



Eastern Sicily

Catania – Messina – Enna – Ragusa – Syracuse



One of the first Mediterranean holiday destinations, Sicily is the most richly endowed island in the Mediterranean, steeped in history and legend and in every respect an island of contrasts.

Catania is the dynamic and fashionable second city of Sicily. The city boasts one of the greatest Roman ruins - the Amphitheatre in Piazza Steseicoro - and has the fabulous baroque Piazza del Duomo and the Cathedral of Santa Agatha where the composer Bellini is buried. The coastline between Catania and Taormina has many fishing villages like Acireale with excellent restaurants serving a variety of sea food.



UNESCO World Heritage sites

The baroque cathedral in Noto; Villa Romana del Casale; the towns of Caltagirone, Militello in Val di Catania, Catania, Modica, Palazzolo Acreide, Ragusa and Scicli; the Aeolian Islands; Syracuse; Mount Etna, and the Cathedral churches of Cefalù and Monreale.



Best Beaches

Six Sicilian beaches have been awarded blue flag status for their water being among Europe's cleanest. They are: Porto Paolo (Menfi); Pozzallo (Ragusa); Ispica (Ragusa); Fiumefreddo-Cottone (Catania); Spiaggia Bianca (Lipari); Marina di Ragusa (Ragusa).



Mpanatigghi di Modica

Typical cakes from the Ragusa province, traditionally made during Easter, are filled with Modica chocolate and fine mince meat! For chocaholics, a visit to the 'Antica Dolceria Bonaiuto' cake shop in Modica is a must.



Arancini

These fried and breadcrumb-coated rice balls are either filled with meat, tomato sauce or mozzarella, and are the Sicilian snack of choice. Try one - you won't be disappointed.

Mount Etna

Wherever you are, Mount Etna, Europe's tallest active volcano at 3,320m, towers above. The fertile volcanic soils support extensive agriculture with vineyards and orchards spread across the lower slopes and the broad plane of Catania to the south.

UNA Palace Hotel, Catania

UNA Hotel Palace is housed within an elegant turn-of-the-century building in the heart of Catania along Via Etnea, the city's main shopping street. Traffic is restricted in this area but guests arriving by car can park in the street behind the hotel. This modern hotel has a stunning rooftop terrace, American bar and restaurant serving traditional Sicilian cuisine. It cannot be beaten for its central location which gives easy access to the major sites, museums, and historic of the city.

Accommodation: 94 air-conditioned rooms including classic rooms, executive rooms and superior rooms.

- Airport: 6km Catania
- 4-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- City centre location
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant

Guide price from **£880 per person***



Commenda di San Calogero, Brucoli

San Calogero is a former feudal estate on the extreme outskirts of the Iblean plateau, looking out towards Mount Etna and between Catania and Syracuse. The surrounding landscape is one of undulating valleys with dry stone walls with the San Calogero River running through it. The owners, who occupy the east wing of the property, invite guests to take a tour of the grounds to discover its many hidden treasures.

Accommodation: 12 air-conditioned rooms including standard rooms, superior rooms and junior suites.

- Airport: 30.9km Catania
- Country estate
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Rural location
- Swimming pool
- Spa

Guide price from **£809 per person***

Agriturismo Fondo Cipollate, Mitogio-Castiglione di Sicilia

Surrounded by the scent of the orange groves and the gentle landscape of this rural property, Gabriella and Francesco know exactly how to make their guests feel at home. The house stands among the hills of the Alcantara valley, overlooking the Ionian Sea. The sense of the past remains, thanks to the sensitive refurbishment and tasteful furnishings: every corner seems to speak of the old rural life of Sicily in days-gone-by.

Accommodation: 10 air-conditioned rooms including 3 double and 7 twin bedrooms.

- Airports: 66km Catania
- Agriturismo
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Hillside location
- Swimming pool

Guide price from **£809 per person***



* Guide prices based on 2-sharing a leading room type (7 nights), flights from London Gatwick to Catania (other airports on request) and private transfers (Catania) or car hire. Note: We cannot guarantee that any of our featured properties are suitable for all levels of disability so please ask if you have specific issues. Please visit our website for further information on these and other featured properties.

The North Coast

Visit one of the many splendid beaches, inlets and resorts on the Tyrrhenian Sea coast such as Capo d'Orlando, Tindari and Milazzo - a charming town known mainly for its port and main link to the Aeolian Islands.

