

# SICILY ERUPTING WITH CULTURE TOUR!

A PREMIUM EXPERIENCE

ITALIAN CULINARY  
TOURS



## JOIN US ON A 14-DAY CULTURAL ADVENTURE IN SICILY!

*Sicily is the region of Italy with the most UNESCO World Heritage sites. Indulge in Sicilian cuisine and feel the love of outstanding local chefs along with Robert as they prepare authentic, delectable dishes elegantly served under the Mediterranean sky.*

*This tour will introduce our guests to Sicilian cuisine which is much more complex, thanks to the contributions inherited by all the cultures that have been established over time in Sicily. We strive to create an experience that gives our guests a deep understanding of the many cultures that have formed the cultural fabric of this beautiful and compelling island.*



## Day 1 Arrive in Taormina

Transfer by private transportation from Catania airport to Casa Adele, located in the heart of Taormina. This prestigious hotel evokes a majesty and atmosphere of times gone by, built by the Cascio family at the dawn of 1900, the Hotel Casa Adele, was recently renovated returning the hotel to an exclusive, magical, and enchanting place.

Guests will appreciate the depth of knowledge personal tour, Chiara Rozzi has while they enjoy the sites of this beautiful Sicilian town. Chiara will share her love for this city with a personal guided afternoon tour.

Dinner at guest's leisure in Taormina.\*

## Day 2 Mt. Etna

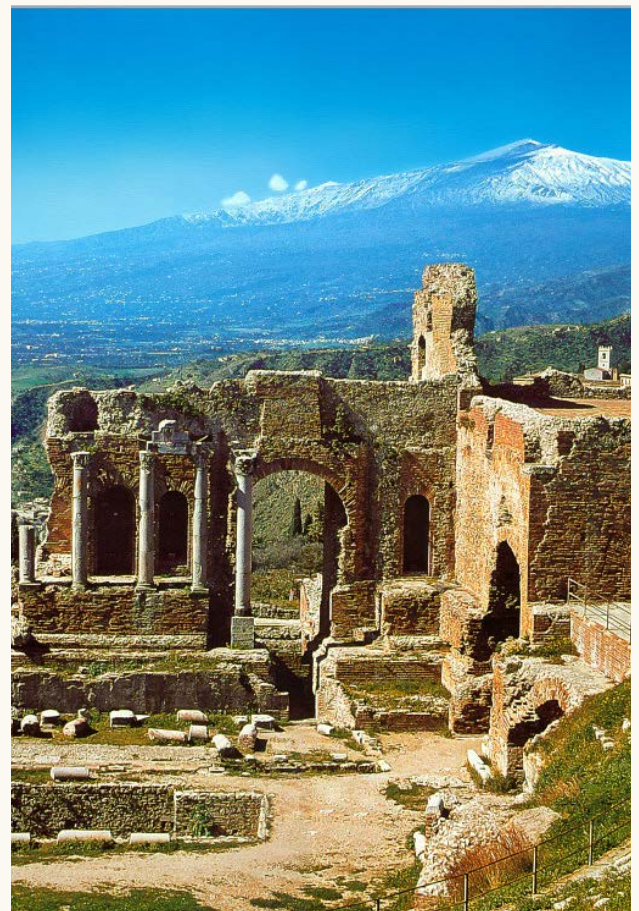
Breakfast at the hotel.

Begin your day with a guided tour up Mt. Etna, known locally as "Mongibello", and is Europe's largest and most active volcano. Its frequent eruptions are often accompanied by large lava flows, but rarely pose danger to inhabited areas. Mount Etna World Heritage Site (19,237 ha) comprises the most strictly protected and scientifically important area of Mount Etna, and forms part of the Parco dell'Etna Regional Nature Park. The UNESCO designated Mt. Etna is known for its rich volcanic soil, which provides the nutrients for some of the best agricultural products in the world.

