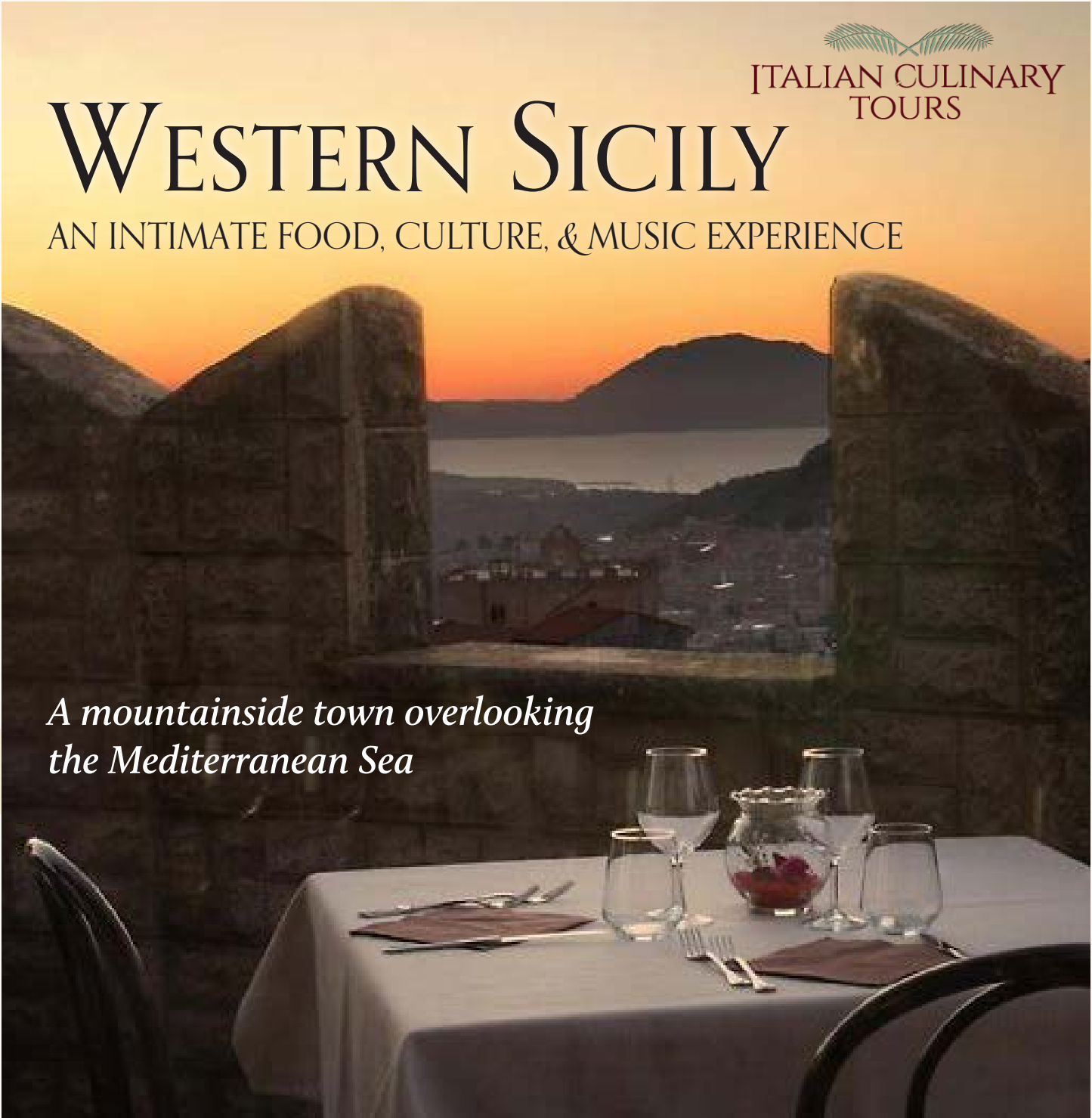




ITALIAN CULINARY
TOURS

WESTERN SICILY

AN INTIMATE FOOD, CULTURE, & MUSIC EXPERIENCE



*A mountainside town overlooking
the Mediterranean Sea*

JOIN US ON AN 8-DAY EXCURSION IN WESTERN SICILY!

Guests will get to know the quaint town of Montelepre, its music, cuisine, and rich Sicilian history. We will plan a number of days where you'll learn to make Sicilian dishes yourself and dine on local foods with friends and family. Your visit will be complete with memorable trips to cultural sites around Western Sicily traveling in the comfort of private vehicles.

Sicily is a tapestry of history, food, and ways of life brought by the many people who conquered it. Our goal at Italian Culinary Tours is to introduce you to the diverse beauty of Italy's southern island, so you can see for yourself what makes it unforgettable.