Tenuta San Michele, Santa Venerina

Since 1850, the Tenuta San Michele has been devoted to the cultivation of vines and the production of the famous Etna wine, thanks to its favourable position on the slopes of Mount Etna (500m above sea level), which rises to the south east of the property. Today, the Scammacca family, dedicate themselves to all the activities associated with the production of wine and, for more than 10 years, have opened the doors of the Tenuta San Michele to rural tourism.

Accommodation: 15 units including standard rooms and 1-bedroom apartments.

- Airport: 43km Catania
- Agriturismo
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Rural location
- Swimming pool
- Wine Estate

Guide price from **£603 per person***



Villa Sonia Hotel, Castelmola

This charming family-run hotel is located at the entrance to the delightful mountain top village of Castelmola. The village offers a good selection of bars and restaurants and the Hotel Villa Sonia is just a short, uphill, stroll from the main street where guests will delight at the spectacular views towards Mount Etna and Taormina.

The hotel rooms are nicely decorated in a typical Sicilian style, with many antique furnishings and all with modern facilities.

Accommodation: 44 air-conditioning rooms including classic rooms, superior rooms, deluxe rooms and suites.

- Airport: 73km Catania
- 4-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Hilltop location
- Restaurant
- Swimming pool

Guide price from **£825 per person***

Antica Tindari, Patti

The Antica Tindari is a family-run property surrounded by a vineyard and situated in the rolling hills of Tindari. The property has four rooms which are romantic and charming, with full terraces from which you can enjoy the stunning scenery. Guests will delight in tasting the locally produced wines and enjoy a host of healthy dishes, featuring locally grown, organic products. The property's vineyard and winery overlook the Gulf of Patti and the Aeolian Islands beyond.

Accommodation: 7 air-conditioned rooms including standard rooms, triple rooms and family rooms.

- Airport: 166km Catania
- Agriturismo
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Rural location
- Swimming pool
- Wine Estate

Guide price from **£627 per person***



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Taormina

Perched on a series of high terraces overhung with semi-tropical gardens and surveying a breathtakingly beautiful coastline, Taormina has an elegance and style created by a rich history in which the Greeks, Romans and Spaniards all had a hand.

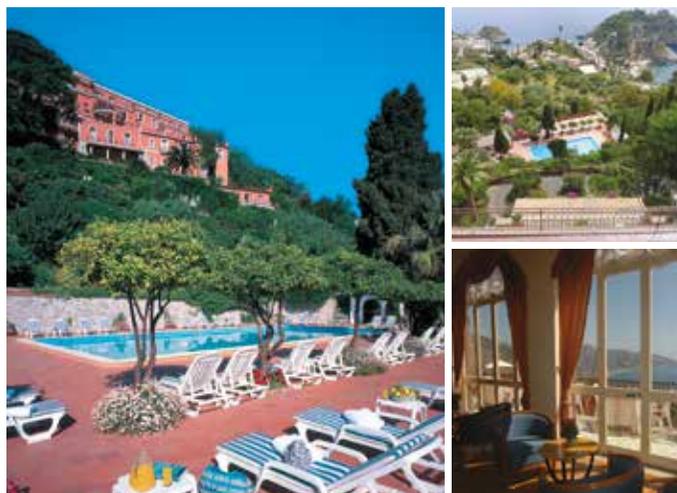
Grand Hotel Miramare, Taormina

This centrally located hotel has a beautiful panorama of the Bay of Mazzaro and Isola Bella. Set in its own extensive terraced gardens, it is one of the few hotels in Taormina that provides ample parking (40 spaces) for guests. The interiors are traditionally decorated with spacious public rooms and a large, open-air, panoramic terrace with views over the swimming pool and the eastern coastline of Sicily. The historical centre of Taormina is within easy walking distance (10-minutes) of the hotel.

Accommodation: 68 air-conditioned rooms including standard rooms, classic rooms, superior rooms, junior suites and a suite.

- Airport: 68km Catania
- 4-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Hillside town location
- Restaurant
- Swimming pool

Guide price from **£916 per person***



The Ashbee, Taormina

The Ashbee was originally built as a private villa in 1908 from designs by architect Robert Charles Ashbee, famed as an early member of the Arts and Craft movement. Today it has been transformed into a luxury hotel offering all the comforts required for a relaxing stay. Each of the 25 guest rooms are spacious and have been individually decorated to a high standard, with many featuring antique furniture. The beautiful, landscaped gardens include many exotic plants and fruit trees.

