

Sicilian Secrets TOUR OF SICILY

DISCOVERING HIDDEN TREASURES

2015 PROGRAM

Short Tour Palermo/Catania - 5 days / 4 nights in half board

From April 05th to October 25th - departures every Sunday

1st Day/Sunday: PALERMO (hotel in Palermo)

Self arrival in hotel in the charming city of Palermo. Meeting with our tour leader; dinner and overnight in hotel.

2rd Day/Monday: 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. 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. 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.

3rd Day/Tuesday: MARSALA MARSALA SALT ROAD - SELINUNTE AGRIGENTO - (hotel in Agrigento)

Breakfast in hotel and short visit of the historical centre of **Marsala**. The tour will continue along the charming and well-known Salt Road: 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 Salines and windmills all-over the coast between Trapani and Marsala. Departure to **Selinunte** to visit the largest Archaeological Park in whole Mediterranean! Surrounded by a splendid

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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 from Unesco, where among hundreds of almond trees, the rests of the ancient Akragas rise. It was defined by Pyndar “the most beautiful city of mortals”. You will see the “Temple of Hera”, the “Temple of Concordia” and the “Temple of Heracles”. Accommodation in hotel, dinner and overnight.

**4th Day/ Wednesday: AGRIGENTO
PIAZZA ARMERINA – RAGUSA MODICA
- (hotel in Modica or Ragusa)**

Breakfast in hotel. We will proceed to **Piazza Armerina** where we will admire the splendid polychrome mosaics of the famous Villa Romana del Casale, Unesco 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”. Ragusa Ibla 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. Later we will visit **Modica** chest of innumerable architectural treasures and for this reason stated World Heritage Site from Unesco. The day will end with a **visit to one of the**

most renowned chocolate manufacturers where we will assist the production of chocolate and discover its secrets. Tasting of the delicious Modica chocolate, produced with an ancient and original Aztec recipe. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

**5th Day/ Thursday:
NOTO – SIRACUSA – CATANIA**

After breakfast in hotel we will reach **Noto**, the capital of Sicilian baroque, famous for its fine buildings of the early eighteenth century and declared Unesco World Heritage Site. Inspired by Baroque ideals of “open city”, Noto is a rare masterpiece and the most clear example of theatrical tastes in 18th century architecture. Noto’s Baroque is in fact a game of elegant curves, floral weaves, perspective views palaces and gardens, capitals and ornaments that adorn the facades of churches and monasteries. We will visit Palazzo Nicolaci, beautiful noble residence in Baroque style. Departure to **Siracusa**, the most beautiful and greatest Greek colony in Sicily! Free time for lunch. In the afternoon the visit will start with the Archaeological Park of Neapolis, with its Greek Theatre, the Roman Amphitheatre, the Latomie of Paradise and the Dyonisios “Ear”. We will continue visiting the splendid **Ortigia**, a small island which is the historical centre of Siracusa. In Ortigia you will admire the beautiful Cathedral and the famous Arethusa’s Fountain. Transfer to Catania and end of services.

THE PROGRAM MAY BE MODIFIED

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RATES PER PERSON: € 575,00 in double room

Single room supplement: € 140,00 - 3rd bed reduction: € 20,00

THE RATES INCLUDE:	THE RATES DO NOT INCLUDE:	DEPARTURE DATES:
Accommodation in 4 star hotels in half board (dinner), transport service for the whole tour (from the 2nd day to the 5th), driver escort/tour leader for the whole tour (from the evening of the 1st day to the evening of the 5th day), local guides or audio-guides where necessary. 1 food surprise in Palermo (2nd day), visit of a wine cellar and wine tasting in Marsala (2nd day), visit of a chocolate tasting in Modica (on the 5th day).	Transfers in/out, all lunches, entrance fees for monuments /museums, city taxes (where compulsory), tips and extras in general, anything not specified under "The rates include".	<u>Sunday/Thursday</u> April 05...12...19...26 May 03...10...17...24...31 June 07...14...21...28 July 05...12...19...26 August 02...09...16...23...30 September 06...13...20...27 October 04...11...18...25
SUPPLEMENTS: Pre-night in hotel a Palermo (in BB) € 59,00 p.p. in double room - € 89,00 in single room. Post-night in hotel in Catania (in BB) € 53,00 p.p. in double room - € 83,00 in single room. Transfers from Palermo airport to hotel in Palermo: from € 52,00 (car 1/3 pax). Transfers from the hotel in Catania to Catania airport from € 27,00 (car 1/3 pax).		

Extra fees entrances (to be confirmed):

- ◆ Piazza Armerina Villa Romana € 10,00 p.p.
- ◆ Monreale Cathedral € 3,00 p.p.
- ◆ Monreale Cloister € 6,00 p.p.
- ◆ Palermo Cappella Palatina € 8,50 p.p.
- ◆ Palermo Martorana Church € 2,00 p.p.
- ◆ Palermo Cathedral € 3,00 p.p.
- ◆ Selinunte Archeological Parc € 6,00 p.p.
- ◆ Agrigento Valle dei Templi € 10,00 p.p.
- ◆ Noto Palazzo Nicolaci € 4,00 p.p.
- ◆ Siracusa Archeological Parc € 10,00 p.p.
- ◆ Siracusa Cathedral € 2,00 p.p.

On request, it is possible to arrange optional HD private excursions to Acireale or Caltagirone on departure day

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



Special **GIFT** to participants, a splendid illustrated book about Sicily, its history and its culinary tradition with recipes in English

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