



Baroque Towns of Val di Noto and Lunch with Locals from Siracusa

A great experience in the Val di Noto including a tour of three astonishing Baroque Towns and a lunch in a private villa enjoying a relaxing domestic atmosphere in company of real Sicilian people.



Location

Modica



Days

1



Duration

8 Hours



Category

Day Tour



Season

March - December



Tour Type

Private

TOUR OVERVIEW

Travel through the Val di Noto area and discover Noto, Modica and Ragusa, three gems of the Barocco style. Stroll around the streets of these towns built partially on hilltops and partially at the bottom of the gorges and admire the overview on red-tiled roofs. Spend some time with local people enjoying a lunch in a private villa and savoring local recipes and products, including wine. Taste the unique Modica chocolate as sweet addition to this amusing experience.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Travel through the Val di Noto area, UNESCO heritage
- Visit three wonderful examples of Baroque style towns
- Great experience of lunch in a Sicilian private villa
- Opportunity to spend some time with local people
- Taste chocolate based on ancient Aztec methods and recipes
- Admire fascinating glimpses of rooftops

- Travel through the Sicilian countryside

Today you are greeted at Siracusa hotel and driven through the countryside to the "Val di Noto", declared UNESCO heritage in 2002. All this area was badly damaged in 1693 by a strong earthquake and largely rebuilt in Sicilian Baroque style. The most gorgeous towns in this area are Noto, Modica and Ragusa, all symbols of Baroque style, but all different in geographical features that make them incomparable towns.

To make more thrilling your experience, you will be lead to a private villa surrounded by olive and fruit trees, where you will spend some time with local people. After strolling into the garden, you will enjoy a lunch based on local recipes and products, including a mixed starter, salade, pasta, dessert and local wine. Chat in a relaxing domestic and cozy atmosphere and savor a good coffee before continuing to explore the Baroque magnificence of the "Val di Noto".

The town of Noto was completely destroyed by the earthquake in 1693 and then rebuilt. Walking through the center you can admire Baroque churches, including the amazing Cathedral and palaces with pompous balconies with wrought iron railings and cherubs, lions, sirens and grotesque figures that decorate the facing. Noto is called the "Garden of Stone" because of its typical honey-colored stone.

Modica is divided into two parts, the "higher" town and the "lower" town, connected by numerous flights of steps. Palazzi and houses rise from the bottom of the gorge seemingly stacked one on top of the other. Magnificent churches, with their inspiring domes, bell towers and intricate facades, punctuate the red-tiled roofs and one is struck by the uniform beauty of the whole. Modica is worldwide known for its tasty unique chocolate, often flavoured with chilli pepper, cinnamon or vanilla, that is based on Aztec methods and recipes. We suggest to taste this sweet specialty in one of the confectionary shops before leaving.









Ragusa is maybe one of the most fascinating towns in Sicily. This town has caused many visitor's jaw to drop as they first set eyes on the lower part of the town. Almost entirely razed to the ground by the terrible earthquake, today the town is essentially in Baroque style. Public opinion on where to rebuild the town was divided, and so a compromise was made. The wealthier, more aristocratic citizens built a new town in a different site, now Ragusa "Superiore", while the other half of the population decided to rebuild on the original site, on a ridge at the bottom of a gorge, now Ragusa Ibla. While the upper part has its fair share of architectural delights, it is the smaller Ragusa Ibla down below that really draws visitors. Whether you approach it from Modica to the south or from Ragusa Superiore, the sight of the jumble of houses, churches and civic palazzi piled on top of each other, clinging to the walls of the gorge, is really quite breathtaking. Although seemingly Mediaeval from a distance, once you enter the town's heart, the Baroque logic of its plan becomes more obvious.

At the end of the tour you will be driven back to Syracuse hotel.




This tour is operated with English speaking Driver.

TOUR CODE: SRSNOTOLCH

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

-  Beverages
-  Credit Card fees
-  English speaking Driver
-  Legal Invoice
-  Lunch at local house
-  VAT
-  Vehicle with air conditioning
-  Visit as per itinerary

NOT INCLUDED

-  Admission fees
-  Gratuities and tips
-  Licensed Tourist Guide