Accommodation: 24 air-conditioned rooms including classic rooms, superior rooms, deluxe rooms and suites.

- Airport: 68km Catania
- 5-star deluxe hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Hilltop town location
- Restaurant
- Swimming pool

Guide price from **£1,304 per person***

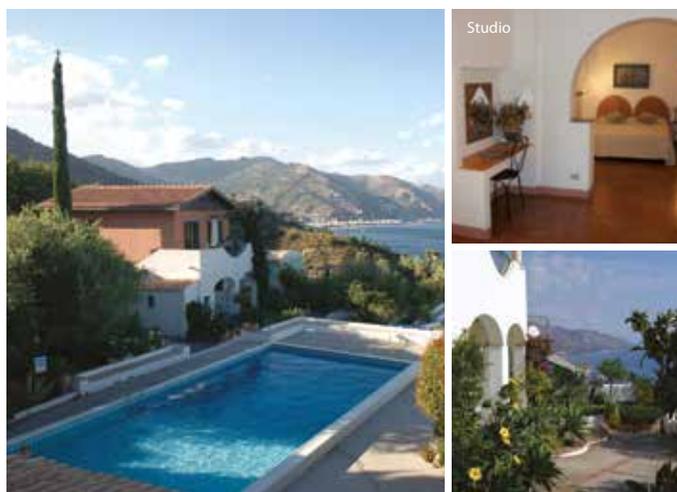
Terra Rossa Apartments, Taormina

A collection of nine small cottages situated on the slopes below Taormina and above the beach resort of Mazzarò. Splendid views from the gardens towards the sea and Isola Bella can be enjoyed from the swimming pool and sun terrace. Each cottage consists of three self-contained units, being two studio apartments on the ground floor and one 2-bedroom apartment located on the first floor.

Accommodation: 30 units with ceiling fans including studios and two-bedroom apartments.

- Airport: 68km Catania
- Apartments
- Hillside location
- Self Catering
- Swimming pool
- WiFi (payable locally)

Guide price from **£537 per person***



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Syracuse

Syracuse, founded by the Greeks in the 7th century BC, retains ancient Roman ruins, one of the largest Greek Theatres in the world and a fascinating array of classic monuments and baroque façades.

Royal Maniace Hotel, Syracuse

The Royal Maniace Hotel is set in an enviable position on the island of Ortigia, the historic centre of Syracuse and overlooking the Ionian Sea. Tastefully decorated, the hotel's interiors and contemporary design create a pleasant atmosphere and make it an ideal place to relax. There is a small garden to the rear and pleasant seafront views to the front. The close proximity to the baroque centre of Ortigia along with easy access to the modern metropolis of Syracuse, makes this charming hotel

the perfect choice for either a short break or longer stay.

Accommodation: 21 air-conditioned rooms including classic rooms, superior rooms, deluxe rooms and junior suites.

- Airport: 65km Catania
- 4-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Historic centre location

Guide price from **£969 per person***



Grand Hotel Ortigia, Syracuse

Located a few metres from the sea in the fabulous historical centre of Ortigia Island, the Grand Hotel Ortigia epitomises an elegant era long since passed. The hotel was renovated and refurbished in the original 'Liberty' décor, so maintaining its unique atmosphere. There is a rooftop restaurant 'La Terrazza sul Mare' with panoramic views over the harbour of Porto Grande and, for those who enjoy a little pampering, a wellness centre with Turkish bath and two massage rooms (payable locally).

Accommodation: 58 air-conditioned rooms including standard rooms, junior duplex suites, a senior suite and a deluxe suite.

- Airport: 65km Catania
- 5-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Historic centre location
- Restaurant

Guide price from **£1,084 per person***

Algila Ortigia Charme Hotel, Syracuse

This charming hotel is located within two Baroque palaces in the historic centre of Syracuse. Facing the seafront on Ortigia island, the Algila is positioned next door to one of the island's best spas and only a 5 minute walk from the Duomo (Cathedral). There is a distinct Arab feel in the main palace with its Tunisian tiles, watercolour depictions of dried palms and empty Mahgreb streets and even a riad-like courtyard with a fountain. The second palace (Bongiovanni), located across a narrow street, houses a 14th century courtyard and staircase.

Accommodation: 52 air-conditioned rooms including classic rooms, superior rooms, deluxe spa rooms, junior suites and a suite.

