

# *Sicily with Friends*

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## **Heart of Sicily Tour**

### **2022 Itinerary**

Thursday - September 22, 2022

#### ***Departure from US***

Friday - September 23, 2022

#### ***Welcome to Sicily***

*Arrive in Palermo transfers to **Castellammare del Golfo**. (Based on arrival times)*

Upon your arrival in Palermo airport, be greeted by your private driver who will bring you to your charming hotel located in the heart of Castellammare del Golfo. After some relaxation, enjoy your free time, taking strolls in the old town and harbor and admire the picturesque view. Later in the evening we will meet to enjoy our first **Sicilian Welcome** with prosecco, typical Sicilian appetizers and finish up with the most famous desserts of the Western part of Sicily “Le cassatelle”

*Included Meals: Hour D’oeuvres at Welcome Party*

Saturday - September 24, 2022

***La Playa Beach – Scopello – Belvedere Enjoy La Doce vita and trip to Scopello with Dinner***

This morning after breakfast (weather permitted) we will relax in this long stretch beach with stunning crystal-clear waters. Later in the evening, we will embark on a very special sight-seeing tour of this amazing coastline of the Mediterranean Sea, to reach the small village of **Scopello**. On our way, you will admire a superb panoramic view over the golf of Castellamare and we will continue to this other spectacular view of the antique “Tonnara di Scopello” and the famous rocks “**Faraglioni**” **di Scopello**. We will keep heading towards the heart of this charming village. Where our dinner is served on the terrace overlooking the sea.

*Included Meals: Breakfast, and Dinner*

Sunday, September 25, 2022

*Discover the historic city of Palermo and walking tour of Cefalu'*

This morning we will meet our tour guide to visit the capital of Sicily (Palermo), one of the richest cities in the island for history and culture, and for the most UNESCO Heritage of the World, including: 12<sup>th</sup> Century Cathedral, the palace of the Normans, and its superb "Palatina Chapel". Palermo picturesque piazza Quattro Canti, Piazza Pretoria, Mercato del Capo, Teatro Politeama, and Teatro Massimo (one of the largest stages in Europe and the famed Opera Houses). We will enjoy lunch outside in the heart of Palermo at "Piazza Bellini" surrounded by ancient Arab and Norman buildings. After lunch we will depart to "**Cefalu'**", a charming coastal town, and a former fishing village, which is also home to a breathtaking Norman cathedral, also UNESCO World Heritage Site, famous for its stunning Byzantine Mosaic, it is considered one of the most pieces of religious artwork of Sicily. Take a stroll down to the medieval stone fountain and seek out the Gothic Arch of Porta Marina for a picture-perfect view of the little harbor. Back to Castellammare, this evening is at your leisure to explore

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch*

Monday September 26, 2022

***Discover “The Heart of Sicily” visit “Organic Olive Farm and Winery to Harvest Olives and Grapes”.***

Today’s tour is dedicated to connecting with the “Heart of Sicily”, through History, Gastronomic and life-style. As we start this morning to travel, we will see the magnificent mountains and lush valleys where we pass plenty of farmlands, vineyards, and even some shepherds with his sheep. We will come to a stop to **Chiusa Sclafani** to taste one of the best cannoli. Our next stop in **Bisacquino** is La Modonna del Balzo, a 1600 old church embedded in the mountain with spectacular views. Then we will arrive at our beloved town of **Campofiorito**. Although this small town does not have many historical attractions, the heart and spirit of the locals will leave you amazed. We will visit the local bakery to taste some homemade specialties. Our aunt will be waiting for us to extend her hospitality while we will enjoy spending time with the locals. After our visit, we are off to experience the afternoon at **Giardinello** a local farm with a rustic old barn converted into an eatery with scenic surrounding valley of ancient olive trees and vineyards. We will have the pleasure of **harvesting the olive trees** and strolling through the vineyards, **harvesting the grapes**. After this extraordinary experience, we will enjoy dinner with their local specialties for a true Sicilian farm to table experience.

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Tuesday September 27, 2022

***Transfer to a Rural Farm for Cheese Making and Hands -On Bread and Pasta***

Early this morning we will head to the mountains to a family-run farm **Antica Masseria** to learn how to make our fresh **homemade ricotta cheese**. This experience is well worth the early wake up as we savor these authentic Sicilian flavors. We will continue our hands-on experience all day back at the **Giardinello** where today we will learn how to make **homemade bread, homemade pasta**. This will be the most memorable, fun, and hands-on way to spend a day with the **locals** to enjoy an authentic culinary experience. We will start with prosecco, traditional Italian aperitive, some typical specialties along with the best Sicilian wines. Once you have relaxed, it is time to learn how to make traditional Sicilian Bread and Pasta from scratch. You will learn every step and do them yourself from mixing the ingredients to kneading the dough. But the highlight of the evening will be the dish you cook yourself. Enjoy them along with other specialties and desserts like Sicilians do.

