

Sede operativa:

ERIS Centre - Suite 309

Via Pulica s.n.c. - Lotto Colle del Gelsomino
I95025 - Aci S. Antonio (CT) - ITALY

info@bluestonesicily.com

www.bluestonesicily.com

(+39) 095 7652696 Tel ext. 309 - Fax ext. 319

WINE & GASTRONOMY

Immerse your senses in the Sicilian delicious dishes

9 days /8 nights

Palermo (1 night) Trapani country side (2 nights), Agrigento (2 nights)

Ragusa (1 night), Catania (2 nights)

Departure: GUARANTEED (with a minimum of 4 signed)

Small size group: Maximum 12 clients

Day 1 (Saturday) Palermo

You are greeted at Palermo airport and transferred to your hotel. Upon arrival, time to unpack and rest, or own exploration of the town. Tonight, enjoy a Welcome Dinner at local restaurant. **(D)**

Day 2 (Sunday) Monreale Dome & Valle dello Jato Winery

After breakfast, we will show you where the Arab-Norman art and architecture reached the pinnacle of its glory with the Dome of Monreale, launched in 1174 by William II, with its golden mosaics ceiling representing scenes from the Old and New Testaments. Then, driving across the country side, we'll soon arrive in the Valle dello Jato, an important Sicilian site where strong and rich perfumed wines are born, with their complex structure and long persistent finish. The white wines have powerful citrus fruit and floral notes on the nose, typical of the grapes of Catarratto, Grillo, Viognier and Chardonnay. The red wines are elegant and full of flavors of savory red berry fruits, which are typical of Nero d'Avola, Merlot and Syrah. On arrival, visit to the winery and tasting of local wines. Lunch at the winery. This afternoon, we continue to the Custonaci-Trapani side. Light-dinner at hotel. **(BB L D)**

Day 3 (Monday) Erice, Olive Oil Factory & Cooking Experience

Following breakfast, we will be transferred to Erice, the medieval hill town. In Erice we'll visit a lovely pastry-shop to taste local marzipan and almond-based candies, made from recipes developed generations ago. Then, we continue to a great Olive Oil Factory, to visit the oil mill and enjoy an olive oil tasting. Later, we'll meet the Country-Chef. The Chef will teach us how to prepare some of the most representative recipes of the culinary tradition of the province of Trapani, such as "*Pasta alla Trapanese & Involtini alla Siciliana*". All of us will help preparing the dishes for the light-lunch. **(BB L)**

Day 4 (Tuesday) Salt Way Road, Marsala & Menfi Winery

This morning, we'll drive across the romantic Salt Way Road, where we'll admire the saline-saltpans and the huge windmills. We soon arrive in Marsala, home of the world-famous Marsala Wine and main town for wine-production. Transfer to an important Sicilian winery for visit and wine tasting. Then we'll continue to Menfi to reach a *Sicilian Baglio-Winery*. The Baglio, located on a promontory, overlooks the Vallone, through which, in the homonymous land lying to the north-east of Menfi, runs the San Vincenzo River. The Baglio is surrounded with 12 hills contained between the Belice valley natural reserve and the Carboj valley, degrading towards the Mar d'Africa. The landscape is characterized by the alternation of vineyards, olive groves, citrus orchards, brooms and daisies, carobs and a valuable variety of prickly pears from Santa Margherita del Belice. Light-lunch will be in the Baglio. In the afternoon, we depart to Agrigento whose history dates back to 580 BC. Tonight we will enjoy a

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panoramic tour to the Temples Valley by night, a unique and stunning view of the magnificent cluster of Greek ruins **(BB L)**

Day 5 (Wednesday) Sant'Angelo Muxaro & the Sicilian Pane Cunsatu and Country Pizza

