an unforgettable experience of our island. Here you can find tours and accommodation ranging from 5 star hotels to comfortable Bed & Breakfasts, charming villas, country houses and authentic farms. Those with a love of adventure will enjoy trekking, paragliding flights or motorbike tours. Gastronomy lovers will savour the aromas and flavours our oenology-gastronomy tours and discover many excellent wines. Those who love to cook will enjoy the experience of our fun and interesting cookery classes.

If you have a particular interest or special event to celebrate, we are ready to place our extensive skills and experience at your service. Buongiorno Sicily also blesses the love: we will organize your wedding holiday, dealing with legal paperwork, organizing the ceremony (civil or religious), and arranging everything you need to make this your perfect wedding day.

We work with groups and individuals, taking care of groups and individual requests. We also provide the traveller with specific services, such as local guides, transfers, etc.

But above all: every guest is unique and important to us. We focus on offering our guests the best.

Who we are  
we are



## Who we are



**Pina Motta** *General Manager* **sichelia viaggi sas**



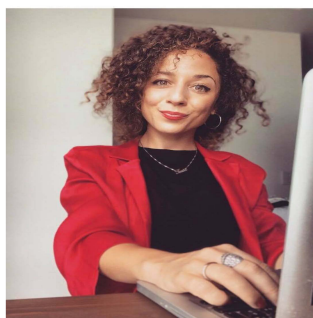
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**Enza Venezia** *Incoming department manager*



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**Antonia Motta** *Product Manager Japan*



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# Who we are

# we are

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SICILY TOUR



*Greek theatre at Morgantina*



*Castle at Palazzolo Acreide*

1st day – Arrival at Catania airport. Transfer to hotel, welcome drink, dinner and overnight.

2nd day – Breakfast in hotel and departure for Noto. Visit to the historic centre, famed throughout the world for its magnificent baroque style. During the visit you will see the “Porta Reale”, the wonderful churches and the long flight of steps leading to the spectacular Cathedral. Directly opposite the Cathedral is the Ducezio Palace (now the Town Hall) with the impressive façade of San Domenico church at the end the square. And the town is full of many more beautiful stately homes that are worth seeing. For its beauty and uniqueness, Noto has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage site. There will also be a visit to a famous winery where you can sample local wines. The afternoon excursion takes you to the nature oasis of Vendicari, populated by numerous species of birds and many examples of Mediterranean plants, and further enriched by the archaeological sites it contains: the ancient “Tonara” and the Swabian tower. Finally, we will visit the “Borgo Marinaro” of Marzamemi and end the day with dinner in Portopalo di Capo Passero, and overnight.

3rd day – Breakfast in hotel and departure for Palazzolo Acreide. Visit to Antonino Uccello’s ethnographic Casa Museo and the historic centre. Excursion to the archaeological area of Akrai. Lunch, and proceed to Grammichele. Accommodation in hotel. Dinner in a famous local winery. Overnight.

4th day – Breakfast in hotel and departure for Caltagirone, world famous for its production of ceramics. Walk through the historic centre with its many workshops and important churches, such as Chiesa del Collegio, S. Giacomo and S. Bonaventura, and the stately homes of the nobility. Visit to the museum of ceramics and the Staircase of Santa Maria del Monte with its 142 hand-painted ceramic steps, the symbol of Caltagirone. One of the late baroque towns of Val di Noto, Caltagirone is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Lunch. In the afternoon an excursion to the archaeological site of Philosophiana with the remains of the ancient baths. Arrival at Piazza Armerina. Dinner and overnight.

5th day – Breakfast in hotel. Visit to the marvellous Villa Romana del Casale, dating back to the 3rd century A.D. and declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1977 for its extraordinary mosaics. Short walk through the historic centre of Piazza Armerina with its an-

cient stately homes and important churches such as the imposing Cathedral whose spires rise high above the town. Lunch. In the afternoon, visit to the archaeological area and the Greek theatre of Morgantina. Visiting the Aidone museum you will see the archaeological discoveries of the Morgantina area and the famous Morgantina Venus. Returned by the Paul Getty Museum of Malibu who had bought it from an illegal dealer, the restored 5th century B.C. statue is now on exhibition. Dinner and overnight.

6th day – After breakfast, departure for Enna, a town defined as the “Navel of Sicily” for its geographical position at the heart of the island. Visit to the Lombardia Castle. Departure for Catania. Lunch. Visit to the historic centre with its Cathedral, marvellous churches and Roman Amphitheatre. In the afternoon a walk along the charming streets of Catania. Dinner and overnight.

7th day – Breakfast in hotel. Transfer to Catania airport.



*Portopalo di capopassero*



*Mosaic detail*

*©Lamberto Rubino*

## CLASSICAL SICILY TOUR



1st day – Arrival at Catania Airport and transfer by reserved bus to the hotel. Dinner and overnight.

2nd day – Breakfast in hotel. Excursion to Mount Etna to experience the emotion of climbing the highest active volcano in Europe (3350m above sea level). It will be possible to see some of the ancient craters and the signs of past eruptions defining the landscape and making you feel you are walking on the moon! Along the way there will be a short break in a typical winery to sample some famous Etna wines. In the afternoon, transfer to Taormina, the Mecca of international tourism. First built by the Greeks on Mount Tauro in the 4th century and then ruled by the Romans, Taormina's present aspect largely developed in Medieval times. The guided visit will include the main street Corso Umberto, Palazzo Corvaja, built in the 15th century, the church of S. Caterina and the Greek Theatre with its amazing panorama. Return to hotel, dinner and overnight.

3rd day – Breakfast in hotel and departure for Syracuse, a metropolis which in ancient times had a huge impact on the story of Mediterranean civilization, known the world

over for its archaeological, natural and cultural treasures. It will be possible to visit the archaeological parks of Neapolis and Ortigia, the old city centre of Syracuse where you can still admire remains of the Temple of Apollo (the oldest in Sicily), Piazza Duomo with its beautiful baroque Cathedral erected on the ruins of a Greek temple, and Fonte Aretusa, the legendary spring and symbol of the town. Return to the hotel in the late afternoon, dinner and overnight.

4th day – Breakfast in hotel. Departure for Piazza Armerina to visit the extraordinary Villa Romana del Casale declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 1997 for its incredible mosaics covering an area of more than 3500m<sup>2</sup>. At the end of the visit, transfer to Palermo, arrival and accommodation in reserved rooms. In the afternoon, guided tour of the town to visit San Giovanni degli Eremiti built in 1136, the magnificent Cathedral, and the Martorana and S. Cataldo churches. It will also be possible to visit the Arab quarters of Zisa and Cuba. Return to hotel, dinner and overnight.

5th day – Breakfast in hotel. We will continue our tour of Palermo to see the Palace of the Normans and the Palatine Chapel, and then transfer to Monreale to visit its extraordinary Norman Cathedral, with wonderful mosaics covering the interior walls, and the Benedictine cloister. Return to hotel. Dinner and overnight.

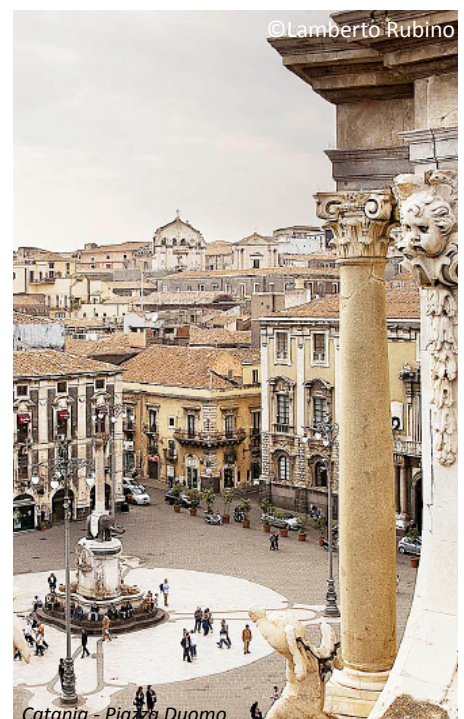
6th day – Breakfast in hotel. Departure for Segesta to visit the magnificent Doric temple (5th century B.C.) one of the best-preserved Greek temples left to us from ancient times. We will then continue to Erice, a suggestive



medieval town overlooking the western coast from 750m above the sea. Guided visit to the old city. Return to hotel. Dinner and overnight.

7th day – After breakfast in hotel, we will visit Selinunte, an archaeological park with splendid temples, and the Cusa quarries which provided the material for the temple columns. Arrival at Agrigento and accommodation in reserved rooms. Dinner and overnight.

8th Day – Breakfast in hotel and visit to the Valley of the Temples. Transfer to selected Airport and departure.



## IBLEAN LANDS TOUR



1st day – Arrival at Catania airport. Transfer to Ragusa. Accommodation in hotel, dinner and overnight.

2nd day – Breakfast in hotel. Sightseeing of Ragusa historic centre and excursion to Ragusa Ibla, the old town with its splendid S. Giorgio baroque Cathedral built by the famous architect Rosario Gagliardi. From the Cathedral it is possible to walk along the main street and admire the beautiful stately homes, churches and chapels. A walled town set on a high cliff, this is the ancient Ragusa destroyed in the tragic earthquake of 1693. Lunch. In the afternoon, we will visit Donnafugata Castle, a magnificent residence where the barons Arezzo of Donnafugata spent their summers. This impressive castle with neo-gothic towers and loggias is surrounded by a vast romantic park featuring several buildings, temples, chapels and a stone labyrinth. The rooms on the “noble floor” are also well worth visiting, their original fittings allowing us to savour the magic ambience in which Sicilian aristocracy spent their leisure. Return to hotel, dinner and overnight.

3rd day – Breakfast in hotel. Departure for Camarina (or Kamarina). The town was founded

by the people of Syracuse in 598 B.C. and the most important sites to visit are the 5th century B.C. Temple of Athena which stands next to an Antiquarium containing relics from the ancient town, today mainly preserved in the archaeological Museums of Ragusa and Syracuse. Archaeological excavations have revealed some Hellenic houses in addition to the ruins of the Athenian walls. These discoveries have allowed a reconstruction of the city which was one of the most beautiful examples of a 4th century B.C. township. Wine tasting in a famous winery and continuation to Comiso. Visit to the historic centre featuring the Naselli Castle, Matrice and Annunziata churches, and Fonte Diana with the remains of Roman baths. Return to hotel, dinner and overnight.

4th day – Breakfast in hotel. Departure for Modica. Visit to the baroque church of S. Pietro, with statues of the twelve Apostles lining its steps, and S. Giorgio church, attributed to the famous architect Rosario Gagliardi, destroyed by the tragic earthquake of 1693 and reopened in 1738. Impressive stately homes demonstrate the importance of the city and the power of its aristocracy. Visit to the birthplace of Salvatore Quasimodo, who

won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1959. Stop at a typical pastry shop to taste famous Modica chocolate. Lunch. Departure for Scicli. Walk through the historic centre with its beautiful via Francesco Mormino Penna and the Beneventano palace, an 18th century building declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2002. Dinner and overnight.

