



TAVOLA TOURS

Culinary & Cultural Adventures to Italy

TAVOLA TOURS | THE ULTIMATE SICILY ADVENTURE! | 2024

Destination: Sicily, Italy

Depart: USA on October 6th | Return to USA on October 17th

An Unforgettable Culinary, Cultural and Religious Tour

\$3,925.00 per person land only.



- **4-Star Hotels**
- **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**
- **Cooking Class | Mt. Etna Winery**
- ***The Godfather* Filming Locations**
- **“Eighth Wonder of the World”**
- **Magna Graecia (Great Greece)**
- **WW II “Battle of Gerbini”**
- **Catacomb of Saint John**
- **Shopping & Free Time!**

Visit both dramatic coasts of Sicily including a visit to the heartland of the island! You will delight all your senses on this special culinary, cultural and religious adventure. Sicily is the largest Italian region, a “little continent” rich in art, culture, archaeology, history, **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**, breathtaking sceneries, beautiful beaches, medieval towns, refined cuisine, fantastic wines, and great stories of ancient myths and legends.

Benvenuti in Sicilia!





ITALY: THE ULTIMATE SICILY ADVENTURE!

DAY TO DAY ITINERARY

October 7th to October 17th

IMPORTANT: USA departure should be scheduled for Oct. 6th to arrive on Oct. 7th

Oct. 7: Arrival | Transfer to Hotel Domina Zagrella | Welcome Dinner



Upon arrival at **Falcone Borsellino Airport** in Palermo, you will meet your free transfer to the 4-star **Hotel Domina Zagarella** in Santa Flavia. This beautiful resort is located about 45 minutes from the airport. After you have **checked in** you will enjoy a special welcome dinner located in the hotel. You will meet your fellow travelers as we officially kickoff your **Ultimate Sicily Adventure!**

Oct. 8: Taste of Palermo | Christian and Cultural Sites | Chic Shopping



Your first experience will be a visit to the lively city center of Palermo. This is a city that boasts **2,700 years** of history, art, culture, and gastronomy. Here you will enjoy a local culinary adventure: **the world-famous street foods of Palermo**. This city is considered one of the world capitals of street foods. You will have an excellent opportunity to taste mouthwatering specialties such as sfincione (traditional Sicilian pizza), pane e panelle (chick pea fritters), crocchè (potato croquettes), arancine (rice balls), granita, and many more. The cultural sights that you will experience will be: The **jaw-dropping spectacular Church of the Martorana, (Santa Maria), Church and Monastery of Saint Caterina**, Church of the **Immaculate Conception** and the **Massimo Theater**. This Theater was a filming location for **The Godfather III**. You will be surrounded by Arab-Norman culture that is characteristic of Palermo's ancient history. You will also see **UNESCO World Heritage Sites** such as the **Cathedral and Palace of the Normans** with its magnificent **Palatine Chapel**. Then you will enjoy free time in the chic shopping district of **Via Libertà**. Special dinner tonight at a local restaurant.

Oct. 9: The Masterpiece of Monreale | Caccamo Castle | Beautiful Cefalù



After breakfast you'll depart for **Monreale**. Your guide will introduce you to the magnificent **Norman Cathedral** (which is known as one of the finest examples of sacred architecture in the world) with its larger than life **Christ the Pantocrator (Christ the Creator)**, stunning **Byzantine mosaics** (scenes from the **New and Old Testaments**), and a **12th century cloister built by the Benedictines**. Lunch will be at a restaurant in Palermo. Lastly, we will visit **Cefalù (one of Italy's most beautiful villages)** known for shopping, its beautiful beach, restaurants, pastries, and a very unique **Norman cathedral** with its very own rendition of **Christ the Pantocrator**. You will also see the **Medieval washhouse** dating back to the early **1500s**. Then you will have free time to stroll the shopping area and have a bite to eat on your own. Next you will be truly amazed by the **12th-century Medieval Castle of Caccamo**. After this you will return back to the hotel. Dinner you are free. **Remember to pack your belongings because in the morning you will check out of your rooms.**



ITALY: THE ULTIMATE SICILY ADVENTURE *(Continued)*

Oct. 10: Catania Cathedral | Shrine of St. Agatha | Villa Roma del Casale

Check out of Hotel Domina Zagarella. Today you will board the bus and cross the island to Catania, Sicily's second largest city and financial hub. There will be a stop in the rural town of **Piazza Armerina** where you will enjoy seeing **Villa Roma del Casale**. The villa is one of the most luxurious of its kind. It is especially noteworthy for the richness and quality of the mosaics which decorate almost every room; they are considered **the finest mosaics *in situ* (original place) anywhere in the Roman world**. Lunch will be at a local restaurant. Then onward to Catania to visit the majestic **Cathedral of Catania** and the beautiful dedication to **Santa Agatha** (the patron saint of Sicily). Lastly you'll **check in** to your new hotel (**Unahotel Naxos Beach**) and settle in. Dinner tonight will be at a seaside restaurant with **entertainment and traditional Sicilian folk music**.



