

"Flavors of Sicily"
with
Diane Phillips and Phillis Carey
April 5 - 15, 2019



- PALERMO • MARSALA • MENFI • AGRIGENTO • RAGUSA & MODICA • SIRACUSA & NOTO •
- MARZAMEMI • MT ETNA • TAORMINA •

Itinerary Summary

11 Days/10 Nights

2 nights in Palermo, 2 nights in Menfi, 2 nights in Ragusa, 2 nights in Siracusa, 2 nights in Taormina

"FLAVORS OF SICILY TOUR"



Day 1, Friday April 5th

ARRIVAL IN SICILY: PALERMO

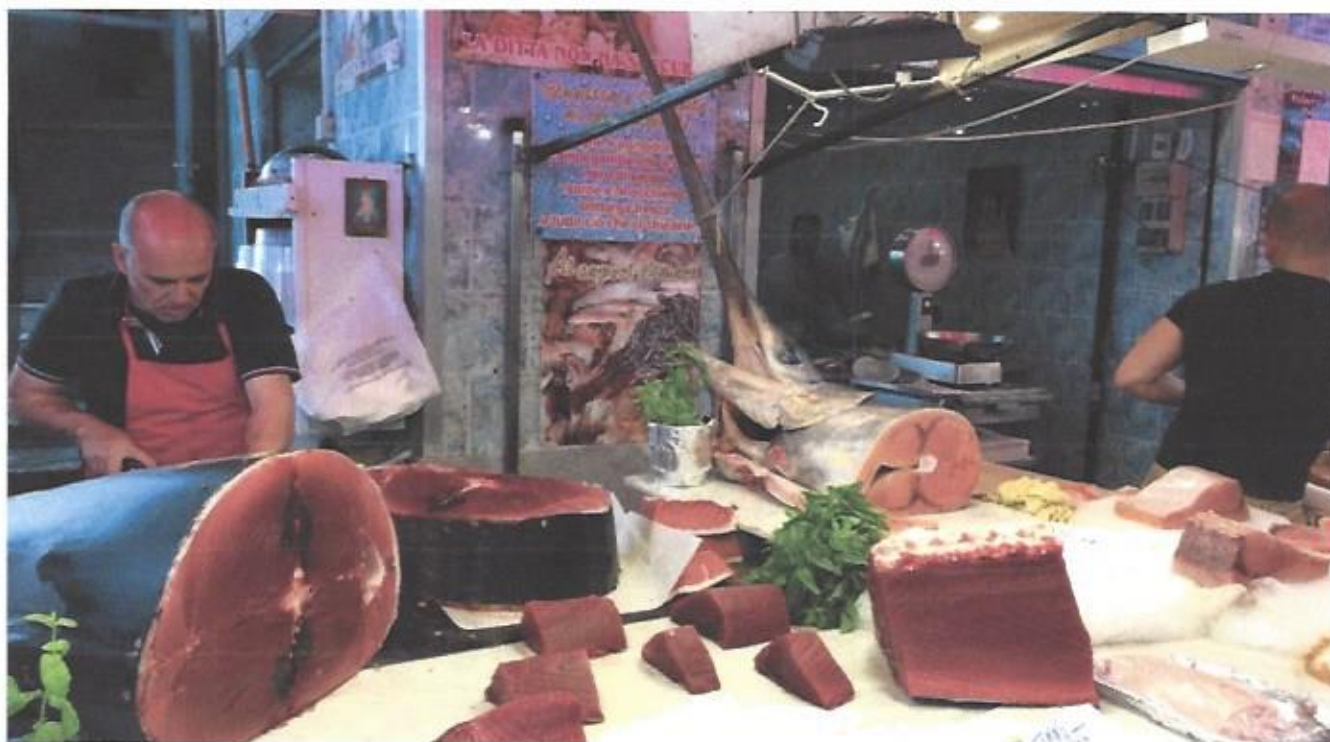
- Arrival in Italy: Palermo. You will meet your local escort at the airport.
- Private transfer from the airport to your hotel in downtown Palermo.
- Check-in at your hotel.
- Time at your own leisure; you will need settlement and some rest to recover from int'l flight and jet-lag. Start exploring the town at your own leisure.
- For this afternoon we will arrange a guided tour of city highlights. The guide will show you around the Classic Palermo Highlights. You will visit the Palatine Chapel, which was the crowning architectural achievement of William II's grandfather, Roger II.
- You will then continue by seeing: Piazza Pretoria and Via Maqueda with its four corners converging Palermo at a quartet of Baroque palaces left over from the heyday of Spanish rule dating back to 1560. You will also visit the Teatro Massimo opera house.
- For your welcome day we will organize dinner in a typical and delicious Sicilian Pizzeria.