Day 1 Arrival at Hotel Castello Di Giuliano

Arrive at Hotel Castello Di Giuliano looking over the charming town of Montelepre in Western Sicily. Take in breathtaking views of the valley below and the sea lit up by the sun and later the moonlight. This will be your place to rest and recharge while you get to know the town itself and the amazing places found nearby in Western Sicily.

Guests will enjoy learning about the town from Pietro, the hotel manager, who will also host a regional wine tasting just for you.

Lunch at guests' leisure.*

Welcome dinner provided.



Day 2 Montelepre, the Town, & the Tower

Breakfast provided at the hotel.

Begin your day with a visit to a young, artisanal cheese maker's workshop. Giovanni has been making ricotta, vastedda, and other cheeses with his father for as long as he can remember. Watch as mozzarella is tied before your eyes, and maybe try your hand at it.

We'll make a stop by Panificio Giammalva to see the many breads they bake daily in their historic oven. You may have the opportunity of getting your hands floured to help make loaves with Sal the baker. Then, we will visit the historic tower in town. You'll see artifacts inside the tower from centuries past discovered on nearby lands. The architecture of the tower itself is surprisingly intact. We will explore the ground floor, which houses old farming implements, and climb to the rooftop where you can take unparalleled photos of yourself and the vast surroundings. We'll also see the former house of Salvatore Giuliano, a known charismatic bandit figure when Sicily hoped to gain independence during WWII.

A tour of Brick Leather and a chance to shop there is something we delight in offering. Vincenzo Pisciotta handcrafts bags, sandals, belts, wallets, phone holders, and much more. His shop is in the same place where shoes have been made for centuries. He'll give us a personal tour of his workspace and beautiful showroom. In the center of town, we'll visit Gioielleria Preziosi Pizzurro, the father and son jewelry and watch shop.

At La Piazzetta, the corner restaurant on the little square in Montelepre, we will relax with drinks and a sampling of local foods with a twist. The dishes are artfully prepared by Simona Palazzolo, the 28-year-old chef and owner. Her mother, Rosetta, assists her in the kitchen cooking from timeless family recipes. Her father goes to the market before dawn to get fresh fish to be featured in main courses, spreads, and even sushi.

Lunch at La Piazzetta.

Dinner at your leisure.*



Day 3 Tour Palermo

Breakfast at the hotel.

Your private vehicle will take you to the heart of Sicily's capital city - Palermo. We start at the popular four corners or Quattro Canti. You will explore the streets with a private guide and get a tour like no other. Later in the day, you'll hop on "ape" motor cars (meaning bee in Italian) to buzz around further out and see the marina, mural art, and a special site most tour groups never visit.

Get out your diaries because this day you'll see many UNESCO World Heritage Sites including the Royal

Palace with the Palatina Chapel, the Church of Saint Giovanni of the Hermits, the Church of Saint Mary of the Admiral, the Church of Saint Cataldo, the Cathedral of Palermo, and the Zisa Palace. Your tour will include an experience at the Opera Dei Pupi - the renowned puppet theater, and a chance to visit the home of musicians who are part of the Sicilian Improvisational Orchestra.

Lunch at guests' leisure.*

Cultural dinner experience.*

Day 4 Valley of the Temples

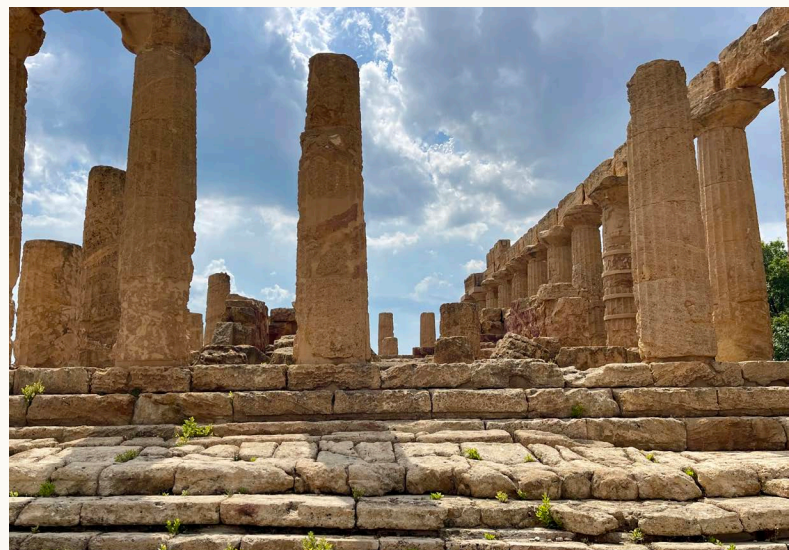
Breakfast at the hotel.

