



Sicily Food, Wines, History and Culture Tour

October 7-14, 2019 **\$2,995 PP Land PKG**

**** Leave USA on Sunday October 6th, 2019 for overnight flight. Change planes to Palermo Punta Raisi Airport. Return flight from Catania Fontanarossa airport to USA**

PROGRAM

Day 1 Monday October 7

Guests will arrive in Palermo. Our staff will be waiting for you, and after the normal settling, we will travel to our Hotel Relais Antiche Saline. Check-in is followed by the immersion into the atmosphere of the Saline or Salt fields and nearby museum of the salt available for visit. **Welcome dinner in the evening. Inclusions:** Transportation from airport to hotel. Welcoming dinner with wines / Lodging

Day 2 Tuesday October 8

Continental breakfast followed by departure toward the town of Erice. On our way we will stop at the Firriato winery, for a mid-morning tasting of the unique style wines. After a series of spectacular landscape, we reach Erice located on top of Monte San Giuliano, approximately 751 meters above sea level. Here you will admire the astonishing panorama of the city of Trapani and its medieval styled architecture. At Erice, we will sample the famed "Genovesi", a typical sweet made of pate' brisee' filled with rich pastry cream. From Erice we'll reach San Vito Lo Capo, where we will dine on the shore on shrimp, tuna, swordfish and much more, and where the romance of dining is the protagonist. Relax time after dinner and time permitting a chance for a little street strolling. Return to our hotel in the evening. Pack your bags... we are moving tomorrow.

Inclusions: Breakfast / Winery tasting event / Genovesi sweets tasting / Dinner based on seafood with wines / Transportation / Lodging

Day 3 Wednesday October 9

Continental breakfast, followed by early departure toward Monreale to admire the famous Duomo, perhaps one of the most beautiful churches in Sicily filled with its rich Byzantium mosaics. The church is included into the UNESCO patrimony. We continue our journey toward Palermo. We will visit the chaotic Ballarò Outdoor Market and its Arabesque atmosphere. Here, we'll have a lunch in the afternoon on Sicilian street food, such as arancine, octopus with olive oil and lemon, and many more distinctive specialties related to the Sicilian gastronomy. Afterwards we indulge in a strolling through the city, to admire the Cappella Palatina and the Teatro Massimo. Our visit to the most emblematic sites of Palermo will be followed by a long drive toward the Eastern Sicilian city of Siracusa. Check-in at our new home Hotel Parco delle Fontane. Welcome cocktail paired with crafted finger food, and a moment of relaxation after a long, exhausting day.

Inclusions: Breakfast / Sicilian style Lunch with wines / Transportation / Welcome cocktail with finger food / Lodging



Day 4 Thursday October 10

Continental breakfast will be followed by an intensive day dedicated to the city of Siracusa, birthplace of Archimedes and ancient Greek colony that has conserved its fashionable appeal and a UNESCO World patrimony to humanity. Our first stop will be at vast archeological site which include the splendid Greek amphitheater and the Ear of Dionysus cavern. Afterward we will move toward the island of Ortigia, and get ecstatic on the beauty and harmony of Piazza del Duomo, and the Duomo itself, containing the ancient structure of the Greek temple. In the same piazza we'll visit another unique church containing the immeasurable work of Caravaggio. Afternoon lunch will follow in typical trattorie, with a cuisine that reflects the culinary philosophy of Eastern Sicily. In the late afternoon; free time to peruse the romantic streets of Ortigia, maybe get hooked on a house-made gelato with the Bronte pistachio or be tempted by a boat ride around the island. Return to the hotel in the evening for the overnight.

Inclusions: Breakfast / Transportation / Sicilian style Lunch with wines / Lodging

Day 5 Friday October 11

Continental breakfast will be followed the natural reserve of Vendicari, located toward the southern portion of the Sicilian island. In this particular surrounding a specialized guide will introduce you to the incredible habitat of forestry, while meeting new bird species and the Sicilian flora and fauna. We will then proceed toward the area of Pachino, the land of the cherry tomatoes, which has been awarded with the DOC appellation. Visit to a production company, tasting of the pachino in its various forms, and in the late afternoon we'll travel to the lively and picturesque fisherman's village of Marzameni. **Dinner based on local seafood** in this unique town which still conserves the typical architecture of its noble past. Return to hotel in late evening.