On your descend from Mt. Etna, you will visit Murgo Winery for a tasting of the special wines of the mountain along with a home Sicilian prepared lunch. The Baron Emanuele Scammacca del Murgo, with a long career as a diplomatic and having been Italian Ambassador in many countries and Assistant Secretary of the Estate at the Foreign Affairs, decided in 1981 to transform the ancient property of his family into a modern productive agricultural estate. In the following years, his eight sons joined the business, carrying out gradual and continuous improvements.

Lunch at Murgo Winery.\*

Dinner in Taormina at guest's leisure.\*





## Day 3 Villa Romana del Casale

Breakfast at the hotel.

Your private driver will transport you to your villa accommodations in Scicli, with a stop at the Villa Romana del Casale, for a private tour of a large and elaborate Roman villa located about 3 km from the town of Piazza Armerina, Sicily. Excavations have revealed one of the richest, largest, and varied collections of Roman mosaics in the world, for which the site has been designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The villa and artwork contained within date to the early 4th century AD.

Lunch in town of Piazza Armerina at guest's leisure.\*

Transfer by private transportation to Casa Imbastita, an old farmhouse with splendid panoramic views of the city, the sea, and hillsides where almond, olive, and carob trees surround the property.

Relax before enjoying dinner at the villa, prepared by Chef Loredana Crisafi, owner of Myda Scuola di Cucina in Catania.

## Day 4 Day Trip to Modica & Ragusa

Breakfast provided at the villa.

Your private driver will deliver you to your guide for a tour of Modica, which includes a visit to Antica Dolceria Bonajuto (*chocolate factory*) for a demonstration in chocolate making followed by a stop to the Museo del Cioccolato. Modica, an attractive historic town that is one of the area's UNESCO-listed Baroque towns and despite being ravaged by earthquakes in 1613 and 1693, and floods in 1833 and 1902, Modica has retained some of the most beautiful architecture in Sicily.

Lunch in the town of Modica at guest's leisure.\*

After lunch, we transfer to Ragusa Ibla for a guided tour of this sloping area of tangled alleyways, grey stone houses, and Baroque palazzi on handsome squares is effectively Ragusa's historic center.

Dinner prepared by Chef Loredana at the Casa Imbastita.



## Day 5 Winery Tours

Breakfast provided at the villa.

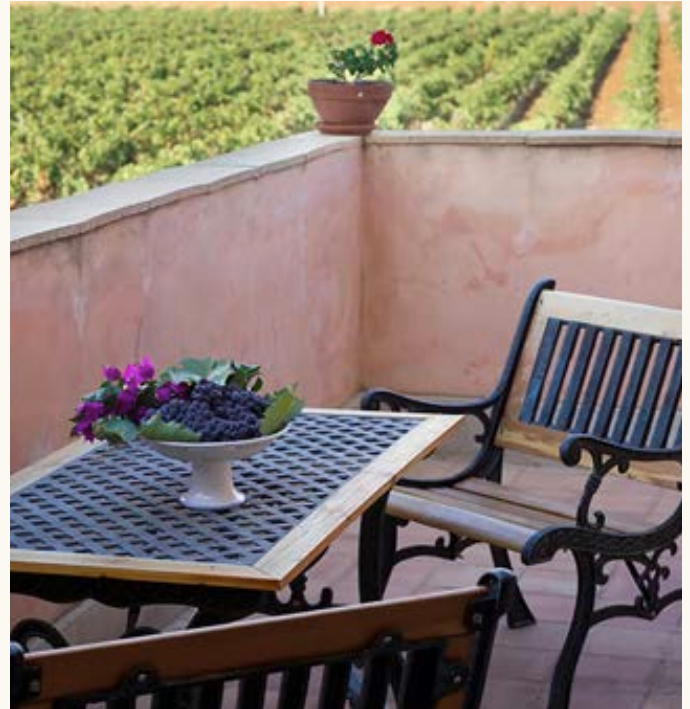
Enjoy a drive in the countryside to take in a few of southern Sicily's finest wineries for a wine and food tasting experience.

