



TASTE: The Sights and Flavors of Sicily

Palermo, Agrigento, Taormina, Catania, Siracusa and Mt. Etna

May 22nd – 30th, 2022

Trip highlights include:

- ◆ 9 days (8 hotel nights)
- ◆ 8 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 3 dinners spotlighting local cuisine and regional specialties
- ◆ guided city tours of Palermo, Erice, Catania, Siracusa, Noto and Taormina with local guides
- ◆ archaeological tours of the Valley of the Temples and Villa Romana del Casale plus nature tour of Mt. Etna, all with local experts
- ◆ full day in the Sicilian countryside interacting with local crafters and producers with tastings and lunch
- ◆ culinary and cultural experience in an 18th century Palazzo with the Duchess of Palma
 - ◆ unique winery tours and tastings in Marsala and on Mt. Etna
 - ◆ olive oil estate tour with tasting
- ◆ visit to Caffè Sicilia in Noto, as seen on Netflix's "Chef's Table", with tastings

What you should know up front:

- ◆ We include all entrance fees, applicable taxes and transportation to the sights included in our itinerary outside of a few excursions which are a short walk from our hotels.
 - ◆ There are no optional excursions. If it's in our itinerary, it's included!
- ◆ We will arrange transportation from Palermo International Airport (PMO) on Day One and to Catania International Airport (CTA) on Day Nine, per the itinerary. From when you clear customs to your departure day, we have you covered.
- ◆ We include all city hotel taxes, a cost most tour companies do not cover. No need to search for cash or stand in line prior to departing a hotel. We'll take care of it!
- ◆ We include gratuities for all local guides, all included meals and tastings, and for our motor coach driver as well.
- ◆ This tour is a land package only. St. Armand's Travel, a Virtuoso agency, can arrange your flights as well as any travel extensions pre- or post-tour, to include additional transportation and hotel needs.
 - ◆ We follow all current COVID travel and entry requirements.
 - ◆ See below for a detailed list of what's included.

Tour Itinerary

Day One: Sunday, May 22nd

Bienvenuto a Sicilia!

Individual arrival into **Palermo International Airport (PMO)**. Upon clearing Customs and Immigration, we will have a driver awaiting you in the Arrivals area, name sign in hand, to transfer you to our hotel. If you are arriving into Palermo earlier than Day One of our tour, simply make your way to our group hotel at your leisure. We will have a



dedicated check-in area for TASTE travelers from 3:00pm to 4:00pm or you can check-in on your own. This evening, we will meet for a welcome drink before heading to an included dinner, a short walk from the hotel, at a local trattoria where you will enjoy the company of your fellow voyagers.

- ❖ Transfer included from Palermo International Airport (PMO) to group hotel
- ❖ Hotel stay in Palermo at the Grand Hotel Piazza Borsa, or similar, for 2-nights
- ❖ Dinner included

Day Two: Monday, May 23rd

Our journey begins with a unique culinary and cultural experience. We will meet the Duchess of Palma at the nearby marketplace to explore and select ingredients before continuing on to her 18th century Palazzo, the final home of Giuseppe Tommasi di Lampedusa, author of the world-famous novel *The Leopard* (later



made into a 1963 film starring Burt Lancaster). Together we will create and enjoy a luncheon incorporating our market bounty. Afterwards, we will explore the Palazzo before heading out with a local guide for a tour of the city of Palermo. Late this afternoon, we return to the hotel and your evening is free.

- ❖ Breakfast included
- ❖ Market visit and cooking class with included lunch
- ❖ City tour of Palermo with local guide

Day Three: Tuesday, May 24th

After breakfast and checkout, we depart for the medieval hill town of Erice with its breathtaking views of Sicily's western coastline. We tour the town with our local guide, stopping to visit a local pastry shop for some mid-morning tasting. After lunch on your own and some time to explore, we continue to Marsala and a winery tour and tasting at Cantina Pellegrino.

We then make a scenic journey to our hotel, stopping along the way to view the "salt pans" where sea salt has been produced from the waters of the Mediterranean since the days of the ancient Phoenicians. After check-in to our hotel in the Agrigento area for our 3-night stay, this evening is free for you to relax and enjoy.