Accommodation in Palermo

Services included:

- Local escort assistance.
- Private transfer from the Airport of Palermo to the hotel by bus.
- Porterage at the hotel.
- 2 hrs walking tour of the city highlights (entrance tickets included), with local English speaking guide.
- Welcome dinner - beverages included.
- Accommodation in a centrally located property.





Day 2, Saturday April 6th

THE ANCIENT HEART OF PALERMO FOOD TOUR

- Today, we will organize a private guided food walking tour with a local guide. This tour, with its colored markets, will allow you to discover the real soul of Palermo. The tradition of Sicilian open-air markets constitutes a legacy that dates back to the Arabic period. By visiting the ancient Caput Seralcadi, now called **Capo market**, which is famous for selling fish, you will discover to what extent all kind of products and some architectonic jewels, such as the Baroque church of the Immaculate Conception, are exhibited proudly. The walking tour through the old squares and street markets of the city centre, includes several stops at bakeries, street vendors and old inns to taste the delicious street food of Palermo and a selection of Sicilian sweet wines. Along the walk you will enter places hung out only by real Sicilians, and it gives you the chance to live a 100% Sicilian Experience! Thanks to our local guide, you will discover the secrets of Palermo street culture, with its Arab and Jewish culinary heritage and its urban legends, still alive in the heart of a 2,000 years old city.
- Rest of the day at your leisure to explore Palermo.

Accommodation in Palermo

Services included:

- Local escort assistance.
- Private half day street & market food walking tour guided tour of Palermo with local English speaking guide - local food tastings included (about 3 hrs).
- Accommodation in a centrally located property.



"FLAVORS OF SICILY TOUR"



Day 3, Sunday April 7th

PALERMO TO MENFI: MARSALA

- Check-out from your hotel in Palermo.
- Pick-up by your private driver & transfer to your hotel in Menfi; along the way, you will stop in Mozia & Marsala
- You will start the day with a walk among the windmills and salt pans of Marsala, by visiting the Museum of Salt in Mozia and taste different local salt varieties.
- Your day will proceed with a delicious typical lunch in Marsala at Assud Restaurant.
- Later in the afternoon, you will arrive in your beautiful wine resort & check-in. Dinner at the hotel

Accommodation in Menfi

Services included:

- Local escort assistance.
- Porterage at the hotels.
- Private transfer from Palermo to Menfi with a stopover to visit Mozia and Marsala by bus.
- Full day guided tour with local English speaking guide (about 8 hrs)
- Tasting of local salt paired with local delicacies.
- Lunch in a typical Sicilian restaurant- beverages included
- Accommodation in a beautiful wine estate. Dinner included



"FLAVORS OF SICILY TOUR"



Day 4, Monday April 8th

COOKING DEMONSTRATION AT PLANETA ESTATE and WINE TASTINGS

- In the morning you will visit the Winery Ulmo and have a delicious wine tasting of their best wines and lunch in the winery (transfer from/to the hotel included)
- In the afternoon you will attend a typical Sicilian Cooking Demonstration consisting of one theoretical part which will explain the use of local ingredients, their availability, the history of the recipes.
- You will join the chef Angelo Pumilia to explore the dishes of Casa Planeta's authentic Sicilian cuisine in La Foresteria's spacious tiled kitchen
- During the workshop you'll discover the classic dishes enjoyed by the island's nobility for centuries. Caponata, Timballo, Arancine, Panelle, Cassata and Cannoli the many varied delights of the Sicilian table.
- The Cooking Demonstration will guide you through a menu inspired by tradition, that speaks of family celebrations, age-old recipes and true culinary artistry.
- Rest of the day free
- For tonight we will arrange a dinner at Da Vittorio Restaurant (transfer from/to the hotel included)