You will visit COS Vittoria to enjoy Cerasuolo di Vittoria - a red wine made from grapes Frappato blend and grape Nero d'Avola. It is produced in a wide area of the province of Ragusa and in the provinces of Catania and Caltanissetta, the ancient area of wine vocation, as evidenced by numerous documents dating back to the third century BC.

Lunch at guest's leisure TBD.\*

Then, you'll enjoy the award winning Organic wines of Gulfi: over 2000 years of history, culture and hard work preserved so that they can handover to their sons and daughters an integral land, that is immense in its beauty and richness. While there you will experience dining at the restaurant "Locanda Gulfi" with its refined and elegant location, it welcomes guests on a journey through the flavors of Sicily.

Dinner provided at the Gulfi Winery.\*



## Day 6 Tour of Syracuse & Noto

Breakfast provided at the villa.

More than any other city, Syracuse encapsulates Sicily's timeless beauty. Ancient Greek ruins rise out of lush citrus orchards, café tables spill onto dazzling Baroque piazzas, and honey-hued medieval lanes lead down to the sparkling blue sea. Other stops include Parco Archeologico della Neapolis, one of Sicily's greatest archaeological sites, and Ortygia, the city's most beautiful corner, a casually chic, eclectic marvel with an ever-growing legion of fans.

Lunch in Syracuse at guest's leisure.\*

After lunch comes a guided tour of Noto, an architectural supermodel, so gorgeous you might mistake it for a film set. The town is home to one of Sicily's most beautiful historic centers. The pièce de résistance is Corso Vittorio Emanuele, an elegant walkway flanked by thrilling baroque palazzi and churches.

Dinner prepared by Chef Loredana at the Casa Imbastita.





## Day 7 Leisure Time & Tour of Scicli

Breakfast provided at the villa.

Your choice of:

**Morning massage/body workout.** *Moderately priced.*

- Or -

**Cooking class** – *provided by Robert Gaglio.*

Later we gather for a guided tour of Scicli, the smallest and most laid-back of the region's four main Baroque cities. Its main street is a UNESCO World Heritage site, and its unobtrusive Palazzo Beneventano was described by British art historian (and spy) Anthony Blunt as "Sicily's most beautiful Baroque palace;" it certainly has some of the most bizarre gargoyles.

Lunch will be on your own at a local restaurant in Scicli.\*

Then afternoon refreshments and a walk on the beach.

Dinner prepared by Chef Loredana at the Casa Imbastita.

## Day 8 Herbs, Spices & Cheese

Breakfast provided at the villa.

Start the day with your private driver delivering you to the local organic cheese producer Sgarlata, to see the production of ricotta cheese. Then your next stop will be at Gli Aromi herb and spice farm for a visit with owner Enrico, for a tour and tasting of this beautiful farm overlooking the sea.

Lunch provided at Gli Aromi.\*

You will return to the villa for some relaxation before the villa dinner party, with food prepared by Chef Loredana at the Casa Imbastita.





## Day 9 Free Day with Optional Excursions

Breakfast provided at the villa.

*\*Choose to enjoy from any of these additional excursion experiences:*

- **\*Catania:** Catania has had a long and eventful history, having been founded in the 8th century BC. The city has a rich culture and history, hosting many museums, restaurants, churches, parks, and theatres. Catania is well known for its street food. Private driver and tour guide provided.

- **\*Hiking, horseback riding, or a beach excursion.**
- **\*Attend a traditional Sicilian cooking class.**
- **\*On-site massage/bodywork.**

Leisure time to relax before dinner provided at the villa.

Dinner prepared by Chef Loredana at the Casa Imbastita.

