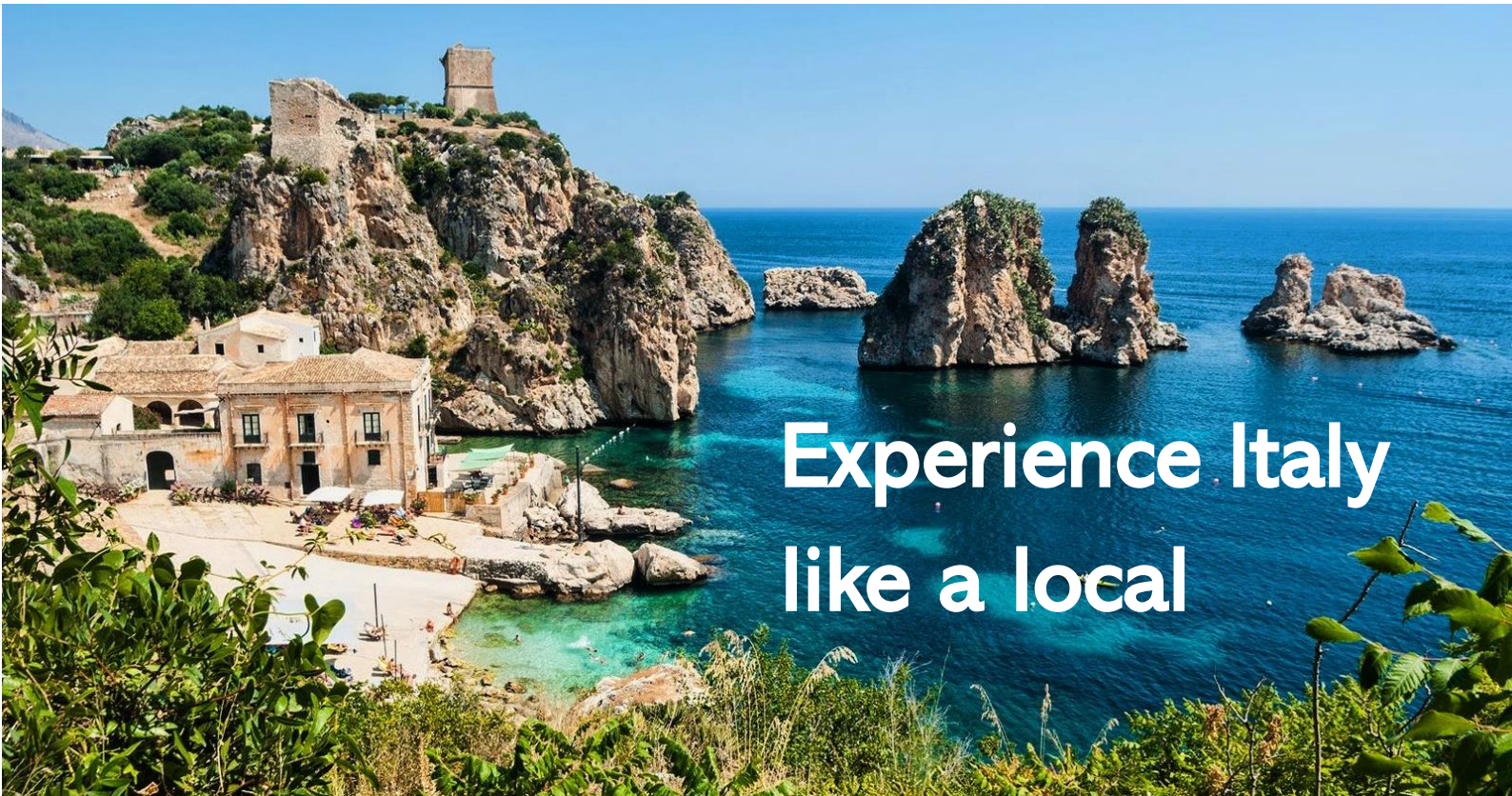




SICILY ESCAPE



Experience Italy  
like a local

# SICILY & MALTA 2020

A BLEND OF ESCORTED & INDEPENDENT TOURING

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# SICILY ESCAPE

## **1<sup>st</sup> Day – 06 May: CATANIA TO MESSINA**

Arrive in Catania and your driver will take you to Messina where you will be spending the next three nights.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Day – 07 May: TINDARI & SINAGRA**

Your driver and private guide will meet you at reception before starting a full day tour of Tindari & Sinagra. Tindari is a town of Greek origin on the northern coast of Sicily, west of Messina and east of Patti and best known for the substantial church known as the Tindari Sanctuary and the archaeological site of the ancient city. Tindari has wonderful views of the Aeolian Islands. The original city was built from the 4th century BC and survived until the 8th century, although it suffered a great deal when part of the cliff collapsed and some of the town fell into the sea in the 1st century, and again when an earthquake hit the region in the 4th century. From Tindari you will reach Sinagra for a scenic drive.

