



In cooperation with



Italy's Glorious South & Sicily Group Tour

Departing from Cleveland

May 17- 31, 2018.15 days/13 nights

Personally escorted by Peter D'Attoma President of DaVinci Custom Travel & Tours.

Here 's your chance to discover Sicily's stunning natural beauty and its incredible diverse landscape with rolling hills and valleys swathed in grapevines, medieval gems, marvel at its wondrous mosaics , historical sites, dramatic coastline surround by beautiful islands. From here cross over into the region of Puglia, Italy's Piccolo California, renowned for its relaxed easy paced atmosphere, charming historical towns, the Adriatic Sea with its crystal clear blue and emerald green waters, fantastic foods, wine and authentic festivals. Continue to the beautiful coastal town of Sorrento, the Amalfi Coast, Pompeii and the Eternal City of Rome.

Day 1/ Thursday May 17- DEPARTURE FROM CLEVELAND

Today will check-in CLEVELAND HOPKINS AIRPORT for our overnight TRANS-ATLANTIC flight bound for ROME FIUMICINO AIRPORT.

Day 2 /Friday May 18 - WELCOME TO SIRACUSA, SICILY

Today's Program

Morning arrival into **ROME FIUMICINO AIRPORT**. After clearing all entry formalities, we will claim our checked luggage and proceed to check –in for our domestic flight to **CATANIA FONTANAROSSA AIRPORT**. Upon our arrival and after claiming our luggage exit into the arrival area to meet with our **ENGLISH** speaking tour director who will escort us to our private deluxe A/C motor coach for our transfer directly to **SIRACUSA**. Check –in to our hotel. After our group check –in there will be time to rest and relax from our overnight flight or take a lovely walk enjoying the facilities of our hotel. This evening we'll enjoy our group welcome dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight in **SIRACUSA**. (D)



Day 3/ Saturday May 19 – MARZAMEMI & NOTO

Today's Program

Buffet breakfast at our hotel. Following breakfast meet with our tour director for our departure to NOTO & MARZAMEMI. Our first stop will be the city of NOTO, lined with handsome palaces, churches and many Baroque monuments. Once destroyed by earthquake, today this is one of Sicily's most beautiful baroque cities, whose heritage, both for importance and beauty, have been declared World Heritage by the UNESCO. Here we will meet Corrado Assenza, the master of all Sicilian pastry chefs, who will delight us with his amazing and unique pastry creations (gelato, jams, creams). Afterwards we'll continue to visit Marzamemi, a former fishing town in the outermost southeast corner of Sicily. The narrow alleys have a picturesque dreamy charm. In the past ships departed from its



port carrying large amounts of locally produced wine to the different ports of the peninsula. A great development had the famous cherry tomatoes along with the local wine production, fishing, and processing of seafood products such as tuna, roe red (Bottarga), carved by craftsmen using ancient drying systems derived from the Arabic-Phoenician culture. Marzamemi is definitely one of the most fascinating places in Sicily, having preserved the authenticity of places and building structures typical of ancient seafaring and agricultural companies. Return to our hotel in the early evening. Dinner this evening at leisure. Overnight in SIRACUSA. (BB)

Day 4/ Sunday May 20- DEPART SIRACUSA & ARRIVE IN TAORMINA

Today's Program

Buffet Breakfast at our hotel. Following breakfast check –out of our hotel.

This morning we'll meet with our local guide for our guided walking tour of SIRACUSA & ORTIGIA. Of all the Greek cities of antiquity that flourished on the coast of Sicily, SIRACUSA was the most important. In the heyday of its power, it dared to take on both Carthage and Rome. At one time, its wealth and size were unmatched by any other city in the ancient world, and today it is one of the richest historical sites in Europe. The ideal way to view SIRACUSA is on foot, wandering slowly among the gold-tinted palaces, bell towers and its archaeological area. We will visit the major archaeological sites, including the famous Greek Theater and the cave called "The Ear of Dionysius," because of its unusual shape, resembling a human ear. Finally, we will enjoy the elegant island of ORTIGIA, where we will admire the architectural splendor of ancient medieval streets, baroque structures, and classic churches as the Duomo, built upon the old temple of Athena. At the completion of our tour we'll board our motor coach to depart for TAORMINA, a beautiful resort town perched high above the cliffs of Mount Tauro and known for its unspoiled natural beauty. Check –in to our hotel. Lunch at leisure along the way. In the afternoon visit TAORMINA ALTA, 200 metres above sea level, it looks down onto the Ionian Sea like a terrace, the prettiest you have ever seen. Over the centuries, this place has fascinated wretched poets and writers and restless painters who decided to put down roots here. An emotion that takes your breath away is what comes to everyone when they see the Greek-Roman Theatre, this unbelievable work by mankind that stands on the mountain and from where one's gaze drops down to the deep blue sea and to Etna, an unsettling presence that manages to stay in harmony with the landscape.