## Day 10 Valley of the Temples

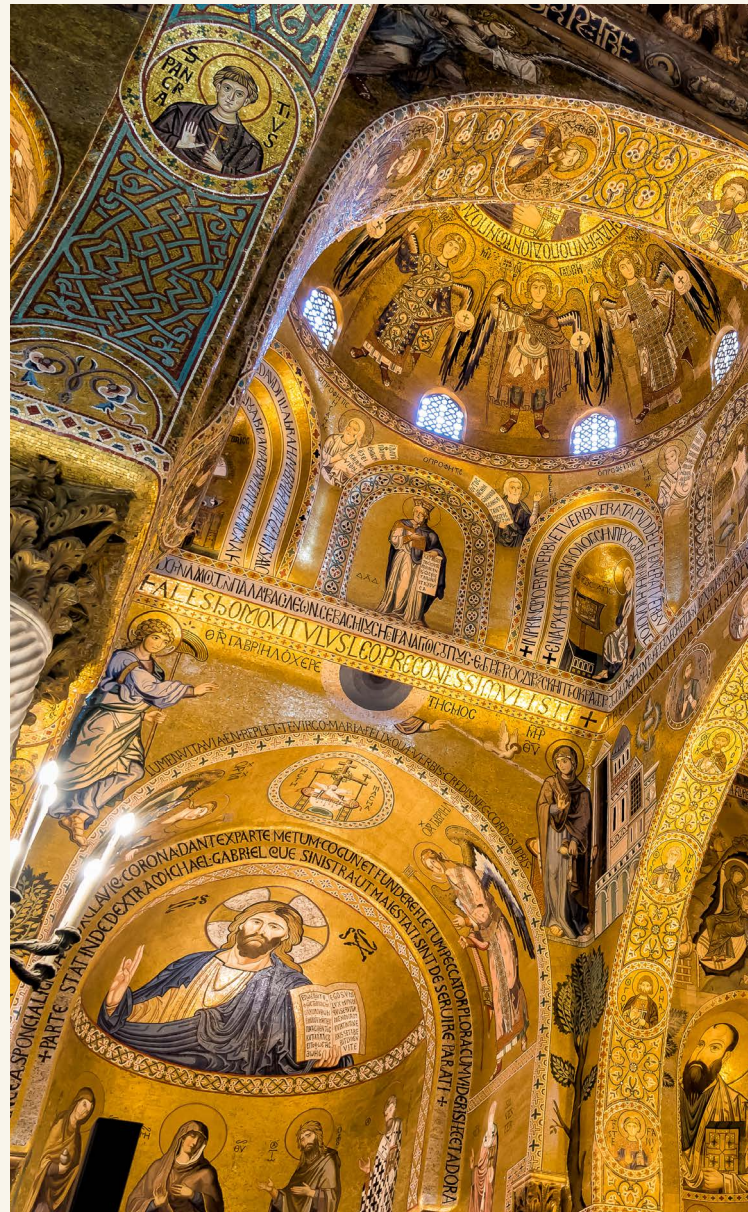
Breakfast at the hotel.

Private driver transfers to Agrigento to your accommodations at the Foresteria Baglio della Luna Agrigento - a boutique hotel overlooking the Valley of the Temples, an oasis of peace and quiet where you soak in the poetry of Sicily.

Then a visit to the sea for a Sicilian seafood lunch overlooking the shore. You will be greeted by expert guide Laura Danile, to visit the UNESCO designated Valley of the Temples. Laura shares her knowledge as a working archaeologist of the archaeological Park. In this enchanted valley, is the most impressive group of monuments of all of Magna Greece. The Valley of the Temples is certainly the most important testimony of the ancient, classical culture of Sicily.

Lunch at guest's leisure.\*

Dinner at the hotel.\*





## Day 11 Palermo

Private driver transfers to Palermo to your accommodations at the Quintocanto Hotel and Spa. In the heart of Baroque Palermo, near the Quattro Canti of the city, the elegant design of the hotel welcomes its guests to discover the major tourist attractions of Palermo. The hotel provides a spa, with a wellness program made up of sauna, Turkish bath and whirlpool, and massages and the flavors of the excellent cuisine of its restaurant, “Locanda del Gusto”, will make you live an unforgettable experience in the heart of Palermo.