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Day – 08 May: AT LEISURE**

## **4<sup>th</sup> Day – 09 May: MESSINA TO CATANIA**

After breakfast, your driver will drive you back to Catania where you will be meeting the group. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure before the welcome dinner.

## **5<sup>th</sup> Day – 10 May: CATANIA – SIRACUSA – MODICA *visit of a chocolate factory - RAGUSA (Optional: visit of RAGUSA IBLA "by night")***

Drive to Syracuse to visit the marvelous archaeological area then continue to the island of Ortigia, where you will see the magnificent Cathedral and the Fountain of Arethusa. Travel to Modica, a baroque town part of UNESCO Heritage Sites in Italy: visit a real chocolate factory, where it will be possible to create, with your hands, own bar of Chocolate to bring with you. Accommodation and dinner at POGGIO DEL SOLE RESORT. *Optional: visit "by night" of the ancient city Ragusa "Ibla", cradle of Sicilian baroque (supplement on the spot; the excursion will take place with a minimum of participants). Overnight. (BD)*

## **6<sup>th</sup> Day – 11 May: RAGUSA – PIAZZA ARMERINA *lunch in a local restaurant - AGRIGENTO***

Drive to Piazza Armerina to marvel at the Villa Romana del Casale's rich mosaics, depicting mythological themes and hunting scenes. Eat lunch in a local restaurant before driving to Agrigento. Visit the Valley of the Temples including the Temple of Juno, Concord and Heracles. Accommodation and dinner at hotel DIOSCURI BAY PALACE. Overnight. (BLD)

## **7<sup>th</sup> Day – 12 May: AGRIGENTO - PALERMO *street food experience - MONREALE***

Travel to Palermo, the Capital of Sicily and visit Monreale: The Cathedral and the Benedictine Cloister. You will have the chance to taste Palermo's street food, one of the most renowned all over the world, while wandering around its historical centre. In the

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afternoon, visit the historical centre of Palermo: The Cathedral and Palazzo Mirto a noble residence located in the ancient Arabic quarter of Kalsa. Accommodation, dinner and overnight at GRAND HOTEL PIAZZA BORSA. (BD)

## **8<sup>th</sup> Day 13 May: PALERMO – ERICE – MARSALA *visit of a winery, wine tasting & light lunch* SALT ROUTE (Trapani area) - PALERMO**

Depart to Segesta to the medieval village of Erice placed on the top of a hill overlooking the city of Trapani and the Egadi Islands. Continue to Marsala, a city on the western coast famous for its production of sweet Sicilian wine. Stop at a prestigious winery for a guided tour of the historic Wine Cellars + tasting of wines with local food pairings. Down to Trapani area for a panoramic tour of the salt windmills and basins, which are still in use. Return to Palermo. Dinner on your own. Overnight in your Hotel. (B)

## **9<sup>th</sup> Day – 14 May: PALERMO - CEFALU' - NEBRODI PARK *lunch in a local restaurant* - TAORMINA**

Drive to Cefalu to admire its well-preserved Arab-Norman Cathedral. Enjoy a walk to the city centre and down main street to visit the medieval wash-house built in the rock. Drive through the Nebrodi Park and enjoy lunch in the Miraglia Forest. Continue to Cesarò and Randazzo to visit the north part of Mount Etna. Continue to Taormina, “the Pearl of the Ionian Sea”. Accommodation, dinner and overnight at Hotel VILLA DIODORO, located near historic centre of Taormina. (BLD)

## **10<sup>th</sup> Day – 15 May: TAORMINA - *MT ETNA (Optional excursion)* - TAORMINA**

Weather permitting, you can join an optional morning excursion to Mount Etna, Europe's highest active volcano. You will reach a height of 1800 metres and enjoy a fantastic panorama over the Ionian Sea (*supplement on the spot; the excursion will take place with a minimum of participants*). Lunch on your own. Afternoon in Taormina: enjoy time at leisure for shopping or walking through the tiny streets. Possibility to visit the Roman - Greek theatre on your own. Return to your hotel. Dinner and overnight. (BD)

## **11<sup>th</sup> Day – 16 May: TAORMINA – CATANIA – MALTA**

Breakfast in Hotel. At the appointed time, transfer from Taormina to Catania airport. Flight to Valletta, Capital of Malta, delightful Mediterranean island. Transfer to Hotel DOLMEN RESORT located in St Paul's Bay or similar 4 stars. Arrival in Hotel and accommodation. Dinner and overnight. (BD)



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## **12<sup>th</sup> Day – 17 May: MALTA “MARSAXLOKK MARKET & THE BLUE GROTTTO” *Extended Half Day Excursion***

