



TAVOLA TOURS

Culinary & Cultural Adventures to Italy

TAVOLA TOURS | THE ULTIMATE SICILY ADVENTURE! | 2024

REVISED VERSION!

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
- “Eighth Wonder of the World”
- Magna Graecia (Great Greece)
- Beautiful Sightseeing Tours
- Professional Guides & Local Experts
- 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



DINNER

Upon arrival at **Falcone Borsellino Airport** in Palermo, you will meet your free transfer to the 4-star **Hotel Domina Zagrella** 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



BREAKFAST
LUNCH
DINNER

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 | Cefalù



BREAKFAST
LUNCH

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**. Then onward to Catania to visit the majestic **Cathedral of Catania** and the beautiful dedication to **Santa Agatha** (the patron saint of Catania). Lunch will be a tasting of local delicacies. 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 where you will have a professional wine tasting and learn all about the famous **DOC wines of Etna**. 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

***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. 12: World War II Museum | Marvel of Syracuse | Baroque Noto

Today you'll board the bus for the new World War II museum in Catania. It has been touted as one of the very best of its kind. Next is the **masterpiece known as Syracuse**. 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". You'll visit the **sacred Catacombs at the Duomo 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."



BREAKFAST
LUNCH
DINNER

(Continued)



ITALY: THE ULTIMATE SICILY ADVENTURE *(Continued)*

Oct. 12: World War II Museum | Duomo of St. John | Baroque Noto *(Continued)*



Lunch will be at a panoramic restaurant in Syracuse. After lunch its off to Noto famous for its Baroque architecture, restaurants and palaces. You will stroll the quaint town center full of local treats, restaurants, and gelato shops. After you will see the stunning **Palazzo (palace) Ducezio, Palazzo Nicolaci and the Noto Cathedral**. Dinner tonight will be at the hotel in Ragusa Ibla.

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



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 made during the class.

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. Dinner will be at a the hotel's restaurant.



ITALY: THE ULTIMATE SICILY ADVENTURE *(Continued)*

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: Funicular to Taormina | Farewell Dinner

Today you will have free time at the hotel to enjoy the beach, pool and other amenities. Our bus will be available to take you to the scenic funicular to Taormina for those that would like to go. 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 Arriverdecì!**

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