5th day – Breakfast in hotel. Departure for Ispica and a walk through the historic centre and continuation to the nature park of Cava d'Ispica to see rural houses and tombs dug into the cliff side and the ruins of little churches that still show the remnants of ancient frescoes. Lunch in Marzamemi (Portopalo), a beautiful seaside fishing town. Continuation to Noto. Dinner and overnight.

6th day – Breakfast in hotel. Visit to Noto historic centre, world famous for its stunning baroque style. During this visit you can admire the “Porta Reale”, beautiful churches and the long flight of steps leading to the spectacular Cathedral. Directly opposite is the Ducezio Palace (now the Town Hall) with the impressive façade of S. Domenico church at the end the square. Of course, there are many more beautiful stately homes to be seen in the town. For its beauty and uniqueness Noto has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage site. There also will be a visit to a famous winery to sample local wines. Continuation to Catania. Accommodation in hotel, dinner and overnight.

7th day – Breakfast in hotel and transfer to Catania airport. Departure



## VALDEMONE TOUR

*Taormina – Main street and belvedere*



1st day – Arrival at Catania airport. Transfer to hotel. Welcome drink. Dinner and overnight.

2nd day – Breakfast in hotel. Departure for Bronte, a town known for the production of pistachios, recognized by the European Community as a PDO. Visit to the Maniace abbey, also known as the “Castle”. In 1799 the abbey was donated to Admiral Nelson by King Ferdinand as a reward for his help in suppressing the Naples riots. The castle is surrounded by a wonderful park rich in exotic plants with a small, late Norman church nearby. This church has a beautiful gothic portal of marble with figured capitals. The wooden ceiling is distinctive of the Norman period. Continuation to Cesarò to visit the beautiful park, well worth seeing for its natural landscapes. Continuation to Castel di Tusa, a lovely seaside town. Accommodation in hotel, dinner and overnight.

3rd day – Breakfast in hotel. Visit to Fiumara d’Arte di Tusa: huge modern sculptures by contemporary artists of international fame.

*Taormina- Greek Theatre and Taormina bay*



Lunch. In the afternoon, a pleasant walk by the sea. Dinner and overnight.

4th day – After breakfast, departure for San Marco d’Alunzio to visit the evocative historic centre with its 4th century Temple of Hercules, converted into a church dedicated to St. Mark the Evangelist in the 17th century, ruins of the Norman castle and its charming streets. Continuation to Capo d’Orlando. Lunch. Afternoon visit to Villa Piccolo, the ancient summer residence of the Piccolo barons, containing a rich collection of art works, paintings, books and even autographed letters written by Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa, the author of the novel *Il Gattopardo* (The Leopard). Return to hotel. Dinner and overnight.

5th day – Breakfast in hotel. Departure for Randazzo, a beautiful town situated on the northern slopes of Etna, built almost entirely of lava rock. It has preserved much of its medieval appearance with magnificent churches (S. Maria, S. Nicolo) and impressive old buildings and streets that have retained

*Taormina – charming corner*



all their charm. Continuation to Castiglione di Sicilia to walk through its historic centre with ancient churches and a magnificent castle. Wine tasting in a famous local winery. Lunch. In the afternoon, departure for Taormina and sightseeing in its historic centre. Accommodation in hotel, dinner and overnight.

6th day – After breakfast, excursion to the Alcantara Gorge with its impressive natural canyon landscape. Departure for Catania to visit the historic centre with the Cathedral, wonderful churches and Roman Amphitheatre. In the afternoon, a walk along its enchanting streets. Dinner and overnight.

7th day – Breakfast. Transfer to Catania airport. Departure.

*Alcantara Gorges*



## VAL DI MAZARA TOUR



Erice - Torretta Pepoli

1st day – Arrival at Palermo airport. Transfer to hotel by private bus, accommodation in hotel, dinner and overnight.

2nd day – Breakfast in hotel. Visit to the historic centre to see the Palace of the Normans with the Palatine Chapel commissioned by Ruggero II in 1132 and the Cathedral which contains the royal and imperial tombs of Enrico VI, Federico II, Costanza of Aragona, Ruggero II, etc. The Cathedral was built in 1184 on a pre-existing church, converted into a mosque by the Arabs and then re-consecrated as a Christian church by the Normans. The tour includes the Fountain of Piazza Pretoria and splendid stately homes. Lunch. In the afternoon, sightseeing in the Riserva dello Zingaro, a beautiful nature reserve rich in Mediterranean plants and the home to many species of birds and animals. Arrival at Castellamare del Golfo, a delightful seaside town. Dinner and overnight.

3rd day – Breakfast and departure for Erice, a picturesque medieval town overlooking the west coast of Sicily from a height of 750m. Visit to the historic centre to see Venus Castle, the Mother church, the Phoenician town walls and characteristic narrow medieval streets. Transfer to Valderice. Accommodation in hotel, dinner and overnight.

4th day – Breakfast in hotel. Departure for Mozia, an ancient Phoenician town on the island of San Pantaleo at the centre of a large lake. The evocative ruins of the town are of great charm and the museum exhibits one of the most beautiful sculptures of antiquity, the statue “Young Man from Mozia”. Continuation to Marsala, famous as the landing site of Garibaldi’s 1000 men who started the process of Italian unification. At Marsala (from the ancient Marsa Allah, Port of Allah) it is still possible to see the ancient walls and gateways, as well as the magnificent Cathedral in the central square and important works of art. Visit to a winery to savour famous “Marsala” wines. Dinner and overnight.

5th day – Breakfast in hotel. Departure for Segesta. Visit to the archaeological park with its beautiful 5th century B.C. Doric Temple, one of the most well-known archaeological sites in Sicily and one of the best preserved monuments of antiquity. Continuation to the archaeological ruins of Monte Jato. Visit to a winery to sample some local wines. Lunch. Continuation to “Piana degli Albanesi”, a town founded in the late 15th century by Albanian settlers fleeing from Turkish invasion. The inhabitants have not forgotten their roots and still retain their original culture expressed through their language and



Sicilia - Cathedral, detail

traditional female customs. A walk through the historic centre. Stop at a pastry shop to relish the famous “cannoli”. Departure for Monreale. Accommodation in hotel, dinner and overnight.

6th day – After breakfast, sightseeing in Monreale visiting the Norman Cathedral decorated with stunning mosaics on a gold ground, and the ancient Benedictine Cloister. Lunch. Continuation to Bagheria (the old holiday destination of Palermo’s aristocracy) and visit to Villa Palagonia, also known as the “Villa of Monsters” for the frightful statues adorning the walls. Villa Palagonia was already known in 1787, when the poet Johann Wolfgang Goethe visited and was impressed by its beauty. The large mirror room is decorated by elegant marble in different colours, medallions and marble busts depicting the Prince and his family members adorn the walls. Transfer to Palermo. Accommodation in hotel, dinner and overnight.

7th day – Breakfast and departure for Cefalù. Visit to the magnificent Norman Cathedral known for its decorated mosaics on a gold ground. Lunch. Return to hotel, dinner and overnight.

8th day – Breakfast in hotel. Transfer to Palermo airport and departure.



Marsala – Salt bed windmills

© Luciano Buono



Sicily – Piana degli Albanesi



Sicily – Sea view

## UNKNOWN ITINERARIES

*Syracuse - greek tragedy in the greek theatre*



©Lamberto Rubino

1st day – Arrival at Catania airport, transfer to hotel. Accommodation in reserved rooms. Welcome aperitif and briefing with an archaeologist who will explain the tour. Dinner and overnight.

2nd day – Breakfast in hotel and departure for Mazzarino to visit Mount Bubbonia, an ancient archaeological site, discovered by Paolo Orsi in 1905. Despite its great importance in the history of the island, this site is hardly ever included in usual tours of Sicily. Originally it seems to have been the town of Maktorion, described by Herodotus. Lunch in a farmhouse to experience local flavours. In the afternoon, visit to Piazza Armerina and the 3rd century A.D. Villa Romana del Casale, declared a World Heritage site in 1977 because of its extraordinary mosaics covering an extensive area. Short walk through the historic centre of Piazza Armerina with its ancient stately homes and important churches, such as the imposing Cathedral with its spires rising high above the town. Dinner and overnight in hotel or farm.

3rd day – Breakfast in hotel and continuation of our tour of “unknown itineraries” to discover another important archaeological site: Philosophiana near Piazza Armerina. It constitutes a link to Villa Romana del Casale. In the past it was an important area rich in water as shown by some hydraulic pipes indicating a particularly high level of engineering for the time. Moreover, thanks to its strategic position on the route from Catania to Agrigento, it was once the place where rich pilgrims travelling the “Itinerarium Antonini” stopped to rest and refresh themselves. In the afternoon, continuation to Morgantina to visit the Aidone museum and admire the Venus statue, recently returned to Sicily by the Paul Getty Museum of Malibu who had bought it from an illegal dealer. Having been



*Ancient Noto – Cava Carosello*

©Tino Franza

restored, the 5th century B.C. statue is now on exhibition. Back to the hotel or farm. Dinner and overnight.

4th day – Breakfast in hotel and departure for Marianopoli, a little town near Caltanissetta, to visit the museum where interesting archaeological finds from the area are exhibited. Return to hotel or farm. Time for leisure activities. Dinner and overnight.

5th day – Breakfast in hotel and departure for the town of Palazzolo Acreide, near the ancient Greek town of Akrai and full of archaeological sites. Visit to the Casa Museo of Antonino Uccello, an anthropologist who has dedicated his whole life to gathering materials of great historical and anthropological interest. Continuation to Noto. Accommodation in hotel or farm. Dinner and overnight.

6th day – Breakfast in hotel. After a short visit to the baroque historic centre of Noto, departure for an unforgettable experience: a researcher will introduce you to the many spirits (cultural, scenic, architectural, historical, etc.) of a place. An immersion in time, visiting unknown sites and experiencing scents and sensations you will remember for ever. For example, the route from San Giovanni Lo Vecchio to Santa Chiara: a path of great historical, naturalistic and ethnographic interest. A five-hour walk across the Ibleo plateau on the slopes of Serra Porcari, allowing you to discover ancient Greek sites, shaded fountains, dwellings and villages, and old limestone caves... through the scents and fragrances of the silent countryside of Noto. Not to mention Castelluccio: a journey of great artistic and historic value lasting about 4 hours. An exciting excursion into unspoiled landscape: from a Sicilian Bronze Age necropolis to the ruins of the medieval Castello Vecchio... from the Byzantine frescoes of the “Grotta dei San-

ti” to the feudal village of Castelluccio... Return to hotel or farm. Dinner and overnight.

7th day – Breakfast in hotel and departure for Syracuse. Visit to the archaeological park and the historic island of Ortigia. Transfer to the Papyrus Well which can only be reached by boat, and only if the weather allows. Transfer to Catania airport and departure.

