Sicilian Secrets TOUR OF SICILY
DISCOVERING HIDDEN TREASURES

2017 PROGRAM

Tour Palermo/Catania

From April 4th to October 31st
departures every Tuesday

5 days / 4 nights
in half board

Day 1 - Tuesday: PALERMO (hotel in Palermo)

Independent arrival at the hotel in the charming city of Palermo (optional private transfer on request). Meet with our tour-leader; dinner and overnight in hotel.

Day 2 - Wednesday: PALERMO MONREALE – MARSALA (hotel in Marsala)

After breakfast in hotel, the morning will be spent visiting the capital of Sicily **Palermo**, one of the richest towns in the island for its history and art. Palermo stands on a bay at the foot of Mt Pellegrino, a headland described by Goethe as the loveliest he had ever seen. While the Baroque predominates, there is a profusion of different architectural styles reflecting the city's multicultural past, including an elegant opera house! We will visit the wonderful Arab-Norman Cathedral, the astonishing Martorana Church and the amazing Cappella Palatina, mirable example from an historical and an artistic point of view, of how different cultures, religions and way of thinking apparently incompatible can coexist. Ruggero II in fact employed both Bizantyne, Muslim and Latin workers. Continuing our walk we will admire the debated fountain in Pretoria Square, situated in the ancient Kalsa area and adorned with XVI century sculptures. Along the visiting day we will have a stop for a **food surprise** in the famous Antica Focacceria San Francesco. Free time for lunch. Later on we will proceed to **Monreale** to visit its huge Norman Cathedral, proclaimed the Eighth Wonder of the World, and its splendid Cloister in Arab-Norman style: admirable masterpiece of art, sculpture, and semi-precious stones marquetry! In the afternoon we will continue to **Marsala** in whose port Garibaldi landed in 1860. **Visit of a prestigious wine cellar and wine tasting**. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

Day 3 – Thursday: MARSALA SALT ROAD - SELINUNTE – AGRIGENTO (hotel in Agrigento)

This morning the tour will continue along the charming and well-known Salt Road: the west coast of Sicily with many salt marshes, which have given rise to one of the oldest salt-extracting industries in the world. Between Trapani and Marsala they are now protected, in part because of the interesting birdlife, and also as important sites of industrial archaelogy. On the way you will see the nice Island of Mothia (situated at the centre of a large lagoon in Marsala, known today as '*Stagnone*'), and the famous Salt Pans and windmills. Departure to **Selinunte** to visit the largest Archaeological Park in whole Mediterranean and World Heritage Site! Surrounded by a splendid landscape near the African Sea, we will walk among the rests of the ancient Greek city. Free time for lunch. Transfer to **Agrigento** and visit of the Valley of the Temples stated World Heritage Site, where among hundreds of almond trees, the rests of the ancient Akragas rise. It was defined by Pyndar "the most beautiful city of mortals". Once one of the most prosperous of the ancient Greek cities on the island, Agrigento presents a remarkable series of Doric Temples of the 5th century. You will see the "Temple of Hera", the "Temple of Concordia" and the "Temple of Heracles". Accommodation in hotel, dinner and overnight.

Day 4 - Friday: PIAZZA ARMERINA - RAGUSA (hotel in Catania)

Proceeding on we will reach **Piazza Armerina** where we will admire the splendid polychrome mosaics of the famous Villa Romana del Casale, World Heritage Site. The complex, which has some of the most extensive and most beautiful Roman mosaics known, is a World Heritage Site. This majestic villa, belonged to a member of the Roman Senatorial aristocracy, hosts prestigious mosaics representing mythological and historical episodes and scenes of hunting and entertainments! After free time for lunch, departure to **Ragusa Ibla** and visit of its historical centre cradle of Sicilian baroque, with its Cathedral, situated in the beautiful square of the Dome and the "giardino Ibleo". Used as a location of the extremely popular Police Inspector Montalbano Tv series, it is today stated among the 44 Italian World Heritage Sites. This little precious ancient city, well known thanks to the Commissario Montalbano television series, hosts more than 50 churches and many baroque architectural treasures. We'll conclude the visiting day with a **tasting of local products.** Proceed to Catania for dinner and overnight in hotel.

Day 5 - Saturday: CATANIA

Breakfast in hotel and end of our services.

For organizational reasons or due to force majeure the itinerary may be modified

RATES PER PERSON: € 623,00 in double room

Single room supplement: € 149,00 - 3rd bed reduction: € 20,00

THE RATES INCLUDE:

- Multilingual Tour leader and professional travel guide (English, Italian, Spanish or Portuguese) for the whole tour (from the evening of the 1st day to the evening of the 4th day), local guides or audio-guides where necessary.
- Modern and comfortable bus, minibus or minivan for group with less than 15 pax for the whole tour (from the 2nd day to the 4th).
- Accommodation in charming 4 stars hotels mostly located in the city centre of the main Sicilian towns.
- Visit of the main suggestive Unesco World Heritage Sites: Palermo, Monreale, Selinunte, Agrigento, Villa Romana del Casale in Piazza Armerina, Ragusa.
- Half board basis (dinner – 3 main courses menu to have a taste of Sicilian cuisine)
- Tasting of Sicilian typical products: **Palermo** (day 2) tasting of local street food; **Marsala** (day 2): visit of a wine cellar and wine tasting; **Ragusa** (day 4): tasting of local cheese.

THE RATES DO NOT INCLUDE:

Transfers in/out - all lunches - beverages - entrance fees at monuments/museums - city taxes (where compulsory) - tips and extras in general - anything not specified under "The rates include"

SUPPLEMENTS:

Pre-night in hotel in Palermo (in BB): € 69,00 p.p. in double room per night - € 125,00 in single room per night.
Post-night in hotel in Catania (in BB): € 66,00 p.p. in double room per night - € 105,00 in single room per night.
Transfers from Palermo airport to hotel in Palermo and vice versa: 1/4 pax € 40,00 each way.
Transfers from Catania airport to hotel in Catania and vice versa: 1/2 pax € 27,00 each way -€40,00 minivan each way

Extra fees entrances (to be confirmed):

- Palermo Cappella Palatina € 8,50 p.p.
- Palermo Martorana Church € 2,00 p.p.
- Palermo Cathedral € 3,00 p.p.
- Monreale Cathedral € 3,00 p.p.
- Monreale Cloister € 6,00 p.p.
- Selinunte Archeological Parc € 6,00 p.p.
- Agrigento Valle dei Templi € 10,00 p.p.
- Piazza Armerina Villa Romana € 10,00 p.p.

DEPARTURE DATES:

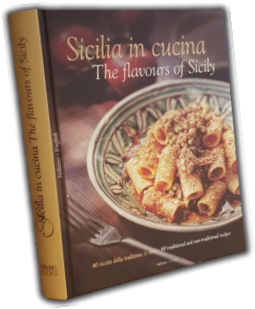
Tuesday/Saturday

April	04…11…18…25
May	02…09…16…23…30
June	06…13…20…27
July	04…11…18…25
August	01…08…15…22…29
September	05…12…19…26
October	03…10…17…24 …31

Hotels carefully selected for their location and design to combine Sicilian tradition with comfort

Arrival Day : On request, it is possible to arrange optional HD private excursions to Palermo – Bagheria - Cefalù - S. Vito Lo Capo – Erice – Segesta – Trapani - Selinunte

Departure Day : On request, it is possible to arrange optional HD private excursions to Acireale or Caltagirone



Special GIFT to participants:

a splendid illustrated book about Sicily, its history and its culinary tradition with recipies in English

UNESCO
The most important sites in Sicily

Dimensione Sicilia incoming operator

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