BREAKFAST
LUNCH
DINNER

Oct. 11: Mount Etna | Local Winery Lunch | Taormina (The Jewel of Sicily)

After breakfast you'll head to the south side of majestic **Mount Etna**. You will marvel at the dramatic scenery of **Europe's highest and most active volcano at 10,922 ft. (3,329 m)** and get ready to enjoy a fantastic **once-in-a lifetime** experience. Here you will relish in the natural beauty of this enormous volcano and see the famous Silvestri creators. They were formed from an eruption in 1892. Lunch will be at a local Etna winery. After lunch it's off to **Taormina** considered to be the **Crown Jewel of Sicily!** Here your guide will lead you through the quaint historic center where you will see the ancient **Greek Theater** dating back to the **third century BC**. This theater is the world's best known and most admired **Greek** outdoor theater. After, there will be free time to stroll the historic center and visit the many high-end shops, restaurants, gelaterias, pastry shops, etc. The panoramic views from the town square and Greek theater are absolutely breathtaking! Return to the hotel and you are free for the rest of the night.



BREAKFAST
LUNCH

Oct. 12: Stunning Syracuse | WW II Battle of Gerbini | Our Lady of Tears

After breakfast, you board the bus to the **Baroque masterpiece known as Syracuse**. It was the most important city of the **Magna Graecia**. **Syracuse was built in 734 BC** and was home to many great Greeks such as **Archimedes**. According to **Cicero**, it was "the greatest Greek city and the most beautiful of them all". On the way we will pay tribute to a **World War II** memorial. You'll stop along the **First Sun Bridge**, in the footsteps of the **51st Highland Division** during the **battle of Gerbini**. Once in Syracuse, the first stop will be at the **Basilica of the Madonna**. You will be astonished! The **Weeping Madonna of Syracuse** is one of the most unusual of the approved miraculous images of the **Blessed Virgin Mary**. Then onward to the **sacred Catacombs of Saint John**.

"Visiting the Catacombs of San Giovanni means coming face to face with an immense illustrated Bible in which the New and Old Testaments merge, revealing the universal face of Christianity." (Continued)



BREAKFAST
LUNCH
DINNER



ITALY: THE ULTIMATE SICILY ADVENTURE *(Continued)*

Oct. 12: Splendors Syracuse | WW II Battle of Gerbini | Our Lady of Tears *(Continued)*



BREAKFAST
LUNCH
DINNER

Lunch will be at a panoramic restaurant overlooking the **Neapolis Archaeological Park** of Syracuse. After lunch, you will tour the grounds of the park where your guide will lead you through the remains of many ancient **Greek sites dating back to the 5th century BC**. Then you will visit **Ortigia**. A time encapsulated small island which is the historical center of Syracuse. Here you will find the world famous **Duomo of Syracuse** with its charming Baroque façade. It is one of the most important and famous Doric monuments in all Sicily: the **Greek Temple of Athena** (built in 480 BC) is contained inside this magnificent Duomo. Dinner tonight will be at the hotel. ***Tonight pack a light bag for an overnight in Ragusa Ibla. All big luggage can be left behind at Unahotel and picked up when you return.**

Oct. 13: Marvels of Modica | Ancient Chocolate | Nosco Culinary School



BREAKFAST
CHOCOLATE
DINNER

After breakfast, you will **check out** and head to the **UNESCO World Heritage** town of **Modica**. This town is famous for its fascinating **Baroque architecture**, its many stunningly beautiful churches and **CHOCOLATE!** The first stop will be to **San Giorgio** and **San Pietro** the two most important churches in Modica. San Giorgio is a masterpiece of high Baroque. It is included in the **UNESCO World Heritage Site** for its unique architectural style. San Pietro is a great marvel as well. Its vault is adorned with **scenes from the Old Testament**. The right side of the nave hosts a group of late 19th-century wooden statues representing **San Pietro e il Paralitico** (St Peter and the Paralyzed Man). Also noteworthy are the pair of 17th-century paintings in the first chapel, one depicting **Christ handing Saint Peter the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven**, the other depicting **Saint Joseph's passing**. Then it's off to learn about the **400 year old chocolate making tradition of Modica!** The recipe used to make the chocolate is an **Aztec recipe** brought to the area **by the Spaniards**. For even more delicious fun everyone will get a chance to make their very own chocolate bars. Lunchtime you are free to shop and/or grab a lite bite to eat. Now you're off to **Ragusa Ibla**. Ragusa was classified as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2002** and is one of the most important cities for the arts in all Italy due to its varied artistic and archeological riches dating back several thousand years. Here you will enjoy an exceptional **cooking class** at the world-famous **Nosco School of Mediterranean Cooking**. Dinner will be the dishes make during the class. After dinner, you will **check in** to your hotel in Ragusa Ibla.



