**Sicilian Adventure**

9 DAYS: Saturday, November 2-Sunday, November 10, 2019

ONE OF THE WORLD’S MOST CAPTIVATING PLACES, Sicily has long lured travelers with its natural wonders, cultural treasures and out-of-this-world cuisine. Join us this November as we explore Sicily from the storied streets of Palermo to the most famous of all Italian resort towns -- Taormina. In between, we’ll visit Erice and sip wine; spend a day marveling at the Greek temples in Siracusa; enjoy dinner at a country agriturismo and travel the Old Salt Road; and, finally, discover the charms of Taormina, to this day, a hot spot for the rich and famous. We’ll be treated to a seaside lunch and enjoy a free afternoon. With wonderful weather, incredible scenery and historical wonders, Sicily tops our list of favorite places.

**Includes**

- Round-trip air transportation on regularly scheduled **Alitalia Airlines** flights from Boston to Palermo and Catania to Boston via Rome
- Seven nights’ three- and four -star accommodations
- Fourteen meals; seven buffet breakfasts, three lunches, four dinners with wine
- Escorted round-trip, private airport/hotel transfers
- Services of professional local Tour Manager

**Rates**

$2,999 per person double occupancy

Includes round-trip airfare, fuel surcharge and all air taxes and fees.

Single supplement is $300. We have a limited number of single supplements available at just $150. Call to reserve. Fuel surcharge, air taxes and fees subject to change. Triple accommodations may be available upon request. Passport required. Per person deposit is $300.

**Features**


**Trip Planner**

**DAY 1** Overnight flight from Boston

**DAYS 2–5** Hotel Garibaldi, Palermo

**DAYS 6–8** Hotel Continental, Taormina

**DAY 9** Return flight to Boston or similar hotel accommodations

**Day 1: Departure from Boston**

Evening departure from Boston on Alitalia Airlines, non-stop flight to Rome. There will be meal service aloft.

**Day 2: Arrive Rome – connecting flight to Palermo – transfer to hotel**

Upon arrival at the Rome airport we’ll clear immigration and passport control and transfer to our connecting/domestic flight to Palermo. In Palermo we claim our luggage and clear customs and be met by...
our Tour Manager who will direct us to the motorcoach for the transfer to the Hotel Garibaldi in Palermo. Enjoy a welcome drink and this evening we’ll have a welcome dinner with wine at a local restaurant. (D)

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**Day 3: Palermo**

After breakfast we depart for a full day sightseeing of Palermo that starts in the old town -- at its center lies Quattro Canti di Citta, an ostentatious square complete with fountains, statues and a large portion of the city’s important sites. Visit the Cathedral, the Norman Palace and the Church of San Giovanni degli Eremiti (St. John of the Hermits) a 12th-century Norman church with five, Arab-inspired red domes, the Cappella Palatina and the catacombs. In the afternoon drive to Monreale where we’ll visit the Cathedral -- famed for its glorious golden mosaics it is perhaps the finest Norman building in Sicily -- built in the 12th century as part of a grand royal complex. In the late afternoon return to the hotel. Tonight we'll enjoy dinner with wine at a countryside agriturismo. (B,D)

For millennia at the crossroads of civilizations, Palermo delivers a heady, heavily spiced mix of Byzantine mosaics, Arabesque domes and frescoed cupolas. This is a city at the edge of Europe and at the centre of the ancient world, a place where souk-like markets rub against baroque churches, where date palms frame Gothic palaces and where the blue-eyed and fair have bronze-skinned cousins. Centuries of dizzying highs and crushing lows have formed a complex metropolis. Here, crumbling staircases lead to gilded ballrooms and guarded locals harbor hearts of gold. Just don't be fooled. Despite its noisy streets, Sicily's largest city is a shy beast, rewarding the inquisitive with citrus-filled cloisters, stucco-laced chapels and vintage stores filled with the threads of faded aristocrats. Add to this Italy's biggest opera house and an ever-growing number of vibrant, new-school eateries and bars and you might just find yourself suddenly, unexpectedly in love.
Day 4: Erice
Today we’ll visit Erice, a wonderfully preserved medieval town offering the most breathtaking views of Trapani and the Egadi islands and timeless Greek ruins. Arrive at the world-famous Donnafugata Winery, one of Italy’s finest and praised by wine critics and wine lovers all over the globe. This historic cellar in Marsala is just one of Donnafugata’s various estates and you’ll enjoy a wine tasting complemented by typical Sicilian snacks. On our return to Palermo we’ll stop at the Fontanasalsa Estate for a visit to a reknown olive oil mill and a tasting. Return to hotel. Evening at leisure. *(B,L)*
**Day 5: Segesta – Via Del Sale**
This morning we’ll set off on an excursion to Segesta to visit Greek Temple. After the visit we are off on the Via Del Sale, the salt road. We will have a delightful seafood lunch at the Trattoria del Sale, near Trapani, inside an ancient mill used for pumping the salt water from the sea into the pans in order to produce salt. Afterwards we’ll visit the Salt Museum and later return to our hotel in Palermo. *(B,L)*

The archaeological site of Segesta is one of the most valuable historic sites in Sicily. There is a beautifully preserved temple and theater, located in a scenic location on Mount Barbaro, approximately 400 meters high. The temple of Segesta, solemnly placed on a hill at the foot of Mount Barbaro, is certainly among the most exciting examples of Greek architecture. Completely isolated from the urban world, its white columns stand out among the green of the landscape. Its construction dates back to the late fifth century BC, during the alliance with Athens. There are a total of 36 columns.