The idyllic fishing village of Marsaxlokk with its colourful luzzus and unique character make the unrivalled setting for the local market. Continue the tour with a visit to the Blue Grotto (*weather permitting – boat price not included*) and the nearby caves. Explore one of Malta's unspoilt village: the main square, the hub of the village with its parish church and band club. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Dinner in your Hotel. (BD)

## **13<sup>th</sup> Day – 18 May: MALTA “VALLETTA + MALTA EXPERIENCE” *Half Day Excursion***

Enjoy a morning tour of Valletta – Malta's heritage-rich capital. Highlights include the Upper Barracca Gardens and St John's Cathedral, home to a splendid Caravaggio painting as well as an intriguing Museum. Going down Republic Street you will walk past the Grandmaster's Palace before watching the Malta Experience, an audiovisual show where Malta history throughout the centuries is brought back to life. Spend the rest of the day exploring at your leisure. Dinner in your Hotel. (BD) *Please note: from April to June and in October, the excursion “Valletta + Malta experience” will take place in the afternoon.*

## **14<sup>th</sup> Day – 19 May: MALTA “MDINA” *Full Day Excursion – lunch included***

Today's excursion takes us to the central part of Malta, dominated by the medieval fortified city of Mdina, Malta's former capital city. The narrow streets, dating back to medieval times, lead to the imposing bastions. Leaving Mdina through Greeks' Gate, we stop at the early Christian catacombs in Rabat before proceeding to the cliffs at Dingli. After lunch we will visit the San Anton botanical gardens situated near the Presidential Palace, which you will be able to admire from outside. We shall also spend time at the crafts centre at Ta' Qali. At the end of the tour, allow us to astound you with Mosta's majestic dome, one of Europe's largest. (BLD)

## **15<sup>th</sup> Day – 20 May: MALTA**

The tour ends after breakfast with a transfer to the port or the airport of Valletta. (B)



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## HOTELS 4 STARS or similar

**CATANIA      IL PRINCIPE HOTEL \*\*\*\***

Via Alessi, 20/26

95124 Catania - Tel: 095 2500345

**RAGUSA      POGGIO DEL SOLE RESORT\*\*\*\***

S.P. Ragusa/Marina di Ragusa Km 5,7

97100 Ragusa - Tel: 0932 666452

**AGRIGENTO    DIOSCURI BAY PALACE\*\*\*\***

Lungomare Falcone e Borsellino

92100 Agrigento -Tel 0922 406111

**PALERMO      GRAND HOTEL PIAZZA BORSA\*\*\*\***

Via dei Cartari, 18

90133 Palermo- Tel: 091 320075

**TAORMINA    VILLA DIODORO\*\*\*\***

Via Bagnoli Croci, 75

98039 Taormina - Tel: 0942 23312

**MALTA        DOLMEN RESORT\*\*\*\***

Qwara, St Paul's Bay

SPB 2402 - Malta

Tel: (+356) 2355 2355



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## **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TOUR:**

Experience a coach tour of Sicily's highlights before discovering the rich heritage of Malta, one of Europe most enchanting islands. A unique blend of escorted and independent travel

- 11 nights' accommodation in 4-star hotels
- 11 breakfast (B), 3 lunches (L), 10 dinners (D)
- Welcome drink in Catania; visit of a chocolate factory in Modica; Street Food in Palermo; visit of a winery, wine tasting & light lunch in Marsala
- Coach transportation
- English-speaking tour escort
- Local guides where necessary
- Flight from Catania to Valletta
- Return airport transfers in Malta
- Regular sightseeing with multilingual local guides in Malta (days 9–11) – English Guaranteed
- Porterage at hotels in Sicily

Exclusions Pre-tour transfers; entrance fees; optional excursions; drinks; tips

## **RATE INCLUDES:**

- Accommodation in 4 stars Hotels
- Welcome cocktail
- 11 Dinners (D), 3 Lunches (L), 10 Breakfast (B)
- Visit of a chocolate factory in Modica
- Street Food in Palermo
- Visit of a winery, wine tasting & light lunch in Marsala
- Transportation in deluxe motor coach or minivan with driver/guide for groups with less than 8 pax
- English speaking tour escort
- Local guides where necessary
- Whispers Kit
- Porterage at hotels in Sicily
- Transfer Taormina Hotel/Catania Airport
- Flight Catania/Valletta in Economy class (the ticket includes, in addition to the passenger, 1 piece of luggage max 20 kgs per person and a hand luggage max 10 kgs)
- Regular sightseeing with multilingual local guides in Malta (days 9-11) – English language guaranteed
- Transfer Airport Malta/Htl Malta/Airport or Port Malta



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## **RATE DOES NOT INCLUDE:**

- Transfers in/out
- Entrance fees at monuments
- City Tax: to be paid directly at the Hotel
- Beverages
- 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

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**