

SIMPLY SICILY

SICILY (ONE OF THE PEARLS OF SOUTHERN ITALY)

Food and Wine Tour to Sun-drenched Sicily

WHY SICILY?

Simply letting yourself live in Sicily is Beautiful!

DAY ONE: ONE NIGHT IN PALERMO



- Alitalia operates a flight from Rome to Palermo. On arrival to Palermo airport you will be transferred to your hotel in the heart of Palermo.
- Wine tasting at Enoclan, a Sicilian Wine Museum, in a frescoed palace in the heart of Palermo at 11 a.m. Lunch at the Antica Focceria di S. Francesco in the heart of Palermo, offers the local cucina povera to all.
- Half day tour of Palermo by minibus.
- Dinner at La Torcia, Palermo with sommelier Guido Ferla .

DAY TWO: MENFI FOR TWO NIGHTS

- Morning visit to Donnafugata winery for a wine tasting.
- On to Erice, a tiny hilltop town famous for its pasticceria. We will meet Maria Grammatica, featured in 'Bitter Almonds' who learnt how to make wonderful pastries with almonds and citron growing up with nuns in an orphanage!
- Wine tasting and cheese platter with our charming host Principe Francesco Spadafora at his winery.
- Transfer to Menfi.

DAY THREE:

- Morning visit to Cantina Planeta, a modern young Winery putting Sicily on the map!
- Cooking class and lunch at: Villa Ravida, Menfi

DAY FOUR: ON TO MODICA FOR 2 NIGHTS



- Day trip to the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento.
- Transfer to Modica.
- Dinner at Trattoria Nicaustra, Modica.

DAY FIVE:



- Visit to cheese factory with DOP Caciocavallo Ragusano.
- Visit to Valle d'Irminio – for an olive oil tasting and light lunch.
- Afternoon visit to meet the gregarious and welcoming Franco Ruta at the Antica Dolceria di Bonajuto for a chocolate demonstration and a tasting of fabulous pastries with coffee.
- Dinner at Valentinos, Friggintini. Our host Giovanni, is a great chef, whose passion for creating dishes using local ingredients is fascinating to watch. I once had a risotto made with an orange mushroom which only grows occasionally on a carob tree!

DAY SIX: TRANSFER TO SIRACUSA FOR 3 NIGHTS

- Accomodation at Alla Giudecca on the island of Ortigia. Half day tour of Siracusa by minibus.

DAY SEVEN:

- Afer breakfast, discover the splendour of Taormina, a natural terrace overlooking he sea, with its elegant medieval streets lined with shops and cafes.
- Lunch at Slowfood restaurant Il Castelmola.
- Wine tasting at Palari. Loc. Santo Stefano Briga.

DAY EIGHT:

- After breakfast, leave for Ragusa and Ibla-its old city. This area is famous for its stunning Baroque architecture and is also regarded as the culinary centre of Sicily (The Antica Drogheria sells local products such as carob honey, oil form chiaramonte and local cheeses and smallgoods).
- We will visit Noto the baroque city of Sicily stopping to eat some local produce for lunch.-try the exceptional almond milk with almond granita

DAY NINE: TRANSFER TO SALINA FOR 3 NIGHTS

- We'll take the aliscafo from Milazzo to Salina, the pearl of the Aeolian islands.
- Accomodation and dinner at Mamma Santina's with our host, the tall, dark and handsome Mario Gullo. Mario cooks traditional dishes from Salina's cucina povera.

- Choice of a light lunch, eating the traditional pane cunzato made by Piero Olivieri and his brother or the best granita on the island, at Bar Alfredo.
- Wine tasting at Carlo Hauner Winery, famous on the island for reviving interest in the wine of the island, the liquid gold nectar-Malvasia. Dinner at Mamma Santina's.

DAY TEN:

- Excursion by boat with either Simone or Alessio Follone, around the island of Salina. Watch the boys grill fish on board with some Sicilian wine.
- Cocktail at sunset at the Hotel Sant Isobel in Malfa.

DAY ELEVEN:

- Excursion by aliscafo to Panarea, home of the European jetset.
- Lunch at the beautiful restaurant 'Da Pina's. Pina has been cooking island cuisine for decades, and has even produced a cookbook or two! The restaurant is run by her daughter Giovanna, whose hospitality is outstanding.
- Dinner with Peppe Savarese from Mare Luna, who also cooks modern Sicilian dishes with his own personal flair. He is quite a personality, and the setting is exquisite.

DAY TWELVE:

- Guests Departure. You can choose to either take the aliscafo to Milazzo and then train to Palermo or Catania, after a short taxi ride to the station. You can take the aliscafo to Naples or the ferry from Rinella to Palermo or Naples. Or you can choose to stay on and relax a few days, before continuing your journey.

TOUR INCLUDES:

4 and 3 star hotels, all excursions, wine tastings, breakfast daily, 7 dinners and 7 lunches.

Does not include airfares or wines purchased with meals. If for any reason, part of the itinerary has to change, we will be offering an equivalent at the same high standard. We are very excited to be able to welcome you to meet people who are passionate about what they do and are excited to share it with Australians.

BOOKING CONDITIONS:



Price per person \$2,995.00 twin share (TOUR ONLY)
Single supplement \$500.00

Security deposit and final payment.

A deposit of \$500 is required per person to secure a reservation.
Full payment of the tour is required 40 days prior to departure.

CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS:

If you cancel or terminate your holiday a cancellation fee will be charged. The price of the holiday is not guaranteed until payment in full is received by **RUSHDOWN TRAVEL PTY LTD**.

Prior to full payment, there will be no refund of your deposit unless we are able to fill your place. in this case, a cancellation fee will be charged and the balance refunded.

- 1) If notification is received 8-4 weeks prior to departure 70% of the total.
- 2) If between 4-2 weeks prior to the departure 55% of the total.
- 3) If between 2-4 weeks prior to departure 30% of the total.
- 4) If one week or less prior to deaprture 15% of the total.

TRAVEL INSURANCE:

We highly recommend travel insurance. the policy should cover loss of the deposit through cancellaiton and should cover health and medical expenses and baggage loss or damage. the medical system in italy is unlike that in australia and should you need your own doctor or specialist, you should ensure that you have an option to return to australia.

Pre existing medical conditions must be communciated to you travel insurer.

RUSHDOWN TRAVEL PTY LTD

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