Flavors of Sicily
Vineyards, Villas, and the Volcano
MAY 14-22, 2021
with optional
ROME PRE-TOUR & PALERMO POST-TOUR
MAY 7-15, 2021
Dear W&L Alumni, Parents, and Friends,

We’re eager to share with you another departure of our popular Flavors programs. Indeed, what could be more inspiring than the renowned cuisine and wines of Sicily and the fabulous seaside hotel that we have chosen as our home base?

Once again, this Flavors program will provide an intimate, immersive approach to an authentic cultural and culinary experience. We’ll converse with winemakers whose vineyards thrive on the flanks of Mount Etna and enjoy these boutique wines paired with savory antipasti.

The beautiful landscapes of Sicily are populated by the spirits of ancient Greeks and the Romans who found paradise on this island. Excellent guides will lead us on many memorable discoveries of Sicily’s celebrated past.

We’ll also enjoy Taormina from our deluxe hotel only a few steps from the beach and a scenic gondola ride from the renowned Greek Theatre and pedestrian mall.

Veteran W&L travelers are well aware that space on these distinctive, superbly priced programs is limited. We encourage your prompt registration.

You may reserve by phone at (540) 458-8723 or by returning the enclosed reservation form.

We look forward to pairing our own hospitality with Sicily’s warm embrace.

Sincerely,

Robert Fure, Ph.D.
Director of Lifelong Learning

As we embark on this new world of group travel, the health and well-being of our guests, our team, and the communities we visit remain our top priority. For a detailed listing of the enhanced safety measures and hygiene protocols specific to our tours, please visit www.orbridge.com/wellness.

Orbridge takes seriously the responsibility to minimize our global environmental impact. Each year we plant 100,000 trees in U.S. State Forests with afforestation needs as an ongoing initiative among our evolving sustainability efforts. Learn more at orbridge.com/going-green.
Your 9-Day Itinerary (subject to change)

Day 1: En route from U.S.

Day 2: Arrive in Catania, Sicily / Taormina (D)
Welcome dinner
Overnight: VOI Grand Hotel Mazzarò Sea Palace

Day 3: Taormina (B)
Guided city walk, ancient Greek Theatre, Corso Umberto stroll, leisure time
Overnight: VOI Grand Hotel Mazzarò Sea Palace

Day 4: Piazza Armerina (B,L)
Guided visit to UNESCO World Heritage Site of Villa Romana del Casale, 4th-century Roman mosaics
Overnight: VOI Grand Hotel Mazzarò Sea Palace

Day 5: Viagrande / Catania (B,L)
Outdoor market visit, cooking class, wine tasting at Benanti winery (winner of over 80 awards since 1994)
Overnight: VOI Grand Hotel Mazzarò Sea Palace

Day 6: Siracusa / Ortigia (B,D)
UNESCO World Heritage Site founded by Greek Corinthians and Teneans, Roman amphitheatre, seaside stroll
Overnight: VOI Grand Hotel Mazzarò Sea Palace

Day 7: Mount Etna (B,L)
Visit to highest active volcano in Europe and UNESCO World Heritage Site or leisure time at the hotel, lunch and wine tasting at award-winning Planeta winery
Overnight: VOI Grand Hotel Mazzarò Sea Palace

Day 8: Taormina (B,L,D)
Cooking class, special farewell dinner at the villa
Overnight: VOI Grand Hotel Mazzarò Sea Palace

Day 9: Catania / Depart for U.S. (B)
(B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner)

Activity Level: Guests should be able to enjoy two hours or more of walking, be sure-footed on cobbled surfaces, and walk up and down hillsides and stairs without assistance.
Interact

• With your small group (maximum 22 guests), enjoy seven nights at the splendid seaside hotel, VOI Grand Hotel Mazzarò Sea Palace.

• Work side-by-side in the kitchens of distinguished chefs, learning time-tested techniques and modern twists with ingredients grown in the mineral-rich, volcanic soil of Mount Etna’s fertile lowlands.

• Spend time exploring the coastal towns of Taormina and Siracusa—including a stop at a local outdoor market.

Discover

• Visit Benanti, a family-owned boutique winery with a strong international focus, and winner of over 80 awards since 1994.

• Visit Sicily’s archaeological masterpieces—the ancient theatres of Taormina and Siracusa, and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Villa Romana del Casale mosaics in Piazza Armerina.

