

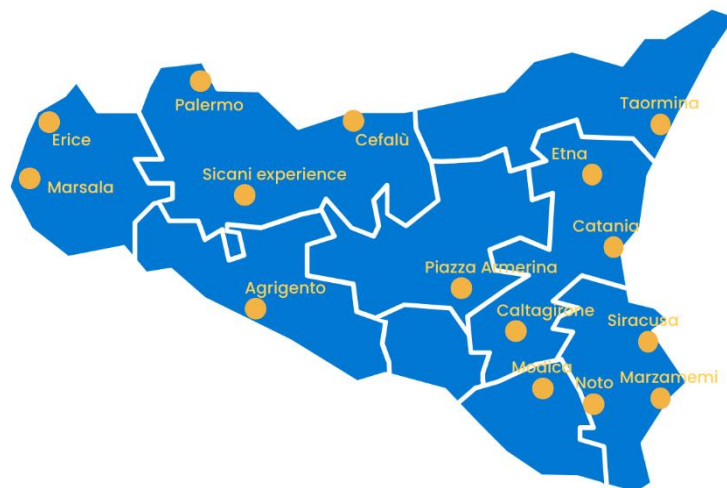
EXCLUSIVE

# Essence of Sicily

Magic Beyond the Mediterranean!



- ★ **Referent:** Cindy Marleu
- 📄 **Tour name:** Exclusive Essence of Sicily (GS1106)
- 📅 **Program:** From Catania
- 🕒 **Duration:** 8 Days
- 📅 **Periods:** 10.04.2025 to 17.04.2025
- 🕒 **Offer Expire:** 30.06.2024



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## PROGRAM

### Day 1: Welcome to Sicily

Arrival at Catania airport, where our staff will greet you. Depending on the arrival time, we can organize lunch at a typical restaurant located along Catania's playa, overlooking the sea. Afterwards, transfer to the Noto area.

Selected accommodation: Villa Giulia 4\*, situated among vineyards and olive groves, a short distance from the sea and the Vendicari Nature Reserve. Originally built in 1874 as an elegant country residence and refuge for the wines of Feudo San Lorenzo, the villa's architecture features a central body embraced by refined pilasters, with rooms that retain timeless charm and elegance.

Upon arrival, check into your assigned rooms, followed by a welcome cocktail. Dinner and overnight stay.

### Day 2: Exploration of Noto, Marzamemi, and Syracuse

After breakfast, we set off to discover some of Sicily's gems. Our first stop is Noto, often referred to as the capital of Sicilian Baroque, thanks to its magnificent architectures dating back to the 17th century, masterfully restored after the earthquake of 1693. The noble palaces, opulent churches, and finely decorated balconies of this UNESCO heritage city will transport you to a bygone era. You will have free time to explore the historic center, shop in local boutiques, or simply enjoy a coffee in one of Noto's welcoming squares.

We then proceed to Marzamemi, a charming fishing village where time seems to have stood still. The small harbor, colorful boats, and trattorias offering the day's fresh catch create an authentic and picturesque atmosphere. Here you will experience Sicilian seaside life, enjoying lunch at one of the local trattorias and savoring the tranquility of the place.

In the afternoon, we head to Syracuse, one of the most important cities of ancient Greece. We start with a visit to the archaeological area, where you can admire monuments such as the Ear of Dionysius, an artificial cave with remarkable acoustics, and the Greek Theater, one of the best-preserved ancient theaters.

Later, we move to the island of Ortigia, the historical heart of Syracuse. This small island is a true gem, with its narrow alleys, welcoming squares, and historical monuments like the Cathedral built over an ancient Greek temple. During the guided tour, you'll have the opportunity to taste some traditional Sicilian sweets, such as a refreshing granita or a delicious cannolo, a symbol of Sicilian pastry.

In the late afternoon, return to the hotel for some relaxation before dinner. Dinner and overnight stay at the facility.



### Day 3: Delights of Modica, Ceramics of Caltagirone, and Ancient History at Piazza Armerina

After breakfast, bags packed, we set off for Modica, known as the city of chocolate. The historical center of Modica, nestled among the rocks, is a delight for the eyes, with its Baroque buildings and cobblestone streets. Here we will have the pleasure of visiting an authentic chocolate workshop, where you can discover the ancient art of chocolate making according to the Aztec tradition, and taste the famous Modica chocolate, known for its unique grainy texture.

We continue our journey to Caltagirone, the city of Sicilian maiolica and ceramics. This city is famous for its ceramic tradition dating back to the Arab-Norman period. One of the icons of Caltagirone is the Monumental Staircase of Santa Maria del Monte: 142 steps, each decorated with colorful maiolica, forming a spectacular mosaic. You will also have the opportunity to visit some artisan workshops, where you can watch the artisans at work and discover the exciting legend behind the famous Moorish heads in ceramics.