- ❖ Breakfast included
- ❖ Tour of Erice with local guide
- ❖ Tour and tasting at Cantina Pellegrino
- ❖ Hotel stay in the Agrigento area at the Alba Palace, or similar, for 3-nights

Day Four: Wednesday, May 25th

This morning we accompany a local guide for an archaeological tour of the Valley of the Temples, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Italy's premier historic destinations. This complex of temples, dating from the 5th century BC, is a reminder of Sicily's time as a thriving Greek colony and is considered the most extensive and best-preserved archeological site of ancient Greek civilization.



Afterwards, we return to your hotel for an afternoon at your leisure. This evening, another unique Sicilian experience as we enjoy a cooking demonstration and dinner of seasonal and organic local ingredients at Marzipan, Sicily's first museum dedicated to almonds, one of the island's major exports.

- ❖ Breakfast included
- ❖ Archeological tour of the Valley of the Temples with local expert guide
- ❖ Cooking demonstration and included dinner at Marzipan

Day Five: Thursday, May 26th

Today we step back in time for a one-of-a-kind journey; a full immersion into rustic, authentic Sicily, one rarely experienced by tourists. We incorporate village walks, strolls through the countryside and backroads historic sites as we visit local bakers, cheesemakers and shepherds. Finally, we meet Aldo, considered to be the last Sicilian native seed keeper, who



will host us for a luncheon incorporating the local products of his fields. Enjoy salads of edible flowers, pestos of capers and olives, freshly made cheeses, breads of ancient grains....all in an unforgettable setting. Afterwards, a free evening to relax and relish your day of experiences.

- ❖ Breakfast included
- ❖ A day in the Sicilian countryside with lunch and tastings

Day Six: Friday, May 27th

We check-out and depart this morning to explore another UNESCO World Heritage Site, the renowned mosaics of Villa Romana del Casale. Excavations of this 4th century AD Villa have revealed one of the richest, largest and most varied collections of Roman mosaics in the world. After this extraordinary visit, we continue to the city of Catania. We tour this city, situated in the shadow of Mount Etna, with a local guide and include a visit to the historic fish market where we enjoy an included lunch incorporating the freshly caught local seafood. Later we continue to Taormina and your hotel. The evening is free for you to dine at the resort overlooking the Ionian Sea or perhaps take the nearby funicular and enjoy dinner at one of the many restaurants in the main town.



- ❖ Breakfast included
- ❖ Visit to Villa Romana del Casale and Catania city tour with local guides
- ❖ Included lunch with beverages at the Catania Fish Market
- ❖ Hotel stay in Taormina at the La Plage Resort Hotel, or similar, for 3-nights

Day Seven: Saturday, May 28th

Today we venture to Mount Etna and begin the day with a guided nature walk showcasing the scenery and essence of the largest active volcano in Europe. The unique and lava-rich soil has enticed a new generation of winemakers to its high-



altitude slopes producing distinctive and now world-renowned wines. We have included a visit to the extraordinary Cottanera Vineyard, located on lava stone 2300 feet above sea level on Etna's northern slope. Here we'll enjoy a panoramic view of the vineyards, a guided tour of the cellars and an included lunch incorporating olive oil crafted from the local

groves and accompanied by the estate's wines. Evening free at the hotel.

- ❖ Breakfast included
- ❖ Guided nature walk of Mount Etna with local expert guide
- ❖ Visit and tour of Cottanera Winery with included lunch

Day Eight: Sunday, May 29th

A final day in Sicily as we take a journey to coastal Siracusa. We accompany a local guide on a tour that reflects the city's Greek, Roman and Baroque heritage and stroll through the island of Ortigia, the historic heart of the city and home to its boisterous open-air market. We continue to another unique lunch experience, this time at the olive estate of Tenuta Cavasecca, another classic Sicilian experience. Finally, we depart for the lovely town of Noto and here take a short tour before making a visit to Caffè Sicilia. Chef and owner Corrado Assenza has become world famous for his crafting of gelatos, granitas and pastries and his joyous personality and master craftsmanship has been featured on the Netflix series "Chef's Table". A delightful end to our day. Afterwards, we return to the hotel and this evening we have included a Farewell Dinner to celebrate and toast one last evening together.