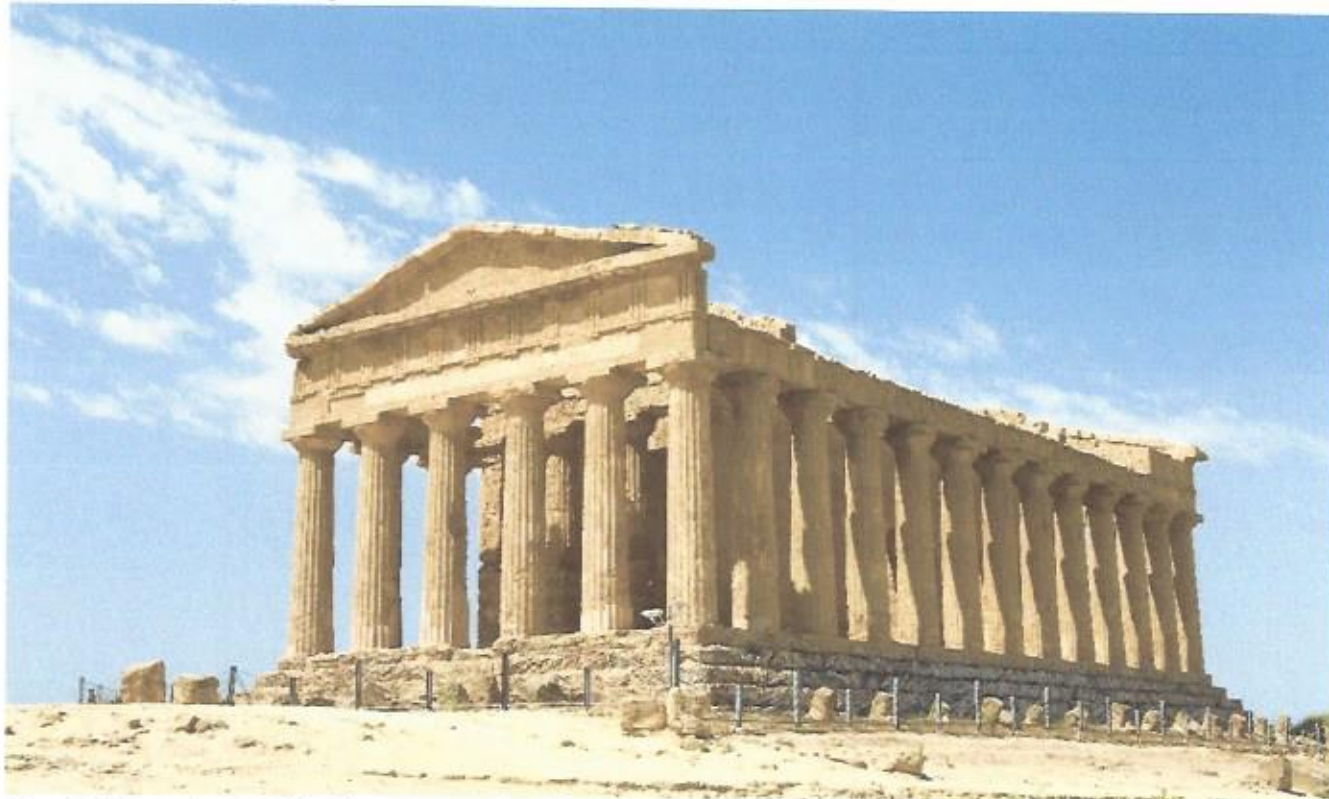
Services included:

- Local escort assistance.
- Private transfer from/to Winery Planeta Ulmo, by bus
- Winery visit and tasting. Lunch included
- Demo-Cooking class with chef Angelo Pumilia
- Private transfer from the Estate to Menfi & return by bus.
- Dinner at a local restaurant- beverages included
- Accommodation in a beautiful wine estate.



