

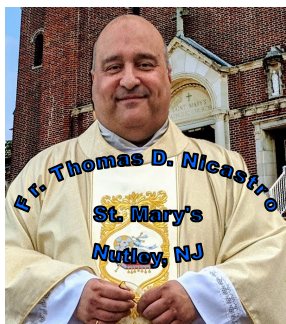


The Hidden Secrets of Sicily 2023

Cultural & Culinary Tour

Fr. Thomas D. Nicastro
of
St. Mary's
Nutley, NJ

September
1-12,
2023



Dear Friends,

This fabulous trip, a Culinary and Cultural treat, brings us to the sunny island of Sicily. A unique tour design, aspiring to discover the deepest essence of Sicily, by coupling, Sight-seeing of monuments with natural beauty and the pleasure of tasting this land through its gastronomical traditions and folklore. We certainly hope you can join us in the once in a lifetime adventure through the magnificent Island of Sicily.

Sincerely,

Fr. Tom Nicastro & Lou Falconeri

Fratelli & Company Group Tours

Complete Brochures & Pricing will be available soon!



Day 1 — USA//Palermo, Sicily

We board our trans-Atlantic flight to Palermo, Italy. Dinner and entertainment aloft. *For those not flying with the group, a time schedule and meeting points will be given prior to departure. Also, for those flying independently, overnights in hotels can be arranged through the agent/tour manager. Meals onboard.*

Day 2 — Palermo

Welcome to Palermo Sicily, upon arrival meet your Tour director and driver, transfer to the hotel in Palermo. This afternoon an orientation tour of the city will be offered. Tonight enjoy a typical Sicilian dinner (included) at a local restaurant in Mondello Palermo's seaside resort. Overnight in Palermo. (D)

Day 3 — Palermo City Tour/"The Bizarre, the Mythical, the sinister"

Morning departure to Monreale, famous for the splendid Cathedral plated with golden mosaics. This afternoon we will also visit the Convento dei Cappuccini, a macabre museum featuring 8000 mummies organized by their life profession or *Bagheria*. As a end to the day's tour we will stop at a local cantina/enoteca for a glass of wine while our local guide tells us a bit about the factors that account for the origin, development and influence of Sicily's peculiar criminal phenomenon known as the "mafia". This evening will be a culinary event at the famous "Lo Strascino" trattoria. Entering "Lo Strascino" is equivalent to a dip in the past, reliving atmosphere in which the Sicilian cart and strascinate. Overnight in Palermo. (B,D)

Day 4 — Palermo/Marsala/Cefalu

Today we will set out to the area of Trapani, in the western part of Sicily. The hills of this region produce some of the best wines and olive oils. The first stop on today's agenda will be the most ancient salt plants still in operation in Mothia bay followed by visit of Donnafugata, a top wine producer in this region. Today, wine tasting with "assagi" will be in one of the ancient wine cellars of Marsala. Enjoy included lunch. Overnight in Cefalu. (B,L)

Day 5 — Madonie Mountains/Cefalu

After breakfast today we will depart for the Madonie Mountains Natural Park and a visit to an old, working farm. We will witness the centuries old art of making "ricotta" Ricotta is one of the most renowned of Sicilian cheeses, and a basis for many recipes. Lunch (included) with wine will be at the farm, that is to say, lunch by your own hand! This working farm, with a restaurant attached, affords you the opportunity to get into the kitchen and get your hands dirty. Typical Sicilian dishes will be prepared by you with the guidance of the experts. (B,L)

Day 6—Cefalu/Agrigento/Taormina

Morning departure for Taormina, en route we visit Agrigento founded as a Greek colony in the 6th century B.C., Agrigento. This splendid archaeological park consists of eight Greek temples built between 510 BC and 430 BC. These Temples are among some of the best preserved Greek structures in existence today. Dinner (included) and overnight in Taormina. (B,D)

Day 7— Taormina/Mount Etna/Taormina

Today will be one of the most impressive natural sites and experiences of the entire trip. Sicily's famous fiery volcano, magnificent Mount Etna. Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Mount Etna is Europe's tallest active volcano. Lunch (included) today will be along the slopes of Etna in the "Wine Farm Barone di Villagrande 1727". Tonight dinner is on your own and overnight in Taormina. (B,L)

Day 8 – Taormina – Aeolian Islands (Weather permitting)

Today we depart for the seaport city of Milazzo. Small yet stunning, the island of Panarea is a picture-perfect delight boasting a tiny whitewashed village surrounded by pristine beaches. Enjoy some free time to explore. After watching the sun set over the steaming volcano, head back to port and enjoy a light dinner on board your boat. Then, it's time for your evening's highlight: a boat ride around the island to see Stromboli's volcanic activity. Cruise until you reach a clear spot for viewing Sciara del Fuoco, where the most dramatic lava eruptions take place. Overnight in Taormina. B,D

Day 9 —Taormina - Relax ! OR a Day Off the Beaten Path—Agira, Province of Enna Today enjoy Taormina, one the Europe's most impressive resorts for the jet-setters. It was here, in romantic Taormina, that a self-exiled D.H. Lawrence was inspired to write Lady Chatterly's Lover, one of the most passionate and erotic love stories of its era. Taormina has endlessly winding medieval streets and tiny passages, each with its own secrets - great restaurants, cafés and ice cream bars. Dinner (included) in Taormina in one of the city's many trattorias and overnight.

Day 10 – Siracusa /"The Godfather" - "Il Padrino" / Savoca

Today you will depart for the 2000 year old city of Siracusa (Syracuse), once one of the most important cities of the ancient world. You will visit the Archaeological Park with its Greek and Roman Theaters and the Paradise Quarry. Later, inland to Savoca which is considered to be one of the most attractive places in the environs of Taormina. Bar Vitelli with a gorgeous terrace, has a collection of photographs taken when Francis Ford Coppola shot some scenes of "The Godfather II". The table where Micheal Corleone sat to ask the "padrone" for the hand of his delightful daughter Apollonia is still there. After, we can walk to the church "Chiesa Madre" where Michael's wedding ceremony took place. Then enjoy a few minutes free time for a "granita" in the Bar Vitelli before we return to Taormina for Dinner. (B,D)

Day 11— Free Day at leisure in Taormina / Farewell Dinner

Today will be a day to totally enjoy yourself, natural rising, no wake up call! Take time to do some last minute shopping and/or sightseeing. Your tour manager will have suggestions if you would like to take a day excursion. Tonight enjoy your farewell dinner at "La Griglia" restaurant. (B,D) Overnight will be in Taormina.

Day 12—Italy – USA

Today, we bid not farewell, but *Arrivederci* (see you again) as we transfer to the airport.