

LUXURIOUS SICILY



At Sicily By Experts, we believe the best way to see Sicily is on a luxury travel tour designed just for you. We are leader in luxury travel and our agency is renowned for crafting unique journeys that feature meaningful cultural encounters, awe-inspiring surprises, and extraordinary access to Sicily's most wondrous locations.

Hopelessly romantic and effortlessly chic.

Let Sicily's timeless elegance enchant you- indulging your every whim with her seductive scenery, fine food and even finer wines.

"The greatest reward and luxury of travel is to be able to experience everyday things as if for the first time, to be in a position in which almost nothing is so familiar it is taken for granted." – Bill Bryson

Sicily by Experts
di Fransicile T.O.

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10 Days / 9 Nights
DAY BY DAY PROGRAM



Day 1: PALERMO

Arrival at **Palermo airport**. A warm welcome by our English speaking driver and transfer to the hotel: **Grand Hotel Villa Igea**, luxurious 5-star-hotel place in a liberty style building, overlooking a small bay on the outskirts of the city. The building is completely surrounded by gardens that cover a large area, sloping down to the sea. Check in . Welcome drink and meeting with our guide.

Tonight a welcome dinner in a nice restaurant awaits us Overnight at the villa (**dinner**

included)

Day 2: PALERMO

Buffet breakfast at the hotel

In the morning guided visit of **Palermo**, which looks like a baroque jewel, thanks to the sumptuous noble buildings located in the elegant avenues around Piazza Vigliena (or Quattro Canti) and to the Kalsa quarter. Furthermore, there are impressive churches, such as: San Giuseppe, SS Salvatore, del Gesù, all decorated with multicolour marbles, stuccos and frescos.



In the afternoon continue to Monreale, a small town 7 kilometer from Palermo. Here you can admire the Dome, architectural masterpiece which dates back to the Norman period. Its walls are almost completely covered by Byzantine mosaics and it covers a very large area, including a magnificent cloister, surrounded by 228 columns with inlaid capitals.

Lunch and dinner at leisure (We'll give you lots of suggestions for things to see and truly off-the-beaten track places to have lunch/dinner!)

Overnight in Palermo (**Breakfast included**)



Day 3: PALERMO - SEGESTA - MARSALA – AGRIGENTO

Buffet breakfast at the hotel and check out.

In the morning leave to **Segesta**, where the ruins of the Greek Theatre, on the slope of Mount Barbaro, of the perfectly kept temple and the old town, have been brought again to light.

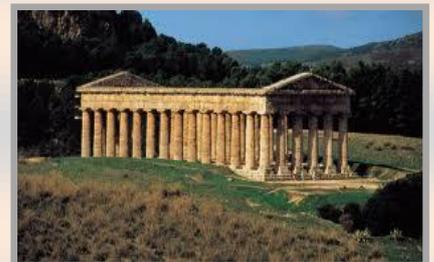
Departure for **Marsala**, a town on the Western coast famous for its wine production.

A brief **visit to the Cantine Pellegrino** for a tasting of **Marsala Wines**, conducted by an expert. You will learn about local production of wine. Marsala wine is the great sweet wine of Sicily and is bottled exclusively in this unique landscape of Western Sicily.

Transfer in a farm house to have our: **Oil Tasting and visit**. The **Baglio** is an 18th century country villa recently restored and converted into a charming and exclusive Farm house surrounded by palm trees, olive trees and vineyards.

There is a wide range of fruit – flavoured oils and wines, that make every visit to this farm resort particularly pleasant and exclusive.

The visit will be followed by a lunch.





Afternoon transfer in **Selinunte**, once capital of Magna Grecia. Your driver will pick you up at the hotel at 9 am and take you for a full-day private excursion to see the ancient temple at Segesta and Selinunte.

Nowadays, thanks to the high position of the temples, whose profiles stand out in the sky, Selinunte represents one of the most important archeological sites in the Mediterranean area. Overnight in Agrigento at our 5* in a room with a superb view on the Temples.

Dinner at leisure (**Breakfast and lunch included**)

Day 4: AGRIGENTO

Buffet breakfast at the hotel. This day will be devoted to a visit of the **Valley of Temples**. You will have a private guided tour, with a specialized guide.

The archaeological ruins of the Greek domination are numerous and they were visited and narrated by Goethe in his work “ Viaggio in Italia”. In the middle of the valley the most spectacular structure, the Concordia temple, rises surrounded by the ruins of the temples dedicated to Juno, Jupiter, Castor and Pollux, Hercules and Esculapio.



And now a surprise awaits us: a **Picnic lunch at the Kolymbetra park**, an agricultural jewel returned to light after decades of abandon. Archaeological treasures are still being unearthed in this extraordinary garden.



This Garden has fruit trees from every part of the world and some of the trees are over 1000 years old! Then surrounded by pomegranate, pistachio, orange and lemon trees and under the Mediterranean sun, you will enjoy a typical **Sicilian lunch** , complete with local fruit, cheese and wine. served to you outdoor.

This is sure one of the **highlight** of your trip.

Afternoon: free time

Dinner on your own. Overnight in Agrigento (**Breakfast and picnic included**)

Day 5: AGRIGENTO - PIAZZA ARMERINA - CALTAGIRONE - MODICA

Buffet breakfast at the hotel and check out.

Today onto **Piazza Armerina**, a small town in the south-central part of the island. Visit the **Villa Romana del Casale**, a Roman country villa of the 3rd century, famous for its precious mosaics.