This morning we will depart to the country town of Sant'Angelo Muxaro. Obviously, one who has never been here can't but be surprised and pleasantly awed when, from the provincial road that from Agrigento meanders into the inland along curves, twists and bends between mountains and hills, will find himself almost immediately in front of a unique and spectacular view. On a lonely hill, in the centre of the valley of the river Platani and surrounded by wild and harsh vegetation, a handful of houses lie on the sheer slope of the hill itself: this is the small town of Sant'Angelo Muxaro. On arrival, we meet **Donna Concetta**. She will teach us Pizza and Bread preparation. Simple light-lunch to taste *Sicilian Pizza* and *Pane Cunsatu*, a typical home-made bread with olive oil, pecorino cheese. During the afternoon, brief visit to the little city centre and local shops to admire the elderly men who weave the traditional straw-fruit-baskets. In the afternoon, back to Agrigento. **(BB L)**

Day 6 (Thursday) Piazza Armerina & Caltagirone

This morning departure to Piazza Armerina, a spectacularly sited town lying inland in central Sicily. Here, we visit the famous Roman hunting lodge from the 4th century B.C. Its fine mosaics, displayed inside the villa, are the most spectacular in Sicily. Then, we continue to Caltagirone, famous for Sicilian pottery. Time at leisure for shopping. Later on, departure to Ragusa, the heart of Sicilian baroque. Tonight, dinner at local trattoria, to taste the local *Ravioli alla Ragusana* **(BB D)**

Day 7 (Friday): Ragusa, Chocolate in Modica & Baroque in Val di Noto

This morning, walk in the historical town of Ragusa Ibla, which hosts a wide array of Baroque architecture, including several stunning palaces and churches. Later we depart to Modica. The city is situated in the Iblean Mountains and, along with Val di Noto and Ragusa; it is part of UNESCO Heritage Sites in Sicily. The economy of the area is principally based on the dairy cheese & agricultural producing olives, carobs, legumes, cereals; an extraordinary and unique product is the famous *Chocolate of Modica*, produced with an ancient and original Aztec recipe. On arrival, transfer in a local restaurant where we will see a chocolate cooking demonstration and tasting. Light-Lunch will be at local restaurant. This afternoon we will continue to the lovely Noto, famous for its fine honey colored buildings of the early eighteenth century, considered among the main masterpieces in the Sicilian baroque style. Time at leisure. Later departure to Catania. **(BB L)**

Day 8 (Saturday) Taormina & Etna Winery

In the morning, transfer to Taormina. On arrival, own visit to explore the town or time at leisure for shopping. During afternoon we drive across the country side, and we reach the largest volcano in Europe and one of the most active in the world. Much of the surrounding landscape is covered with solidified lava. Thanks to this lava and the volcano minerals, the wine in this area is really unique and different from other Sicilian wines. On arrival, transfer to a local winery: this estate also produces a local preserve and a great olive-oil with lemon/garlic/pepper. Enjoy a delicious Farewell Cocktail & Sicilian Snacks. Later, back to Catania. **(BB FC)**

Day 9 (Sunday) Catania

Time to say goodbye to Sicily while as we are transferred to Catania Airport (CTA) for our return flight. **(BB)**

Meal Legend: BB Breakfast L Lunch D Dinner FC Farewell Cocktail

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FIRST CLASS HOTELS ON THIS TOUR:

Palermo:	Hotel ai Cavalieri
Trapani Province:	Villa Zina Park Hotel
Agrigento:	Colleverde Park Hotel
Ragusa:	Hotel il Barocco
Catania:	Hotel Katane Palace

Note: Hotels may be substituted with others of similar category

FIRST CLASS WINERIES ON THIS TOUR:

Valle dello Jato:	Cantine Calatrasi
Trapani Province:	Donnafugata, Cantine Florio, Pellegrino, Rallo
Menfi:	Cantine Planeta, Lanzara-Baglio San Vincenzo
Etna:	Cantine Murgo-Tenuta San Michele, Benanti, Antichi Vinai