For those particularly interested, it is possible to organize archaeology field trips, with expert guides, allowing you to experience the thrill of an archaeological dig and catalogue the remains of both famous and “unknown” sites.



*Syracuse – Ear of Dionysius*

## WINE-TASTING IN SICILY TOUR



1st day – Etna area. Arrival at Catania airport. Transfer to hotel. Dinner and overnight.

2nd day - After breakfast, departure for Mount Etna, the highest active volcano in Europe. On route, a short stop at a local winery to enjoy copious wine-tasting. Continuation to another local winery for a guided tour with tasting and light lunch. Departure for Catania and sightseeing in its historic centre, visiting the Cathedral, splendid churches and Roman Amphitheatre. Sampling delicious Sicilian pastries and ice-cream in a typical pastry shop. Back to the hotel and overnight.

3rd day – Syracuse area. After breakfast, transfer to a charming farmhouse immersed in the enchanting Syracuse countryside and surrounded by acres of trees and vineyards where “Moscato” grapes are grown for a particular Sicilian wine. Welcome cocktail. Wine tasting and introduction to Sicilian wines by an expert oenologist. The owner will also invite you to explore the vineyards and the cellars. In the afternoon, guided visit to the main archaeological monuments of Syracuse, including the Greek Theatre, where classical Greek tragedies are still held in the sum-

mer, the Roman Amphitheatre, the Latomia of Paradise with the Ear of Dionysius and the Rope Makers cave. On the charming island of Ortigia it will be possible to visit Porta Urbica, the Temple of Apollo and the Cathedral or the Temple of Athena. In the evening, return to hotel and overnight.

4th day – The southern wine road: from Noto to Modica. After breakfast, departure for Noto. On route, a brief stop at Avola to sample “Latte di mandorla”, a typical local speciality. Arrival in Noto and visit to the historic centre, world famous for its stunning baroque style. During the visit you can admire the “Porta Reale”, wonderful churches and the long flight of steps leading to the spectacular Cathedral. Directly opposite the Cathedral is the Ducezio Palace (now the Town Hall) with the impressive façade of San Domenico church at the end the square. The beautiful façades of several splendid houses of the nobility are also worth seeing. Because of its beauty and uniqueness, Noto has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage site. Continuation to Pachino, visiting a winery for wine-tasting. Departure for Modica to visit the baroque church of S. Pietro, with

statues of the twelve Apostles lining its steps, and S. Giorgio church. Attributed to the famous architect Rosario Gagliardi, the church was destroyed by an earthquake in 1693 and reopened in 1738. Impressive stately homes demonstrate the importance of the city and the power of its aristocracy. Stop at a typical pastry shop to taste the famous chocolate of Modica. Lunch in a farmhouse and accommodation in a charming hotel. Overnight.

5th day – Ragusa wines. After breakfast, departure for Ragusa Ibla, the ancient site of Ragusa before its destruction in the earthquake of 1693, with the splendid baroque S. Giorgio Cathedral. From the Cathedral it is possible to walk along the main street and admire the beautiful stately homes, churches and the lovely Circolo di Conversazione. Continuation to Vittoria, visiting two wineries to enjoy wine-tasting. On route, a stop at a famous winery in Butera. Light lunch. Continuation to Agrigento. Accommodation in a charming farmhouse and overnight.

6th day – “Inzolia” and “Passito”. Breakfast in hotel and visit to the majestic Valley of Temples in Agrigento, a UNESCO World He-



ritage site since 1997. In an evocative landscape surrounded by centuries-old olive and almond trees, rise the stunning and still well-preserved Greek temples: the Temple of Concordia, the Temples of Juno and Zeus, and many others. Departure for Menfi with a visit to two local wineries. Continuation to Selinunte to explore the archaeological park with its splendid temples. Arrival at Petrosino. Accommodation in an ancient “Baglio” dating back to the 18th century. Welcome drink and overnight.

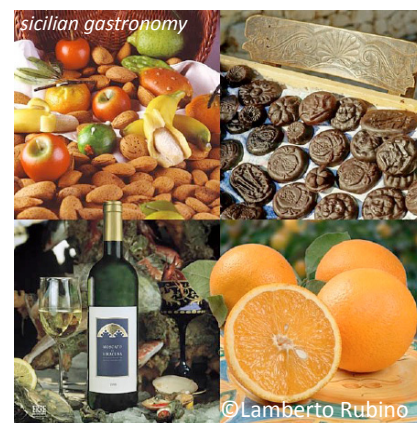
7th day – “Marsala”. Breakfast and visit to the farmhouse. Then departure for Mozia, an ancient Phoenician town on the island of San Pantaleo at the centre of a large lake. The evocative ruins of the town are of great charm and the Whitaker museum exhibits an archaeological collection including the most beautiful statue of antiquity, the “Young Man from Mozia”. Continuation to Marsala with wine-tasting at one of the most famous wineries in the area. Departure for Virzi. Accommodation in a charming farmhouse. Welcome drink and overnight.

8th day – After breakfast, private visit to a vineyard. Departure for Segesta, visiting the

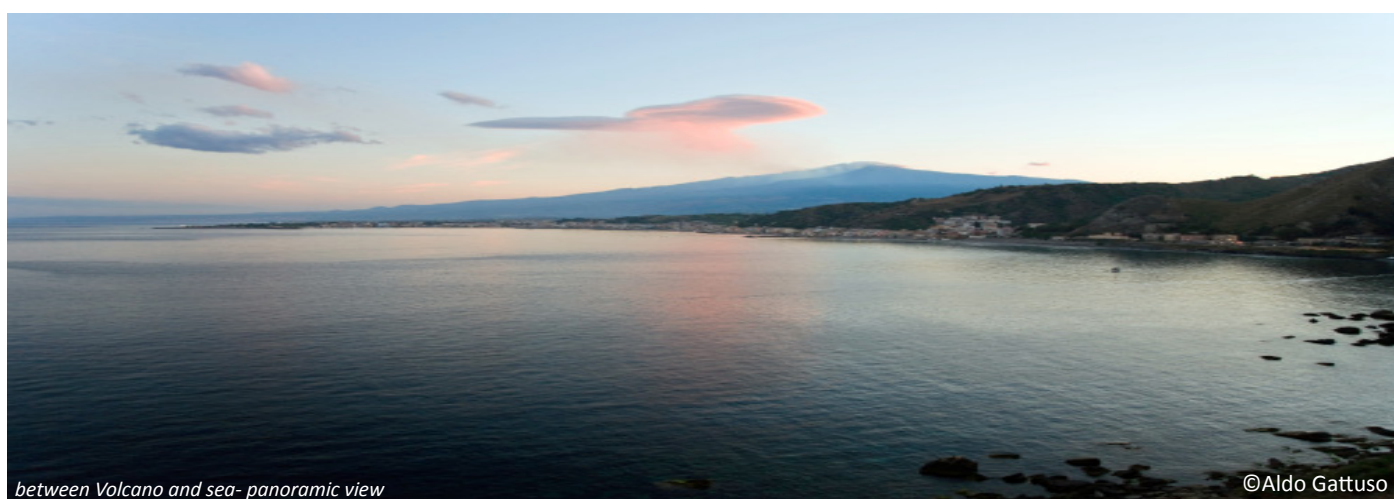


archaeological park with its beautiful 5th century B.C. Doric Temple, one of the most well-known archaeological sites in Sicily and one of the best-preserved monuments of antiquity. Continuation to the little medieval town of Erice. Lunch in the Trapani area. In the afternoon, departure for Paceco, visiting a famous winery which produces, among other wines, “Bianco d’Alcamo”. Return to hotel and overnight.

9th day – After breakfast, departure for Palermo and sightseeing in the city, in particular, Palace of the Normans with the Palatine Chapel commissioned by Ruggero II in 1132, the Cathedral which contains the royal and imperial tombs of Enrico VI, Federico II, Costanza of Aragona, Ruggero II, etc., the Fountain of Piazza Pretoria and other splendid stately homes. Then a visit to the Museum of Wine and a light lunch. Transfer to Palermo airport and departure.



This tour is dedicated to those who love good wine. On this special tour you will have the opportunity to savour different wines and, at the same time, to discover the culture, traditions, legends and myths of Sicily. You will visit some of our more famous places and some others, perhaps less well-known, but no less rich in beauty and charm, to see splendid countryside and little towns not normally included in conventional tourist itineraries. For accommodation reasons, this tour is suitable for small groups of 6 to 12 participants.



# KNOWING, TASTING, COOKING...

## ENOGASTRONOMIC TOUR WITH COOKERY CLASS

This tour can be reorganized, adding or removing days or locations, by prior agreement



1st day – Arrival at Palermo airport, meeting with our assistant, transfer by private bus to hotel, and accommodation. In the afternoon, guided sightseeing in Monreale to visit the Norman Cathedral decorated with beautiful mosaics on a gold ground and ancient Benedictine cloister. Dinner in a typical local restaurant. Return to hotel and overnight.

2nd day – Breakfast in hotel. In the morning, a particular tour among Sicilian flavours, walking around in the colourful and “vocal” local market “Vucciria”. This is the Palermo people’s open market: an immersion in aromas and flavours dating back centuries. Then tasting some typical foods, such as “Pannele di ceci” (fried chickpea flour bread), “Sfinciuni” (exquisite pastries of rice rolled in flour and fried, eaten with honey); “Pane ca’ meusa” (bread stuffed with chopped spleen), etc. Guided sightseeing in Palermo, visiting the Palace of the Normans with the Palatine Chapel commissioned by Ruggero II in 1132, the Cathedral with the royal and imperial tombs of Enrico VI, Federico II, Costanza of Aragona, Ruggero II, etc., the Fountain of Piazza Pretoria and splendid stately homes. Return



to hotel. Dinner in a typical local restaurant. Overnight.

3rd day – Breakfast in hotel and departure for Erice, a small medieval town, famous for its ice-cream and pastry shops. Here you will be able to watch the preparation of pastries following traditional recipes. Return to Palermo with a brief stop at Segesta to visit the archaeological park with the beautiful 5th century B.C. Doric Temple, one of the most well-known archaeological sites in Sicily and one of the best-preserved monuments of antiquity. Wine-tasting and dinner in a Palermo winery. Return to hotel and overnight.

4th day – Breakfast in hotel. Full day in a town to discover our ancient culture and history. Visit to a vineyard, food and wine tasting. In the afternoon, you can watch and participate in a cookery class with an expert chef, preparing some typical Sicilian dishes and sampling your own results at the end. Return to hotel and overnight.

5th day – Breakfast in hotel and departure for

Catania. Stop at Cefalù to visit the impressive Norman cathedral known for its decoration of mosaics on a gold ground. In the afternoon, continuation to Catania. Accommodation in hotel. Sightseeing in the city, including the Cathedral, the marvellous churches and the Roman Amphitheatre. Wine-tasting and dinner in a winery. Return to hotel and overnight.