Accommodation in Menfi

"FLAVORS OF SICILY TOUR"



Day 5, Tuesday April 9th

MENFI TO RAGUSA: AGRIGENTO TEMPLES

- Check-out from your hotel in Menfi.
- Pick-up by your private driver & transfer to your hotel in Ragusa; along the way, you will stop for a beautiful visit of Agrigento & Valley of Temples.
- You will visit the incredible archaeological park of Valle Dei Templi, where you will admire the finest of all ancient Greek sites, with complete Doric Temple. It is one of the most outstanding examples of Greater Greece art and architecture, and is one of the main attractions of Sicily as well as a national monument of Italy. The monumental ruins of ancient Akragas represent one of the most important archaeological complexes in the Mediterranean area. They stand out in an agricultural landscape that is characterised by centuries-old olive and almond trees. Your tour will develop along the rocky crest of Temple Hill. A series of out-of-town sanctuaries consecrated to the most important Polias Gods have decorated this crest since the late sixth century BC. Starting from the Temple of Juno to the Olympieion, you will be the protagonists of an imaginary trip among the Templar Greek architecture that here, as in few other places, has kept its formal perfection intact. You will then go to Girgenti Hill, which was probably the acropolis of the Greek city, where the medieval town was located.
- After the tour, we will book for you a delicious lunch in the typical local restaurant Trattoria Dei Templi.
- Later in the afternoon, you will arrive in your beautiful estate & check-in.
- Rest of the evening free.

Accommodation in Ragusa

Services included:

- Local escort assistance.
- Porterage at the hotels.
- Private transfer from Menfi to Ragusa with a stopover to visit Agrigento & Valley of Temples by bus.
- Guided visit of Agrigento & Temple Valley with local English speaking guide (about 2/3 hrs).
- Entrance tickets to the Temple Valley with preferential access.
- Lunch in Agrigento - beverages included.
- Accommodation in a beautiful estate.



"FLAVORS OF SICILY TOUR"



Day 6, Wednesday April 10th

SICILIAN CHEESE MAKERS & CHOCOLATIERS

- Today, you will follow an exceptional flavour path from the Hyblaean countryside to Modica historical city centre and among dry stone walls and sumptuous Baroque staircases. During this trip, the freshness and scent emanated by the Ragusa cheese will melt with the sweetness of the renowned Modica Chocolate.
- Our daily tour will start from a local dairy farm in which we will see the laborious productive process that underlies the excellence of Hyblaean dairy products. Afterwards, we will go through a taste itinerary about provola, ricotta and "DOP Ragusano" cheese (the Protected Designation of Origin is a quality label for Italian food). The latter has such an intense flavour that it will probably follow us up to Modica. This city was the capital of one of the most important feudal states in Southern Italy. Here, you will discover the local ancient method to make chocolate under the expert guide of Katia who will be sharing the secrets of her grandma Nonna Elvira with you in her house in the heart of the city.
- For tonight we will book for you a delicious dinner in Modica at Locanda del Colonnello.
- Later in the evening you will get back at your hotel