- Airport: 63.3km Catania
- 4-star superior hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Historic centre location
- Restaurant

Guide price from **£1,274 per person***



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Baroque towns of the Val di Noto

Discover the impressive baroque south-east. Surrounded by wild countryside and rolling hills and bordered by the Mediterranean Sea are the towns of Caltagirone, Militello Val di Catania, Catania, Modica, Noto Palazzolo, Ragusa and Scicli.

Agriturismo Il Granaio, Modica

Within the Val di Noto, a 5-minute drive from Modica, the Granaio welcomes its guests into a tranquil family atmosphere. This rural property, built on the foundations of an old farmhouse, stands in the deep Iblean countryside, characterised by wide fields and unending pastures. Hospitality and good food are not lacking: Giovanni will suggest places for you to visit and will sometimes even be your guide and his mother will delight you with traditional Sicilian and Ragusan dishes.

Accommodation: 14 air-conditioned rooms including a single room, standard rooms and suites.

- Airports: 117km Catania
- Agriturismo
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Rural location
- Swimming pool
- Spa

Guide price from **£606 per person***



Palazzo Failla, Modica Alta

Located in the historic heart of Modica Alta, this elegant boutique hotel is housed in an 18th century building with an ornate baroque façade. The antique furnishings, frescoed ceilings and original flooring make for a charming property full of hidden gems. Guests can enjoy Sicilian dishes in the restaurant, and coffees, pastries and wine in the adjoining café bar. Tastings of typical chocolate from Modica, local excursions and excellent personal service make this hotel an ideal choice to explore the area.

Accommodation: 10 air-conditioned rooms including single rooms, classic rooms, a relax room, superior rooms, deluxe rooms and a junior suite.

- Airport: 110km Catania
- 4-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Hilltop town location
- Restaurant

Guide price from **£718 per person***

Modica Palace Hotel, Modica

Located in the heart of the baroque South Eastern corner of Sicily, the Modica Palace Hotel stands in the commercial centre of Modica. This charming and elegant property is surrounded by a tranquil, well-maintained garden with stunning views. From the hotel terrace guests can admire the wonderful sight of the Iblean Plateau with its carob, almond and olive trees, encircled by dry stone walls. The view descends towards the sea, referred to locally as the 'Sea of the Ancient Gods'.

Accommodation: 33 air-conditioned rooms, including standard rooms, superior rooms, deluxe rooms, junior suites and suites.

- Airport: 118km Catania
- 4-star superior hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Swimming pool
- Town centre location

Guide price from **£567 per person***



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Ragusa Ibla

Ragusa Ibla's historic centre is quite stunning and a joy to wander through with its narrow alleyways, grey stone houses and baroque palazzi that open onto beautiful, sun-drenched squares.

La Moresca Hotel, Marina di Ragusa

This delightful, owner-managed hotel, built in 1926 has been completely refurbished with style, taste and attention to detail. Nothing seems too much trouble for the staff of this property. It is more like a home than a hotel and you are assured a warm welcome. There is an inner courtyard with lush scented vegetation and the location is peaceful and set back three blocks from the square that is the heart of this little village that overlooks the sea shore.

Accommodation: 14 air-conditioned rooms including classic rooms and superior rooms.

- Airport: 148km Catania
- 4-star boutique hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Coastal town location

Guide price from **£1,234 per person***



La Scibina, Marina di Ragusa

La Scibina is a delightful, family-run property located in the seaside resort of Marina di Ragusa. The property, formerly a warehouse for almonds, was completely transformed in to a very stylish and elegant hotel in 2013. Through careful restoration, the owners have managed to create a functional yet elegant residence, stylishly equipped with all modern comforts. The spacious apartments have been cleverly designed so as to also be used as hotel rooms by simply closing off the doors to the kitchen-diner.

Accommodation: 7 air-conditioned units which can be arranged as either apartments (SC) or rooms (BB).

- Airport: 121km Catania
- 4-star boutique hotel
- Bed & Breakfast (BB)
- Self Catering (SC)
- Complimentary WiFi
- Coastal town location
- Swimming pool

Guide price from **£655 per person***

Relais Torre Marabino, Ispica

This elegant property, housed within an ancient stone watchtower dating back to the 1500's, is surrounded by an orchard of olive and carob trees in the Ragusan countryside of Ispica. The building has been tastefully restored maintaining a traditional Sicilian feel and offers spacious guestrooms with a warm and friendly service. Ispica is centrally located between the two provinces of Ragusa and Syracuse, and is an ideal base from which to visit the Sicilian baroque towns of Modica, Ragusa Ibla, Scicli and Noto.