6th day – Breakfast in hotel and departure for Syracuse. Guided visit to the main archaeological monuments of Syracuse, including the Greek Theatre, where classical Greek tragedies are still held in the summer, the Roman Amphitheatre, the Latomia of Paradise with the Ear of Dionysius and the Rope Makers cave. On the charming island of Ortigia it will be possible to visit the Porta Urbica, the Temple of Apollo and the Cathedral or the Temple of Athena. Return to hotel, dinner and overnight.





*Etna*



*Catania - fish market*



*Cannoli, typical Sicilian pastries*

7th day – Breakfast in hotel and departure for Etna, the largest active volcano in Europe. Visit to a winery and wine-tasting. Lunch at restaurant with a “virtual wine and food tour of Sicily”. In the afternoon, visit to Taormina with its charming historic centre with its many lovely shops, Greek theatre and wonderful panoramas. Return to hotel and overnight.

8th day – Breakfast in hotel and visit to the “Pescheria” market, in Catania. This is the oldest market of the city and so called because it was originally a big fish market, though nowadays it offers much more. In the afternoon, you can watch and participate in a cookery class where an expert chef will show you how to prepare some typical Sicilian dishes. This is a fun experience where you will learn some of the secrets of traditional Sicilian dishes and taste your own results at the end. Return to hotel and overnight.

9th day – After breakfast, time for leisure activities, then transfer to airport and departure.



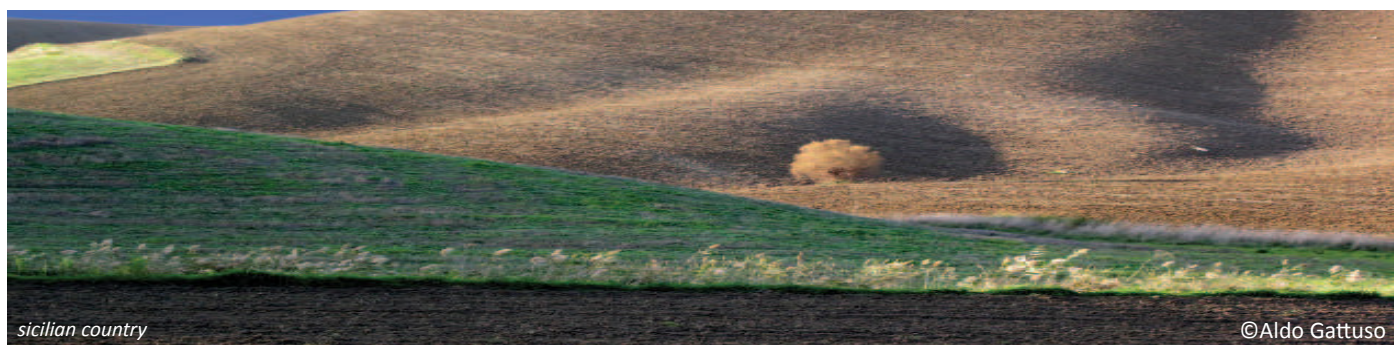
*Olives*



*Taormina - Greek Theatre*

## SICILIAN COUNTRYSIDE TOUR

This tour can be reorganized, adding or removing days or locations, by prior agreement.



1st day – Arrival at Palermo airport. Welcome and transfer to Palermo city centre by private bus. Visit to the most important city monuments: Palace of the Normans with the Palatine Chapel commissioned by Ruggero II in 1132, the Cathedral with the royal and imperial tombs of Enrico VI, Federico II, Costanza of Aragona, Ruggero II, etc., the Fountain of Piazza Pretoria and splendid stately homes. Lunch of typical local food at l' "Antica Focacceria San Francesco". Transfer to hotel, accommodation, dinner and overnight.

2nd day – Breakfast and departure for Segesta to visit the archaeological park with its beautiful 5th century B.C. Doric Temple, one of the most well-known archaeological sites in Sicily and one of the best-preserved monuments of antiquity. Transfer to Trapani and sightseeing in the historic centre with its ancient stately homes and churches of great artistic merit. Typical lunch with couscous at the "Salt Museum" and guided tour of the "saline", or salt beds, to discover the origins and processing of sea salt by an ancient method that is still used today. Stop at a winery

to sample local wines. Departure for Agrigento. Accommodation in hotel. Dinner and overnight.

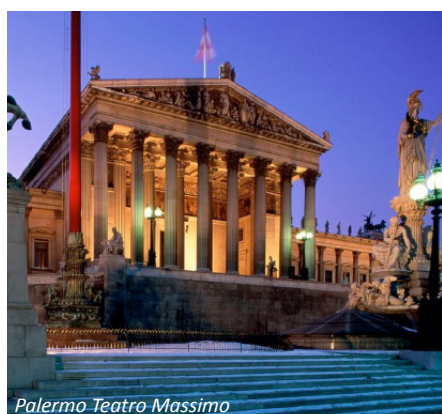
3rd day – Breakfast in hotel and visit to the majestic Valley of the Temples, a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1997. Set in an evocative landscape among centuries-old olive and almond trees, the stunning Greek temples are still very well-preserved. You will see the Temple of Concordia, the Temples of Juno and Zeus, and many others. Visit to the 3rd century Villa Romana del Casale declared a World Heritage site in 1977 for its extraordinary mosaics covering an extensive area. Visit to the archaeological park and the Greek Theatre of Morgantina. Departure for Catania, accommodation in hotel. Dinner and overnight.

4th day – After breakfast departure for a guided excursion on Mount Etna volcano. In the afternoon, continuation to Taormina. Sightseeing in the historic centre of this enchanting town with its charming narrow streets full of interesting shops and the Greek The-

atre set in a magical landscape. Back to Catania. Dinner in a typical restaurant. Overnight.

5th day – Breakfast and departure for Syracuse. Guided visit to the main archaeological monuments of the city, including the Greek Theatre, where classical performances are still held in the summer, Roman Amphitheatre, the Latomia of Paradise with the Ear of Dionysius and the Rope Makers cave. On the charming island of Ortigia it will be possible to visit the Porta Urbica, the Temple of Apollo and the Cathedral, or the Temple of Athena. Lunch featuring typical local cuisine. In the late afternoon, return to hotel. Overnight.

6th day – Breakfast. Visit to Catania and its folkloristic "Pescheria", the oldest food market of the city. Short exploration of the historic centre, visiting the Cathedral, beautiful churches and the Roman Amphitheatre. You will also be able to sample some local savouries and sweets (arancini, granita ices, etc.). Transfer to Catania airport and departure.



## CULTURE AND CUISINE AT VILLA LIONTI

This tour gives you the opportunity to actively take part in cookery classes with the preparation of Sicilian dishes according to the ancient recipes of the Giuliano family. In fact, Mrs. Antonietta will share her culinary art and great communication skills with her students. Accommodation is in the apartments of her charming villa, a fully restored old farmhouse. Guests can alternate Sicilian cookery classes with interesting excursions to enjoy the extraordinary culture of our beautiful island.



*Prickly pears – typical Sicilian fruit*



*Granita ice*



*Marzipan fruit*

1st day – Arrival at Catania airport. Private transfer to Villa Lioni. Accommodation in reserved apartment. Welcome aperitif. In the evening, a welcome pizza party at the villa and overnight.

2nd day – Breakfast served. First Cookery Class of about three hours, followed by lunch consisting of the dishes prepared in class. Afternoon for personal leisure activities. Free for dinner. Overnight.

3rd day – Breakfast served. Second Cookery Class. Lunch with sicilian wines included. In the evening wine tasting accompanied by typical sicilian snacks at the villa. Free for dinner. Overnight.

4th day – Breakfast served. Full day excursion to Mount Etna, the highest active volcano in Europe. For lunch you will experience a virtual food and wine tour of Sicily, with va-

rious dishes reflecting the different areas and cultures of the island. The chef or restaurant manager will explain the origins and history of the dishes, putting them into their various geographical and cultural contexts. In the afternoon, visit to small villages on the slopes of Mount Etna or Taormina with its enchanting historic centre and lovely narrow streets full of interesting shops, the Greek theatre and its majestic setting. In the evening, return to the villa. Free for dinner and leisure activities. Overnight.

5th day – Breakfast served. Third Cookery Class, followed by lunch based on the dishes prepared in class and including sicilian wine. Afternoon free for personal leisure activities. Free for dinner. Overnight.

6th day – In the morning, visit to the “Pescheria”, the oldest open market in Catania, originally trading only in fresh fish brought in

by the fishing boats (hence the name), but now transformed into a proper food market, although seafood still remains the primary and most picturesque offering. Free for lunch. In the afternoon, return to the villa. Fourth Cookery Class. The afternoon class will be followed by dinner with the dishes prepared in class. Local wine included. Overnight.

7th day – Breakfast served. Full day excursion to Caltagirone, a town famous for its production of ceramics. Walk through the historic centre with its numerous workshops and important churches, such as Chiesa del Collegio, S. Giacomo and S. Bonaventura, and the symbol of Caltagirone: the Staircase of Santa Maria del Monte with its 142 hand-painted ceramic steps. Visit to the Regional Museum of Ceramics and pottery workshops. Stop in a winery to sample famous local wines. Return to the villa. Free for dinner. Overnight.

8th day – Breakfast served, transfer to Catania airport and departure.



*pasta alla norma*



*arancini*

By prior agreement, this program can be tailored to the needs of the traveller. In fact it is possible to reduce or increase the number of cookery classes, or change the proposed excursions. What will surely remain is the memory of a unique, fun and... delicious experience!

## GOLF AND CULTURE BETWEEN SICILY AND MALTA



1st day – Arrival at Catania airport. Transfer to hotel in Taormina area, accommodation and welcome cocktail. Dinner and overnight.

2nd day – Breakfast in hotel. Golf at “Il Picciolo Golf Club” (18 holes, Par 72, 5870m) situated among oak woods, hazelnut trees and vineyards in Castiglione di Sicilia, a town set on the slopes of Mount Etna, with majestic views of the volcano from every part of the course. In the afternoon, an excursion to Taormina to experience the magic atmosphere of this charming town, a famous destination for travellers since 1800. A cable car ride will offer you one of the most stunning views in the world with Taormina bay and Isola Bella in the background. The Greek theatre, where classical Greek tragedies are still performed, will remind you of ancient splendour and the natural and unique scenery will leave you breathless... Then, while walking along the main street, you will be able to sample the local speciality of almond wine, delicious ice-cream and Sicilian pastries. Return to hotel, dinner and overnight.

3rd day – Breakfast in hotel. Golf at “Il Picciolo Golf Club”. In the afternoon, sightseeing in Catania, visiting the Cathedral, splendid

churches and Roman Amphitheatre, walking along its enchanting streets to admire the baroque buildings completely rebuilt after the tragic earthquake of 1693. Return to hotel, dinner and overnight.