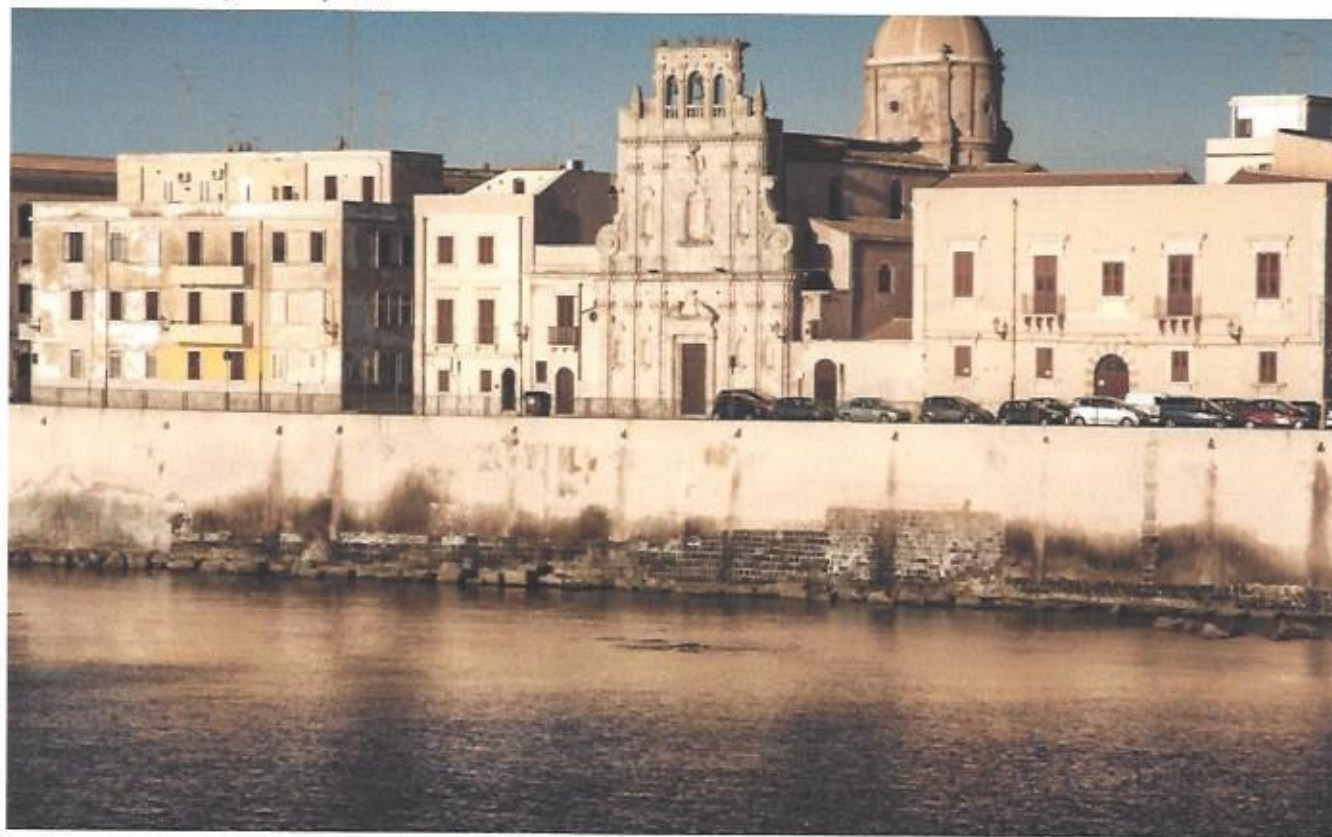
Accommodation in Ragusa

Services included:

- Local escort assistance.
- Full day excursion to Ragusa and Modica (about 8/9 hrs), by bus.
- Cheese farm visit and tasting (lunch included) in Ragusa.
- Chocolate laboratory in Modica.
- Dinner in Modica - beverages included (transfer from/to the hotel included).
- Accommodation in a beautiful estate.



"FLAVORS OF SICILY TOUR"