- ❖ Breakfast included
- ❖ Tour of Siracusa with local guide
- ❖ Included lunch at Tenuta Cavasecca with beverages
- ❖ Tour of Noto with local guide and visit to Caffè Sicilia
- ❖ Included Farewell dinner with beverages

Day Nine: Monday, May 30th

This morning, our time together ends. We have arranged transport to **Catania Fontanarossa International Airport (CTA)**. Whether you have chosen to extend your stay or return home, we hope you will have had a pleasurable and memorable journey with us at TASTE Tour & Travel and further hope our paths cross again.....perhaps on another journey with us. Arrivederci and Buon Viaggio!

- ❖ Breakfast included
- ❖ Transport included from group hotel to Catania International Airport (CTA)



THE SIGHTS AND FLAVORS OF SICILY

9-day escorted tour

May 22 – 30, 2022

\$ 3,795.00 per person, based on double occupancy

Land package only

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- *Sicilian Welcome Gift upon arrival and check-in*
- *Individual transfer from Palermo International Airport (PMO) to Palermo hotel on Day One*
- *Breakfast included at the hotel each morning*
- *2 nights in Palermo at Grand Hotel Piazza Borsa 4* or similar*
- *3 nights at Alba Palace Hotel 4* or similar*
- *3 nights at La Plage Resort Hotel 4* or similar*
- *Welcome dinner in local trattoria in Palermo – beverages included*
- *Full day with local guide in Palermo with visit to food market and city tour*
- *Cooking class with the Duchess and lunch at the Palazzo Lampedusa Tomasi – beverages included*
- *Full day with local guide in Erice and Marsala*
- *Pastry tasting in Erice and wine tasting in Marsala*
- *Tour of Valley of the Temples with local guide*

- *Visit and private dinner with cooking demonstration at Marzipan Museum – beverages included*
- *Full day with local guide in Sant'Angelo Muxaro area with tastings and lunch – beverages included*
- *Tour of Villa Romana del Casale and tour of Catania with local guide*
- *Lunch at Catania fish market – beverages included*
- *Full day with local guide on Mount Etna*
- *Full day with local guide in Siracusa and Noto*
- *Lunch at Tenuta Cavasecca with Extra Virgin Olive oil tasting – beverages included*
- *Private winery tour and lunch with wine tasting at Cottanera Winery– beverages included*
- *Granita and Ice cream tasting at Caffè Sicilia*
- *Individual transfer from Taormina hotel to Catania International Airport (CTA) on Day Nine*
- *Gratuities for all local guides and for coach driver*
- *Italian Tourist Tax at hotels of 20.5 Euros/per person (currently calculated at 2 Euros/per person/per night in Palermo, 2 Euros/per person/per night in Agrigento and 3.5 Euros/per person/per night in Taormina)*
- *Services of Tour Manager representative of St. Armands Travel/TASTE Tour & Travel for length of the tour*
- *Transport by modern touring motor coach*
- *All road tolls and applicable taxes associated with group tour program*
- *All entrance fees and applicable taxes associated with group tour program*

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- *Flights or any transport costs to Palermo International Airport (PMO) on Day One or from Catania International Airport (CTA) on Day Nine*
- *Any transport costs if arriving or departing separately from the aforementioned start and finish of the tour per the Tour Itinerary*
- *Any costs incurred when not traveling with the group per the Tour Itinerary*
- *Any meals or beverages not specifically included in the Tour Itinerary*
- *Any entrance fees not specifically included in Tour Itinerary*
- *Any costs for items or services of a personal nature, i.e., telephone calls, laundry service, pay TV, hotel mini-bar purchases, internet fees*
- *Gratuities to airport transfer driver or Tour Manager*
- *Health or Travel Insurance*
- *Anything that has not been clearly indicated in "WHAT'S INCLUDED" above*

TASTE Tour & Travel and St. Armand's Travel follow the current requirements for travel mandated by the country of Italy. Passengers traveling on "The Sights and Flavors of Sicily" tour must be fully vaccinated and be able to provide proof of vaccination if and when requested. We are monitoring the U.S. State Department website with the most current information for travelers. Click [here](#) for more information.

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are you ready for a journey?

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