

# THE TRAVEL CLUB

Pre-Departure Itinerary

## *Springtime in Taormina*

**9 DAYS: Saturday, April 25-Sunday, May 3, 2026**

AN ANCIENT TOWN PERCHED HIGH ABOVE BLUE SEAS and decorated with blazing- red bougainvillea framing white-washed buildings, Taormina is Sicily's jewel and ranked #4 of "best spring destinations" by Condé Nast Traveller. We'll spend six nights at the Continental Hotel, located in the heart of Old Town just steps from Corso Umberto—the main pedestrian street—and get acquainted on a half-day walking tour. A highlight of our week will be a hands-on cooking class with Chef Massimo Tomarchio that begins with a guided visit to the local market! Enjoy an excursion to Catania, a port city nestled in the foothills of grumbling, old Mount Etna, for a visit to its bustling street market, followed by a winery visit and lunch at an estate. Head to Siracusa to visit the spectacular archaeological site and beautiful Ortigia Island. We'll visit Messina—sprawling up the hillside above its sickle-shaped harbor—and Savoca, a 12th-century mountain village where scenes from The Godfather were filmed.

### **Includes**

- Round-trip regularly scheduled ITA Airways flights from Boston to Catania, via Rome (land only pricing available if you prefer to make your own air arrangements)
- Seven nights' three-star accommodations: Hotel Continental, Taormina (or similar)
- Eleven meals: seven continental buffet breakfasts, three dinners with wine
- One hands-on cooking lesson with lunch
- Wine tasting and lunch
- Escorted, private, round-trip airport/ hotel transfers
- Services of professional local Tour Manager

### **Features**

Taormina half-day guided walking tour. Excursion to Siracusa with guided visit of the archaeological site, the lively center and Ortigia Island. Guided tour of the local market with Chef Massimo, hands-on cooking class in the kitchen studio and lunch. Excursion to Mount Etna with winery visit and lunch. Excursion to Messina and Savoca.  
ADMISSIONS INCLUDED: Taormina Greek Theatre, Siracusa Archaeological Park and Cathedral.

### **Rates**

**\$3999 per person double occupancy**

Includes round-trip airfare, fuel surcharge and all air taxes and fees. **Single supplement is \$480.** Triple accommodations may be available upon request. Fuel surcharge, air taxes and fees subject to change. Passport required. Per person deposit is \$500.

### **Hotel Continental Via Dionisio I 2A, Taormina, 98039 011 39 0942 23805**

The Continental is a welcoming 3 star hotel in central Taormina located just steps from Corso Umberto and Piazza Duomo Square and several outstanding historic sites, traditional shops and restaurants. Located in the heart of Taormina, the hotel boasts a spacious terrace with breathtaking panoramic views across the beautiful Bay of Naxos and Mount Etna. The Ancient Theatre, the Odeon, the Naumachie and the other main tourist attractions and historical sites can be reached via a leisurely stroll through the old town's picturesque streets. This nice hotel is the best choice for a great holiday in Sicily thanks to its comfortable rooms and welcoming spaces. Hotel facilities also include an Internet point and wireless Internet access, both available at the reception, and a lounge bar. Several restaurants, cafés and bars are located within walking distance.

### **Day 1: Depart Boston**

Depart Boston Logan Airport, on Alitalia's non-stop, direct service to Rome. Dinner is served with complimentary wine/beer. Relax and enjoy the inflight entertainment while crossing the Atlantic.

### **Day 2: Arrive Rome - connecting flight to Catania**

Continental breakfast will be served before landing. In Rome, clear immigration and proceed to our connecting flight to Catania. After passport control and immigration, proceed to baggage claim and retrieve our luggage. We will then pass through customs and meet our representative who will assist with boarding the transfer vehicle to the **Hotel Continental in Taormina**. Tonight, enjoy a welcome dinner with wine. **(D)**



### **Day 3: Guided walking tour of Taormina**

Today we'll get acquainted with Taormina - known as the Pearl of the Mediterranean. Enjoy a guided walking tour of Taormina, one of the most popular tourist capitals of the Mediterranean. You'll see the historic medieval center, the Greco-Roman theatre, superlative scenery, Baroque architecture, quaint streets and romantic gardens. **(B)**





#### **Day 4: Siracusa & Ortigia Island**

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'll 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, Ortigia 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 Ortigia 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.



Ortigia Island

### **Day 5: Cooking lesson with Chef Massimo Tomarchio**

From the bustling market of Taormina to an intimate kitchen studio, every ingredient and technique is authentically Sicilian! Today you'll meet with Chef Tomarchio and walk to the local market to choose the ingredients for your cooking class. After your market visit you'll reach the kitchen studio where Chef Massimo will share the traditional Sicilian recipes he learned from his grandmother. After your preparations, you'll enjoy lunch of your creations along with great Sicilian wine. **(B,L)**



### **Day 6: Excursion to Mount Etna**

After breakfast we'll head to Mount Etna and ascend the winding road to the Rifugio Sapienza for the incredible view. Later we'll visit a renown winery and enjoy lunch with wines from the estate. Return to the hotel and evening is at leisure. **(B,L)**



### **Day 7: Messina & Savoca**

After breakfast we'll depart for an excursion to Messina and its sickle-shape port. The top attraction of Messina is the Bell Tower and astronomical clock. There'll be free time in Messina for lunch on our own. As we head back to Taormina we'll visit small town of Savoca – made famous by scenes shot here for *The Godfather*. Return to Taormina for a farewell dinner with wine at a local restaurant. **(B,D)**





Messina



Savoca

### **Day 8: Day at leisure**

Today is a day to relax, explore on your own, visit the local markets. Farewell dinner tonight at a local restaurant. **(B,D)**

### **Day 9: Return flight to Boston**

This morning transfer by motorcoach to the Naples airport for our return flight to Boston via Rome. **(B)**

**Proof of Citizenship** is required for all trips outside the United States. U.S. citizens require a valid passport to travel; with at least 6 months' validity. All non-US citizens should check with the appropriate foreign consulate for additional entry requirements. Passports are the responsibility of each traveler.

**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.