

Come to Sicily with me!

A Taste of Sicily Tour October 2021 hosted by Chef Ric Orlando

October 16-24, 2021

I love Sicily ...and you will too!

So....Get Vaccinated and let's GO!

I am so happy to share Sicily with all of you! For 9 days we will experience cooking classes and demonstrations, winery tours and tastings. historic art and architecture tours, nature walks and luscious meals. We'll meet farmers and artisans that are keeping time honored traditions alive while still feeling surprisingly modern.

Though I have planned an immersive itinerary, I also give you enough private time for exploring the unique culture. You will experience all of what Sicily has to offer. This is priceless.

ITINERARY (subject to variations but this is pretty much it!)

a Taste of Sicily with Chef Ric Orlando

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Traveling to Sicily immerses you in a symphony of flavors. The food, the land, the cities, and the people are unique in a myriad of ways. Sicily is a stunning gem in the center of the Mediterranean Sea and an island unto itself. Old and the new mingle here, inviting you to wonder "Can't I just move here?"

You will take home delicious memories from traveling with a Sicilian-American chef and meeting real Sicilians of all walks of life -- including learning family recipes and hearing the stories from the locals themselves.

This tour is perfect for travelers who love to connect with others over great food and wine. You'll make *cannoli* with Italian *nonnas*, you'll sip wine in ancient cellars and you'll taste olive oil in the groves where it's grown.



Folk art on tile, Taormina



View of Naxos from Hotel Villa Schuler, NO FILTER!

Day 1, October 16th 2021
Arrival in Sicily, Meet and Greet & Welcome Dinner

Whether you fly into Palermo or Catania, you'll check in to the Hotel Villa Schuler in Taormina by late afternoon. The Hotel Villa Schuler will be our home base for the first 4 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.

6 PM: Meet and greet *Aperitivo* at **Hotel Villa Schuler**, overlooking the sapphire sea shore with Mount Etna in the distance.

8 PM: Group Welcome dinner at a Family owned local restaurant

Day 2, October 17th, 2021
Catania Food Market & Fresh Pasta-Making Class



Want local? You will make traditional local pasta shapes with local semolina flour with a local chef in Catania

Today, we will transfer by private bus to Catania, where my Sicilian friend, Chef Loredana, 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'll hunt for the freshest of ingredients for our Sicilian cooking class hosted by Chef Loredana. You'll 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*! After our class and meal, we'll return to Taormina, where you'll have the evening at leisure to explore the city on your own.

Day 3, October 18th, 2021

Mt Etna, Farm to Table Lunch and Winery Visit

Today, after breakfast we will be transported in comfort to the snow dusted summit of Mt Etna, Europe's largest active volcano. Once arrived at Etna, we will explore the Mountains craggy craters and ride a cable car to the summit. We will then enjoy an authentic farm house lunch at a local hazelnut farm, savory authentic Sicilian farm to table fare. During our return to Taormina, we will go behind the scenes at a family run winery on the mineral rich slopes of Etna. The Etna volcano produces some of Sicily's most prized varietals including the famous Etna Rosso wines. We will then return to Taormina for a relaxing evening on your own.



Mama Etna. According to the locals, she is a female because she giveth and she taketh away



One of Mount Etna's stunning craters.

Day 4, October 19th, 2021
Hotel Luna Minoica & Agrigento



The Valley of the Temples at Agrigento is most impressive.

After breakfast, pack your bags and say *arrivederci* to Taormina. Today, we head to the western side of the island -- exploring an area known as **Agrigento**. Along the way, we will stop at **Palma di Montechiaro** and visit a local olive oil farm -- where sun-nourished olives are pressed into extra virgin liquid gold. You'll have the chance to taste and purchase the authentic extra virgin oil. We will then be served a fabulous lunch right in the mill.

After lunch, we'll transport you to **"The Valley of the Temples"** in Agrigento. 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. After our tour of the Valley of the Temples, we will head by private vans to our next accommodation: the Hotel Luna Minoica. . . just a quick walk from the beach. The Luna Minoica will be our home for the next 2 nights. We will enjoy a memorable dinner at our friends' restaurant on the beach.

Day 5, October 20th, 2021
Village Experience in Sant'Angelo Muxaro



Today will be one of the highlights of your trip. We bus to Sant'Angelo Muxaro, a tiny Hamlet where my friend Pier Filippo Spoto will guide us on for a true farm-fresh *agriturismo* experience. Pier Filippo will introduce us the the local artisanal foods of a tiny hilltop village. As we walk the town's stone streets, we'll meet the sheep whose milk makes the hamlet's fresh ricotta. You'll be in awe by the city's take on "sfincione". Meeting the locals that live this less complicated life is wonderfully beautiful . We will then head back to our accommodation and spend our evening at leisure.



Day 6, October 21st, 2021
Glorious Seaside Cefalù



Cefalù is a coastal city in northern Sicily. Wait until you step into the incredible Norman cathedral, a 12th-century fortress-like structure with elaborate Byzantine mosaics and soaring twin towers. You will be free to enjoy a delightful walking tour of the old city. Near Cefalù, we will relish a wine tasting and lunch at the world famous Santa Anastasia Vineyard which produces some of the Island's finest Nero D'Avola reds. Cefalu is also the city Ric's mother's family, the Fertitas, hail from. In the evening, we will head to Palermo and check into our next accommodation. Don't miss the street food in Palermo at night!



Day 7, October 22nd, 2021
Farm Experience at Monte Jato and Monreale



After breakfast, we will be transferred to a small family run farm in the mountains of Palermo to experience a stunning day with the owners. After experiencing Paola and her family's daily life, you'll knead your own "muffulette" bread -- firing the loaves in a traditional stone oven. Lastly, you will savor a family-style Sicilian banquet 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: the gold-domed cathedral of Monreale and its cloisters-- adorned with sculpted columns and ornate capitals. Enjoy dinner on your own in Palermo in the evening. I'll give you the best recommendations!

**Day 8, October 23rd, 2021
Palermo and Cooking Class**



Today will 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. The city of Palermo was named the "Italian Capital of Culture" in 2018 by Italy's Ministry of Culture, following the city's selection as host for the European Biennial of Contemporary Art.

After lunching with my friends at the Capo Market, you'll have time to explore Palermo on your own. Don't eat too much more because in the afternoon we will meet up again for a hands-on cooking class in the Old Town -- enjoying *panelle* (chickpea fritters), *pasta with sardines and wild fennel*, *cannoli* (filled pastries) and other Palermo delicacies during our farewell group dinner at our chef's home!

Day 9, October 24th, 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.

PRICING: 3975.00 US per person, \$1000.00 deposit required.

Price included all above. Flights and airport transfers not included.

Itinerary subject to changes.

To make your deposit and all for All logistical info contact Laura at info@seeitalytravel
All info about the details of our experiences contact me chefric@ricorlando.com