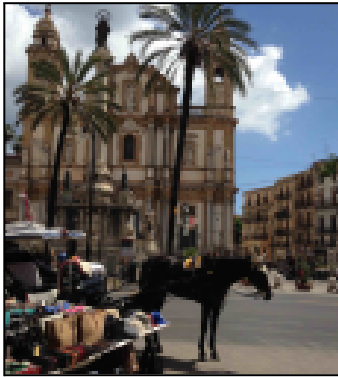


SICILIA



Sicily is a land of extremes and contrasts, a magnification of all things Italian. The island offers it all: 3,000 years of historic, architectural and gastronomic delights, volcanoes that light up the night skies, mountain ranges and a coastline that is spectacular. The island is a vast open-air museum, a testament to nearly every Mediterranean civilization of the past. Our tour will start in Palermo.

We visit the highlights of the city, enjoy a private tour of a palace

and see other hidden secrets – all the experiences to give us the true flavor of the history and traditions of Sicily. After a couple of nights in Palermo we make our way toward Marsala visiting some of the sites of ancient traditions, including a tuna fishery, salt pans, and the village of Erice perched 700 meters above sea level.



Our next stop is a luxury resort which offers breath-taking views of the Valley of the Temples. We will visit the temples with a local expert guide and also have time to enjoy the amenities of the resort's spa. Sicilian baroque and wine are the next stop. We will spend a couple of nights in a Relais in the Noto Valley. While here, we will enjoy the famous Baroque villages of the eastern side of the island, along with the world-class wineries.

Our last stop will be to the town that many consider the jewel of Sicily: Taormina. Perfectly perched on a rocky promontory high above the sea, Taormina has been the most popular tourist destination in Sicily for a couple of hundred of years. In addition to the Greek theater, beautifully restored medieval buildings, and breathtaking views around every corner it has a lively network of winding streets filled with shops, bars and restaurants. Taormina's past is Sicily's history in a microcosm: Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans, Carthaginians, the French and the Spanish all *veni, vidi e vinci* (came, saw, conquered) and left. During the three-nights stay we will spend a day on Mount Etna with a local geologist and enjoy Etna's wines.



(The itinerary is subject to change, with or without notification).

Day 1: Palermo: We will start with an afternoon walking tour of the beautiful city, Palermo. We will visit the Massimo Theater, as well as Palermo's famous Oratories. We end our walking tour at a renowned restaurant near our hotel. (dinner)

Day 2: Dive deep into Palermo: Today we will see the highlights of Palermo – visiting historic places with a private guide. We will also enter into the day and life of an aristocratic family, with a private visit to their historic palace. The afternoon will be yours to further explore. (breakfast)

Day 3: Off we go to Marsala, and along the way we visit a medieval village 700 meters above sea level, a tuna-fishing establishment and salt pans.. It's a day full of color, history, food, and beautiful sites. We will spend one night near Marsala, on a winery estate. (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 4: Agrigento is our next stop, on the way we will stop to see a quarry where the stones to build the temples were excavated. Not only will we take a private tour of the Valley of the Temples, we will spend the night in a top-notch luxury resort that is on the archeological site - offering splendid views on the temples. (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 5: Today we will travel from Agrigento to the Noto Valley, stopping along the way in one of the Baroque villages. We will spend two nights in a fortified estate, now a Relais hotel (breakfast).

Day 6: Today is dedicated to the Noto Valley. After a leisurely morning, we will make our way to a local winery where we will learn about their production and enjoy lunch. The afternoon will be dedicated to discovering Noto. (breakfast, lunch)

Day 7: Today we will make our way up to Taormina. On the way, we will stop in Ortigia, the most ancient area of Siracusa. After touring, we will have time for lunch and then continue on to Taormina. (breakfast, lunch).

Day 8: Taormina is yours to discover and to love! You will have the day to explore the town of Taormina. The resort town, in addition to one of the world's most beautiful Greek amphitheaters, offers everything from boutique shops to mountain biking. (breakfast)

Day 9: Today is dedicated to Etna! We will learn about the amazing history of this active volcano with our private guide. On our way to the top of Etna we experience the produce of this fertile land: wine and honey. (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 10: Departures from Taormina: private transfers to the Catania airport will be arranged. Arrivederci! (breakfast)

DATES:

October 3 -12, 2024

June 5 - 14, 2025

COST: Euro 7150/person (single supplement is Euro 1500)

Included in cost

- 10-day privately guided tour of Sicily, including: Palermo, Marsala, Agrigento, Noto Valley and Taormina
- 9 nights in luxury, boutique, historical hotels
- Private visit to privately-owned palace
- Private minibus transportation
- Unique tours to famous producers of tuna, salt and marsala
- Private hike on Mt. Etna with licensed geologist
- Entry, with private, locally licensed English-speaking guides, to local UNESCO world heritage sites, including the temples of Agrigento
- All breakfasts, 5 lunches and 4 dinners (beverages included: bottled water, soft drinks, coffee and 2 glasses of wine with included lunches and dinners)
- Private transportation to and from airport (Palermo and Catania)

Prices indicated are for groups of minimum 8 people, maximum 14. Prices for smaller or larger groups will vary. All prices are indicated in Euro. Payments will be made in US dollars (prices will be converted when final payment is due).

Optional add-on experiences:

- Additional days at beginning or end of tour
- Upgrade of hotel room to jr. suite or suite
- Private boat excursion in Taormina
- Cooking class with local chef
- Mountain biking excursion
- Additional private tours

Note: airfare is not included in price

Recommended flights into Palermo (PMO) and departure from Catania (CTA)

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