You will hop on an ape motor car to explore the streets of Palermo with your private guide and get a quick tour of the city. see the sights and taste the street food of this ancient city. The city’s UNESCO World Heritage Sites include the Palazzo Reale with the Cappella Palatina, the Chiesa di San Giovanni degli Eremiti, the Chiesa di Santa Maria dell’Ammiraglio, the Chiesa di San Cataldo, the Cattedrale di Palermo, and the Palazzo della Zisa. Your tour day will conclude with an experience at the Opera Dei Pupi, the renown Vincenzo Argento’s puppet theater.

## Day 12 Segesta & Erice

Breakfast at the hotel.

A private driver transfers the group to Erice, a charming old stone street medieval town, situated 880 meters above the sea level and surrounded by ancient Elymi and Phoenician walls on the northeastern side of the city. Two castles make for a spectacular skyline to this town, Pepoli Castle, with foundations dating from Saracen times, and Venus Castle, dating from the Norman era but built on ruins of the ancient Temple of Venus.

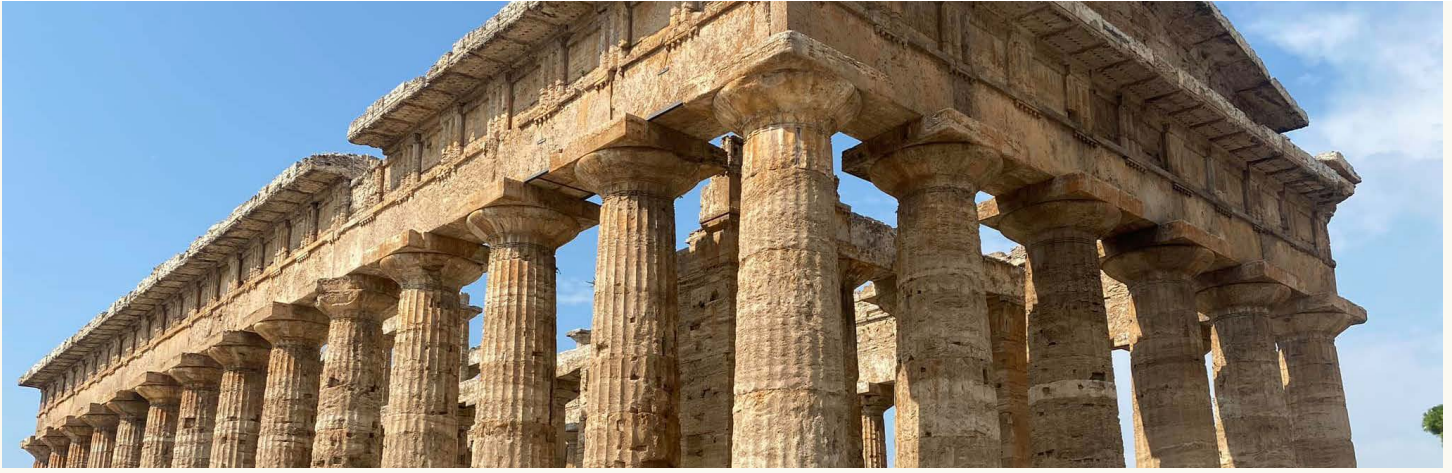
You will stroll the village and taste the famous marzipan cakes made with almonds in different flavors (pistachio, pinots, orange, lemon and so on.) by the famous pastries shop “Grammatico”. Maria Grammatico saved the secrets of the trade in sweet delicacies of the San Carlo nuns after the convent closed down.

Then a stop to visit the magnificent Temple of Segesta. Built by the Elymians, a community converted to a colonized Greek city. This Greek temple can make a valid claim to being the best preserved in the world, and its amphitheater boasts a hilltop position on Mount Barbaro second to none.

Lunch at guest’s leisure.\*

Dinner at the hotel.\*





## Day 13 Monreale & Sicilian Family Dinner

Breakfast at the hotel.