For lunch, we move to Piazza Armerina, where we will be guests at a charming agriturismo. Here you can enjoy seasonal local delicacies, picked right at the place and lovingly prepared by the family that will welcome us.

After lunch, a short distance away, we will visit the Villa Romana del Casale, an archaeological site of exceptional value, famous for its well-preserved mosaics dating back to the 4th century AD. This residence, probably belonging to a Roman noble, is one of the most important examples of Roman dwellings and offers a fascinating overview of daily life at the time. Subsequently, transfer to our next hotel. Dinner and overnight stay.

### Day 4: The Essence of the Sicanians

After breakfast, we venture into the heart of Sicily for an extraordinary experience through less-trodden paths. Our first stop is Lercara Friddi, where we visit the Mother Church that houses a unique collection of a thousand nativity scenes in its crypt. Lercara Friddi is also famous as the birthplace of the family of Frank Sinatra, the renowned American singer and actor.

From Lercara Friddi, we will head to Prizzi, a town with a long history dating back to 258 BC. Walking through its narrow, winding streets, it feels like stepping back in time. From Prizzi, the panorama over the heart of Sicily is simply breathtaking.

Our journey continues to Palazzo Adriano, a small town founded in the 15th century by Albanian exiles. Here, the meeting of cultures has created a unique place: you can visit a Greek-Byzantine rite church, a witness to the ancient Albanian traditions still present in the town. Palazzo Adriano is also known for being the set of the Oscar-winning film "Cinema Paradiso," a gem that attracts visitors from all over the world.





Continuing our journey, we will make a brief stop at Santo Stefano Quisquina. Here, a walk in the woods near the Monte Cammarata nature reserve will lead us to the Hermitage of "Santa Rosalia alla Quisquina," a place of peace and spirituality immersed in nature. The hermitage, with its inner rooms and cells open to the public, offers a unique and contemplative experience.

Arriving in Cammarata, known as the city of "a mountain of excellences" thanks to its globally recognized culinary delights, we will stop for a traditional lunch. Here, we will have the opportunity to taste high-quality local cheeses, fresh vegetables, roasted meats, homemade pasta with seasonal ingredients, and typical sweets. Cammarata, with its fascinating history dating back to Norman times, will amaze you with its unique urban landscape, intimate courtyards, and the stairs of the Arab quarter.

In the late afternoon, return to the hotel for a moment of relaxation before dinner. Dinner and overnight stay at the facility.

### Day 5: From the Temples of Agrigento to the Spectacular Views of Erice Tasting Marsala



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The day begins with an energizing breakfast, after which we head to the legendary Valley of the Temples in Agrigento. This archaeological site is a treasure of ancient Greece, hosting some of the best-preserved Greek temples in the world. Walking among these ancient ruins will be like traveling back in time, immersed in the charm of ancient Greek civilization. After this historical immersion, we move to Marsala, a city renowned for its fine wines. We will cross the picturesque salt pans, where the sun sparkles on the water and the wind carries the scent of the sea. We continue with a guided tour of one of the historic wineries in the area, where we will have the opportunity to taste the famous Marsala wine during a light lunch.

Our journey will continue to Erice, a medieval village perched on a mountain that offers breathtaking views of the Egadi Islands and the coast below. Walking through the cobbled streets, you can admire the small craft shops and savor the "ericini," delicious almond pastries, a symbol of local gastronomy.

The day will end with our arrival at our accommodation a short walk from the sea. Typical Sicilian dinner, overnight stay in a hotel.

### Day 6: From Vibrant Palermo to the Timeless Charm of Taormina

Today, with bags packed, we depart for magnificent Palermo. Our first stop will be Monreale, located on Monte dei Re, which houses the famous Monreale Cathedral. This UNESCO monument is a masterpiece of Byzantine and Norman art, with luminous mosaics covering a surface of 6,340 square meters, shining with pure gold and depicting biblical stories with timeless mastery.

Continuing, we will delve into the streets of Palermo, the most Arabesque city in Sicily. We will visit the Palermo Cathedral, a charming example of Norman, Gothic, and Baroque architecture. From there, we will pass through Piazza Pretoria, often called "the square of shame" due to its nude statues, and the Quattro Canti, the ornamental intersection marking the heart of the historic center.

The journey through Palermo continues with a visit to its lively markets, such as the Ballarò Market or the Capo Market. The atmosphere here is electric, with the vibrant colors of fruit and vegetable stalls, the aromas of spices, and the chatter of vendors.