4th day – Breakfast in hotel. Golf at “Il Picciolo Golf Club”. Visit to a famous winery to sample local wines and food. Departure for Randazzo, a beautiful town situated on the northern slope of Etna and built almost entirely out of lava rock. It has preserved much of its medieval appearance with magnificent churches (S. Maria, S. Nicolo), impressive old buildings, and streets which have retained all their original charm. Return to hotel, dinner and overnight.

5th day – Breakfast in hotel. Transfer to Catania Airport and departure for Malta. Arrival, transfer to 5 star hotel and accommodation. Welcome drink, dinner and overnight.

6th day – Breakfast in hotel. Transfer to “Royal Malta Golf Club” (18 holes, Par 65, 5091m) set in The green oasis of Marsa Sport & Country club. In the afternoon, sightseeing at the most important places nearby. Dinner and free time to spend at the Casino. Over-

night.

7th day – Breakfast in hotel. Transfer to airport and departure for Catania or original destination.



## HEAVENLY SOUNDS VAL DI NOTO CHURCH ORGAN TOUR

1st day – Arrival at Catania airport. Transfer to hotel. Dinner and overnight.

2nd day – Breakfast in hotel. Visit to Catania to admire its wonderful monuments: Piazza Duomo with its Elephant fountain, the heart of the old town centre, the majestic baroque Cathedral, and University and Teatro Massimo squares. San Nicolò l'Arena: visit to the church and the monumental organ created by Don Donato del Piano between 1755 and 1767, comprising 72 stops operated by five keyboards divided into three consoles (guided tour of the organ to hear its registers and a musical performance). Lunch. In the afternoon, a walk along via Sanguiliano to reach via Crociferi, one of the most exquisite streets in Catania, and continuation along via Etnea, an elegant street with many baroque buildings, to visit San Michele ai Minoriti: its interior dominated by a huge neo-gothic organ with 57 stops built in 1858 by Fratelli Serassi of Bergamo (op. 647). (music recital). Further along we find the monument to Vincenzo Bellini, the imposing Roman amphitheatre, one of the few Roman remains to have survived the city's many eruptions and earthquakes, and the church of S. Agata alla



4th day - Breakfast in hotel. Departure for Modica. Visit to the baroque church of S. Pietro, where we find statues of the twelve Apostles lining its steps, to hear the organ built in 1924 by Michele Polizzi from Modica. Pride of place in the church of S. Maria di Betlem is taken by a splendid neo-classical organ built in 1818 by Francesco Andronico from Palermo (music recital). The church of S. Giorgio, damaged in the earthquake of 1693 and reopened in 1738, attributed to the famous architect Rosario Gagliardi, houses a monumental organ with four keyboards and about 70 stops, created in 1888 by Casimiro Allieri of Bergamo and still awaiting restoration. Magnificent stately homes testify to the importance of the town and the power of its aristocracy. Stopover in a typical pastry shop to sample famous Modica chocolate. Lunch. In the afternoon, arrival at Scicli. Walk through the historic centre where both the beautiful via Francesco Mormino Penna and Beneventano Palace, an 18th century building with extraordinary decorated balcony ledges, were declared UNESCO World Heritage sites in 2002. Visit to the church of S. Maria la Nova to hear the neo-gothic organ built by Michele Polizzi of Modica in 1893 (music re-



Fornace, one of the eight churches dedicated to the city's patron Saint. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

3rd day – Breakfast in hotel. Departure for Noto. Famous the world over for its extraordinary baroque style, and declared a UNESCO World Heritage site for its beauty and uniqueness. During the visit you can admire the Porta Reale, the stunning churches and the long flight of steps leading to the spectacular façade of the Cathedral. Directly opposite is the Ducezio Palace (now the Town Hall) and the square ends with the impressive façade of SS. Salvatore church which houses a splendid organ built in 1755 by Donato del Piano and a small 18th century chamber organ (music performance). Lunch. In the afternoon, a walk through the historic centre where you will can admire the exquisite façades of ancient stately homes and many churches, including the Immacolata which has a precious chamber organ made in 1726 by Paolo Grimaldi, son of the famous harpsichordist Carlo (short concert). Visit to a famous wine cellar to sample well-known wines of the area. Dinner and overnight.

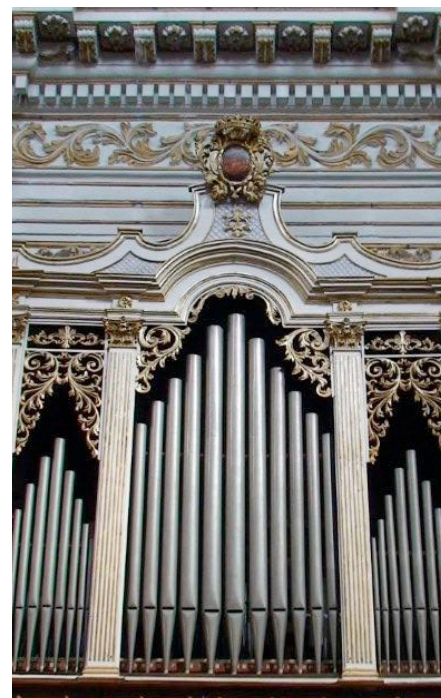


cital). Dinner and overnight.

5th day – Breakfast in hotel. Departure for Ragusa. Brief visit to the historic centre of Ragusa. Excursion to Ragusa Ibla, a splendid baroque town with the Cathedral of S. Giorgio, built by the famous architect Rosario Gagliardi (visiting the church and the famous Organum maximum constructed by Fratelli Serassi of Bergamo in 1881 with three keyboards and 73 stops; short music recital). From the cathedral square winds the main street, with magnificent buildings, churches and the charming Circolo di Conversazione. The town is the ancient site of Ragusa before the earthquake of 1693, a fortified citadel built on a high crag. Visit to the church of Anime Sante del Purgatorio, housing a fine Allieri-Serassi organ of 1879 (music recital). Lunch. In the afternoon, visit to the restoration workshop of Artigiana Organi where it will be possible to examine and hear various instruments. Visit to Donnafugata Castle, the sumptuous summer residence of the barons

Arezzo di Donnafugata. A grandiose neo-gothic 'castle' with towers and loggias surrounded by a vast romantic park where you can find various buildings, temples, chapels and a stone labyrinth. Well worth visiting, the rooms of the 'noble floor' with their original furniture and fittings bring to life the magic ambience of the Sicilian aristocracy at leisure. Return to hotel. Dinner and overnight.

6th day – Breakfast in hotel. Continue to Caltagirone world-famous for the production of ceramics. Walk through the historic centre with its numerous artisan workshops and important churches, such as the Cathedral, S. Giacomo (to hear the 14-stop organ created in 1783 by Agatino Santucci of Syracuse) and Santa Maria la Stella (to hear the interesting chamber organ built in 1740 by Simone Andronico of Palermo), to arrive at the symbol of Caltagirone: the Staircase of Santa Maria del Monte, with its 142 hand-painted ceramic steps. One of the late baroque towns of Val di Noto, Caltagirone was listed as a



del Monte, with its 142 hand-painted ceramic steps. One of the late baroque towns of Val di Noto, Caltagirone was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2002. Lunch. Afternoon visit to the Regional Museum of Ceramics. Departure for Piazza Armerina. Dinner and overnight.

7th day – Breakfast in hotel. Visit to the Villa Romana del Casale, built in the 3rd or 4th century A.D. and believed to have belonged to the emperor Maximian by some, to the Nicomedi family by others. It is the most extensive assemblage of mosaic art dating back to Roman times. The Villa was declared a World Heritage site 1977 precisely because of its extraordinary mosaics covering an area of some 3500m<sup>2</sup>. Lunch. In the afternoon, walk through the historic centre of Piazza Armerina with its antique stately homes and rich churches. In particular, the Cathedral dominates the town centre and contains some important works of art and two splendid organs constructed by Donato del Piano in 1740 and by Pacifico Inzoli in 1886 (music recital). Visit to the Chiesa dei Gesuiti to hear the interesting 18th century organ attributed to Donato del Piano (musical moment). Return to hotel. Dinner and overnight.

8th day – Breakfast. Transfer to Catania airport and departure.



Ragusa Ibla- Duomo

©Luciano Buono

## HEAVENLY SOUNDS VAL DEMONE CHURCH ORGAN TOUR

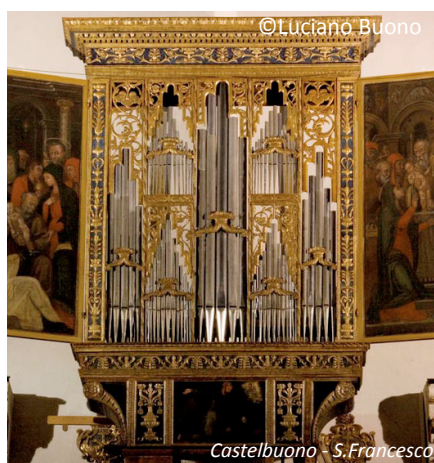
1st day – Arrival at Catania. Transfer to hotel. Dinner and overnight.

2nd day – Breakfast in hotel. Visit to Catania to admire its wonderful monuments. Piazza Duomo, the heart of the old town centre with its Elephant fountain, the majestic baroque Cathedral, and the University and Teatro Massimo squares. San Nicolò l'Arena: visit to the church and the monumental organ created by Don Donato del Piano between 1755 and 1767, comprising 72 stops operated by five keyboards divided into three consoles (guided tour of the organ to hear its registers and musical performance). Lunch. In the afternoon, a walk along via Sanguiliano to



reach via Crociferi, one of the most exquisite streets in Catania, and continuation along via Etnea, an elegant street with many baroque buildings, to visit San Michele ai Minoriti: its interior dominated by a huge neo-gothic organ with 57 stops built in 1858 by Fratelli Serassi of Bergamo (op. 647). (music recital). Further along we find the monument to Vincenzo Bellini, the imposing Roman amphitheatre, one of the few Roman remains to have survived the city's many eruptions and earthquakes, and the church of S. Agata alla Fornace, one of the eight churches dedicated to the city's patron Saint. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

3rd day – Breakfast in hotel. Departure for Messina. Visit to the Cathedral to hear the magnificent Tamburini organ with 5 keyboards and some 16000 pipes (music recital). Lunch. Departure for Castrolibero with its delightful historic centre and churches, notably the Mother Church dedicated to Maria As-



sunta. The original 5th century structure was extended in 1600 and contains precious works of art; its recently built baroque-inspired organ has two keyboards and 18 stops and is housed sumptuous carved and gilded wooden case which originally held the ancient organ of 1622 (music recital). Departure for Terme Vigliatore. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

4th day – Breakfast in hotel. Departure for Patti: visit to the historic centre and Cathedral which contains an interesting organ of 1758 created by Annibale Lo Bianco (music



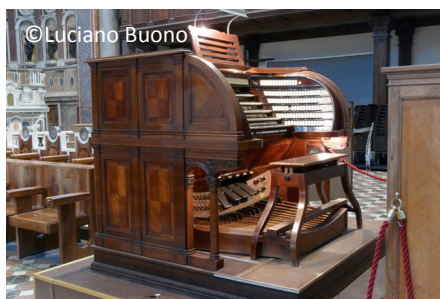
recital). Continue to San Piero Patti where the Mother Church, rich in works of art, houses a monumental organ built in 1758 da Annibale Lo Bianco (music recital). Lunch. Proceed to Ficarra, rich in excellent churches. The Mother Church is home to a splendid organ again created by Annibale Lo Bianco in 1714 and recently restored (music recital). Continue to Capo d'Orlando. Dinner and overnight.