The day starts with your private driver and guide for a visit to the UNESCO Heritage site, Cathedral of Monreale; according to a legend, William II of Sicily fell asleep under a carob tree while hunting in the woods near Monreale, the Holy Virgin appeared to him in dream, suggesting him to build a church here. Enlightened, tolerant and appreciative of many aspects of North African and Middle Eastern culture and art, William II employed the very best Arabic and Byzantine (as well as Norman) craftsmen to work on the cathedral. The result is a fabulous and fascinating fusion of architectural styles, artistic traditions and religious symbolism. Be sure to taste some of the best gelato in Monreale after your tour of the cathedral.

Lunch at Giuliano's Castle, Montelepre.

A Sicilian lunch will be provided at Giuliano's Castle, a hotel that takes its name from the historical figure, Salvatore Giuliano, the protagonist of many of the events that occurred in Montelepre over the struggle to gain independence for Sicily from 1943 to 1950. Montelepre, is known for having been the native city of Sicilian bandit, well as the ancestral homeland of the American singer, actor, and congressman Sonny Bono, whose father Santo Bono was born in the town.

Then you will join tour leader, Robert Gaglio and his Sicilian family for a special Sicilian dinner where guests will learn to make the local macaroni pasta and pizza from a local family in Montelepre.

Dinner provided in Montelepre.

## Day 14 Check Out Day

Breakfast provided at the villa.

Enjoy your private transfer from your hotel to the airport.

# Itinerary Details

### PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- All ground transportation in an air-conditioned bus.
- Pick-up and drop-off from local airport.
- 7-nights at the Villa Casa Imbastita.
- 6-nights at hotels.
- 13 breakfasts and 7 dinners.
- Villa party with live entertainment.
- Admission to all sites and parks on the itinerary.
- Experienced, local, bilingual tour guide traveling with the group.

### NOT INCLUDED

- Roundtrip airfare to Catania.
- Airfare tickets must be purchased individually.
- Optional free-day services or excursions.
- Tips for drivers, Italian tour guide, and servers.
- Gratuities for luggage handlers and hotel staff.
- Pre- and post-travel planning expenses.
- Laundry services available for a fee.

\*Denotes meal costs not covered.





## Booking Information

### PRICING Effective July 1, 2023\*

- Standard Room: \$6,650 per person for double occupancy, Standard Single Supplement \$1,750
- Premium Villa Suite: \$6,950 per person for double occupancy, Premium Single Supplement \$2,150

\*Pricing subject to change and subject to a \$200.00 Currency Exchange Service Fee.

\*\*Premium Villa Suite available at the Villa Casa Imbastita

\*\*\*When available; not guaranteed.

### CANCELLATIONS

**90 or more days:** \$250, plus the costs of any non-refundable hotel or ground transportation tickets already purchased by ICT for the guest.

**89-60 days:** \$150, plus 75% of guest's share of total tour cost, plus the costs of any nonrefundable hotel or ground transportation tickets already purchased by ICT for the guest and not covered by the other cancellation charges.

**59-1 day:** 100% of guest's share of total tour cost.

### PAYMENT OPTIONS

Check or credit card with 3.9% PayPal processing fee.

### ALL CANCELLATIONS MUST BE IN WRITING

Send via email to [contact@italianculinarytours.com](mailto:contact@italianculinarytours.com) or mail to:

*Italian Culinary Tours, ATTN: Robert Gaglio  
29 Strathmore Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34233 USA*

### REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT DUE DATES

**1st deposit:** 50% (per person) due at booking (signing of tour agreement)

**Final payment:** Remaining 50% due 90 days before tour date start. Trip interruption and cancellation insurance available for additional purchase.

### ADDITIONAL TRAVEL SERVICES

- Before and after tour travel planning available
- Italian Culinary Tours extra private tour services – Palermo, Agrigento, and Catania
- Ground transportation services
- Travel insurance



For more information, please email Travel Specialist, Robert Gaglio, at [contact@italianculinarytours.com](mailto:contact@italianculinarytours.com)

[WWW.ITALIANCULINARYTOURS.COM](http://WWW.ITALIANCULINARYTOURS.COM)