Getting an early start on your day, you will see scenery from mountain to sea to country, in the comfort of your private vehicle, as you travel to Agrigento. You'll meet your cultural guide at the UNESCO designated Valley of the Temples. You'll spend the morning learning about how and why the temples were built and their different uses through the ages. Luckily, we'll be able to see many of the ruins up close as your guide shares her knowledge as a working archaeologist of this archaeological park. Be sure to have plenty of room on your phone or camera card. This mesmerizing valley has the most impressive group of monuments from Greater Greece. The Valley of the Temples is certainly the most important testimony of the ancient culture of Sicily.

You may then choose to explore some places along the water, dip your toes in the sea, and/or have a refreshing drink or bite to eat!

Lunch at guest's leisure.*

Cultural dinner experience.*



Day 5

Tour of Monreale & Sicilian Family Dinner in Montelepre

Breakfast at the hotel.

The day's excitement starts with your private driver and guide for a visit to a UNESCO Heritage site, The 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 a dream, suggesting he build a church there, which he did. The result is a fascinating fusion of Arabic, Byzantine, and Norman architectural styles, artistic traditions, and religious symbolism.

You will then join our co-tour organizer Ottavia Fasce and her Sicilian family for a special dinner. You can learn to make traditional macaroni (very, very long thin hollow pieces). There may be a prize at the end!

Lunch at guests' leisure.*

Special macaroni dinner experience provided.



Day 6

Terrasini & Optional Boat Trip

Breakfast at the hotel.

We will start our touring day in the seaside town of Terrasini, known as The City of Love. Those interested in an exciting optional boat trip will enjoy their day at sea relaxing or swimming and seeing another shore town or two. Those staying in Terrasini can stroll along the waterfront promenade or swim at the half-moon shaped beach.

Shopping abounds and there are eateries on every block, including a Michelin starred restaurant. Or skip lunch and instead eat a gelato filled brioche topped with whipped cream while people-watching from a park bench with the glittering sea as a backdrop.

Lunch at guests' leisure.*

Dinner at guests' leisure.*



Day 7 Erice

Breakfast at the hotel.

A private driver will transfer the group to Erice, a medieval town you have to see to believe. The original stone streets are over a half mile above sea level. Erice is flanked by an ancient Elymi and Phoenician wall on the northeastern side of the city. Two castles are part of the spectacular skyline: 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 can saunter through the village and taste the famous marzipan cakes. The revered pastry shop, Grammatico, combines almond paste with other local fruits and nuts including pistachio, pine nut, orange, and lemon. Maria Grammatico saved the secrets of the trade of sweet delicacies from the San Carlo nuns after the convent closed.

We will then travel down from Erice toward Trapani and the salt flats. Piles of sea salt and windmills dot the horizon. Don't be surprised if you see white flamingos wading in the shallow waters before we drive back to Montelepre for our last night together.

Lunch at guests' leisure.*

Special final dinner experience.

Day 8 Departure

Breakfast at the hotel.

Enjoy your transportation at 11:00 a.m. from the hotel to the airport, ferry dock, train station, or your point of departure. Earlier departures require private transportation for a fee.



Itinerary Details

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- All ground transportation in air-conditioned vehicles
- Pick-up and drop-off from Palermo airport (or other arrival location within 30 miles of Montelepre) to the hotel
- 7 nights at Hotel Castello di Giuliano
- 7 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 5 dinners
- Party with live entertainment
- Admission to all sites and parks on the itinerary
- Bilingual Italian tour guides
- Experienced tour leader traveling with the group
- Cooking classes and demonstrations
- Wifi at the hotel

NOT INCLUDED

- Round trip airfare
- Tips for drivers, hotel staff, Italian tour guide, performers
- Local city tax
- Pre- and post-travel planning expenses
- Supplemental food and souvenirs
- Laundry service (provided by the hotel for a fee)
- Travel Insurance

* Indicates meals not included.



ITALIAN CULINARY
TOURS

Booking Information

PRICING Effective July 1, 2023*

Standard Room: \$3,400 per person

Premium Room, Double Occupancy: \$3,850 per person

For single-occupancy rooms at the hotel when available, a \$350 supplement will be added and a \$450 supplement for larger rooms.

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

For triples or quad-room interest, please let us know.

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:** \$250, plus 75% of guest's share of total tour cost, plus the costs of any non-refundable 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. PayPal add 3.9% processing fee.

ALL CANCELLATIONS MUST BE IN WRITING

Send via email to contact@italianculinarytours.com or mail to:

Italian Culinary Tours

ATTN: Robert Gaglio

29 Strathmore Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34233 USA

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT DUE DATES

First deposit: 50% (per person) due at 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

- Italian Culinary Tours' extra-private tour services in other areas of Sicily and/or the whole of Italy

- Private ground transportation services

- Travel insurance

For more information, please email Robert Gaglio at contact@italianculinarytours.com

WWW.ITALIANCULINARYTOURS.COM