



SELF DRIVE 2019 CLASSIC departing from PALERMO Net rates (without car) Valid from 01.01.19 to 31.12.19

Classic Itinerary from Palermo

An unique journey in a « mythical » world, a Greek, Arabic-Norman, Baroque itinerary, discovering the origins of history. A classical Tour of Sicily, visiting the main cities that made this island a place rich of history and culture. A very interesting itinerary especially from the artistic and cultural point of view, in an island that once was a province of the western Phoenician world, a rival of Greece, a school of culture for Rome, butthole of its empire, a brilliant extension of Africa with the Mosaics of Piazza Armerina but also Gothic and Baroque style, etc...

1st day: Palermo

Arrival at the Airport of Palermo – Car delivery and transfer to Palermo

Overnight: Palermo area

2nd day: Palermo town - Monreale - Segesta – Erice – Trapani area

From Palermo to Segesta - Km 80 (highway + Provincial road - about 1h00)

From Segesta to Erice - Km 42 (highway + State road + Provincial road – about 40mn)

From Erice to Marsala - Km 47 (highway + State road. + Provincial road – about 55mn)

Palermo ancient capital of the Norman reign, fascinating city where old buildings have a glorious past

Monreale famous for the decorative mosaics of the Dome

Segesta mythological place with the Doric style temple built outside the city walls at the end of the Vth century B.C. but also important for the theatre that overlooks the sea.

Erice Fascinating Medieval village: the churches, the castle but also the breathtaking view of the “Belvedere”.

Recommended tours: Palermo with its impressive Cathedral, Palazzo dei Normanni and the Palatine Chapel, and also the Dome and the Benedictines cloister of Monreale; Segesta: the Temple and the Greek Theatre; Erice and the fortifications of the Punic period, the Castle of Venere and the Medieval historical centre, and do not forget to taste the typical regional almonds desserts;

Overnight: Trapani area

3rd day Trapani area - Marsala - Mothia – Selinunte – Agrigento area

From Marsala to Selinunte – Km 55 (highway + State road - about 1h00)

From Selinunte to Agrigento – Km 96 (State road + Provincial road - about 1h30)

Marsala renowned for the famous sweet wine « Marsala » perfect with desserts, but also for the island of Mothia and the Salinas with still working mills and the museum of Salt.

Isola di Mothia Punic centre where the Phoenicians in the VIIIth century B.C. built their outpost towards Sicily, connected to land by a road that today is submerged by the waters of the “Stagnone”, a big pond.

Selinunte the most important archaeological area in Europe, proof of the Hellenic civilization in Sicily, at the bottom of the Acropolis a beautiful sandy beach where Ulisse went ashore as the legend tells.

Recommended tours: the Salinas and the Florio Winery in Marsala, the island of Mothia (the fortifications and the towers, the tophet and the cothon, the Necropolis and the Whitaker museum) ; the archaeological Park in Selinunte.

Overnight: Agrigento area

4th day: Agrigento area – Piazza Armerina – Siracusa or Ragusa area

From Agrigento to Piazza Armerina – Km 99 (State road + Provincial road - 1h30)

From Piazza Armerina to Siracusa – Km 146 (Provincial road + State road + highway - 2h00)

From Piazza Armerina to Ragusa – Km 104 (Provincial road + State road + highway - 1h45)

Agrigento one of the most important archaeological place in the Mediterranean basin, recently classified by the Unesco World Heritage Site.

Piazza Armerina where the Roman mansion “Villa Romana del Casale” is situated, famous for its mosaics.

Recommended tours: the « Valle dei Templi » in Agrigento, the impressive Doric temples on the sacred hill (the temple of Hera Lacinia, Concordia, Eracle, Giove Olimpo and Castore and Polluce); Piazza Armerina: the roman villa, “Villa Romana del Casale”, built in the Imperial Rome that has as main feature the polychrome mosaics of the floors in ceramics (one of the most important archaeological discovery of the Roman period in Sicily).

