



Flavors of Sicily

March 3-11, 2024

Explore the captivating island of Sicily with a full tour, starting in the city of Catania and continuing on to the charming towns of Ortigia, Ragusa Ibla, Avola, and the city of Palermo. Admire Mt. Etna and the stunning coastline along the way. Immerse yourself in the diverse cultures that have shaped Sicily over the past 2,500 years. Indulge in the flavors of local cuisine and learn about the unique subcultures of the food and wine. Discover excellent Sicilian wine styles and grape varieties on an unforgettable journey.

Tour Overview

- 9 days, 8 nights
- 3 nights in Catania ([Il Principe Hotel](#))
- 2 nights in Ragusa Ibla ([San Giorgio Palace](#))
- 1 night in Agrigento ([Hotel della Valle](#))
- 2 nights in Palermo ([Hotel Politeama](#))
- 1 night (final) in Catania ([Il Principe Hotel](#))
- Arrival airport: Catania (CTA)
- Departure airport: Palermo (PMO)

Rate

- **\$3,600** per person (double occupancy)
- **\$3,900** per person (single occupancy)

Includes

- 3 nights at the 4-star Il Principe Hotel in Catania, classic rooms. Breakfast included
- 2 nights at the 4-star San Giorgio Palace in Ragusa Ibla, higher floors only. Breakfast included
- 1 night at the 4-star Hotel della Valle in Agrigento. Breakfast included
- 2 nights at the 4-star Politeama Hotel in Palermo, standard rooms. Breakfast included
- Transportation with private bus as per program and timing below, with city permits and parkings included
- Full-time tour guide for 9 days.
- 5 winery tours and tastings



- Donnafugata in Randazzo (Etna winery) with light lunch
- Tenuta Palmeri in Avola
- Occhipinti in Vittoria
- Baglio Bonsignore in the Agrigento area, with lunch
- Tonnino winery in Alcamo with lunch
- Dinner at I Banchi in Ragusa Ibla
- Dinner in Agrigento
- Dinner in Palermo
- Food tour in Catania with local expert for 3 hours (food tastings equal to lunch)
- 2 hours local expert in Ortigia
- 2 hours local expert in Agrigento and tickets to the Valley of Temples
- 3 hours local expert in Palermo
- Pistacchio farm tour and tasting of pistacchio specialties
- Modica chocolate tasting
- Headsets audio system for the entire tour

The rate does not include:

- Airfare
- Airport transfers in and out

Program

Day 1 – SUNDAY MARCH 3

ARRIVAL DAY

Meals included: Welcome Drink

Arrival in Catania airport (CTA) on your own

3:00 PM Check-in at 4-star hotel located in the city center within walking distance from all attractions and shopping

5:30 PM Meet Sam and local guide for a Welcome Drink and orientation talk in the lobby of the hotel

Dinner on your own. We will be available for restaurant suggestions.



Day 2 – MONDAY MARCH 4

CATANIA AND TAORMINA

Meals included: breakfast and food tour

- 10:00 AM Meet a local expert in the lobby of the hotel and discover the food market of Catania, one of the most colorful of Italy. We will dive into local culture, recipes and traditions as we visit market stalls, bakeries, food stores and a unique lava tunnel, in the city center of Catania!
- Enjoy several **food tastings** along the way that will satisfy your appetite, from arancini rice balls, to fried fish, puff pastry stuffed with cheese and ham and a dessert
- 1:30 PM Free time at the hotel
- 2:30 PM Drive to Taormina (50 min.)
- 3:30 PM Proceed to the gardens overlooking Mt Etna and the Ionian sea, for an iconic view and photo opp. Then, take a stroll on your own along the main street of Taormina and enjoy a gelato or a glass of wine in one of the many cafès
- Free time to visit the Greek theater on your own
- 6:00 PM Drive back to Catania (50 min)
- Dinner on your own. We will be available for restaurant suggestions.

Day 3 – TUESDAY MARCH 5

MOUNT ETNA

Meals included: breakfast, pistacchio tasting, and lunch

- 9:00 AM Drive to Bronte, a small community at the foot of Mt. Etna known for the production of pistacchio..
- 10:00 AM Take a walk with the owner, Andrea to visit the farm with view over Mt. Etna and the below valley. Learn about the hardship of a challenging cultivation and sit at the table for a tasting of sweet and salted specialties made with pistacchio.
- The volcano ascent is on a bumpy road up to 2900m (9,500ft) where, weather permitting, we will see the summit active vent of the volcano, surrounded by a lunar and bare landscape
- 12:15 PM Drive around the foot of Mt. Etna to the next town of Randazzo (35 min only)
- On the way down, enjoy a short hike on the craggy fissures opened on the slopes of volcano during eruptions over the past 20 years.
- 1:00 PM Visit the aging premises of Donnafugata winery, one of the most prominent wine producers of Sicily with estates scattered around the island
- Enjoy a 3-course lunch paired with 3 wines, including Etna DOC and other local wines obtained from Nerello Mascalese, Catarratto and indigenous grape varieties



4:00 PM Drive back to Catania (1h 20')

Enjoy the rest of the day at your leisure and dinner on your own. We will be available for restaurant suggestions.