• Explore Mount Etna, a natural marvel and UNESCO World Heritage Site.

What’s Included

• 7 nights accommodations

• 7 breakfasts, 4 lunches, and 3 dinners served with wine

• Full services of an Orbridge Travel Director in addition to expert local guides

• All private tours and unique small-group excursions noted on the 9-day itinerary

• Private motor coach transportation

• Luggage handling

• Gratuities to Orbridge Travel Director, local guides, drivers, and waitstaff for included meals

• Airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times
Your Accommodations (subject to change)

With spectacular views of one of the most gorgeous bays in the Mediterranean, VOI Grand Hotel Mazzarò Sea Palace garners glowing reviews befitting its five stars. Offering sumptuous, contemporary décor, a private beach, full-service spa (additional fees apply), and guest-minded staff, this gem of a property provides an exceptional stay while visiting Sicily.

After fruitful days of exploration, unwind at the hotel’s restaurant or lounge, take a dip in the outdoor pool, or embrace the scenery from the rooftop terrace.

**Superior:** Impeccably designed for comfort, these rooms feature a balcony or private terrace with a view over the bay.

**Junior Suite:** These rooms, which feature a private terrace, are elegantly furnished with bright colors and include a large sitting area.

All rooms provide individual climate control, TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, minibar, safe, and en-suite bathroom with sundries and hair dryer.

Insider, Interpreter, Epicure, Host

Your Orbridge Travel Director will infuse your journey with an epicure’s appreciation of food and wine, a local’s knowledge and pride of place, and a travel aficionado’s ability to gather the beauty of all senses to your discoveries in Sicily.
Rome’s lively piazzas, intriguing archaeological remnants, and treasure-filled churches offer fans of art, architecture, and history a delightful opportunity to explore the Vatican City and Baroque Rome.

Pre-Tour Itinerary (subject to change)

Day +1: En Route from U.S.

Day +2: Arrive in Rome, Italy (D)
  Leisure time, pizzeria dinner
  Overnight: Hotel dei Mellini

Day +3: Rome (B)
  Guided touring (Sistine Chapel, St. Peter’s Square, Piazza del Popolo, Piazza di Spagna, Trevi Fountain, Piazza Navona)
  Overnight: Hotel dei Mellini

Day +4: Rome / Flight to Sicily / Main Program Begins (B)

What’s Included

• 2 nights accommodations at Hotel dei Mellini (or similar)
• 2 breakfasts and 1 dinner
• Guided tour with an art historian
• Transportation for included activities and to Rome Fiumicino Airport for the flight to Sicily (airfare not included)
• Gratuities to local guide and driver
• Airport transfers for guests arriving during the suggested times
Enjoy Sicily’s fascinating and bustling capital, Palermo. The city, which is over 2,700 years old, is rich in history, culture, art, music, and gourmet cuisine. Also visit the seaside village of Cefalù—home to just 14,000 residents and one of the most popular attractions near Palermo.

**Post-Tour Itinerary (subject to change)**

**Day 9:** Depart Taormina / Cefalù / Arrive in Palermo (B)
Guided panoramic tour of Cefalù, the Duomo, and beaches

**Day 10:** Palermo (B)
Full-day guided panoramic city tour including Mercato di Capo, the opera house Teatro Politeama, “La Cala,” Piazza Indipendenza, Porta Nuova, Piazza del Parlamento, the gardens of Villa Bonanno; and visit inside Monreale Cathedral

**Day 11:** Palermo / Depart for U.S. (B)

**What’s Included**
- Group transfer to Palermo
- Two nights accommodations at Hotel Federico II Central Palace (or similar) with breakfast each morning
- Introductory tour of Cefalù to see the old city walls and beach
- Guided walking tour through the historic center of Palermo plus a panoramic tour that includes glimpses of Teatro Politeama, “La Cala,” Piazza del Parlamento, and visit inside Monreale Cathedral
- Airport transfer for guests departing during the suggested times
Flavors of Sicily

MAY 7-15, 2021 Rome Pre-Tour: May 5-8, 2021
Palermo Post-Tour: May 15-17, 2021
MAY 14-22, 2021 Rome Pre-Tour: May 12-15, 2021
Palermo Post-Tour: May 22-24, 2021