Travel to **Caltagirone**, today considered the capital of Sicilian ceramics, nicknamed the “Faenza of Sicily” . It belongs to the province of Catania, but from a cultural and geographical point of

view it belongs much more to the province of Ragusa and aspires to become an autonomous province itself. Its name derives from the Arab (cal'at ghiran: castle of vases).

Lunch on your own.

Continue to **Modica** the ancient capital of Contea, a city full of fascinating architectural, artistic and scenic attractions, with many dating from the splendid Sicilian Baroque period. Take a stroll through the area **and stop at the Antique Pastry Shop Bonajuto**,



where the Ruta family is famous for their chocolate, a delicacy they continue to prepare in the same style once used by the ancient Aztec people.

Along with chocolate, enjoy their peperoncino, vanilla and cinnamon, which help lend their desserts their typical Ragusano flavor.

Check-in at our charming Hotel . Time to relax . Dinner at leisure and overnight.

(Breakfast included)

Day 6: MODICA - RAGUSA - SIRACUSA

Buffet breakfast in hotel and check out .

Transfer to a beautiful Country resort in the province of **Ragusa**, for our **cooking class**. The ancient manor is a construction with a long and fascinating history; a place where one can uncover physical traces of the great Sicilian history, a treasure as carefully guarded by proprietors as the culinary traditions of local family. There, attend cooking class and prepare several dishes in the style of Patrician cuisine.



Lunch at the Manor with the dishes prepared during the lesson.

Afterwards, head toward **Ragusa** and stop in its old historic centre, Ibla, a place of extremely ancient origin and home to an incomparable array of typical Sicilian architectures and ambiances.

Transfer to **Siracusa**, situated on the eastern coast of Sicily. Accommodation at **our 5* hotel**. Dinner at leisure . Overnight in Siracusa **(Breakfast and lunch included)**



Day 7: SIRACUSA

Buffet breakfast at the hotel. Guided city sightseeing of **Siracusa**, splendid and magnificent. In the classic age was the richest and the most powerful among the Hellenic towns in Sicily and some archaeological ruins testify the former glory: the impressive Greek Theatre, the Jerone's Altar and the ruins of Apollo, Jupiter and Athena Temples. Lunch and dinner at leisure. Overnight in Siracusa **(Breakfast included)**



Day 8: SIRACUSA - TAORMINA

Buffet breakfast at the hotel and check out.

In the morning leave by private car and drive along the coast, to the north, to the charming **Taormina**. Stop in **Catania**, the second biggest town in Sicily, a true lively town with a Baroque-style charm. Known as the "black-city" from the dark colour of the façades of the building made by the black lava stone. Visit of its most important monuments and to its colourful fish-market. Walking visit and stop in **Palazzo Biscari** the most magnificent private building in Catania, unique in terms of structure, outlay and decoration. We will be received by Baron Moncada.



Lunch at leisure.

Depart for **Taormina** with a stop in **Fiumefreddo**, with a visit of Castello degli Schiavi, the house of **DON CORLEONE**. This beautiful looking residence (left) was built in 1700 as a country house for the Nobility. The house was location for several scenes throughout the Godfather films including the un-intentional murder of Apollonia in The Godfather and also the brutal revenge killing of Don Ciccio, by Vito Corleone in Godfather part II.

Walk into the castle and meet the owner Mr Platania that will let you introduce into the aim of the film.

Transfer in Taormina and accommodation at **San Domenico Palace (5 stars)** or similar, which originally was a monastery, situated on a natural terrace overlooking the sea. Its cloisters are at present lush gardens and the austere furniture of that time gives now a sort of sober and rigorous elegance to the bedrooms.

Welcome Dinner in a nice and local restaurant. Overnight in Taormina (**Breakfast and dinner included**).



Day 9: TAORMINA

Buffet breakfast at the hotel. Day at leisure in this beautiful spot, which offers also historical and cultural attractions, such as the Greek Theatre, used as stage for many important international events. You can also admire the various buildings in Corso Umberto, the main road that in the summer evenings is always crowded and just in the middle it widens on a "belvedere", with an unforgettable view on the whole bay. Lunch and dinner at leisure. Overnight in Taormina (**Breakfast included**)

Day 10: TAORMINA

Buffet breakfast at the hotel . Transfer to **Catania airport** for flight back home. **Arrivederci in Sicily** with a next tour with "Sicily by Experts" team.



ASK for PRICE

Items Included

10 Days / 9 Nights

- All accommodations in luxury Hotels as mentioned (based on double occupancy) in superior rooms (with sea view where possible)
- 09 breakfasts
- Transfer from the Airport of Palermo to the hotel in Palermo 1st day
- Private car and driver – guide speaking English from the 2nd day to 8th day
- Transfer from Taormina to Catania airport the last day
- Half day excursion with a local guide in Palermo – Monreale / Syracuse /Valley of the temples –Piazza Armerina

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- Visit Cantine Pellegrino
- Oil tasting followed by a lunch
- Pic nic at Kolymbetra park
- Chocolate taste in Modica
- Cooking class + lunch in a manor in Ragusa
- Visit palazzo Biscari
- Private visit of “Godfather Villa”
- Dinner in a restaurant near Taormina
- Taxes and Vat

Not included in the Price

- Entrance fees to museums and other attractions
- Drinks during Dinner/Lunch
- Meals not mentioned
- Tips

NB : on request we can reserve restaurants / visit of ancient palaces / cooking courses

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