5th day – Breakfast in hotel. Departure for Frazzanò; the mother church of S. Lorenzo houses a precious organ built by Annibale Lo Bianco in 1716 and recently restored (music recital). Continue to Galati Mamertino, ho-



metown of the organist Annibale Lo Bianco. The mother church is rich in works of art, housing an organ built by the organist in 1720 and recently restored (music recital). Lunch. In the afternoon, arrival at Alcarà li Fusi, a town rich in splendid churches; the mother church houses an interesting organ built by Antonino La Manna from Palermo in 1782 (music recital). We proceed to the church of S. Pantaleone, where a splendid carved and gilded baroque case holds a magnificent organ, constructed in 1667 by Giuseppe Speradeo from Palermo, and one of the oldest organs in Sicily (music recital). Arrival at Castel di Tusa. Dinner and overnight.

6th day – Breakfast in hotel. Visit to Fiumara d'Arte (River of Art), the first great open-air museum in southern Europe, where contemporary artists have created wonderful sculptures, this area of Sicily is today a favourite destination of international art tourism. Departure for Castelbuono, prestigious centre

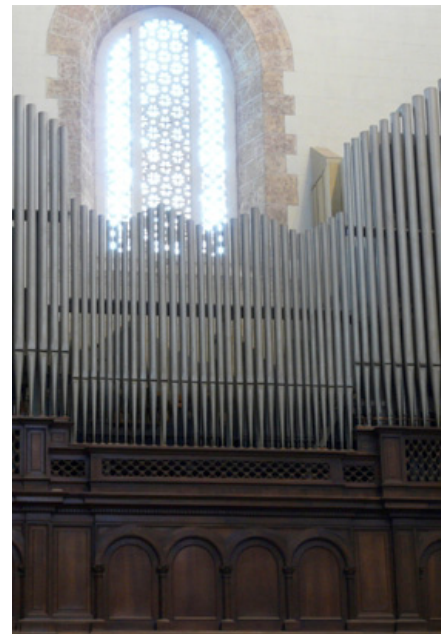


of the Madonie mountains and rich in churches and works of art. Lunch. Visit to several churches, including : S. Francesco, home to a recently restored organ which is the oldest found in Sicily, that was built in the 17th century by Palermo craftsmen reusing a wind chest of 1547 (music recital); S. Antonino church which houses a splendid 17th organ created by Onofrio Guzzio (musical moment) and the new mother church housing two organs constructed by Pasquale Pergola at the

beginning of 19th century (music recital). Continue to Cefalù. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

7th day – Breakfast in hotel. Visit to Cefalù: the magnificent Norman Cathedral famous for the mosaic decorations on a gold ground. Continue to Santuario di Gibilmanna, site of a prestigious museum of Capuchin art containing a very particular 19th century organ with reed pipes (one of only a few still existing in the world). (music recital). Lunch. Departure for Collesano where the mother church S. Pietro is rich in precious works of art and has a sumptuous organ, made by Antonino La Valle in 1626, housed in a splendid baroque case beautifully painted, gilded and carved (music recital). Return to hotel. Dinner and overnight.

8th day – Breakfast. Transfer to Palermo airport and departure.



## VOLCANO TREKKING BETWEEN SEA AND FIRE



*Trekking on Etna*

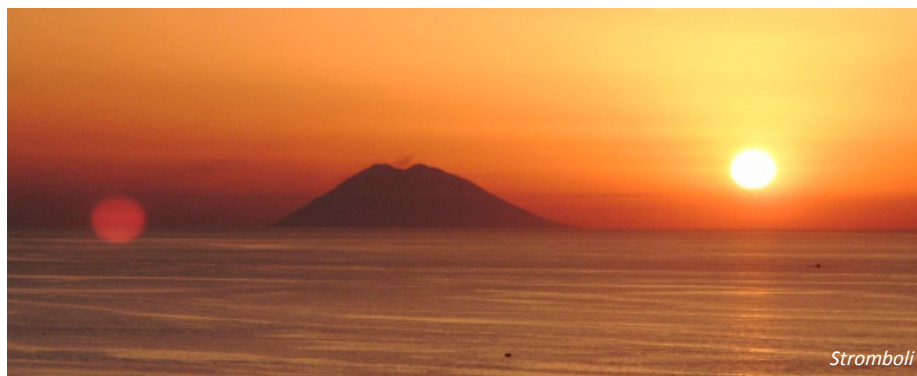


*Stromboli*



*Trekking on Etna*

© Carlo Rapace



*Stromboli*

1st day – Arrival at Catania Airport, transfer to hotel, meeting with the guide who will lead the group on the trek. Dinner and overnight.

2nd Day – Breakfast in hotel and departure for Mount Etna, the highest active volcano in Europe. The day will be spent trekking along several paths on the volcano, discovering its incredible nature where the flora changes throughout the walk, the morphology of the land mutates before your eyes and the structure of the volcano itself alters according to the different eruptions. On the way back, we will take a break to visit a wine cellar and taste some of the famous Etna wines. Return to hotel, dinner and overnight.

3rd day - Breakfast in hotel and transfer to Milazzo. Embarkation for the Aeolian Islands and arrival at Stromboli. Accommodation in reserved rooms and free time. Dinner in hotel. After dinner excursion on a boat for a first contact with the volcano when you will experience an unforgettable show – “la scia-

ra del fuoco”, a steep cliff of volcanic sand where incandescent material erupting from the crater flows down to the sea. Back to the hotel and overnight.

4th Day – Breakfast in hotel and departure for an approximately 3-hour trek over Stromboli, the most famous volcano of the Aeolian islands. A huge 924m cone, the volcano has been active for more than two thousand years, with continuous rumblings and rhythmic explosions throwing ash and lava into the air like some incredible gigantic firework. As a curiosity, perhaps you know that Stromboli inspired Jules Verne for his novel “A Journey to the Centre of the Earth”. Return to hotel, free time, dinner and overnight.

5th day – Breakfast in hotel and transfer to the isle of Vulcano. Accommodation in reserved rooms. You shouldn't miss the thermal baths, where natural hot springs gush and you can take a mud bath followed by a plunge into the warm sea. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

6th day – After breakfast, an approximately 1-hour trek to climb the “Gran Cratere di Fossa” to fully enjoy the natural beauty of the area with its wonderful land and seascapes. In the late afternoon, transfer to Salina, accommodation in hotel, dinner and overnight.

7th day – Breakfast in hotel. Salina is the greenest of the Aeolian islands and it is also the highest thanks to its twin volcanoes. An approximately 3-hour trek to climb Mount “Fossa delle Felci” and admire the breathtaking landscape. In the late afternoon, departure for Milazzo. Transfer to Catania. Accommodation in hotel. Dinner and overnight

8th day – Breakfast in hotel. Free time. Transfer to Catania airport and departure.

We advise you to take this tour between April and October.

## “AIR – WATER – FIRE – LAND”: an adventure journey through the four elements



Contact us for programs and prices!



## CASTIGLIONE DI SICILIA AND ALCANTARA GORGES



*Alcantara Gorges*

1st day – Arrival at Catania airport and transfer to Castiglione. This town offers evidence of the various peoples settling in Sicily such as the Lauria Castle and the Byzantine-style church of S. Domenica, called La Cuba. In the afternoon, optional excursion to the Alcantara Gorge, a ravine carved over the centuries into the rock by the river Alcantara flowing through three different mountain ranges (Nebrodi, Peloritani and Etna), the gorge is a like a canyon with truly remarkable scenery. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

2nd day – Breakfast in hotel and free time. On request, you have the possibility of playing a round at Etna Golf Club or enjoying an excursion to Randazzo, a medieval town situated in an area which saw all the most important dominations of Sicily: Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Arab, Norman, and Spanish civilizations and cultures all left their mark on the territory. On request, an afternoon visit to Taormina, one of the most attractive tourist

towns in Sicily offering amazing panoramas, historic monuments and the sea. During the visit you can explore the Greek Theatre, the Cathedral and charming narrow streets full of beautiful shops ranging from high-end fashion to typical small traditional stores. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

3rd day – Breakfast in hotel. Free time or, on request, excursion to Mount Etna at 1900m where a mountain guide will accompany you up to 2900m, first by cable car and then by jeep. You will see the craters of the two most recent major eruptions of 2002 and 2003. On request, the possibility to stop at a typical restaurant to have a sort of virtual wine and food tour through the traditional flavours of Sicilian cuisine. Return to Castiglione and free time. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

4th day – Breakfast in hotel. We advise you to visit Catania to admire its wonderful monuments: Piazza Duomo, the heart of the

old town centre with its famous Elephant fountain, the magnificent baroque Cathedral and University square. The walk continues with via Crociferi, one of the most exquisite streets in Catania and via Etnea, an elegant street with many baroque buildings. Along the street you will find Piazza Stesicoro with the wonderful Roman amphitheatre, one of the few monuments to survive the many eruptions and earthquakes in the city's history, the monument in memory of Vincenzo Bellini and the church of S. Agata alla Fornace, one of the eight churches dedicated to the city's patron saint. Transfer to the airport and departure.



*La Cuba Byzantine church*



*Circumetnea railway*



*Castiglione di Sicilia*



## CALTAGIRONE - CATANIA - MOUNT ETNA

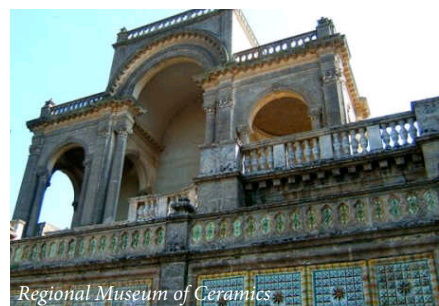


*The ceramic tile staircase of Santa Maria del Monte*

©Aldo Gattuso



*Pottery in Caltagirone*



*Regional Museum of Ceramics*

1st day – Arrival at Catania Airport and transfer to Caltagirone, known internationally as the City of Ceramics. You can take a lovely walk through the old town to visit pottery workshops, important churches such as Chiesa del Collegio, the churches of S. Giacomo and S. Bonaventura and many stately homes of the nobility. In the afternoon, a visit to the Museum of Ceramics and the amusing Whistle Museum, with a chance to see the symbol of Caltagirone: the famous 142 hand-painted ceramic steps of S. Maria del Monte. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

2nd day – Breakfast in hotel. In the morning, free time when you can choose to participate in an interesting pottery class conducted by a master potter who will show you the secrets of his art and will help you to create your own original piece of ceramic art. In the

afternoon, transfer to Catania and free time to enjoy a visit to this exceptional city and its important monuments, such as the Cathedral, magnificent baroque churches, Roman amphitheatre and the Norman Castle. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

3rd day – Breakfast in hotel and free time. We advise you to experience a fascinating and unique experience that unites culture and gastronomy. We offer a visit to the traditional Fish Market, the oldest market of Catania, where an expert guide will help you to select and buy fresh-from-the-boat seafood and other typical produce found in this very particular market. In the afternoon, the group will participate in a cookery class, preparing a typical Sicilian meal according to traditional recipes, with the help of an expert Chef. This will be an enormously enjoyable

experience and end with a dinner based on the dishes produced by the whole group! Return to hotel and overnight.