Accommodation: 7 spacious rooms including superior rooms and duplex suites.

- Airports: 110km Catania
- Agriturismo
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Rural location
- Swimming pool

Guide price from **£868 per person***



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Enna province

Visit the archaeological sites of Villa Romana del Casale, housing the largest collection of Roman mosaics in the world; Castello di Lombardia, the largest castle in Sicily; and Morgantina, an ancient site dating back to the Bronze Age.

Masseria Mandrascate, Valguarnera

This ancient fortified farm, built in the 17th century, lies in typical Sicilian countryside with geese and chickens running loose in the courtyard. The rooms are furnished with care, in Sicilian style, with antique family furniture, which blends perfectly with "recovered" pieces, such as the cobbler's bench which serves as a bedside table, or the cupboard, once part of a window. The swimming pool, surrounded by aromatic plants and fig trees, has a panoramic view stretching as far as the Madonie mountains.

Accommodation: 6 air-conditioned rooms including standard rooms and superior rooms.

- Airport: 74km Catania
- Agriturismo
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Rural location
- Swimming pool
- Wine Estate

Guide price from **£743 per person***



Le Querce di Cota, Troina

In the hills around Troina, the first Norman capital of Sicily, stands this ancient baglio, built at the end of the 19th century and bearing witness to the old rural life of Sicily. A baglio was composed of the main house, together with buildings used for the farm workers and for carrying out rural activities. Today, the building has been adapted for rural tourism, thanks to the sensitive work of restoration carried out by Giuseppe and Concetta, whose hospitality is warm and friendly.

Accommodation: 9 air-conditioned rooms including standard rooms and junior suites.

- Airport: 74km Catania
- Agriturismo
- Bed & Breakfast
- Restaurant
- Rural location
- Swimming pool

Guide price from **£581 per person***

Agriturismo Gigliotto, Piazza Armerina

The origins of Gigliotto can be traced back to the 14th century, to the monastery next to which, in later years, arose the farm which today forms the heart of the building. Standing on a hill and surrounded by vineyards and fields of prickly pear, it enjoys an enchanting view. On clear days Mount Etna can be seen in the distance. The pride of this agriturismo is its winery, which can be visited, and which produces an excellent wine made from Nero d'Avola grapes.

Accommodation: 26 rooms, located in three separate buildings, including standard rooms and superior rooms.

- Airports: 89km Catania
- Agriturismo
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Rural location
- Swimming pool
- Wine Estate

Guide price from **£734 per person***



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Scicli



Ragusa Ibla

*Guide price based on 2-sharing includes:

- Flights from London Gatwick to Catania (other airports on request)
- 8-days car hire
- 7-nights Agriturismo Il Granaio, Modica BB

Departures
Daily

Duration
7 nights

Guide price from
£686 per person*

Follow in the footsteps of Inspector Montalbano and beyond

Itinerary: 8 days / 7 nights

Inspector Montalbano is a fictional character created by the Sicilian writer Andrea Camilleri in a series of novels and short stories. The character was then adapted for TV. The main character lives and works in the fictional town of Vigàta, in the equally fictional district of Montelusa. Our suggested itinerary follows in the footsteps of the Italian detective and visits some of the most important historical sites to be found in the south eastern corner of Sicily.

Day One: On arrive, collect your hire car and drive to your hotel.

Day Two: Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Scicli (17km) which is full of wonderful baroque architecture. The Montalbano TV series is set in Scicli which doubles as the fictional town of Vigàta. Visit the town hall (Municipio) - Montalbano's office (Commissariato di Vigàta). The Palazzo Iacono on via Mormino Penna, a few metres away, represents the Questura of Montelusa (Police station).

Day Three: Head to the Castello di Donnafugata (37km), a new-gothic mansion that dates back to the 1800's. The house is the fictional home of Balduccio Sinagra, the local mafia boss, who meets Inspector Montalbano in the episode 'Excursion to Tindari'. En route to Ragusa, stop at Grotta delle Trabacche, an ancient cemetery from the Roman period, where Montalbano finds two dead bodies in the episode 'The Terracotta Dog'.