Overnight: Siracusa or Ragusa area



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5th day: *Siracusa o Ragusa area – Catania area*

From Ragusa to Siracusa – Km 93 (State road + Provincial road + highway – about 1h30)

From Siracusa to Catania – Km 65 (State road + highway – about 45mn)

Ragusa Ibla, the first thing that strikes is the breathtaking city view from the bends of corso Mazzini. It looks like a painting, with the grey colour of its buildings and the green around, revived by the colours of the buildings and the Majolica domes of the church of Santa Maria dell'Itria. The majestic Dome of San Giorgio, erected at the beginning of the XVIIIth century, has an impressive baroque construction.

Siracusa to enjoy the living proves of the Sicilian Baroque almost entirely concentrated around Piazza del Duomo, heart of the social and religious life of the town, but also prestigious city of the ancient world, the most powerful rival of Athens and Rome, that so far still preserves important remainings of that period, and it was also the city where Archimede was born.

Recommended tours: in Siracusa the temple of Minerva trasformed in a christian Cathedral, the legendary source Aretusa, the Apollo temple and above all the Greek theatre and the Roman amphitheatre situated near the *latomie* (stone quarries) where it is possible to visit the one called *Paradiso* but also the Dionisio's Ear, and then, the baroque city of Siracusa with its Cathedral and its beautiful square "*Piazza Duomo*", the church of S. Lucia alla Badia, Palazzo del Senato, Palazzo Beneventano, Palazzo Borgia, Via delle Maestranze (the church of S. Francesco and Palazzo Impellizzeri with its extraordinary masks), Via Vittorio Veneto (the church of S. Filippo Neri and the church of Carmine); Ragusa Ibla: the Cathedral of San Giovanni, the church of Purgatory, Madonna dell'Itria, Palazzo Battaglia, Palazzo Cosentini, Palazzo Cancelleria, Palazzo La Rocca.

Overnight: Catania area

6th day: *Catania area - Etna - Taormina –Catania area*

From Catania to Etna – Km 61 (Provincial road + highway - about 01h20)

From Etna to Taormina – Km 86 (Provincial road + highway – about 1h30)

From Taormina to Messina - Km 53 (State road + Provincial road + highway – about 00h40)

Catania beautiful city of the "black" baroque, with the classic baroque style of Giovan Battista Vaccarini, which alternates the black lava rock with the white limestone, so different from the other towns of Val di Noto.

Etna: the biggest volcano in Europe, is 3.323meters high with a circumference at the bottom of about 250 km and a volcanic total area of 1400 square meters. Despite the fact that it is still active and has many times proved his destructive power, its slopes extremely fertile are cultivated and inhabited by thousands of people. Mount Etna consists of several smaller craters and two large ones: the Trifoglietto, situated in the magnificence *Valle del Bove*, and the Mongibello.

Taormina located on Mount Tauro, is called the "Island in the sky", one of the most charming tourist attraction in the world.

Recommended tours: Catania: Piazza Duomo with its magnificent sandstone and basalt facade, Palazzo dei Chierici, Palazzo degli Elefanti, the Town Hall. Palazzo Biscari dating the XVIth century built by the most illustrious architects of that time, Via dei Crociferi, expression of the baroque Catania, the majestic Monastery of the Benedictines; Mount Etna, the dormant craters of Mount Silvestri at an altitude of 1800mt and Taormina, perfect for going shopping but also for visiting the Greek-Roman theatre.

Overnight: Catania area

7th day: *Catania area – Messina - Cefalù – Palermo area*

From Catania to Messina Km 96 (highway - about 01h30)

From Messina to Cefalù – Km 161 (State road + highway - about 01h45)

From Cefalù to Palermo – Km 70 (Provincial road + highway - about 1h00)

Messina "the door of Sicily" with panoramic view on the Messina Strait and the Calabrian coast.

Cefalù small village situated on the sea, famous for its beauty and its impressive Arabic-Norman Cathedral dated XIth century

Mondello small village of fishermen and bathing area of Palermo rich of "art nouveau" style.

Recommended tours: Messina Piazza del duomo with the Astronomical clock and the small lakes of Ganzirri, Mussels breeding of Faro; Cefalù: the Dome with the mosaic of Christ Pantocrator and city centre; Mondello a walk along the seaside to admire the Bathing Establishment and the "art nouveau" villas where the European nobility of the end of the nineteenth century came to spend winter.

Overnight: Palermo area

8th day: *Departure*

Departure from the Airport Falcone Borsellino – Palermo