4th day – Breakfast in hotel. In the morning, free time or an optional excursion to Mount Etna, the highest active volcano in Europe. Then a stopover at a wine cellar to sample famous Sicilian wines. Lunch at a restaurant where you will have a virtual wine and food tour of Sicily. Transfer to the airport and departure.



*Vizzini - countryside*

©Lamberto Rubino



## CASTEL DI TUSA- CEFALU'- TINDARI- SANTO STEFANO DI CAMASTRA



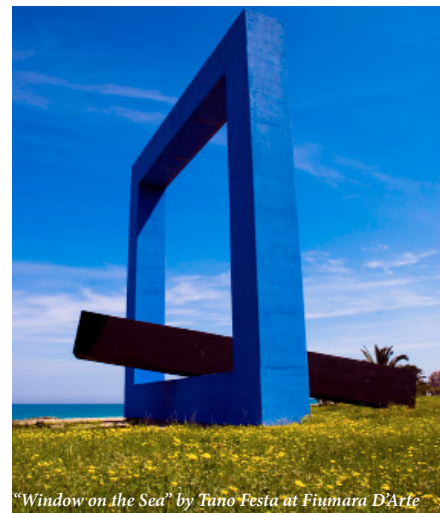
*View of Castel di Tusa*

1st day – Arrival at Palermo airport and transfer to Cefalù. Optional excursion to the magnificent Norman Cathedral famous for the mosaic decorations on a gold ground. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

2nd day – Breakfast in hotel. Free time or optional excursion to Castel di Tusa, a small town made famous by Antonio Presti, an entrepreneur with a passion for art who many years ago decided to sponsor some contemporary artists and allow them to donate one of their masterpieces to the territory, thereby creating the “Fiumara d’arte” (River of Art), the first great open-air museum in southern Europe. Thanks to him and the mayors of towns in the area, this part of Sicily is today a favourite destination of international art tourism. Lunch and visit to the hotel-museum Atelier sul Mare (Studio on the Sea) created by Mr. Presti to give space to artistic creativity. The hotel rooms are, in fact, pieces of art and “falling asleep in one of them means becoming part of the masterpiece”.

In the afternoon, you will visit Santo Stefano di Camastra, known worldwide as the pottery town, an active centre of ceramics on the border between the provinces of Palermo and Messina. Everywhere you look, you will see colourful ceramic dishes, mosaics, tiles, and pots. Back to the hotel, dinner and overnight.

3rd day – Free time to go to the beach or to take the optional excursion to Gibilmanna and visit the famous Sanctuary dedicated to the Virgin Mary. According to tradition, the Sanctuary of Gibilmanna was one of the six Benedictine monasteries that S. Gregorio Magnus funded before being elected Pope. In the afternoon, optional excursion to the Himera Archaeological Park. Himera was a Greek colony and in 480 B.C. the armies of Syracuse and Akragas defeated the Carthaginians at the Battle of Himera fought on the hills overlooking the town. Today you can still see the temple built to celebrate the victory and visit the interesting Lovers Grave in the



*“Window on the Sea” by Tano Festa at Fiumara D’Arte*

Antiquarium. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

4th day – Breakfast in hotel. We strongly advise you to visit Palermo with its Norman Cathedral and Palatine Chapel, built by Ruggero II in 1130. The Cathedral, erected in 1184, is built on a church which was converted into a mosque by the Arabs and later re-consecrated as a Catholic church by the Normans. Here you can find the imperial and royal tombs of Enrico VI, Federico II, Costanza d’Aragona and Ruggero II. Also worth seeing are the Church of the Martorana, the Fountain of Piazza Pretoria and wonderful stately homes. Transfer to airport and departure.



*“Heart and Fire” by Luigi Mainolfi (Hotel Atelier sul Mare)*



*“Mystery for the moon” (Hotel Atelier sul Mare)*



*“Opra Room” by Mimmo Cuticchio (Hotel Atelier sul Mare)*



## TOWNS WITH BAROQUE ARCHITECTURE

# MODICA - RAGUSA IBLA - SCICLI - DONNAFUGATA



*Traditional chocolate of Modica, detail*

1st day – Arrival at Catania airport and transfer to Ragusa. Optional excursion to Ragusa Ibla, an extraordinary baroque town, once a fortified rock citadel and the original Ragusa before being destroyed in the terrible earthquake of 1693. Not to be missed are S. Giorgio Cathedral, designed by the architect Rosario Gagliardi, and the main street, with wonderful buildings, churches and the very particular “Circolo di Conversazione”. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

2nd day – Breakfast in hotel. Free time. We advise you to take advantage of an optional excursion to Donnafugata Castle. The summer house of Baron Arezzo di Donnafugata, this magnificent neo-gothic castle with towers and galleries is set in an extensive romantic park where you can find small temples, chapels and a stone labyrinth. A visit

to the many rooms of the “noble floor” with their original furniture and fittings brings to life the magic ambience of the Sicilian aristocracy at leisure. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

3rd day – Breakfast in hotel. Free time or optional excursion to Modica. We begin by visiting the baroque-style church of S. Pietro, with statues of the twelve apostles on its steps. Then on to the church of S. Giorgio, damaged by the earthquake of 1693 and reopened in 1738, as well as many wonderful buildings testifying to the importance of the town and the power of its aristocracy. In the afternoon, an optional excursion to Scicli where you can walk through the historic city centre to see two UNESCO World Heritage sites: via Francesco Mormino and the 18th century Beneventano Palace with its splen-

did balconies. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

4th day – Breakfast in hotel. We suggest you visit Catania to admire its wonderful monuments, such as Piazza Duomo, the heart of the old town centre with its famous Elephant fountain, the magnificent baroque Cathedral, and University square. The walk continues along via Crociferi, one of the most evocative streets in the city, and via Etnea, an elegant street with many beautiful baroque buildings. Along the street you will find Piazza Stesicoro with the wonderful Roman amphitheatre, one of the few monuments to survive the many eruptions and earthquakes in the city's history, the monument in memory of Vincenzo Bellini and the church of S. Agata alla Fornace, one of the eight churches dedicated to the city's patron Saint. Transfer to the airport and departure.



*Ragusa Ibla - Church of S. Giorgio*



*Donnafugata Castle - detail*



*Modica - Church of S. Pietro*



## NOTO - VENDICARI - MARZAMEMI - PALAZZOLO ACREIDE

1st day – Arrival at Catania airport and transfer to Noto. Visiting the town, known as “The Stone Garden” because of its extraordinary baroque architecture, you will see the Royal Gate, wonderful churches, and the long flight of steps leading to the Cathedral. Opposite the Cathedral is the Ducezio Palace (now the Town Hall). Because of its unique style and magnificent beauty, the town has been declared a World Heritage site. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

2nd day – Breakfast in hotel. Optional excursion offering an unforgettable experience: an expert guide will introduce you to the secrets of Noto countryside, walking along old pathways to discover the land’s cultural, architectural and historic soul still hidden from international tourism. You can choose a 5-hour nature walk from S. Giovanni Lo vecchio to S. Chiara to discover rural villages, ancient dwellings and white stone quarries, or a 4-hour panoramic and artistic walk through eternal landscapes to the medieval Old Castle and the ancient village of Castelluccio. In the afternoon, you can visit Marzamemi, a small and picturesque seaside town, with its fishermen’s houses, the Tonnara and the old palace of Principe di Villadorata, the famous setting for many movies. For this reason, Marzamemi has hosted an important film festival every year since 2000. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

3rd day – Breakfast in hotel. Optional excursion to the Nature park of Vendicari where you can visit various archaeological ruins, the remains of ancient buildings used to process fish, a small necropolis, little churches, tombs etc. The symbol of Vendicari, the Swabian Tower was built by Pietro d’Aragona Earl of Albuquerque and Duke of Noto. Nearby you

will find the 18th century Tonnara with its original high chimney and several old fishermen’s houses. Used in catching tuna, the Tonnara, was fully operative until 1943. In the afternoon you can visit Palazzolo Acreide, a small town built among the nearby of the ruins of the ancient Greek city Akrai, with its many archaeological remains. You will then visit the Casa Museo of Antonino Uccello, an ethnographic museum full of material of great anthropological and historical interest. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

4th day – Breakfast in hotel. We advise you to visit Catania to admire its wonderful monuments, such as Piazza Duomo, the heart of the old town centre with its famous Elephant fountain, the magnificent baroque Cathedral, and University square. The walk continues along via Crociferi, one of the most evocative streets in the city, and via Etnea, an elegant street with many beautiful baroque buildings. Along the way you will find Piazza Stesicoro with the wonderful Roman amphitheatre, one of the few monuments that survived the many eruptions and earthquakes in the city’s history, the monument in memory of Vincenzo Bellini and the church of S. Agata alla Fornace, one of the eight churches dedicated to the city’s patron saint. Transfer to the airport and departure.



