

A TOAST IN SICILY (Wine & Gastronomy Tour)

8 nights /9 days

Palermo (3 nights) Falconara (2 nights) Taormina (3 nights)

Season: March 7, 2009 - June 27, 2009; September 5, 2009 - November 28, 2009

This Tour is operated every Saturday: ON REQUEST

IMPORTANT: This tour is organized using only an English speaking driver escort. Clients have to enter inside the monuments alone. The driver escort is not able to provide tourist information inside the sites because this is not allowed by **Italian rules**. Driver Escort is able to provide basic information only. In case clients need the Licenced Local Guide they must pay a surcharge and we will arrange for licenced local guide to meet them directly on the spot

Day 1 (Saturday) Palermo

Welcome to the warm, beautiful and pleasant island of Sicily!

Upon arrival at Palermo airport please proceed through the Passport Control and collect your luggage inside of the customs area. Outside of the customs area, you will find the driver waiting with a sign with your full name. Afternoon at leisure to independently explore the town. Later in the afternoon, we will meet the Driver-Escort for a cocktail and enjoy a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant with wine tasting **(D)**

Day 2 (Sunday) Monreale Dome & Valle dello Jato Winery

After breakfast, we will show you where the Arab-Norman art and architecture reached the pinnacle of its glory with the Monreale Duomo, launched in 1174 by William II. Scenes from the Old and New Testaments are depicted in golden mosaics covering the interior. Then, traveling across the Sicilian countryside, we soon arrive in the Valle dello Jato. On this side of Sicily, strong, fragrant wines with a complex structure and long persistent finish are born. The white wines have powerful citrus fruit and floral notes on the nose typical of the grapes of Catarratto, Grillo, Viognier and Chardonnay. The red wines are elegant and abounding with savory red-berry fruit flavors typical of Nero d'Avola, Merlot and Syrah. Upon arrival, visit the winery and taste local wines. Lunch at winery. This afternoon back to Palermo. **(BB L)**

Day 3 (Monday) Erice, Olive Oil Factory, Salt Way Road & Winery

Early departure to tour western Sicily where we will reach the Erice city-center. The Elymians settled the medieval town of Erice, which was an important religious site associated with goddesses of fertility. Wander through its' ancient streets and visit some of the famous homemade pastry shops—world-famous for marzipan candies and other delicacies like almond and pistachio pastries. Then, to an olive oil factory & farmhouse to enjoy a light lunch. In the afternoon, we travel between Trapani and Marsala on the Salt Road. We will tour the historic saltpan works, where the ancient tradition of harvesting salt from the sea is still practiced. We then continue on to Marsala and visit a local winery's cellar and taste Sicilian wines. Later back to Palermo. **(BB L)**

Day 4 (Tuesday) Sant'Angelo Muxaro, the Pane Cunsatu and Country Pizza & Agrigento

This morning we depart for the country town of Sant'Angelo Muxaro. First time visitors can't help but be dazzled and awed when, from the provincial road that meanders from Agrigento inland along curves, twists and bends between mountains and hills, they are greeted by a uniquely spectacular view. On a lonely hill, in the center of the Platani river valley, surrounded by wild and harsh vegetation, a handful of houses lie on the sheer slope of the hill—this is the small town of Sant'Angelo Muxaro. Upon arrival meet *Donna Concetta*. She will teach us Pizza and Bread preparation. Simple home-cooked light lunch to taste *Sicilian Pizza* and *Pane Cunsatu* (a typical homemade bread with olive oil and pecorino cheese). During the afternoon, we continue to Agrigento whose history dates back to 580 BC. Time for a brief, independent visit to the Temple Valley—a magnificent cluster of Greek ruins overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. Then we continue to Falconara, surrounded by luxurious palms and nestled among the sand dunes and cactus plants. Dinner at the hotel **(BB L D)**

Day 5 (Wednesday) Winery & Piazza Armerina

This morning transfer to a local winery owned by the Zonin family and seated in the heart of the Riesi DOC production zone: 180 hectares of the splendid 320 hectare property are planted with vines. Visit to the cellars and wine tasting. Later, continue to Piazza Armerina to see the ruins of the Roman Villa of Casale. The mosaics discovered here are celebrated among scholars of antiquity. This afternoon back to hotel with time at leisure to rest or take a stroll in the sands. Dinner at the hotel **(BB D)**

Day 6 (Thursday) Winery, Donnafugata Castle & Ragusa

This morning the road from Falconara leads us to Vittoria. Here we visit an important winery located in the heart of the Sicilian Baroque on the south-eastern point of Sicily. Remnants of Africa are also evident here from the architecture to the vegetation (olive groves, carob and almond trees, vineyards) to the colorful red, ocher, and yellow surroundings. All of the wines here originate from the exclusive selection of grapes, harvested at two different times in order to obtain the best results from differentiated maturations. They utilize soft pigeage (fermentation of grapes in open tanks, like the traditional “grape stomping”), controlled temperature of fermentation, and aging in barrique. Later we take the narrow, country streets from Ragusa to Santa Croce Camerina. Time to admire the Donnafugata Castle, an imposing construction immersed in one of the most evocative carob woods in the whole province. Used for movie scenes including an appearance in "The Jar" in the film *Kaos*, directed by the Taviani brothers. This afternoon a short stop in Ragusa. Time for a stroll through the historical town of Ibla to admire the wide array of Baroque architecture, including several stunning palaces and churches. Finally continue to Taormina, the world famous resort town of Sicily, known for its views and atmosphere. **(BB)**