Wineries may be substituted with others of similar category

HIGHLIGHTS:

Palermo	Sicily's vibrant capital
Monreale	Gold mosaic's scene from the Old and New Testaments
Valle dello Jato	Winery
Erice	Medieval Hill Town, Sicilian Marzipan
Trapani district	The Olive Oil Factory, Cooking Experience
Marsala	Salt Way Road & Winery
Menfi	Winery
Agrigento	Panoramic View to the Temples Valley by night
Sant'Angelo Muxaro	Cooking Demonstration & Pane Cunsatu, Country Pizza Tasting
Piazza Armerina	Roman Hunting Lodge from the 4th cent. B.C.
Caltagirone	Sicilian Pottery
Ragusa	Ragusa Ibla Baroque Town
Modica	Extraordinary Chocolate from Aztec Recipe
Val di Noto	Masterpieces in the Sicilian Baroque
Taormina	Best Sicilian Site
Mount Etna	Active Volcano & Winery

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PRICE ARE EUR PER PERSON, LAND ONLY, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

TOUR RATE:

Euros 1699.00 per person in double occupancy

Euros 1950.00 per person in single occupancy

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

- ✓ Private Airport Transfers for services done from h 8:00AM to h 7:00PM
- ✓ Eight nights accommodation in first class properties
- ✓ Buffet continental breakfast daily
- ✓ Three visit to Sicilian cellars and tasting Sicilian wine
- ✓ Deluxe Van/mini-coach with Air Conditioning
- ✓ English speaking Tour Director/Driver as per program
- ✓ Welcome Dinner at local restaurant with group set-menu, ¼ lt. local wine
- ✓ One light dinner at hotel with set menu
- ✓ One visit to Sicilian Olive Oil and tasting
- ✓ Farewell Cocktail and Sicilian Snacks at winery
- ✓ One light lunch at winery-farmhouse in Menfi
- ✓ One cooking course in Trapani province followed by a light lunch
- ✓ One pizza and pane-bread cooking demonstration in Sant'Angelo Muxaro
- ✓ One dinner at trattoria in Ragusa, set menu
- ✓ One chocolate demonstration and one light lunch at restaurant, set menu
- ✓ Admission fee included for all sites and other activities as per itinerary
- ✓ Hotel & City Taxes
- ✓ Natural mineral water at included meals

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

- ✓ Intercontinental Flight
- ✓ Gratuities to Tour Director and Driver
- ✓ Tips
- ✓ Porterage at airport
- ✓ Luggage handling fee at hotel
- ✓ Gratuities to Local Guide
- ✓ Beverages and meals not mentioned in the program
- ✓ Travel Insurance
- ✓ Airport Transfer done h 8:00PM to h 7:00AM clients have to pay the night-use supplement Euros 20.00 per person each way

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DEPARTURE

Sat Apr 12

Sat May 17

Sat Jun 14

Sat Sep 13

Sat Oct 11

RETURN

Sun Apr 20

Sun May 25

Sun Jun 22

Sun Sep 21

Sun Oct 19

CANCELLATION POLICY, per person

Bluestone tourism services S.a.s. reserves the right to cancel or reschedule any tour departure in accordance with operating requirements or circumstances beyond its control. If cancellation is made anytime prior to departure of the tour Bluestone tourism services S.a.s. only liability will be to refund to the passenger the amount it has received for the tour booking.

In case clients need to cancel the tour, read below our Cancellation Policy

Days Prior to Departure	Cancellation Fees
30 or more days	Euros 50.00
29 - 20 days	25% of the Tour cost
19 - 15 days	50% of the Tour cost
14 - 4 days	75% of the Tour cost
3 - 0 days	100% of the Tour cost

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT

A deposit of 20% per person is required at the time of reservation. At that moment a signed contract is required to hold your reservation. Final payment of the tour is due 60 days prior to departure.

List of Hotels will be advised 20 days before departure