Upon submission of your registration form, Orbridge will call you within two business days to confirm your reservation and collect your credit card deposit. If you would prefer to pay your deposit by check, please make payable to Orbridge, LLC and mail to:
Office of Lifelong Learning
Washington and Lee University
204 West Washington St.
Lexington, VA 24450

GUEST INFORMATION:
Guest #1 Name: Mr. / Mrs. / Ms. ______________ Class Year: ______________
Guest #1 (as preferred on badge): ______________
Email: ____________________________
Home Phone: ____________________________ Alt. Phone: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
City: ____________________________ State: _______ Zip: ____________________________
Guest #2 Name: Mr. / Mrs. / Ms. ______________ Class Year: ______________
Guest #2 (as preferred on badge): ______________
Email: ____________________________
Home Phone: ____________________________ Alt. Phone: ____________________________

DEPOSIT PAYMENT:  □ Check  □ ACH (Automated Clearing House)  □ Credit Card

CATEGORY SELECTION & DEPOSIT:
Category Preference: 1st choice ______________ 2nd choice ______________
# _______ guests joining pre-tour ($500/person) +
# _______ guests joining program ($850/person) +
# _______ guests joining post-tour ($500/person) = TOTAL DEPOSIT: $ ______________

I/we have read, understand, and agree to the full Terms & Conditions at terms.orbridge.com and detailed in program documents; and that Orbridge, LLC is authorized to charge my credit card above and/or take my/our deposit for this program.

Signature: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

Reservations, Deposits and Final Payment. To secure your reservation, deposits are due upon placing a reservation as follows: $850 per person per program and $500 per person for any pre-tour and/or post-tour. Deposits are payable by check, ACH, wire transfer or major credit card. Final payment, including any pre-tour and/or post-tour, optional excursion(s)/fees and optional electives, is payable by check, ACH or wire transfer and is due no later than 90 days prior to the program’s scheduled departure date. If your reservation is made between the final payment due date and the program’s scheduled departure date, the full cost of the program, plus any pre-tour and/or post-tour, optional excursion(s)/fees and optional electives, is due at the time of registration, payable by check, ACH or wire transfer. Final payment made by credit card are subject to a 2% transaction fee. If final payment is not received by Orbridge by the final payment due date, Orbridge may, at any time and with or without notice, cancel your reservation in its sole discretion with no right of refund.

Cancellations, Credits and Refunds. All cancellations must be submitted to Orbridge in writing. If the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge: (a) 90 or more calendar days prior to the program’s scheduled departure date, a $500 refund and a $350 future travel credit (“FTC”) will be issued for the main tour and a $300 refund and a $200 FTC will be issued for any pre-tour and/or post-tour; (b) between 89 and 60 days prior to the scheduled departure date, a 25% cancellation fee will be applied to the full cost of the program, including any pre-tour and/or post-tour; (c) between 59 and 30 days prior to the scheduled departure date, a 50% cancellation fee will be applied to the full cost of the program, including any pre-tour and/or post-tour; (d) within 29 days prior to the scheduled departure date, a 100% cancellation fee will be applied to the full cost of the program, including any pre-tour and/or post-tour; In addition to and in lieu of the foregoing, a Cancellation Fee equal to 100% of the carrier charge applies to all non-refundable airfares due to your cancellation made at any time prior to the scheduled program departure date, as applicable. Refunds, if any, will be processed within 30 calendar days of our receipt of your written notice.

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*Special group rate; limited offer. Rates are per person based on double occupancy except where noted as Single, in U.S. dollars. Airfare not included. Single availability limited. **Place your deposit on or before the specified date, and one Orbridge Wine Gift per room reserved will ship after receipt of final payment. Where prohibited by state law (including, but not limited to AR, DE, KY, MS, OK, RI, UT) or by retailer licensing obligations (IL, MA, MD, NH, NJ, NY, PA, SD, TX, VA, VT), guests will receive alternative specialty items of comparable value. All Wine Gifts are handled by an independent third party.
What Guests Are Saying...

Never having done any group travel before, I didn’t really have clear expectations—but whatever they were, the trip more than exceeded them. Perfect organization, lodging, scheduling—wonderful leadership, and a great group of participants. The program highlights, for me, were our travel director, the really fun group of folks, the property, and the cooking classes.

~Bruce B., Los Angeles, CA

Even though we knew the itinerary and location, we were awed by everything experienced.

~Charles & Ann S., Winter Park, FL