The coastal highway between Trapani and Marsala takes motorists through a flat landscape of saline pools, mounds of salt, and decommissioned mulini or windmills. Conditions in this area of Sicily are ideal for the production of salt. Salt has been produced near Trapani for centuries. Today Trapani makes small quantities of epicurean salt for discerning eaters. The culinary salt that is produced in this area is considered some of the finest in Italy.
Day 6: Palermo – Cefalu – Taormina
After breakfast we’ll depart Palermo for Taormina. En route we’ll stop in Cefalu for a short tour. Arrive this afternoon in Taormina. This evening enjoy dinner - with wine - and overnight accommodations at the Hotel Villa Paradiso. *(B,D)*

The Pearl of the Mediterranean
What do Richard Wagner, Oscar Wilde, Greta Garbo, Cary Grant, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Alexandre Dumas, Johannes Brahms, Gustav Klimt, D.H. Lawrence, Ingmar Bergman, Francis Ford Coppola, Truman Capote, John Steinbeck, Marlene Dietrich, Federico Fellini, Guy de Maupassant, Elisabeth Taylor, Sharon Stone, Woody Allen and Gregory Peck have in common? That’s simple - they have all spent their holidays in Taormina.

Taormina is perched on a rock 200 metres above the sea and has been the most popular tourist destination in Sicily ever since it became an integral part of the “Grand Tour” of European aristocrats and artists some two hundred years ago. One of the world’s greatest views, winding streets, alleyways and staircases strewn with bars, cafés, restaurants, art galleries, designer, shoe, ceramics, antiques and
souvenir shops, small squares around corners, beautifully restored medieval buildings and the ancient amphitheatre make for a perfect holiday spot.

**Day 7: Taormina**
After breakfast we’ll be treated to a half-day guided walking tour of Taormina – known as the Pearl of the Mediterranean – and see the historic medieval center, the Greek-Roman theatre, amazing scenery, Baroque architecture, quaint street and romantic gardens. Afterwards we’ll enjoy lunch at a seaside restaurant. The afternoon and evening are free. *(B,L)*

**Day 8: Excursion to Siracusa**
Today we’ll set out on an excursion to Siracusa, the oldest city in Sicily (founded in 734 BC) and the home of Archimedes. Our tour begins with the archaeological park and we’ll see the famous Roman amphitheatre, the quarries where slaves carved stone for the city and a limestone cave called the Ear of Dionysius. Later we’ll visit the historic part of the city called Ortigia Island where we walk the labyrinth of alleys that lead to one of the most magnificent piazzas in Sicily. Here we’ll visit the Duomo, an extraordinary example of Greek architecture and a painting by Caravaggio. Enjoy dinner with wine this evening at a local restaurant. *(B,D)*

Once one of ancient Greece’s most important cities, today Syracuse (Siracusa in Italian) is a lively town of about 125,000 on Sicily’s southeast coast. The city overflows with amazing remnants from its long history. Romans, Vandals and Normans are but a few of those who ruled here after the Greeks. In Siracusa’s harbor, Ortygia Island (also called Città Vecchia or Old City) is the site of many of the main attractions, including the seventh-century cathedral and the Fountain of Arethusa.

Ortigia - Siracusa’s island heart
The best way to see the island of Ortygia is just to wander. It’s difficult to get lost (it measures just 1km by 500 metres), but packed with over 2,500 years of history. Architectural styles vary widely, encompassing Greek and Roman remains, Mediaeval Norman buildings and a great deal of (relatively) understated Baroque. Restaurants, trattorias and bars abound and it is especially nice to sit out on the western side in the late afternoon, warmed by the sun and with a view over the lagoon.

The Piazza del Duomo. This delightful pedestrian square is home to the wonderful Cathedral built on the site of an ancient Temple of Athena as can clearly be seen from the original Doric columns that were incorporated into the building’s main structure. Also on this square is the beautifully symmetrical Baroque Palazzo Beneventano and the church of Santa Lucia, the town’s patron saint.
Day 9: Return to Boston
This morning transfer to Catania airport for our flight to Rome and our transatlantic flight back to Boston. (B)

Proof of Citizenship is required for all trips outside the United States. U.S. citizens require valid Passport. Passports are the responsibility of each client.

PLEASE NOTE: This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured. We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.

PLEASE NOTE: This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2–3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.