



**Tour of Sicily - Special New Year's Eve
Tour Catania/Catania
Departure on Thursday 27.12**

**8 days / 7 nights
in half board**

Day 1 - Thursday 12.27: CATANIA (hotel in Catania)

Arrive independently to the hotel in the charming city of Catania (optional private transfer on request). In the evening meet our tour-leader and your travel companions and enjoy welcome dinner. Overnight in hotel.

Day 2 – Friday 28.12: CATANIA - TAORMINA (hotel in Catania)

After breakfast, we will proceed to **Catania**. Visit of its city centre, stated Unesco World Heritage Site, with its original baroque style and its unique streets built with black lava stone. The walking tour will start across the “Pescheria” (the ancient fish market) to reach the scenic Duomo square with its magnificent Cathedral and the famous “Liotru” statue, antique lava-stone elephant, symbol of the city. Not far from here we will reach the University Square and we will have a walk along the splendid baroque Via dei Crociferi, the most representative 18th century street in Catania, where we will admire the famous S. Benedict Monastery, Unesco World Heritage Site. We will stop in a bar for a delicious tasting of Sicilian cannolo. Transfer to **Taormina**, charming town renowned for its magnificent position above the sea commanding a celebrated view of Etna! Lunch in a nice restaurant where you will assist to a show-cooking lesson for some typical Sicilian cuisine dishes. In the afternoon we will visit Taormina’s fascinating Greek theatre, and then you will have free time for a nice walk among the picturesque medieval typical narrow streets and go shopping and looking around the local handycraft (coral jewels, precious laces, ceramics, sweets and much more). Back to hotel, dinner and overnight.

Day 3 – Saturday 12.29: SYRACUSE - NOTO (hotel in Catania)

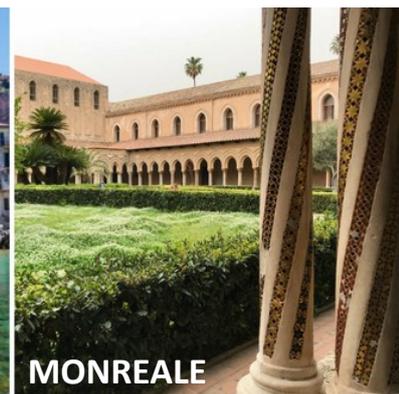
After breakfast in hotel we will visit **Syracuse**, the most beautiful and greatest Greek colony in Sicily and World Heritage Site! The visit will start with the Archaeological Park of Neapolis, with its Greek Theatre, the Roman Amphitheatre, the Latomie of Paradise and the Ear of Dionysius. We will continue visiting the splendid **Ortigia**, a small island which is the historical centre of Syracuse. In Ortigia you will admire the beautiful Cathedral which dominates the square with its authoritative presence. The present façade is a powerful Sicilian-Baroque composition but it gives no hint that this building was once a Doric temple! From Piazza Duomo you will reach a wide terrace on the waterfront surrounding the famous **Arethusa's Fountain**, one of the most famous fresh-water sources of the Greek world. Free time for lunch. Departure to **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 whose local limestone has been burnt gold by the sun. 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 Villadorata**, beautiful noble residence in Baroque style and once the residence of Don Giacomo Nicolaci, a patron of the arts. Back to Catania for dinner and overnight in hotel.

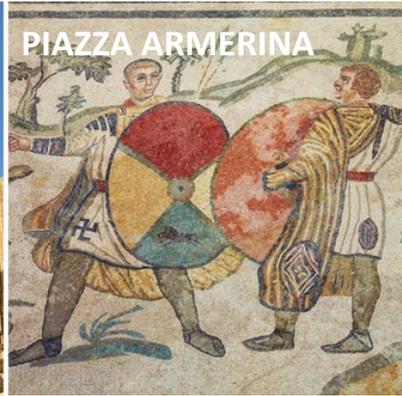
Day 4 – Sunday 12.30: ETNA – CEFALU' (hotel in Palermo)

This morning we will leave to visit **Etna** the highest (c. 3350m) volcano in Europe and one of the largest and most active in the world, nowadays Unesco World Heritage Site. Its regional park protects 59.000 hectares of unique geology, flora and fauna, villages and farms, and traditional methods of forestry, bee-keeping, wine manufacture, stonework and carpentry. We will reach the "**Crateri Silvestri**", small volcanic cones now inactive, surrounded by ancient lava flows. The view beyond the mountain's hundreds of subsidiary cones and craters, can extend across the whole of Sicily, the Aeolian islands and Calabria. The spectacle is unique! After free time for lunch, transfer to **Cefalù**, charming medieval town situated at the northern coast of Sicily. We will visit its stunning Norman Dome and you will have free time to stroll through the town or to visit the famous and well-known **Mandalisca Museum**. We will proceed to Palermo. Accommodation in hotel, dinner and overnight.

