



SICILY ESCAPE

1300 092 640

info@sicilyescape.com.au

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# THE CLASSIC TOUR OF SICILY

## WINTER 2020

### PALERMO TO PALERMO

#### **1<sup>st</sup> day/Saturday: PALERMO**

Independent arrival at Hotel PALAZZO SITANO 4\*, prestigious Hotel located in the historical centre of Palermo. Enjoy a welcome cocktail. Dinner and overnight in your hotel.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> day/Sunday: PALERMO – CEFALU' - PIAZZA ARMERINA – CATANIA AREA**

After a buffet breakfast, depart to Cefalù, charming coastal town, a former fishing village which is also home to a breathtaking Norman Cathedral, famous for its Mosaic of Christ Pantocractor – a stunning Byzantine mosaic that's considered as one of the most important pieces of religious artwork in Sicily. Take a stroll to the city centre and down main street to reach the Cathedral and the medieval washhouse built in the rock. Proceed to Piazza Armerina in the inland of Sicily: lunch in local restaurant. In the afternoon, visit the worldwide known Villa Romana del Casale: it is the richest, largest and most complex collection of late Roman mosaics in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Continue to Catania. Accommodation, dinner and overnight at the GRAND HOTEL VILLA ITRIA 4\* placed near by Etna's Park, in Viagrande.

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> day/Monday: CATANIA – MOUNT ETNA *honey tasting* – TAORMINA *dinner in a local restaurant* – CATANIA AREA**

After a buffet breakfast, weather conditions permitting, excursion to Mount Etna, the highest active volcano in Europe. Across fascinating landscape, we will reach a height of 1900 metres to visit the Sylvester Craters where you can enjoy a spectacular panorama over the Ionian Sea. On the way stop to the village of Zafferana Etnea, "the City of Honey" to visit a beautiful place where they produce honey and taste the precious nectar made by skilled hands. Back to your Hotel for lunch. In the afternoon, depart to Taormina, charming city called "the pearl of the Ionian Sea", founded in 400 BC and beautifully located overlooking the sea and the peak of Mount Etna. Enjoy time at leisure to shop for handmade lace, coral jewels, ceramics, home-made sweets and preserves down "Corso Umberto" or simply walk through its tiny streets. Individual visit of the fascinating Greek-Roman theatre. Tonight, enjoy a dinner in a local restaurant located in the historical centre. Back to your Hotel in Catania/Viagrande: overnight.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> day/Tuesday: CATANIA – SIRACUSA – NOTO – RAGUSA**

After a buffet breakfast, depart to Syracuse to visit the most beautiful Greek colony of Sicily. Visit of the archaeological park "Neapolis", including the famous Latomie of the Paradise, the Greek Theatre and the Dionisios "Ear". Visit the island of Ortigia, the small baroque old city centre of Siracusa: here you can admire the Cathedral, which is built on the site of the Temple of Minerva, the legendary "Fontana Arethusa" and the Temple of Apollo. Lunch in a local restaurant. In the afternoon, proceed



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to Noto, one of the most beautiful cities in Sicily renowned for the harmony and unity of its Baroque style and today declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The splendid cathedral is one of the most famous buildings in Noto. Proceed to Ragusa: accommodation, dinner and overnight at the Hotel MEDITERRANEO PALACE 4\*.

**5<sup>th</sup> day/Wednesday: RAGUSA – MODICA chocolate tasting - AGRIGENTO**

After a buffet breakfast, visit of the ancient city Ragusa "Ibla", cradle of Sicilian baroque, with its Cathedral, situated in the beautiful square of the Dome and the "giardino Ibleo". Depart to Modica to visit the city divided into two parts: Modica "Bassa" and "Alta". Modica is also a UNESCO site and is famous for its Baroque churches and scenographic squares; tasting of the famous chocolate (Xocoatl) made with ancient methods brought to Sicily with Spanish domination. Lunch in a local restaurant. Continue to Agrigento and in the afternoon, visit the magnificent Valley Of Temples of Agrigento, a UNESCO World Heritage Site: the Temple of Concord, which is in almost perfectly preserved conditions, Juno and Heracles that represent the most beautiful example of the Greek Civilization in Sicily. Accommodation, dinner and overnight at Hotel DIOSCURI BAY PALACE 4\*.

**6<sup>th</sup> day/Thursday: AGRIGENTO – SELINUNTE oil tasting & lunch in a farmhouse – MARSALA visit of a winery & wine tasting - PALERMO**

After a buffet breakfast, depart to the Archaeological Park of Selinunte, the largest in the Mediterranean area with the impressive Temples and Acropolis. Stop in a local farmhouse famous for olive oil production where, before lunch, it will be possible to have an oil tasting of local production. Continue to Marsala, a city on the western coast famous for its production of sweet Sicilian wine. Visit of the historical centre and stop to a prestigious winery, where we can enjoy a wine tasting and learn about local production. Proceed to Palermo. Accommodation, dinner and overnight at Hotel PALAZZO SITANO 4\*.