Continue on to Ragusa Ibla and have lunch (not included) at La Rusticana which is the 'Trattoria San Calogero' in the series, on Corso XXV Aprile, where Montalbano normally lunches. Visit the town's main square, Duomo di San Giorgio, which doubles as Vigàta's fictional square. Stroll through the characterful streets, steeped in baroque architecture.

Day Four: Spend time in Modica (9km), another baroque jewel which is also the setting for many episodes. Take time to enjoy some of Modica's delights including the local dark chocolate produced from an ancient Aztec recipe.

Day Five: Drive to Syracuse (75km), a former Greek city which boasts many ancient artefacts from the period. Visit the island of Ortigia which has an enchanting historical centre dominated by its Cathedral (Duomo), with a dramatic baroque façade.

Day Six: Visit the Villa Romana del Casale in Piazza Armerina (111km). This Roman manor house, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, boasts the largest, most complex collection of Roman mosaics in the world, many of which have been recently restored. Spend the afternoon in Caltagirone (31km), noted for its Sicilian ceramics industry which dates back over a thousand years.

Day Seven: Day at leisure. Enjoy some last minute shopping or simply relax by the pool.

Day Eight: Drive to Catania airport for your return flight home.

Delicious Sicily

Itinerary: 8 days / 7 nights

Wine has been made in Sicily since ancient times. The soil and climate are ideal for the purpose and most farmers and smallholders would have had their own vineyard, producing wine for the family. Many varieties of grape are now cultivated and many different wines produced in what has become a wine-lover's paradise.

Day One: Arrive at Catania airport, collect your hire car and drive to Modica (117km).

Day Two - Dinner at Il Granaio: Day at leisure - spend the day visiting some of the island's most important Baroque towns, notably Noto, Modica, Ragusa Ibla and Syracuse (Ortigia Island), located in the south eastern corner of Sicily. Opportunity to taste the rich dark chocolate produced in Modica following ancient Aztec recipes and the delicious local cakes and pastries with their unique flavours. Enjoy a home-cooked meal at Il Granaio's restaurant - local recipes prepared by the owner's mother.

Day Three: Day at leisure. Drive to Piazza Armerina (116km) and visit the ancient Villa Romana del Casale, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This fabulous Roman Villa contains a collection of some of the most important, well-preserved mosaics in the world.

Day Four: Day at leisure. After breakfast, drive to your next property in Menfi (231km). This picturesque,

family-run winery is located in Sambuca di Sicilia in the Valle dei Belice, on Sicily's west coast. During the harvest season (Aug-Sep), guests are invited to participate in the winemaking process. En-route stop off in Agrigento to visit the impressive Valley of the Temples. This ancient, archeological park has six Greek Temples including one of the best preserved Doric Temples in the world.



La Foresteria cooking class

Day Five - Dinner at La Foresteria: Day at leisure. Take a cooking class, led by Chef Angelo Pumilia, using recipes from 'Sicilia, the cooking of Casa Planeta' cookbook. In the evening enjoy some wine tasting and an intimate meal in the substantial wine cellar.

Day Six: Day at leisure. Visit the Cantine Florio in Marsala (60km). The Woodhouses, the Inghams and the Whitakers were late 18th century English traders and merchants who became wealthy through exporting Marsala wine to England and the United States. They fortified the local wine with alcohol, using the Spanish solera system, thus enabling it to survive the long sea journey back to England and across the Atlantic. This was hugely successful and their successors continue to this present day, although there are no longer any members of the family left in Sicily. At the Cantine Florio, one can still admire (framed on a wall) Nelson's original order for wine for the Royal Navy, with which it was understandably very popular, signed by him as Duke of Bronte. After the Battle of Trafalgar it became, for a time, known as 'Victory Wine'.

Day Seven: Day at leisure. Visit La Planeta family cellars and oil mills for tastings and lunch (payable locally), or head to the coast to sunbathe on Menfi's 10km stretch of sandy beach.

Day Eight: After breakfast, drive to Palermo airport (108km) for your return flight home.

*Guide price based on 2-sharing includes:

- Flights from London Gatwick to Catania and returning from Palermo (other airports on request)
- 8 days car hire (one-way drop off fee payable locally)
- 3-nights Agriturismo Il Granaio, Modica BB
- 4-nights La Foresteria, Menfi BB
- Dinner at Il Granaio, Modica (Day 2)
- Dinner at La Foresteria, Menfi (Day 5)

Departures

Daily

Duration

7 nights

Guide price from

£989 per person*



Agriturismo Il Granaio



La Foresteria