Day 7 (Friday) Etna Volcano & Winery

A short drive takes us to the slopes of Mt. Etna. Weather and volcanic conditions permitting, we will experience the lava fields and incredible view of Europe's highest and most active volcano. Then onto a winery and farmhouse. This estate also produces olive oil, grappa, sparkling wine and artisan food. We indulge in a typical Sicilian light lunch at the farmhouse. This afternoon back to Taormina with time at leisure. **(BB L)**

Day 8 (Saturday) Taormina

All day long at leisure. Tonight we gather for a Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant and for a nice *Brindisi di Arrivederci-Good Bye Toast*. **(BB D)**

Day 9 (Sunday) Taormina/Catania

Time to say goodbye to Sicily while we are transferred to Catania Airport (CTA) for our return flight. **(BB)**

MEAL LEGEND: BB Buffet Breakfast **L** Lunch **D** Dinner

FEATURED PROPERTIES ON THIS TOUR

Palermo: Hotel Plaza Opera

Falconara: Falconara Charming House

Taormina: Hotel Villa Angela

Note: Hotels may be substituted with similar category

HIGHLIGHTS:

Palermo	Sicily's vibrant capital
Monreale	Gold mosaic scenes from the Old and New Testaments
Jato Valley	Winery visit & tasting
Erice	Breathtaking views, fortress & olive oil factory
Marsala	World renown wine producing town + Winery visit & tasting
Sant'Angelo Muxaro	Pizza & Pane with Donna Concetta
Agrigento	Valley of Temples & almond trees
Butera	Winery visit & tasting
Piazza Armerina	Best Roman mosaics of Sicily
Vittoria	Winery Visit & Tasting
Ragusa Province	Donnafugata Castle, Ragusa Baroque sites & countryside
Etna Volcano	Highest active Volcano in Europe & Winery visit & tasting
Taormina	Renown Mediterranean resort town

PRICES ARE EUR PER PERSON, LAND ONLY, AND DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

GROSS RATE:

Minimum 2 people	Euros 5.200,00 per person in double/twin
Minimum 3 people	Euros 4.200,00 per person in double/twin
Minimum 4 people	Euros 3.850,00 per person in double/twin
Minimum 5 people	Euros 3.600,00 per person in double/twin
Minimum 6 people	Euros 3.450,00 per person in double/twin

Euros 500,00 per person supplement for double single use

WHAT IS INCLUDED:

- ✓ One main private Airport Transfers for services done from h 8:00AM to h 7:00PM
- ✓ Palermo: Three nights accommodation
- ✓ Falconara: Two nights accommodation, sea view rooms
- ✓ Taormina: Three nights accommodation, sea view rooms
- ✓ Daily continental breakfast buffet
- ✓ Five visits to Sicilian cellars and tasting of Sicilian wines
- ✓ One visit to Sicilian Olive Oil Factory and tasting olive oil
- ✓ Vehicle with Air Conditioning
- ✓ English speaking Driver Escort as per program
- ✓ Welcome Dinner with choice of 2 set menus
- ✓ Farewell Dinner with choice of 2 set menus
- ✓ Two dinners at Hotel with choice of 2 set menus
- ✓ One light lunch at Olive-Oil factory/farmhouse with tasting of typical local dishes
- ✓ One light lunch at Winery/farmhouse with tasting of typical Etna dishes
- ✓ One lunch at winery with tasting of local dishes
- ✓ One cooking experience at home-stay in Sant'Angelo Muxaro followed by lunch
- ✓ Natural mineral water at included meals
- ✓ All sightseeing, tasting and excursions as specified in the itinerary
- ✓ Cablecar to Etna Volcano (subject to weather forecast)
- ✓ Admission fee included for all sites and other activities as per itinerary
- ✓ Hotel & City Taxes

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED:

- ✓ Intercontinental Flight
- ✓ Gratuities to Driver Escort
- ✓ Porterage at airport
- ✓ Local Guide
- ✓ Beverages and meals not mentioned in the program
- ✓ Travel Insurance
- ✓ Airport Transfers done between 8:00PM and 7:00AM (clients have to pay the night-use supplement of Euros 18,00 per person each way)

CANCELLATION POLICY, per person

Tradizione Turismo by Chat & Tour Srl reserves the right to cancel or reschedule any tour departure in accordance with operating requirements or circumstances beyond its control. If cancellation is made anytime prior to departure of the tour, Tradizione Turismo's only liability will be to refund the passenger the amount it has received for the tour booking.

In case clients need to cancel the tour, our Cancellation Policy is as follows:

Days Prior to Departure	Cancellation Fees
60 or more days	Euros 100,00
59 - 45 days	25% of the Tour cost
44 - 15 days	50% of the Tour cost
14 - 8 days	80% of the Tour cost
7 - 0 days	100% of the Tour cost

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT

A deposit of 20% per person is required at the time of reservation. At that moment a signed contract is required to hold your reservation. Final payment of the tour is due 60 days prior to departure.

List of Hotels will be advised 20 days before departure.