Day 5 – Monday 12.31 MONREALE - PALERMO (hotel in Palermo)

After breakfast in hotel, the morning will be spent visiting **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! Later we are going to discover the stunning **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 available. Back to the hotel, free time for dinner and overnight. Let's celebrate **New Year's Eve** in Palermo, with its stunning lights and colors!

Day 6 – Tuesday 01.01: AGRIGENTO (hotel in Agrigento)

After the New Year's Gala, late departure from Palermo. The guided tour will continue along the charming **Agrigento** with the 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 7 – Wednesday 01.02: 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 8 – Thursday 01.03: CATANIA

Breakfast in hotel and end of services.

RATES PER PERSON: € 825,00 in double room

Single room supplement: € 215,00 - 3rd bed reduction: € 50,00

OPTIONAL:

NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA DINNER (menu 6 / 7 courses, beverages included)

€ 130,00 PER PERSON – NET PRICE

THE RATE INCLUDES

- Multilingual Tour leader and professional travel guide (English, Italian, Spanish) for the whole tour (from the evening of the 1st day to the evening of the 7th day), local guides or audio-guides where necessary.
- High class buses or 25/28 seats Gran Confort minibuses (from the 2nd day to the 7th)
- Accommodation in charming 4 stars hotels, located in the city centre
Catania: **Il Principe Hotel 4* or similar**
Palermo: **Cristal Palace Hotel 4* or similar**
Agrigento: **Dioscuri Bay Palace Hotel 4***
- 1 Lunch: Day 2 in Taormina
- Half board basis in hotels or local restaurants (dinner – 3 main courses menu, beverages not included) to have a taste of Sicilian cuisine except dinner of December 31st
- Tasting of Sicilian typical products. Catania (day 2): tasting of the typical Sicilian cannolo; Taormina (day 2): lunch and show cooking; Palermo (day 5): tasting of local street food; Ragusa (day 7) tasting of local cheese.
- Visit of the main suggestive Unesco World Heritage Sites: Catania city centre, Siracusa, Noto, Palermo, Monreale, Agrigento, Piazza Armerina, Ragusa.

RATE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Transfers in/out
- All lunches except for the one on day 2 in Taormina
- Dinner on December 31st
- Beverages
- Entrance fees for monuments/museums
- City taxes (where compulsory)
- Tips and extras in general
- Anything not specified under "The rates include"

SUPPLEMENTS

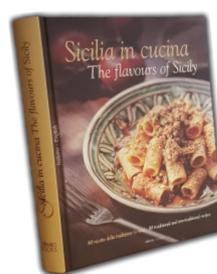
- Pre-night/ Post night in Catania hotel (BB): Classic Double room €68,00 p.p/night; Classic Single room €107,00 p.p/night
- Transfers from Catania airport to hotel in Catania and vice versa: 1/2 pax € 29,00 each way with car ; €43,00 each way with minivan
- Assistance – Medical Expense Reimbursement – Luggage insurance – Travel Cancellation Expenses Insurance: on request.

PRIVILEGE PACKAGE € 326,00 P.P

Includes: Superior/Deluxe Room – Private transfer in/out- City tax- All entrance fees

EXTRA FEES ENTRANCE

- ◆ Taormina Greek theatre € 10,00 p.p.
- ◆ Syracuse Archeological Park € 10,00 p.p.
- ◆ Syracuse Cathedral € 2,00 p.p.
- ◆ Noto Palazzo Nicolaci € 4,00 p.p.
- ◆ Monreale Cathedral € 4,00 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.
- ◆ Agrigento Archaeological Museum Pietro Griffo & Valle dei Templi € 13,50 p.p.
- ◆ Piazza Armerina Villa Romana € 10,00 p.p.



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

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



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