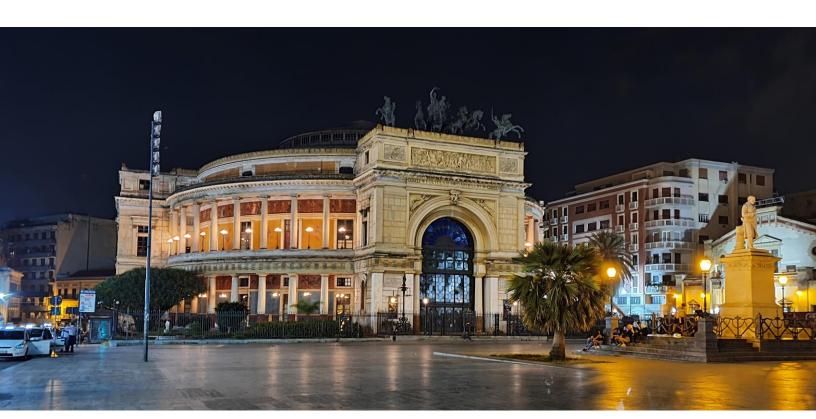


DISCOVER SICILY WITH CHEF RIC ORLANDO

SAVOR SICILY'S CULINARY DELIGHTS



ITINERARY

Day 1 - Oct. 24, 2021 » Arrival in Sicily and Welcome Dinner

Whether you fly into Palermo or Catania, you will check in to the Hotel Piazza Borsa in Palermo by late afternoon – this accommodation will be our home base for the first 4 days in Sicily.

6:30 pm: Show cooking at a cookery school in Palermo. Our chef will show you how to prepare a delicious Sicilian dinner by revealing the secrets of some of the best Palermitan recipes. After the cooking demonstration, you will dine, and taste delicacies accompanied by a glass of wine in a cozy atmosphere.

You will then go back to your accommodation in Palermo.







Day 2 - Oct. 25, 2021 » Palermo - Highlights & Street Food

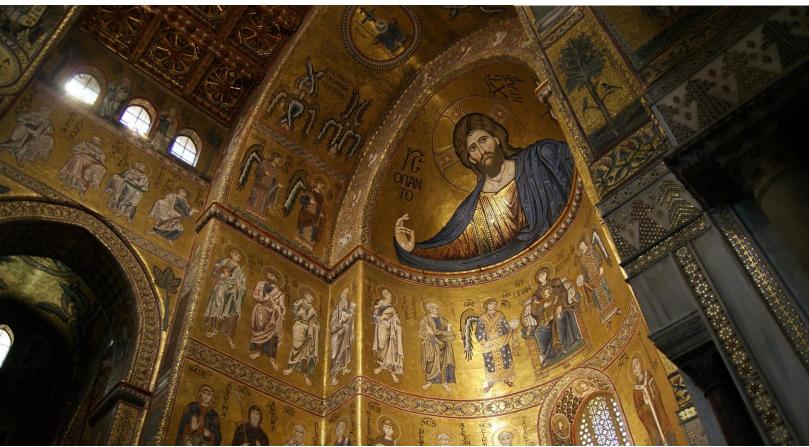
Today will savor a fascinating tour of the city of Palermo, including its stunning Opera House and 1,000-year-old churches. We will then enjoy light lunch in the open-air Lo Capo Market, enjoying the bounty of Sicilian street food, such as *panelle* (chickpea fritters), arancina (fried rice balls with different fillings), cannoli (filled pastries) and other Palermo delicacies.

After lunching with my friends at the Capo Market, you will have time to explore Palermo on your own, before heading back to your accommodation.

Dinner at leisure and overnight in Palermo.







Day ${\bf 3}$ - Oct. ${\bf 26},\,{\bf 2021}$ » Farm Experience in Piana degli Albanesi and Monreale

After breakfast, we will be transferred to a small family run farm located on a spectacular plateau overviewing a lake, just a few miles off Palermo, to experience a stunning day with the owners.

Discover Giovanni and his family's daily life and learn from them how to make stretched curd cheeses such as "Caciocavallo" and "vastedda" and knead your own "muffulette" bread — firing the loaves in a traditional stone oven. Lastly, you will savor a family-style Sicilian lunch, featuring dairy products and other delicacies produced by this friendly local family.

After lunch, we will head to Monreale to visit one of Sicily's most glorious Arab-Norman architectural marvels.

Dinner at leisure and overnight in Palermo.







Day 4 - Oct. 27, 2021 » Glorious Seaside Cefalù

After checking out from our accommodation in Palermo, we will head to Cefalù, a coastal city in northern Sicily. It is known for its Norman cathedral, a 12th-century fortress-like structure with elaborate Byzantine mosaics and soaring twin towers.

We will enjoy a delightful walking tour of the old city. (Bring a bathing suit -- if the weather is agreeable, you can take a dip in the sapphire seas here!).