Day 7, Thursday April 11th

RAGUSA TO SIRACUSA: MARZAMEMI

- Check-out from your hotel in Ragusa
- Pick-up by your private driver & transfer to your hotel in Siracusa; along the way you will stop for a beautiful visit of Marzamemi.
- Each year, herds of red tuna go back to the open sea after having spent the season of love in the warmer waters of the south-eastern coast of Sicily. This is the history of the development of Marzamemi and how its Black Tuna Fishery was regarded as the most flourishing of the whole Sicily. Starting from a visit to the small fishing village of Marzamemi where you will see the different phases of the processing of tuna you will then proceed with one of the most ancient fish businesses in Sicily. Therefore, you will get to know and taste the many different aspects of tuna.
- We will book for you a delicious lunch in Marzamemi at Il Cortile Arabo: a restaurant with a beautiful terrace overlooking the Mediterranean.
- Before reaching Siracusa if time allows, you will stop in Noto, the most precious example of Baroque art in Sicily. This little town is called a Stone Garden because of all the incredible decorations in the buildings. It is listed indeed among the UNESCO World Heritage Sites, because provides outstanding testimony to the exuberant genius of late Baroque art and architecture. It represents the culmination and final flowering of Baroque art in Europe.
- Later you will arrive in your beautiful property in Siracusa.
- Rest of the evening free

Accommodation in Siracusa

Services included:

- Local escort assistance.
- Porterage at the hotels.
- Private transfer from Ragusa to Siracusa with a stopover to visit Marzamemi by bus.
- Visit at tuna fish processing workshop & tasting of local tuna fish products.
- Lunch in Marzamemi- beverages included.
- Accommodation in a beautiful located property.



"FLAVORS OF SICILY TOUR"



Day 8, Friday April 12th

SIRACUSA - ORTIGIA: SICILIAN COOKING EXPERIENCE & MARKET TOUR IN ORTIGIA

- Today, you will enjoy a typical Sicilian cooking class with lunch included. Cooking is an art, especially Sicilian cooking. Recipes from this region keep traces of several civilizations such as the Arabian, the Norman, the Angevin, the Aragonese, the Spanish and the Greek. They blend precious scents and flavors coming both from land and sea. The Cooking Class will start with the grocery shopping of the ingredients in the local market of Ortigia. After you have completed the grocery shopping, you will learn from a true Sicilian the secrets of delicious dishes of this land (and sea) in an informal environment where with passion and cheerfulness the chef will show how to prepare some of the many Sicilian delicacies. You will be guided through a food storytelling, in which you will delve into the Syracusan cuisine, territory and tradition.
- Rest of the day free to explore Ortigia, the ancient part of the town of Siracusa beautifully located on the sea.
- Enjoy the rest of the day to exploring the lovely Ortigia at your own leisure.

Accommodation in Siracusa

Services included:

- Local escort assistance.
- Typical Sicilian Cooking Class in Siracusa (grocery shopping in the local market & lunch included).
- Accommodation in a beautiful located property.





Day 9, Saturday April 13th

SIRACUSA TO TAORMINA: MT. ETNA & SAVOCA

- Check-out from your hotel in Siracusa.
- Private transfer to Taormina by bus.
- Along the way we will arrange an half day excursion to the Mt. Etna Volcano
- You will visit a Winery on the Volcano, you will embark on an examination of the ancient grapes and winegrowing traditions of the volcano Etna through an expert-led winery tour and wine-pairing lunch featuring the region's native grape varieties *Carricante* and *Nerello Mascalese* as well as international varieties. Today you will learn the daily pleasures of Etnean life and the unique products made in one of Europe's most dramatic and beautiful environments.
- After lunch, you will visit Savoca where the movie *Godfather* was filmed and then arrive at your property.
- Rest of the day at your leisure to explore Taormina

Accommodation in Taormina

Services included:

- Local escort assistance.
- Private transfer from the hotel in Siracusa to the hotel in Taormina by bus.
- Winery visit with wine tastings - delicious lunch in the winery included.
- Porterage at the hotel
- Accommodation in a beautiful located property.



"FLAVORS OF SICILY TOUR"



Day 10, Sunday April 14th

TAORMINA

- In the morning you will first visit the most impressive monument of the city: the Greek-Roman Theatre (it is still uncertain its Greek versus Roma origin). It has the finest site of any theatre in the world and one of the most striking monuments of antiquity. After contemplating this true wonder, you will walk back along Via Teatro Greco to the Villa Comunale: the public gardens which are planted with a huge variety of flowering plants and shrubs ranging from the most common to the exotic, your guide will be able to describe you all the botanical curiosity. The visit continues to the village centre, with the Cathedral and the Corso Umberto I, Piazza 9 Aprile, with its lovely Clock Tower and Church of S. Giuseppe.
- Rest of the afternoon free
- For tonight we will book for you a delicious dinner in Taormina at Villa Antonio.