Inclusions: Breakfast / Transportation / Pachino tomato tasting / Dinner with wines / Lodging



Day 6 October 12

Continental breakfast and leisure time after a packed program. In the mid-morning we'll depart toward the ancient city of Taormina for centuries the destination of noble intellectuals, talented artists, writers, and visitors from all over the world. Here, we will visit the Greek theater, the undisputed gem of the city, suspended between the earth and the sea, with the Mount Etna proudly resting on the horizon. Here, you will have some free time to enjoy an historical strolling through the site, filled with mandatory selfies. We gather again for lunch in typical local Sicilian trattorie. Our journey continues to the caves of the Alcantara, where the lava has settled through time creating basaltic designs. Our return journey will include a stop at a local winery where we will sample some great wines justly awarded with the DOC appellation as well. Return to hotel in the evening for the overnight stay.

Inclusions: Breakfast / Sicilian style Lunch with wines / Wine tasting with samples
Transportation / Lodging

Day 7 Sunday October 13

This day is dedicated to the Baroque Era. Continental breakfast will be followed by a visit to Ragusa Ibla, the ancient city first abandoned after the devastating earthquake of 1693, and after rebuilt by the local aristocracy. We will board a small train through the tiny streets to admire the Duomo of San Giorgio. Along the way we'll stop for a tasting of local Sicilian salamis and cheeses, and among them the Ragusano DOP. We'll continue our baroque experience in Modica, whiling climbing stairs to reach the Church of San Giorgio. From atop we'll reach Corso Umberto I. Here; we'll sample the world-renowned chocolate of Modica DOP and the incredibly-tasting luxury of the cannoli, specifically made by the Bonajuto pastry emporium, the oldest in Sicily. Our baroque day has to conclude in the town of Noto, with a relaxing stroll through the open-air Corso Vittorio Emanuele, which opens into the magnificent Cathedral of San Nicolò. **Our farewell dinner** will be held in a setting which was once a vintage church. As we approach the end of this incredible and breathtaking experience, may we will stimulate our gluttony with a gelato at Dolceria Costanzo or a granita of fresh fruit at Caffè Sicilia. Return to hotel for the necessary last-minute forgettable and pack up for our return home tomorrow morning. **Inclusions:** Breakfast / Salami & Cheese tasting / Modica Chocolate tasting / Cannoli tasting / Farewell dinner with wines / Lodging

Day 8, Monday October 14

Early breakfast followed by the departure toward Catania Fontanarossa Airport for the connecting flights, based on scheduled departures.

Inclusions

7 nights lodging in 4 star Hotels **** (Double accommodation)

7 full Continental breakfast ▪ 4 Dinners complete with wines & more ▪ 1 Street Food lunch with wines at Ballaro' ▪ 1 Lunch with wines in Siracusa ▪ 2 Wine tasting with pairing foods DOC ▪ 1 Cannoli dessert tasting ▪ 1 Chocolate (Modica) Tasting ▪ 1 (one) Genovesi Sweets Tasting ▪ 1 Tasting of Pachino tomatoes DOC ▪ 1 Welcoming Aperitif in Siracusa ▪ 1 Tasting of cheeses and cured delicacies ▪ All transportation from and to airport ▪ Guides in English through tour ▪ All entrance to museum and culture sites

Additional Trip Details

Single occupancy available for an additional \$375.00 PP / Suite \$ 600 on both Hotels
Deposit \$550 for reservation (non-refundable).

Please read our cancellation policy before making your payment. We will hold your reservation without deposit for 14 days. A \$550 non-refundable deposit is required to hold a reservation for tour at time of reservation. We reserve the right to modify the program based on unexpected factors.

Payments

By check payable to: Walter Potenza 286 Atwells Avenue, Providence RI 02903

• **Not included your Airfare** •

PAYMENT / Payment in full is required at least 90 days prior to departure REFUNDS / In the event that we must cancel a trip, you will be given a full refund of all deposits and payments.

We do not give refunds of deposits or final payments for tours that commence as scheduled, including for unused portions of the tour. We do give credit for cancellations as noted below.

Cancellation policy

In the event you cancel your tour for any reason, we allow credit for payments (but not the non-refundable deposit) in the following way: • 100% credit for future tours given with 90 days notice. • 60% credit for future tours given with notice of 60 to 89 days.

• 30% credit for future tours given with notice of 30 to 59 days. • No credit is issued for cancellation less than 30 days prior to start date of the tour. • All cancellation credits are good for one year from the start date of the originally scheduled tour. We strongly encourage trip insurance. (Contact your credit card company for additional information).

For details call 401.273.2652 or carmela@chefwalter.com

