

## Sicily Culinary Tour 2008



*Great food and wine! Cooking demonstrations, wine tastings, exceptional lodging, major sights and plenty of free time. Small group size – 4 to 12 participants. (A “deluxe” version of this tour is available featuring 5-star hotels.)*

**Itinerary:** Summary follows. Meals included are indicated in **bold** face.

**Saturday:** Arrival at Palermo and pick-up at airport. Meet your tour escort at a welcome **dinner** in a local restaurant. Overnight at hotel in Palermo.

**Sunday:** Check-out following **breakfast**, and morning visit Monreale to discover its splendid Norman cathedral, followed by a wine tasting and **lunch** in a winery in the mountains outside Palermo. Evening at leisure and **dinner** at Custonaci, near Trapani.

**Monday:** Following **breakfast**, morning excursion to hilltop Erice for a pastry making demonstration. Then we'll visit an olive farm for a cooking demonstration and light **lunch**. Evening at leisure and overnight in Custonaci.

**Tuesday:** This morning, following **breakfast** and check-out, we'll take an excursion to the Marsala wine country, seeing the salt marshes and windmills en route. Following a wine tasting, we'll reach Menfi to visit a working vineyard on a centuries-old estate and a light **lunch**. In the evening we'll arrive at Agrigento and a panoramic tour of the ancient Greek temples. Evening at leisure and overnight at Agrigento.

**Wednesday:** Following **breakfast** we'll take an excursion to Sant'Angelo Muxaro, noted for its Sicanian archeological site overlooking the River Platani. Here we'll have a bread baking demonstration followed by a light **lunch** and then a visit to the old town and the Sicanian site. Evening at leisure and overnight in Agrigento.

**Thursday:** **Breakfast** and check-out followed by a visit to Piazza Armerina's ancient Roman villa, one of the best-preserved residences of its kind, famous for its mosaics. Then we'll visit Caltagirone, known for its ceramic art, with time at leisure for lunch and shopping. Arriving in the Baroque city of Ragusa, we'll have **dinner** in a local trattoria. Evening at leisure and overnight in Ragusa.

**Friday:** Following **breakfast**, tour Ragusa and then Modica in the Iblean Mountains for a chocolate making demonstration (chocolate was introduced here centuries ago based on an Aztec recipe) and light **lunch**. Then we'll visit baroque Noto. Following time at leisure, departure for Catania and overnight.

**Saturday: Breakfast** followed by excursion to Taormina with time at leisure for shopping and lunch. In the afternoon we'll visit the slopes of Mount Etna to visit a winery. Farewell **cocktail** and return to Catania for evening at leisure and overnight.

**Sunday:** Following **breakfast**, transfer to Catania airport for departure.

### **Summary:**

**Prices:** €**1695.00** per person double occupancy (i.e. two persons per room), €**1950.00** single occupancy, payable by bank wire transfer or major credit card.

**Includes:** Eight (8) nights double-occupancy accommodation in 4-star hotels, transportation (coach or minibus) and tour escort for the entire trip, with all breakfasts, five lunches, two dinners and one cocktail in hotels or in restaurants as indicated with bottled mineral water included, 3 wine tastings (names of wineries upon request), 3 cooking demonstrations, airport-hotel transfers between 7 AM and 8 PM, admission fees at historic sites, all taxes.

**Does not include:** Additional alcoholic beverages (cocktails or beer) and soft drinks, gratuities (tips) to guide and driver, airfares, travel insurance, baggage portage (may be available at some hotels), airport transfers outside of hours indicated above, anything not mentioned under "Includes" above.

**Accommodation:** Double room with private bathroom. Single room with supplement. Hotels are usually the following but may be substituted with hotels of comparable (4-star) quality: Ai Cavaliere in Palermo, Villa Zina at Custonaci (outside Trapani), Il Barocco at Ragusa, Katane Palace at Catania. Check-ins at: Palermo (1 night) Custonaci (2 nights) Agrigento (2 nights) Ragusa (1 night) Catania (2 nights).

**Guide/Escort Language:** English.

**Dates offered in 2008:** Departures from Palermo (tour ends in Catania) on:

12 April

17 May

14 June

13 September

11 October

**Group Size:** From 4 to 12 participants.

### **Reservations:**

To reserve contact us at **historic-tour@bestofsicily.com** indicating "Culinary" in the subject line, or by phone at 39 091 626 9685, or fax 39 091 380 9900.

This tour is organized by **Chat & Tour** (Tradizione Turismo), Via Autonomia Siciliana 23, 90143 Palermo, Italy.

### **Conditions and Terms**

Payment may be effected by bank wire transfer or major credit card. Prices are indicated in euros and valid through 31 December 2008. In the event of currency conversion to euros, the conversion rate shall be that of the day of payment; in the event of several payments for a single service the conversion rate may vary slightly based on the day's current exchange rate. All services are prepaid at least one month prior to the beginning of the tour, with earlier payment or deposit (of at least 50% of the total cost) required to reserve a place in the tour. In the event of cancellation, the following portion of the total tour price will be claimed by the agency: 10% 20-29 days before departure, 25% 10-19 days before departure, 50% 4-9 days before departure, 90% within 3 days of departure. At its discretion, the agency may waive such claims. If purchased directly from the Italian tour operator, service shall be governed by the laws of the Italian Republic and the European Union. Local laws apply for any tour purchased through a travel agent outside Italy. It is the responsibility of each participant to be in possession of the necessary travel document, such as a valid passport. Basic services are insured in compliance with Italian law. We reserve the right to substitute hotels if necessary. Certain fees indicated, particularly admission fees at archeological sites, are subject to change without notice. Hotel

ratings are those established by the Italian travel commission and may differ from those indicated in privately-published travel guides. Tours depart from Palermo on dates specified. Unless the tour is purchased by a travel agent representing us, billing is processed through Chat & Tour, Palermo, Italy.