Accommodation in Taormina

Services included:

- Local escort assistance.
- Half day excursion to Mt. Etna; by bus (about 4 to 5 hrs).
- Half day guided tour of Taormina - entrance tickets included.
- Dinner in Taormina- beverages included. Transfer included
- Accommodation in a beautiful located property.



"FLAVORS OF SICILY TOUR"



Day 11, Monday April 15th

END OF THE TOUR

- Check-out from your hotel in Taormina
- Private transfer from your hotel to the airport in Catania by van with English speaking driver.
- Departure with your flight.

Services included:

- Local escort assistance.
- Private transfer from the hotel to the Airport in Catania by bus.

*Arrivederci from Discover Your Italy team :
Matteo, Daniela, Gabriella, Emanuela & Mariangela*



“FLAVORS OF SICILY TOUR”

“Our selection of hotels”

PALERMO – 2 nights

HOTEL AMBASCIATORI

Double Rooms

www.ambasciatorihotelpalermo.com



Hotel Ambasciatori is in Palermo's city centre, 200 m from the train station and a 10-minute walk from the port. It features a panoramic rooftop terrace, and air-conditioned rooms with free wired internet and Wi-Fi.

Rooms offer a private bathroom with shower. Breakfast and drinks served from the bar can be enjoyed on the terrace overlooking the historic city. Gluten-free options can also be requested. The on-site restaurant serves local Sicilian cuisine. The Ambasciatori provides a warm, relaxed atmosphere and professional service. On summer evenings it organises activities featuring classical and jazz music.

MENFI – 2 nights

PLANETA ESTATE

Double Rooms

www.planetaestate.it



The La Foresteria Planeta Estate resort is located on the southwestern coast of Sicily, in Menfi, a town between Selinunte and Agrigento, it bears resemblance with a typical village of rural homes standing on the hill to watch over the surrounding vineyards and olive groves. An enchanting site located just 4 km away from the crystal-clear sea and the beaches of fine sand of Porto Palo, which has attained 16 Blue Flags, an internationally recognized eco-label awarded to seaside resorts that meet criteria on sustainable environmental management.

“FLAVORS OF SICILY TOUR”

“Our selection of hotels”

RAGUSA – 2 nights

VILLA CARLOTTA

Double Rooms

www.villacarlottahotel.com



Four-star boutique hotel in Ragusa with swimming pool, Michelin-starred restaurant, meeting and congress rooms, garden, car park, satellite TV and internet wi-fi.

Villa Carlotta hotel offers suites, junior suites and classic rooms for a relaxing holiday or a business stay.

It is situated in a convenient location to visit the Baroque monuments of Ragusa Ibla, Modica and Scicli and the most known tourist destinations in South-Eastern Sicily.

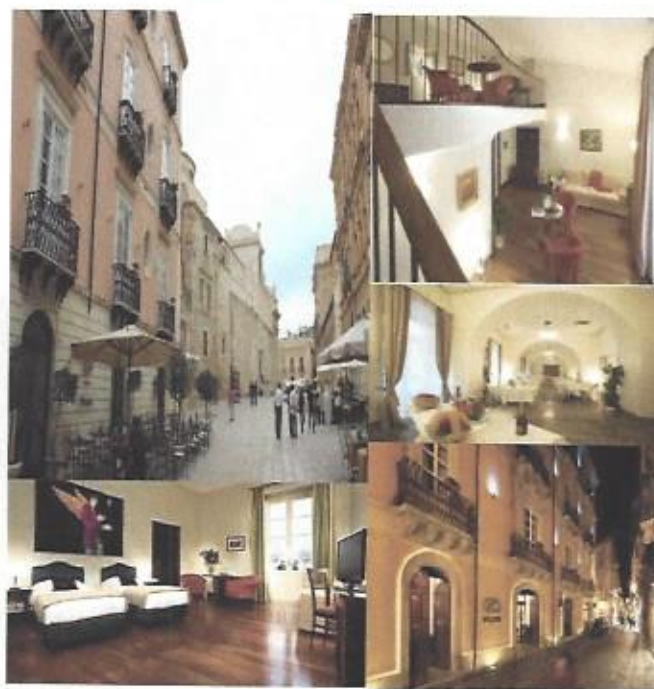
Villa Carlotta Hotel offers three types of rooms, all benefitting from natural light and equipped with every amenity for a comfortable and relaxing stay.