Near Cefalù, we will relish a wine tasting and lunch at Santa Anastasia Vineyard -- which produces some of the Island's finest Nero D'Avola reds. (Cefalù is also the city Ric's mother's family, the Fertitas, are from).

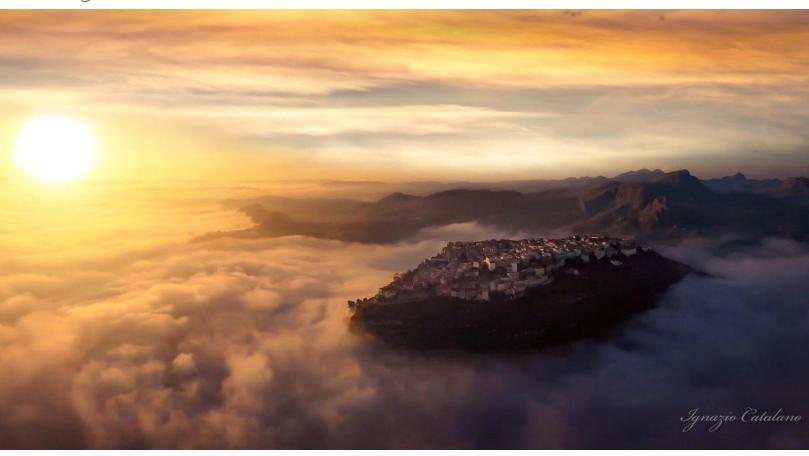
In the evening, we will head to Favara, near Agrigento, and check into our next accommodation, Hotel Alba Palace.

Dinner at leisure and overnight in Favara.



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ITINERARY

DAY 5 - OCT. 28, 2021 » VILLAGE EXPERIENCE IN SANT'ANGELO MUXARO

Today will be one of the highlights of your trip.

After breakfast at our inn, we will visit my friend Pier Filippo Spoto for a true farm fresh "Agriturismo" experience. Pier Filippo will introduce us the local artisanal foods of a tiny hilltop village. As we walk the town's stone streets, we will meet the sheep whose milk makes the hamlet's fresh ricotta. You will be in awe by the city's take on "sfincione" -- a fluffy Sicilian pizza topped in local cheese and farm-fresh vegetables.

We will then head back towards Favara and stop for dinner at a local restaurant, before reaching our hotel where we will spend the night.







DAY 6 - OCT. 29, 2021 » AGRIGENTO AND EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL

After breakfast, pack your bags and say arrivederci to Favara. Today we head to the western side of the island — exploring an area known as Agrigento.

Along the way, we will stop at "The Valley of the Temples" in Agrigento, one of the most outstanding examples of Greater Greek art and one of the main historical attractions in all of Sicily – here we will walk among Greek temples erected over 2000 years ago.

We will then head to Palma di Montechiaro and visit a local olive oil farm -- where sunnourished olives are pressed into extra virgin liquid gold. You will have the chance to taste the authentic extra virgin oil for lunch.

After lunch, we will transport you we will head to Taormina and check-in at the Hotel Villa Schuler. This family-run hotel — overlooking the salt-kissed Bay of Naxos — is simply extraordinary — vaunting epic sea views, comfortable rooms, and genuine Italian hospitality.

Dinner at leisure and overnight in Taormina.







DAY 7- OCT. 30, 2021 » CATANIA FOOD MARKET & FRESH PASTA-MAKING CLASS

Today, we will transfer to Catania, where one of our Sicilian friends will bring our group inside the vibrant (and delicious) Catania Food Market — one of the liveliest open-air daily markets in all of Italy.

Together, we will hunt for the freshest of ingredients for our authentic cooking class with our chef. You will learn to make fresh cavatelli and many other Southern Italian dishes — all based on what is freshest that day in the market. The dishes we create will be our delicious Sicilian lunch — so be prepared to eat *molto* (a lot!)!

After our class and meal, we will return to Taormina, where you will have the evening at leisure to explore the city on your own.

Dinner at leisure and overnight in Taormina.







Day 8 - Oct. 31, 2021 » Mt. Etna Crater, Farm-Style Lunch & Winery Visit

After breakfast at the Hotel Schuler, you will be transported to the summit of Mt. Etna — Europe's largest active volcano, where you will explore the mountain's craggy craters in jeeps and ride the cable car to the top.

Our lunch will be truly authentic, held at a local hazelnut farm, followed by a behind-thescenes tour at a family-owned winery on the mineral-rich slopes of Etna. The Etna volcano produces some of Sicily's most prized varietals, including the famous Etna Rosso wine.

You will then return to Taormina and enjoy a farewell dinner with your group. Overnight in Taormina.

DAY 9 - Nov. 1, 2021 » CHECK OUT OF HOTEL & DEPARTURE

Check out of your hotel in the morning and proceed to the airport or your next destination. Say arrivederci (until we see each other again!) to the stunning heart of Sicily.