Day 4 – WEDNESDAY MARCH 6 ORTIGIA AND AVOLA

Meals included: breakfast and dinner

Breakfast and checkout

9:00 AM Drive to the city of Siracusa (1h10') and walk on the island of Ortigia, connected to the mainland by two bridges

10:20 AM Take a walk with a local expert (1.5 hours) through the narrow streets of Ortigia founded by ancient Greeks and boasting one of the most beautiful Baroque squares of Sicily

12:00 PM Enjoy some free time for souvenir shopping and lunch on your own

2:00 PM Continue by bus to the area of production of Nero d'Avola wine

5:00 PM Drive to Ragusa Ibla

6:00 PM Check-in at 4-star hotel in Ragusa Ibla

7:30 PM Dinner is included within a walking distance at I Banchi, the casual bistrot supervised by Michelin-star chef Ciccio Sultano where a traditional Sicilian dinner is served in a convivial setting.

Day 5 – THURSDAY MARCH 7 RAGUSA IBLA, MODICA

Meals included: breakfast, chocolate tasting

Enjoy a late morning of exploration of Ragusa Ibla

10:30 AM Optional walk with the tour manager on the staircases that lead to the upper part of town, with views over the dome of San Giorgio

11:30 AM Drive to Modica (20 minutes)

12:00 PM Visit Bonajuto historic confectionery shop for a lecture and tasting of Modica's chocolate, prepared without cocoa butter, at low temperature, which gives the final product its typical rough texture.

Lunch on your own in Modica

2:00 PM Drive to Vittoria (50 minutes)

3:00 PM Visit Occhipinti winery and enjoy a tasting of four wines.

Free time to walk around



5:00 PM Return to Ragusa Ibla (40 minutes)

Free time for rest of the day and dinner on your own. We will be available for restaurant suggestions.

Day 6 – FRIDAY MARCH 8

GREEK TEMPLES

Meals included: breakfast, lunch and dinner

Breakfast and checkout

9:00 AM Drive to the wine region around Agrigento (2h10')

12:00 PM Visit Baglio Bonsignore, a local “baglio”, a restored farmhouse typical of the southern coast of Sicily located in the wine region known as Valle dei Templi

Enjoy a homemade lunch with seasonal products and fresh salads paired with wines

2:30 PM Drive to the Valley of Temples (40')

2:00 PM Meet a local tour guide (2 hours) and visit the best-preserved Greek temples in the world (tickets included)

5:30 PM Check-in at 4-star Hotel della Valle located at the foot of the city of Agrigento

7:30 PM Dinner is included either in central Agrigento or in a nearby Agriturismo

Day 7 – SATURDAY MARCH 9

PALERMO

Meals included: breakfast

Breakfast and checkout

9:00 AM Drive to Palermo (2 hours).

11:15 AM Drop the luggage at Hotel Politeama in the central Piazza Politeama of Palermo

Free time and lunch on your own

1:00 PM Meet a **local expert** (2 hours) and discover the fascinating history and art of Palermo, that spans over 2700 years. No bus in the afternoon.

Dinner on your own in central Palermo

Day 8 – SUNDAY MARCH 10

ALCAMO and SCOPELLO

Meals included: breakfast, lunch and dinner

Breakfast and checkout

9:30 AM Drive to Alcamo (1 h 15')



- 10:45 AM Visit Tonnino Winery an historical farmhouse surrounded by vineyards
Tasting of five wines paired with five traditional Sicilian courses
- 2:30 PM Drive 30 minutes to the ancient fishermen village of Scopello.
- 3:00 PM Leisure walk to the beach, with view over the iconic rock formation and the old tuna fishing facility
- 4:30 PM Drive back to Palermo (1h 30')
- 7:30 PM Celebrate the end of the tour in Sicily with a **Farewell Dinner** in a traditional restaurant of Palermo.

Day 9 – MONDAY MARCH 11

ARRIVEDERCI

Meals included: breakfast

Breakfast and checkout

Transfer to Palermo's airport (PMO) on your own (35 minutes by taxi. Public buses available)