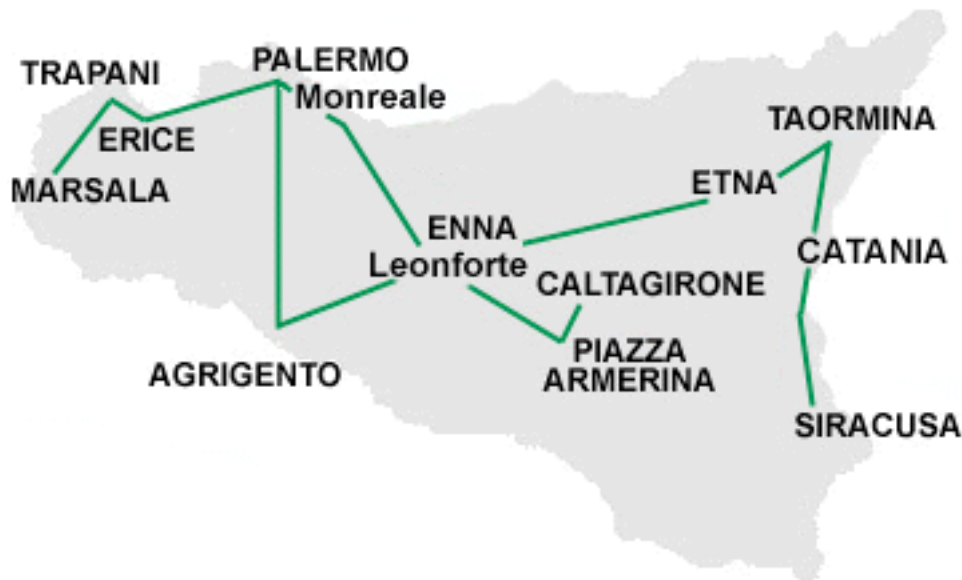


Historic & Cultural Tour 2008



The real Sicily and its multicultural history in a very special tour. Winery visits, country estates and visits to the island's most famous sights are part of a fascinating odyssey. Group size is 2 to 20.

Itinerary:

All breakfasts are included, other meals included are indicated in **bold face**.

Saturday: Arrival at Palermo. Meet your tour escort for a welcome **dinner** at a restaurant. Overnight in Palermo.

Sunday: This morning, we'll explore medieval Palermo. We'll visit the Norman abbey of Monreale, overlooking the city, famous for its Byzantine mosaics and Norman-Arab cloister. Following lunch we'll visit some of the city's Norman-Arab sights such as the Palatine Chapel, cathedral and Martorana Church. Evening at leisure. Overnight in Palermo.

Monday: Excursion to the charming medieval hilltop town of Erice, founded by Phoenicians and Elymians, and later rebuilt as a Norman stronghold. **Lunch** at an olive farm, followed by mid-afternoon departure for Marsala for a wine tasting. Return to Palermo for an evening at leisure. Overnight in Palermo.

Tuesday: This morning, following check-out, we'll head southward across rural Sicily to Agrigento's timeless Greek temples. Noon at leisure for dining. Then we'll depart for Villa Gussio, an aristocratic rural estate in Leonforte near Enna, to experience the rural Sicily of myth and folklore. **Dinner** and overnight at Villa Gussio, Leonforte.

Wednesday: Today we'll take a cultural excursion around the central highlands of Sicily. Following a brief stop in Enna to visit its castle, we'll proceed to Piazza Armerina to visit its ancient Roman villa. Enjoy lunch at your leisure in Piazza Armerina, an enchanting medieval town. In mid-afternoon we'll visit Caltagirone, known for its ceramic (majolica) art. Time at leisure for shopping, followed by return to Villa Gussio for **dinner** and overnight.

Thursday: Excursion down the Ionian coast to visit the Siracusa archeological site and old historical district (Ortygia). Home to Archimedes, ancient Syracuse was one of the most important cities of the Greek world. Time at leisure to enjoy lunch at a restaurant of your choice before returning to the estate.

Friday: Today (following breakfast and check-out) you'll travel up the slopes toward the summit of Mount Etna, Sicily's highest mountain and Europe's largest active volcano. Then to a nearby winery and its vineyards for a wine tasting and light rustic **lunch**. Later, we'll arrive at Catania for an

afternoon at leisure, farewell **dinner** and overnight.

Saturday: Check-out and transfer to Catania airport for departure.

Summary:

Prices: €**1599.00** per person double occupancy (i.e. two persons per room), €1850.00 single occupancy, payable by bank wire transfer or major credit card. Purchase conditions and cancellation policies follow.

Includes: Seven (7) nights accommodation in 4-star hotels (specifically Plaza Opera in Palermo, Villa Gussio Nicoletti in Leonforte, Monte Tauro or Villa Angela in Taormina, or substitutions if necessary), transportation (coach or minibus) and tour escort for the entire trip, with all breakfasts, 4 dinners and 2 lunches (some beverages included); 2 winery visits; all taxes; entrance fees at all scheduled historical/archeological sites; airport transfers (8 AM-7 PM), cableway fares at Erice and Etna, portorage for 1 piece of luggage at hotels.

Does not include: Alcoholic beverages (wine or beer) and other drinks unless indicated, tips (gratuities) to escorts, guides and drivers, airfare, meals not indicated, trip insurance, portorage at airport, anything not mentioned under "Includes" above.

Accommodation: Double room with private bathroom. Single room with supplement.

Guide/Escort Language: English.

Group Size: From 2 to 20 participants.

Dates offered: From Palermo (tour ends in Taormina) as indicated.

Tours begin on:

19 April

10 May

7 June

28 June

6 September

20 September

18 October

Reservations:

To reserve contact us at **historic-tour@bestofsicily.com** indicating "Historic" 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.