**7<sup>th</sup> day/Friday: PALERMO – MONREALE - PALERMO**

After a buffet breakfast, visit of the capital of Sicily Palermo, one of the richest towns in the island for its history and art: the wonderful Arab-Norman Cathedral (during the Holy Mass, exterior visit only); 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; the debated fountain in Pretoria Square, adorned with XVI century sculptures; the most beautiful baroque church in Palermo, Santa Caterina and its cloister. Lunch in a local restaurant. Later on, 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. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure. Dinner and overnight in your Hotel.

**8<sup>th</sup> day/Saturday: PALERMO**

After a buffet breakfast, end of the Tour.



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**DEPARTURE DATES:**

January 18 – 2020

February 15 – 2020

March 07, 14 – 2020

November 07, 14 – 2020

December 26 – 2020

**HOTELS 4 STARS or similar**

**PALERMO PALAZZO SITANO\*\*\*\***  
Via Vittorio Emanuele, 114  
90133 Palermo Tel: 091 778 1610

**CATANIA GRAND HOTEL VILLA ITRIA\*\*\*\***  
Via Antonio Aniante, 3  
95029 Viagrande -Tel: 095 2266111

**RAGUSA MEDITERRANEO PALACE\*\*\*\***  
Via Roma, 189  
97100 Ragusa -Tel 0932 621944

**AGRIGENTO DIOSCURI BAY PALACE\*\*\*\***  
Lungomare Falcone e Borsellino  
92100 Agrigento -Tel 0922 406111

**NOTICE: as a general rule the hotel of each departure will be one of those indicated above or similar; the final list of each departure will be communicated 7 days in advance**

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TOUR:**

- Very charming hotels located in the historical centres of the main sicilian towns or in the most famous touristic resorts
- Visit of the main sicilian monuments including UNESCO SITES (Siracusa, Noto, Valley of Temples, Villa Romana del Casale, Mt. Etna, the Arab-Norman Palermo itinerary and the Cathedral of Cefalù)
- Selected typical restaurants / farmhouses and especially chosen menus to have a taste of the Sicilian and Italian cuisine. NEWS 2020: dinner in a local restaurant in the historical centre of Taormina
- Mineral water in all meals, portorage at Hotels, whispers kit, and 4 guided visits in Palermo, Syracuse, Piazza Armerina, Agrigento Included
- Visit and oil tasting in a farmhouses in Selinunte
- + Honey tasting on Mount Etna + Chocolate tasting in Modica
- Visit of a winery and wine tasting in Marsala
- Qualified multilingual tour escort and Local Guides
- Deluxe motor coach offering the max comfort



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**RATE INCLUDES:**

- Accommodation in 4 stars Hotels
- Welcome cocktail
- Tour in FULL BOARD: 7 breakfast, 6 lunches, 7 dinners (in Hotels and local restaurants)
- Mineral water (1/2 per person) included at all meals
- Tasting of local typical products in Selinunte (olive oil, black bread of Castelvetro, olives) + Honey tasting in Zafferana Etnea (Mt Etna) + chocolate tasting in Modica + wine tasting in Marsala
- Bus GT or minivan with driver/guide for groups with less than 8 pax, with FREE WI-FI
- Tour escort at disposal for the whole tour
- Guided visits in Palermo, Syracuse, Piazza Armerina, Agrigento
- Whispers Kit
- Porterage at hotels

**RATE DOES NOT INCLUDE:**

- Transfers in/out
- Entrance fees at monuments
- City Tax: to be paid directly at the Hotel
- Beverages (except mineral water, included)
- Everything which is not clearly specified under 'rate includes'

**ENTRANCE FEES SUPPLEMENT (OPTIONAL) - TOTAL € 65,00 per person (net)**

PIAZZA ARMERINA: Villa Romana del Casale € 10,00

SIRACUSA: Neapolis € 10,00 + Dome € 2,00

AGRIGENTO: Valley of Temples € 10,00

SELINUNTE Acropolis € 6,00

PALERMO: Palatine Chapel € 8,50 + Church of S.Caterina & Cloister € 5,00

MONREALE: Dome € 10,00 + Benedictine cloister € 3,50

**CANCELLATION FEES:**

- 100% penalty from 2 days and NO SHOW
- 50% from 3 to 7 days before the beginning of the Tour.
- 30% from 8 to 14 days before the beginning of the Tour
- 10% from 15 to 30 days before the beginning of the Tour

**For organizational reasons, the itinerary may be reversed or modified without notice. In some departures, the visit of Erice could be replaced by the visit of Selinunte; the visit of Ragusa & Modica could be replaced by the visits of Acireale and Catania**