

# Sicily

DISCOVER SICILY WITH CHEF RIC ORLANDO

SAVOR SICILY'S CULINARY DELIGHTS



## ITINERARY

### DAY 1 - OCT. 15, 2023 » ARRIVAL IN SICILY AND WELCOME DINNER

Whether you fly into Palermo or Catania, check in to the Hotel Villa Schuler in Taormina by mid-afternoon.

The Hotel Villa Schuler will be our home base for the first four days in Sicily. This family-run hotel — overlooking the salt-kissed Bay of Naxos — is simply extraordinary — vaunting epic sea views, comfortable rooms, and genuine Italian hospitality.

In the afternoon: Meet and greet at the hotel with the rest of the group and our tour leader.

Group Welcome dinner at an authentic local restaurant.





## ITINERARY

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### DAY 2 - OCT. 16, 2023 » TAORMINA WALKING TOUR, WINERY TOUR AND PISTACHIO FARM VISIT

After breakfast at the Hotel Schuler, we will meet our guide for an introductory walking tour of Taormina.

Commonly known as the Pearl of the Ionian Sea, Taormina, develops around an Agorà whose ruins, which are still visible along the street that leads to the theatre, were the settlement of the Roman Forum. In the surroundings, you can admire the ruins of holy and public monuments (the Aphrodite's Temple, the Roman Thermal Baths, and the Odeon).

We will then be transported in comfort to a local 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. Here we will enjoy lunch paired with Etna wines.

We will then return to Taormina for a relaxing evening on own.



## ITINERARY

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### DAY 3 - OCT. 17, 2023 » CATANIA FOOD MARKET & FRESH PASTA-MAKING CLASS

Today, we will transfer by private bus to Catania, where our Sicilian chef 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 Loredana. 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 at Villa Schuler.



## ITINERARY

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### DAY 4 - OCT. 18, 2023 » VALLEY OF THE TEMPLES AND FAMIATA DINNER EXPERIENCE

After breakfast and check-out, we will transfer to Agrigento area and check-in at Fontes Episcopi. Before we reach our accommodation for the following 2 nights, we will stop at the Valley of Temples for a private walking tour. We will walk among Greek temples erected over 2000 years ago. The Valley of the Temples is one of the most outstanding examples of Greater Greek art -- representing one of the main historical attractions in all of Sicily.

Famiata experience with dinner at Fontes Episcopi. In Sicily, the wood oven has always been an important element of community, where moments of joy and sharing with friends and family are celebrated around it. In Sicilian the verb Famiare means to light a big flame in the oven until the top turns white. That's the sign the oven is ready. This will be an authentic experience including a hands-on cooking class with a local mum. You will learn how to make some local focaccia or pizza, like the cuddiruni or similar. We will experience a moment of joy and carefree abandon, preparing, chatting, drinking and enjoying good Sicanian food and wine.





## ITINERARY

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### DAY 5 - OCT. 19, 2023 » VILLAGE EXPERIENCE IN SANT'ANGELO MUXARO

Today will be one of the highlights of your trip.

After breakfast at our accommodation, 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 also have lunch based on local products and dishes at Eugenia’s home.

We will then head back to our accommodation and spend the afternoon at leisure.

Overnight at Fontes Episcopi.



## ITINERARY

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### DAY 6 - OCT. 20, 2023 » LOCAL MASSERIA

After breakfast, pack your bags and be ready for your next experience.

Today you will make your way to Palermo via the Piana degli Albanesi. Here we will reach a small family-owned farm where we will experience a stunning day with the owners of the dairy farm. After discovering this family's daily life, you are going to learn about the process of making stretched cured cheeses such as *caciocavallo* and *vastedda*. Finally, you will have a great homey lunch with all the dairy products and other delicacies produced by this wonderful family.

After lunch we will head to our last stop of the day, our accommodation for the next three nights in Palermo where you will enjoy a nice aperitivo on the rooftop of the hotel.



## ITINERARY

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### DAY 7 - OCT. 21, 2023 » MONREALE & AFTERNOON IN MONDELLO

After breakfast, we make our way to the hilltop town of Monreale to tour the famous Norman Cathedral. This UNESCO world heritage site is known for its 12<sup>th</sup> century Byzantine art covered in golden mosaics in its interior. After, we will have the chance enjoy time outside of the city center in the seaside resort of Mondello before lunch at a local restaurant.

Enjoy the afternoon and evening at leisure in Palermo.

Overnight stay in Palermo.





## ITINERARY

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### DAY 8 - OCT. 22, 2023 » STREET FOOD & FAREWELL DINNER WITH CHEF RIC

In the morning we will visit one of the vibrant street food of Palermo. We will then enjoy light lunch, enjoying the bounty of Sicilian food.

In the late afternoon, we will meet again to where we will enjoy a local farewell dinner cooked by your very own Chef Ric Orlando using local Sicilian ingredients.

Overnight stay in Palermo.

### DAY 9 - OCT. 23, 2023 » 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.