For lunch, we will immerse ourselves in the local culinary culture by tasting some of Palermo's street food specialties, including arancini, sfincione, pani ca meusa, pani cunzato and panelle. These dishes represent the culinary soul of Palermo and offer an authentic taste of Sicily. Later, we head to the picturesque fishing village of Cefalù. Here, we will stroll along the narrow cobbled streets, admiring the ancient buildings and the Norman Cathedral that dominates the landscape. A break for an ice cream by the sea will be the perfect way to refresh before continuing our journey to Zafferana Etnea, a village known for its honey and excellent wines at the foot of the majestic Mount Etna. Accommodation in a hotel, dinner based on Etna products, and overnight stay.





### Day 7: The Mighty Etna and the Enchanting Taormina

After breakfast, we will set out to discover the majestic Mount Etna. Gradually ascending to an altitude of 2,000 meters, we will have the opportunity to taste the famous Etna honey and walk on the Silvestri crater. If weather conditions allow, the adventure continues aboard a cable car (optional) that will take us to about 2,600 meters in height, in a lunar environment, where the panorama seems to be from another world.

The journey continues on special off-road vehicles, which will take us to an altitude of almost 3,000 meters. Here, expert alpine guides will introduce us to the fascinating volcanic activity of Etna, revealing the mysteries and secrets of one of the most active volcanoes on the planet.

After the volcanic exploration, a lunch awaits us in a cozy farmhouse, with breathtaking views of the volcano. Here, we will have the opportunity to taste a selection of local wines and delight the palate with typical enogastronomic specialties of the Etna area.

In the afternoon, we will reach the beautiful Taormina. Situated on a hill overlooking the Ionian Sea, this city is a true jewel of Sicily. Its historic Greek Theatre, which bears witness to the Hellenistic and Roman roots of the place, offers an unparalleled view that spans from the imposing Mount Etna to the sparkling Bay of Naxos.

Strolling along Corso Umberto, the main artery of Taormina, you can savor the authentic Sicilian atmosphere. Between elegant shops, traditional restaurants, and picturesque cafes, culture, history, and natural beauty blend together, offering an unforgettable experience. Return to the hotel, dinner, and moments of relaxation at the bar sipping fine wine and reliving the beautiful moments of this special week in Sicily.

### Day 8: Goodbye Sicily

After breakfast, depending on the departure time, a stop of a few hours in Catania is possible or a direct transfer to the airport. End of services.



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**The Price include:**

- Transfer from Catania airport to the first accommodation
- Transfer from the last accommodation to Catania airport
- Deluxe GT Bus from Day 1 to Day 8
- English-speaking guide accompanying from the first to the last day of the tour
- 2° nights in Hotel Villa Giulia 4\* Noto in HB
- 2° nights in Hotel Baia di Ulisse 4\* Agrigento in HB
- 1° night in Hotel la Battigia 4\* Alcamo Marina or similar in HB
- 2° nights in Hotel Airone Wellness Zafferana Etnea in HB
- City Tax in Noto, Agrigento, Alcamo and Zafferana Etnea
- Whisperer system where required
- Lunch in Marzamemi (Beverage not included)
- All Entrance fees in museums and archeological zones
- Chocolate tasting in Modica
- Lunch in Farm House in Piazza Armerina (Beverage not included)
- Scenic Train ride in Caltagirone
- Special lunch with local products in a typical Trattoria in Cammarata (1½ L. Water and 1¼ Wine included)
- Light lunch in Marsala with wine tasting in a Typical winery
- Tasting of Ericini pastry in Erice
- Street food in Palermo (beverages not included)
- Lunch and tasting at a winery and farm on Mount Etna (1½ L. Water and 1¼ Wine included)
- All parking and highway fees, as well as driver accommodation and meals
- Taxes and travel organizer liability insurance with Europe Assistance

**The Price not include:**

- Welcome cocktail with light lunch in Catania (€ 30.00 per person)
- Etna Cableway and Jeep
- Anything not specified in the "included" section

**Tot Price:**

- Per Person in Standard DBL Room € **1137.00** up to **20** pax
- Per Person in Standard DBL Room € **1028.00** from **21** to **25** pax
- Single Room Supplement € **178.00**
- Infant **0\3** years in parents bed € **0.00**
- Child **3\11** Years old in third bed **-50%**
- Adult in third bed **-35%**
- **1 free** for every **20** participants





## General conditions

See [www.great-sicily.com/terms-conditions](http://www.great-sicily.com/terms-conditions)

## Header

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BIC-Code: BCITITMM

- ✓ 30% deposit upon confirmation and the remaining 80% payment due no later than 20 days before the group's arrival.



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