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Wednesday September 28, 2022

*Visit the “GodFather” town of Corleone and dinner at “Ficuzza” the King’s Hunting Lodge*

This morning we will head to the heart of Sicily, to find a warm welcome in the small town of **Corleone**, located in the valleys and mountains in the province of Palermo. World-renowned for the origin of the “Godfather”, the true history begins centuries before. Here the villagers have fought the connection to the Mafia for decades, and we will learn the history behind their struggles as a local resident guides us through the IDMA (International Documentary Center of the Mafia and the No Mafia Movement). **Corleone** is also “The City of 100 Churches” with our local English-speaking tour guide we will visit some of the historical landmarks. We will have time to explore the center of town and enjoy an authentic Sicilian lunch. We will then travel to the outskirts of Corleone to the richest woodlands, considered the “lungs of Sicily wildlife”, “**Bosco della Ficuzza**”, known for its Cascina di Caccia, a royal palace, that King Ferdinand of Bourbon himself in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century made his personal hunting lodge. Our dinner will be here surrounded in this green oasis, in this beautiful restored old railroad station, where the food is excellent with a menu specialized in local dishes, ingredients, and culinary traditions, and accompanied by selection of local wines.

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner*

Thursday September 29, 2022

***Walking tour of Erice, Marsala with a visit of one of the most famous Wineries of Sicily, followed by Farm to Table Dinner.***

This morning we will leave Castellammare for a sightseeing tour of **Erice**. This medieval town sits 2400 meters above sea level. Enjoy the views of the Tyrrhenian Sea from the hilltop and explore Erice's charming medieval streets and square and pleasure your palate with traditional Sicilian desserts where you will have the opportunity to purchase local souvenirs and enjoy lunch on your own. The bus will take us along the coast of Marsala where lies this evocative landscape of **Le Saline** (shallow salt pools) and decommissioned mulini (windmills). The salt from these marshes is considered Italy's finest. We will continue to the town of Marsala where we will tour this magnificent eighteenth century **Marsala Winery** which will leave you speechless. The English guided tour will take us through this journey that will begin in front of these majestic giant wine barrels, built at the end of the nineteenth century and still used for the refinement of Marsala. We will walk beneath 104 stone arches through the barrel vaults to see over 2000 small and large barrels of wine. After the tour we will reach the grandiose and elegant tasting room, where we will taste a range of their best wines paired with authentic gastronomic nibbles. After this experience we will head to another **Farm to table** to enjoy a 5-course meal with authentic Sicilian foods and local wines.

*Included Meals: Breakfast, and Dinner*

Friday September 30, 2022

***Get a full immersion of the Archaeological site of Segesta tonight we will savor a farewell typical Sicilian 3 course Dinner***

This morning, meet your local guide to visit one of the most important archeological sites of Italy. Lost in the middle of the countryside and perched on a hill-top, the "Segesta Archaeological Park " is home to spectacular ancient ruins dating from the Greek Empire. Admire the main "Temple " one of the best-preserved examples of Doric architecture in the world built in the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC, and the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC "Greek Theatre". Discover the historical and architectural context of this impressive ruins with your expert guide. Back to Castellammare, relax and get ready for our farewell dinner. This evening we will meet for dinner at this authentic restaurant with beautiful views of the marina, while we savor a delicious Sicilian 3 course meal with local wines included

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

Saturday October 1, 2022

*Departure to the US*

Transfers to the airport (based on departure times on the specified tour dates)

*Ciao Ciao*

*Included Meals: Breakfast*

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*NB: Excursions and Itinerary are weather permitted and subject to change without prior notice. Minimum number is required.*

*NNB: We love to share our Sicily with you. In order to secure low rates, we prepay everything a year in advance.*

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**One Visit is Never Enough!**

Phone: (717) 489-2620 / Email: [info@sicilywithfriends.com](mailto:info@sicilywithfriends.com)

2022 Prices

**\$3600 per person** (double occupancy)

Special rate available (bring 4 and each pay \$3000)

Single occupancy \$500 surcharge

You may upgrade to a suit for an additional \$350 per person, based on availability

Land only, AirFare not included in price

Deposits are required within 10 days of making the registration

Please see *Terms & Conditions*

Pre and Post Tour Extensions available contact us directly via email.

*(A 2.9% fee will be charged on debit/credit card payments. If you would like to pay by cash or check, please email us at [info@sicilywithfriends.com](mailto:info@sicilywithfriends.com) to make arrangements.)*