

A Taste of Sicily

Food & Wine Tour (9 days / 8 nights)

Day 1 – Arrival Palermo



Arrival at Palermo airport. Meet and greet by an assistant who will guide you through the arrival formalities. Transfer to the reserved hotel with a drive through Palermo's wide avenues. You will be enchanted by the city's wide avenues and historic buildings. Welcome cocktail at hotel. Rest of the day free. Dinner at hotel and overnight stay.

Day 2 – Palermo and Monreale

Breakfast at hotel. The morning will be dedicated to a tour of this capital city, Arab-Norman **Palermo** with its Arab-Norman monuments such as Palazzo dei Normanni (the ancient Royal Palace) and The 'Cappella Palatina', the St. John of the Hermits church (S. Giovanni degli Eremiti) and the Cathedral. Then on to Ballarò, the big open air food market with its colourful stalls of fruit and vegetables, seafood and meats for you to admire and the famous street food of Palermo such as "Panelle e Crocchette", "Arancina" and "Pani Ca Meusa" for you to taste. The tour will continue to other important Renaissance monuments such as the Quattro Canti and Piazza della Vergogna.



We then proceed to **Monreale**, a village 8 km from Palermo, where we will visit the magnificent cathedral (Part of Unesco World Heritage) famous for its beautiful, shimmering mosaics on a background of gold which cover most of the walls portraying characters and episodes from the Bible. In the centre, above the altar, you can admire the famous Christ Our Creator. The mosaics were made by Byzantine artists along with the Venetians and Arabs for what is today the most remarkable set of mosaics of Italy (the works cover about 6,340 square metres).

A Visit to the Cathedral's Benedictine Cloister will follow.

A visit to mosaic studio will follow, to observe a craftsman assembling a mosaic, piece by piece. Our last visit will be to a winery in the countryside of Palermo, in the rolling landscape of the hills, for a guided tasting of selected local wines. Back to hotel and dinner and overnight stay.

Day 3 – Scopello, Erice and Marsala

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out. Departure for **Scopello**, a tiny village on the coast near the fishing and resort town of Castellammare del Golfo and the Zingaro nature reserve. In the small rocky bay there we will visit the old Tonnara di Scopello, a tuna fishery remained as it was left where you can wander among the old buildings and tuna fishing equipment. We will continue with a cooking class together with a housewife offering a genuine experience of a Sicilian meal prepared in the familiar atmosphere of her home.

In the afternoon we will drive to **Erice**, wonderfully preserved medieval hill town, on the top of Monte San Giuliano. During this excursion you can admire a lot of churches and convents of the Middle Ages as well as the famous Norman Castle and its Dome.





Stop to visit Maria Grammatico's Pastry Shop to taste the marzipan sweets made with the old recipes that she learnt from the nuns of Erice. Free time for lunch.

Then we continue to **Marsala**, known for its traditional wine 'Marsala' that has been produced since the 19th century, on the way we will pass the salt pans. Accommodation in a luxury wine resort in Marsala and tasting of Marsala wine combined with typical sweets. Dinner and overnight stay.

Day 4 – Sambuca and Agrigento

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out. Departure for Agrigento. On the way a stop in **Sambuca di Sicilia**, a village surrounded by vast vineyards in the Sicilian hills. First we will take a walk around its characteristic centre where we will taste the village's traditional cakes called the "Minni di virgini" (the breasts of the virgin, due to their particular shape). Then we continue with our tour to the prestigious "Planeta" farm. After the olive oil and wine tasting we will be served a traditional outdoor lunch.



We then continue to **Agrigento** and a guided tour of the splendid Valley of the Temples, one of best-preserved temple complexes in Sicily and enjoy an in-depth exploration of the complex. You'll hear the amazing story these eight temples tell, from the almost entirely intact Temple of Concordia to the Temple of Hera, from the Temple of Juno to the Temple of Zeus.

In the late afternoon arrival in Siracusa, hotel accommodation, dinner and overnight stay.

Day 5 – Siracusa and Noto

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning a visit of **Siracusa**, full of charm and history. Our first place to visit is the archaeological area, with the Roman Amphitheatre, the Altar of Heron II, the Greek Theatre, the Latomie of Paradise and Dyonisios' famous "Ear". We then continue to the Island of Ortigia, where you have free time to wander around its streets before a visit to its stunning cathedral built on the ruins of an ancient Greek temple that forms its backbone. Free time for lunch.



In the afternoon we continue to **Noto**, the Sicilian 'Stone Garden', one of the most beautiful cities in Sicily famous for its impressive Baroque architecture with its splendid churches, monasteries, and noble palaces, such as Palazzo Nicolaci which tells the stories of the glories of the Sicilian aristocracy.

Then we will take a break to enjoy an excellent Sicilian granita and brioche. Back to hotel and dinner. Overnight stay.

Day 6 – Etna

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out. In the morning, an excursion to Etna (weather and volcanic conditions permitting), the highest volcano in Europe (3,300 metres). By 4WD Jeep car we will reach 1.900 metres where we can admire two inactive



craters, 'the Silverstri Craters', once here, we will walk, watching cold lava flows followed by shopping in the various handcraft shops. There is also the possibility to go up (by cable car and 4x4 vehicles) to 3,000 metres and to walk in the main craters area.

We will then visit a beekeeping farm, where we will see bees and the honey extraction laboratory and tasting of different varieties of honey.

We move to a cellar for a tasting of the specific local wines of Etna with food pairings. After this unique experience, we proceed to Taormina, the "Pearl of Sicily", located in an ideal cape, where people can admire the landscape of Mount Etna.

Accommodation at your hotel. Free time. Dinner and overnight stay.

Day 7 – Taormina

Breakfast at the hotel. During the morning experience a Pizza Making Course to learn how to prepare pizza with your own hands and taste it at the end of the lesson. Moreover, the restaurant will offer you a pizza prepared by your trainer, served with some typical starters.



In the afternoon you will enjoy a guided tour discovering this charming tourist destination, that still represents one of the most elegant places in the region. We will visit the most important monuments, the Greek theatre, the Roman Odeon, the Duomo dedicated to St. Nicola and Palazzo Corvaia. Free time and dinner at leisure. Overnight stay.



Day 8 – Arrivederci Sicilia

Breakfast at the hotel. Pick up by your driver and transfer to Catania airport for departure.

Buon Viaggio!