ITALY: THE ULTIMATE SICILY ADVENTURE (Continued)

Oct. 14: Relax at Your Naxos Beach Hotel | Free Day

Check out of the Ragusa Ibla hotel and head back to Naxos. You will **check-in** to your new rooms at Unahotel. The rest of the day you can go at your own pace. You are free to enjoy the hotel and its amenities, visit the town center or take a cab to **Taormina**. Dinner will be at the hotel's restaurant.



Oct. 15: Christ the King | Bells of Peace | The Black Madonna

Today after breakfast, you will head to Messina to visit the shrine of **Christ the King** and see a sweeping view of the city. Also, this sanctuary is home to the monument of the **Unknown Soldier**. Here there are **the gravestones of 110 fallen soldiers from the First World War and 1,288 fallen soldiers from the Second World War**. You will also see the largest bells in the world made from the melting down of enemy cannons from **WW I**. The weapons of destruction were turned into a great symbol of peace. Lunch will be at a local restaurant. Then it's onward to Tindari. The ancient site of **Tindari** sits on top of a cliff above the **Tyrrhenian Sea**. It is famous for its dynamic Greek past, and the **Sanctuary of the Black Madonna**. Within the sanctuary you'll see the statue of the **Black Madonna** which is very rare. Return to the hotel and you are free for dinner.



Oct. 16: Savoca "The Godfather" | Castelmola | Farewell Dinner

Today you will visit Savoca and it's **Bar Vitelli** made famous in the Francis Ford Coppola's trilogy **The Godfather**. You will enjoy a tasting of typical small bites at Bar Vitelli. Then it's off to the lovely center of **Castelmola**. Here you'll have free time for shopping and exploring the delightful narrow streets that meander through a classic Sicilian setting. Return to the hotel for some relaxation. Your farewell dinner is tonight at a special restaurant with traditional Sicilian music and dance. **Remember to pack all your belongings. Departure day is tomorrow.**



Oct. 17: Departure Day

After **checking out** of the hotel, you will be taken by bus to Catania- Fontanarossa Airport for your departure flight. **Grazie e Arrivederci!**

***Tavola Tours reserves the right to make changes to this itinerary if necessary due to unforeseen circumstances.**





The Ultimate SICILY Adventure 2024 | RESERVATION FORM

Reserve your place with a **\$1,500.00** per person deposit.

Reservations are processed on a first come, first serve basis. Secure your place today!

Name: _____

IMPORTANT: Name must be exactly the same as it appears on Valid Passport; 1 Form per Person.

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Home Tel. #: _____ Cell Tel. #: _____

Work Tel. #: _____ E-mail: _____

Travel Companion Name: _____

Room Type: Single*: _____ Double: _____ Triple: _____

***\$450 additional fee for a single room for the hotel stays**

Departure Date: _____ Return Date: _____

YOUR PAYMENT DETAILS

Deposit or Full Payment (List Amount): _____ Payment Date: _____

TRAVEL PROTECTION INSURANCE IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

We strongly recommend that you purchase **Travel Insurance on your own** to protect your travel investment.

NOTE: Pre-existing medical condition clause is included if insurance is purchased within 14 days of deposit.

Travel insurance is non-refundable.

TOUR RESERVATION POLICIES

- \$1,500.00 Deposit required to secure space. Tour Balance is due 45 days prior to travel date.
- We prefer payment by check. Credit Card payment is possible; however, a 3.75% credit card fee applies.
- \$250.00 Administration fee is charged if tour reservation is cancelled 2 weeks after initial deposit.
- Itinerary could be altered only if deemed necessary beyond control of travel agency & local tour operator.
- Full deposit, administration fee & full tour cost become NON-REFUNDABLE 45 days or less from travel date.

REQUIRED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS: USA citizens need VALID PASSPORT with expiration date 6 months or more from US departure date.

NON-USA: Citizens may require a VISA. Please check with your own country's Consulate General or their Website.

PAYMENT DETAILS

- Please make your payment out to I-Chef LLC, Mail To: **I-Chef LLC, PO Box 63, Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922**
- Please write TAVOLA TOURS on the memo line of your check.

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____