*Noto - Cathedral*

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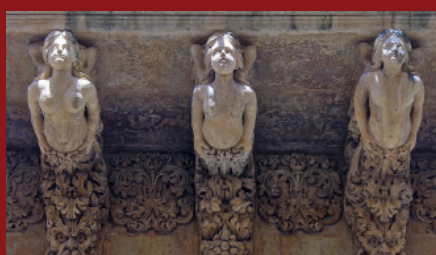


*Vendicari*

©Lamberto Rubino



*Flower art in Noto*



*Noto baroque, detail*



*Archaeological ruins in Noto area*



## PIAZZA ARMERINA - AIDONE - MORGANTINA - SPERLINGA - CATANIA



1st day – Arrival at Catania airport and transfer to Enna. Until 1926 Enna was known by the name of Castrogiovanni, while the Romans called it “Urbs inexpugnabilis”. Lying at the centre of the island, thereby earning it the nickname of Sicilian Navel, it offers the visitor magnificent panoramas. We strongly advise you to visit the Castle of Lombardia., the Castle is named after the army of Lombardy who took possession of it in the name of Queen Adelaide del Monferrato, wife of Ruggero I of Sicily. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

2nd day – Breakfast in hotel. Day available to take some optional excursions such as the visit to Piazza Armerina, known for its Villa Romana del Casale, a 3rd century A.D. Roman villa famous for exquisite mosaic floors covering an extensive area and a World Heritage site since 1977. In the afternoon, you can continue the excursion to the excavations of Morgantina and to the Museum of Aidone. The museum houses many archaeological

finds from the site and, in particular, the famous statue of Venus, recently returned by the Paul Getty museum who had bought it from an illegal dealer. Together with the Venus you will see the Eupolemos treasure, 16 pieces of precious silverware from the 3rd century B.C. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

3rd day – Breakfast in hotel. Optional excursion to Sperlinga, called the “town of rocks”, with its old houses and caves dug into the rock face (some still occupied!). There is also a famous castle, originally a mountain stronghold built around the 12th and 13th centuries B.C. and taking on its present aspect during the Middle Ages. There is a famous inscription over the gateway, QUOD SICULIS PLACUIT SOLA SPERLINGA NEGAVIT, commemorating the resistance of the castle’s French garrison who, during the Sicilian Vespers, were under siege for over a year. In the afternoon, free time and the opportunity for a little fun shopping at the Sicilian Fashion Village. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

4th day – Breakfast in hotel. We suggest you visit Catania to admire its wonderful monuments such as Piazza Duomo, the heart of the old town centre with its famous Elephant fountain, the magnificent baroque Cathedral and University square. The walk continues along via Crociferi, one of the most evocative streets in the city, and via Etnea, an elegant street with many beautiful baroque buildings. Along the street you will find Piazza Stesicoro with the wonderful Roman amphitheatre, one of the few monuments that survived the many eruptions and earthquakes in the city’s history, the monument in memory of Vincenzo Bellini and the church of S. Agata alla Fornace, one of the eight churches dedicated to the city’s patron Saint. Transfer to the airport and departure.



*Sperlinga – Castle dug into the rocks*



*Aidone Museum - Demeter the mother, left, and her daughter, Persephone (also called Kore)*



*Villa Romana del Casale*



## OLD PATHWAYS OF NOTO

1st day – Arrival at Catania Airport and transfer to Noto. Free for Lunch. Accommodation in hotel and free time when you have the opportunity to visit the historic centre. Walking through the town known as “The Stone Garden” because of its extraordinary baroque architecture, you can admire the Porta Reale, many churches, the Cathedral, Ducezio Palace (now the Town Hall), and many stately homes of the nobility. Because of its characteristic baroque style, Noto was declared a World Heritage site in 2002 together with Catania, Ragusa, Modica and other towns in Val di Noto.

2nd day – Breakfast in hotel. An unforgettable excursion guided by an expert where you can savour the beauty and the silence of the Noto countryside. During a gentle walk along old pathways, you can immerse yourself in the infinite variety of signs left on the land by four thousand years of human history, and by a further eleven million years of geological events.

Village of Castelluccio

©Tino Franza



### “FROM THE VALLEY OF DURBO TO ANCIENT NOTO”

A path through nature and history. From The Valley of Durbo, on up to Mount Alveria to discover a buried city, the ancient Netum. A long archaeological exploration visiting the fortifications of Norman and Aragonese castles, baroque churches and monasteries, the ancient walls and tombs of Byzantine Greeks, and a final descent to Cava Carosello to visit the Medieval tanneries.

LENGTH: 6 km  
DURATION: 5 hours  
ASCENT: 190 m  
DIFFICULTY: easy

Free for lunch. In the afternoon, visit to a winery and wine-tasting. Return to hotel. Dinner and overnight.

3rd day - Breakfast in hotel. Excursion:

### “FROM TORRESENA TO CAVA FONDA”

A path of scenery, history and ethnography in the discovery of ancient farms and disappearing signs of civilization, of hidden prehistoric settlements, such as the early Bronze Age Tulla site, through valleys and up hills, surrounded by wild nature and set in poignant Mediterranean landscapes.

LENGTH: 5 km  
DURATION: approx. 5 hours  
ASCENT: 200 m  
DIFFICULTY: medium

Free for Lunch. In the afternoon a pleasant walk through the Nature Oasis of Venticari, with its rich variety of birds and Mediterranean plants. There are also some interesting archaeological sites to explore, such as the old Tonnara and the Swabian Tower. Return

to hotel. Dinner and overnight.

4th day – Breakfast in hotel. Departure for Catania. We suggest you visit the historic centre to admire its wonderful monuments such as Piazza Duomo, the heart of the old town centre with its famous Elephant fountain, the magnificent baroque Cathedral and University square. Walking up via San Giuliano you arrive at via Crociferi, one of the most evocative streets in the city. Continue up via Etna, an elegant street with many beautiful baroque buildings and elegant shops. On the way you will find Piazza Stesicoro with a monument to Vincenzo Bellini, the Roman amphitheatre and the church of S. Agata alla Fornace, one of the eight churches dedicated to the city's patron Saint. Transfer to the airport and departure.



©Tino Franza

Castelluccio Necropolis



©Tino Franza

Between Lentin and Fonda quarries



©Tino Franza

Old castle of Castelluccio



## ERICE - MOZIA - MARSALA - MAZARA DEL VALLO - SELINUNTE - SEGESTA



Segesta – Doric Temple

©Silvia De Luca

1st day – Arrival at Palermo or Trapani airport and transfer to Erice. At 750m above the sea, Erice offers splendid panoramas looking out over the western coast. The medieval town centre is very well-preserved and you will enjoy visiting Venus Castle, the Cathedral, the Phoenician town walls and typical medieval streets. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

2nd day – Breakfast in hotel. Optional excursion to Mozia, an ancient Phoenician town set on S. Pantaleo Island, in the middle of a large lake. The evocative ruins of the town are of great charm and Whitaker museum exhibits an archaeological collection including the most beautiful statue of antiquity, the “Young Man from Mozia”. The excursion continues to Marsala, famous as the landing site of Garibaldi’s 1000 men who started the process of Italian unification. It is still possible to see the ancient wall of Marsala (from the Arabic “Marsa Allah” or Port of Allah), as well as the magnificent Cathedral. You will

then visit a wine cellar to sample famous Marsala wine. On the way back we will take a short break at the Trapani “saline”, or salt beds, to admire the beautiful landscape of a sun setting behind the windmills once used in the salt industry and now museums. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

3rd day – Breakfast in hotel. Free time or optional excursion to Mazara del Vallo and Selinunte. Mazara del Vallo is world famous for the bronze statue of a dancing Satyr. Also worth visiting is the historic centre, once enclosed within Norman walls and still retaining its appearance of a typical Arab town, where you will see beautiful 11th century churches. Free for lunch before continuing on to Selinunte, one of the most extensive archaeological parks in Europe. Here you can visit the Acropolis, the Temples on the eastern hill, the ancient walls, etc. The excursion concludes at Cusa to visit the quarries supplying the materials used to build the Selinunte Tem-

ples. Return to hotel, dinner and overnight.

4th day – Breakfast in hotel and optional visit to Segesta to admire the archaeological park with its amazing 5th century B.C. Doric Temple, one of the best-preserved in the world and a striking example of Sicilian archaeology. Transfer to the airport and departure.



Segesta

©Silvia De Luca



Segesta

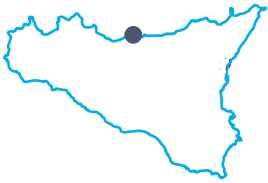
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Erice - detail



Erice – characteristic side street



## CEFALÙ - PALERMO - MONREALE - BAGHERIA



*The splendid beach of Cefalù*

1st day – Arrival at Palermo airport and transfer to hotel. Optional guided visit to Palermo. In the old city centre you can admire the Palace of the Normans and the Palatine Chapel built by Ruggero II in 1130. The Cathedral, erected in 1184, is built on a church which was converted into a mosque during the Arab domination and later re-consecrated as a Christian church by the Normans. Here you can find the imperial and royal tombs of Enrico VI, Federico II, Costanza d'Aragona and Ruggero II. You can also visit Piazza Pretoria and admire splendid stately homes. Return to hotel, dinner and overnight.

2nd day – Breakfast in hotel. Free time to enjoy an excursion. We suggest you visit Monreale, famous for its Norman Cathedral, decorated inside with wonderful mosaics on a gold background, and Benedictine Cloister. In the afternoon, an optional excursion to Bagheria, the holiday destination of the old

aristocracy of Palermo. Visit to Villa Palagonia, also known also as “Villa of Monsters” because of the disturbing stone statues adorning the walls. The villa made a great impression on Goethe who visited in 1787. The huge Mirror Hall is decorated with precious marble and portraits of the Prince and his family. Return to hotel, dinner and overnight.

3rd day - Breakfast in hotel. Free time or, on request, guided visit to Cefalù to admire the magnificent Norman Cathedral, known for its decoration of mosaics on a gold ground. In the afternoon, optional excursion to Carini to visit the Castle, sadly known for the tragic death of the Baroness Lanza, the Church of S. Vincenzo and the beautiful fountain in Piazza Duomo. Dinner and overnight.

4th day – Breakfast in hotel. We heartily recommend a tasting tour of Palermo, walking through “Vucciria”, the famous old open



*western sicily*

market of Palermo, for a full immersion in the odours, flavours and colours of centuries-old tradition. Here you can sample some of the typical savouries of Palermo, such as Pane and Panelle (spicy fried chickpea bread) and Sfinciuni (fried rice covered in honey). Transfer to airport and departure.



*Monreale - the Cloister*



*Monreale Cathedral with the famous Jesus Pantocrator*



*Monreale - the Cathedral*

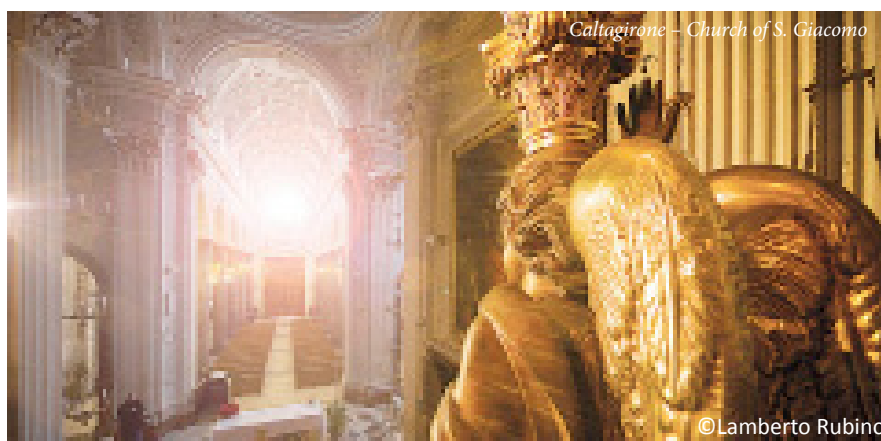


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