

SICILIA



Sicily is a land of extremes and contrasts, a magnification of all things Italian. The island offers it all: 3,000 years of historic, architectural and gastronomic delights, volcanoes that light up the night skies, mountain ranges and a coastline that is spectacular. From the well-known cities, such as Palermo, to the resort village Taormina, the island (which is the largest in the Mediterranean) is packed with things to see and places to go. The island is a vast open-air museum, a testament to nearly every Mediterranean civilization of the past. Our tour will start in Palermo. We visit the highlights of the city, enjoy a private

tour of a palace and see other hidden secrets – all the experiences to give us the true flavor of the history and traditions of Sicily.

After a couple of nights in Palermo we make our way toward Marsala visiting some of the sites of ancient traditions, including a tuna fishery and salt pans. Along the way we explore the village of Erice perched 700 meters above sea level.



The activities are complemented with some R & R at a resort offering breath-taking views of the Valley of the Temples. We will visit the temples with a local expert guide and also have time to enjoy the amenities of the Resort Spa.



Our next stop will be to the town that many consider the jewel of Sicily: Taormina. Perfectly perched on a rocky promontory high above the sea, Taormina has been the most popular tourist destination in Sicily for a couple of hundred of years. In addition to the Greek theatre, beautifully restored medieval buildings, and breathtaking views around every corner it has a lively network of winding streets filled with shops, bars and restaurants.

Taormina's past is Sicily's history in a microcosm: Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans, Carthaginians, the French and the Spanish all *veni, vidi e vinci* (came, saw, conquered) and left. We spend a couple of nights here, and then take a day trip to Mount Etna with a local geologist.

We spend our last two at luxury resort on the seaside between Taormina and Catania. Arrangements to the Catania airport will be made for your departure.

ITALIANO FOR YOU

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(The itinerary is subject to change, with or without notification. The final version will be provided before departure).

Day 1: Palermo: We will start with an afternoon walking tour of the beautiful city, Palermo. We will visit the Massimo Theater, as well as Palermo's famous Oratories. We end our walking tour at a renowned restaurant near our hotel. (dinner)

Day 2: Dive deep into Palermo: Today we will see the highlights of Palermo – visiting historic places with a private guide. We will also enter into the day and life of an aristocratic family, with a private visit to their historic palace. (breakfast, lunch)

Day 3: Off we go to Marsala, and along the way we visit a medieval village 700 meters above sea level, and tuna-fishing establishment. It's a day full of color, history, food, and beautiful sites. We will spend two nights in the town of Marsala, on a winery estate – and will learn about the production of Marsala wine. (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 4: Today we dive deep into the delicious products of Marsala, sea salt, harvested in salt pans in the morning, and then we will visit a winery. The afternoon will be yours to enjoy, either exploring the village of Marsala on your own, or enjoying the amenities of the resort. (breakfast)

Day 5: Agrigento is our next stop, on the way we will stop and see a quarry where the stones to build the temples were excavated. Not only will we take a private tour of the Valley of the Temples, we will spend the night in a top-notch luxury resort that is on the archeological site - offering splendid views on the temples. (breakfast, lunch)

Day 6: You will have the morning at your leisure to enjoy our hotel's spa, or sit by the pool. In the early afternoon we will travel from Agrigento to Taormina with a stop at the famous Villa Armerina, and visit the Roman villa with a private guide. We will then continue on to Taormina. (breakfast, dinner)

Day 7: Taormina is yours to discover and to love! You will have the day to explore the town of Taormina. The resort town, in addition to one of the world's most beautiful Greek amphitheaters, offers everything from boutique shops to canyoning (we have an outfitter to line you up with if you want to do this!). (breakfast)

Day 8: Today we will travel to the luxury resort on the coast – via Etna! We will learn about the amazing history of this active volcano with our private guide. On our way to the top of Etna we experience the produce of this fertile land: wine and honey. (breakfast, lunch)

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Day 9: The day will be yours to enjoy. You may spend the day at the beach, at the pool, in the gardens. Otherwise, we can help you arrange a scuba diving experience or other adventure. (breakfast, dinner)

Day 10: Departures from Catania: private transfers to the airport will be arranged arrivederci! (breakfast)

COST: Euro 5950/person (single supplement is Euro1200)

Included in cost

- 10-day privately guided tour of Sicily, including: Palermo, Marsala, Agrigento and Taormina
- 9 nights in luxury, boutique, historical hotels
- Private visit to privately-owned palace
- Private minibuss transportation
- Unique tours to famous producers of tuna, salt and marsala
- Private hike on Mt. Etna with licensed geologist
- Entry, with private, locally licensed English-speaking guides, to local UNESCO world heritage sites, including the temples of Agrigento
- All breakfasts, 4 lunches and 4 dinners (beverages included: bottled water, soft drinks, coffee and 2 glasses of wine with included lunches and dinners)
- Private transportation to and from airport (Palermo and Catania)

Optional add-on experiences:

- Additional days at beginning or end of tour
- Upgrade of hotel room to jr. suite or suite
- Private boat excursion in Taormina
- Cooking class with local chef

Note: airfare is not included in price

Prices indicated are for groups of minimum 8 people, maximum 14. Prices for smaller or larger groups will vary. All prices are indicated in Euro. Payments will be made in US dollars (prices will be converted when final payment is due).

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