SIRACUSA – 2 nights

HOTEL ROMA

Double Rooms

www.hotelromasiracusa.it



There are very few hotels in Ortigia, and the Antico Hotel Roma 1880 is the most centrally located, actually next door to the cathedral, which is located in the old Doric Temple of Minerva. CathedralThe hotel, founded in 1880, is framed on one side by the cathedral and on the other by the Archbishop's Palace and overlooks Piazza Minerva, which is a continuation of the Piazza Duomo that runs alongside the Doric columns of the Temple, and onto Siracusa's most central road, Via Roma. When the cathedral was the Temple of Minerva (known as Athena by the Greeks), as in all Greek temples the entrance was facing east. The stairway was therefore located inside the hotel, and some of its remains are still visible through glass panels in our floors.

“FLAVORS OF SICILY TOUR”

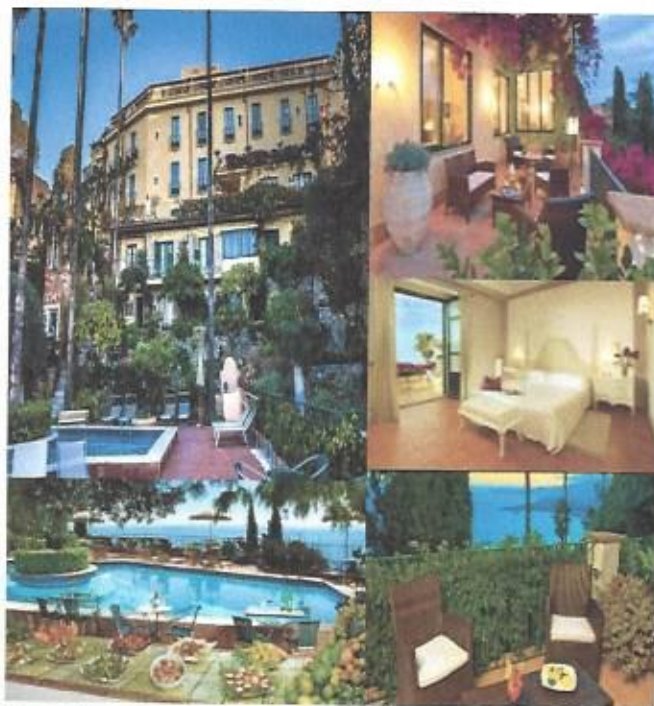
“Our selection of hotels”

TAORMINA – 2 nights

VILLA BELVEDERE

Double Rooms

www.villabelvedere.it



Taormina, Hotel Villa Belvedere is a delightful, charming boutique hotel situated at just five minutes' walk from Taormina town centre. The hotel has all the discreet elegance and friendly, welcoming atmosphere of a traditional sicilian private villa, standing in its own well-cared for gardens, and with the intriguing Public Botanic Garden to explore and photograph at only a few steps from the hotel gate. At about 6 minutes on foot are the pretty shops and streets in the pedestrian area of Taormina and the world-famous Greek-Roman Theatre. Villa Belvedere is ideal if you are looking for an enchanting and relaxing oasis, surrounded by a luxuriant garden with tall palm trees, rambling bougainvillea and jasmine, colourful hibiscus shrubs, lemon and orange trees and flowers always in bloom.

Please note: all hotel stays will include full buffet breakfast, VAT taxes and city taxes.