Dinner at leisure. Overnight in Taormina (BB)

Day 5/ Monday May 21 - THE ETNA VOLCANO, FIUMEFREDDO & VILLA of THE GODFATHER.

Today's Program

Buffet breakfast at our hotel. Following breakfast we'll depart for The MOUNT ETNA the most active volcano in Europe and one of the oldest recorded active volcano in the world. Weather and volcanic conditions permitting, you will experience the lava fields and incredible view of Europe's highest and most active volcano. After the excursion you will visit the Scillo Winery, an ancient estate located on the slopes of the Mount Etna. Enjoy a typical Sicilian lunch paired by their finest wines. Afterwards depart for the village of Fiumefreddo where you will experience an extraordinary private visit to the CASTELLO DEGLI SCHIAVI VILLA setting for Francis Ford Coppola GODFATHER 1 ,2. & 3. We will be hosted by the owner Franco Platania who will enlighten us with the history of the filming of this epic movie. Return to our hotel in the early evening. Dinner at leisure and overnight TAORMINA. (BB & L)



Day 6/ Tuesday May 22 – CATANIA AND COAST of THE CYCLOPS

Today's Program

Buffet breakfast at our hotel. Following breakfast we'll depart for CATANIA where we will have the chance to visit Sicily's largest fish market followed by the visit of the city centre, the Roman Amphitheatre, its beautiful Baroque Churches and Squares. Catania has had a long and eventful history, having been founded in the 8th century BC. In 1434, the first [university](#) in Sicily was founded in the city. In the 14th century and into the [Renaissance](#) period, Catania was one of Italy's most important cultural, artistic and political centers. The city has a rich culture and history, with many museums, restaurants, churches, parks and theatres. Catania is well known for its street food. Lunch at leisure. Afterward continue to visit the beautiful coastline called THE CYCLOPS RIVIERA, visiting the coastal villages of ACITREZZA & ACIREALE, jewels of the Ionian Coast. Return to our hotel in the early evening, dinner at leisure and overnight TAORMINA. (BB)



Day 7 /Wednesday May 23- ARRIVEDERCI TO SICILY. ARRIVE APULIA!

Today's Program

Buffet breakfast. Check –out of our hotel. This morning meet with our tour director for our transfer to CATANIA AIRPORT for our flight to BARI. Upon arrival meet with our local tour escort for our transfer to BARI COUNTRY SIDE, where you enjoy a visit to one of the most famous olive oil mill in the region of Puglia, followed by olive oil tasting and lunch. After lunch transfer to the beautiful town of OSTUNI. Check –in to our hotel centrally located in the historical city Centre of Ostuni. The "Old Town" is Ostuni's citadel built on top of a hill and still fortified by the ancient walls. Ostuni is commonly referred to as "The White Town" (*La Città Bianca* in [Italian](#)) for its white walls and its typically white-painted architecture. Monuments in their own right, the town's largest buildings are the [Ostuni Cathedral](#) and the Bishop's Palace, together with a number of palaces of local aristocratic families. Balance of the day at leisure to explore the city on your own. Dinner is included this evening at a local restaurant centrally located in Ostuni. Overnight in Ostuni (BB , L & D)



Day 8/Thursday May 24 – LECCE, OSTUNI & Ceglie MESSAPICA

Today's Program

Buffet breakfast at our hotel. Following breakfast we'll depart to LECCE. Meet with our local English speaking guide to enjoy a visit of the city of LECCE, an historic [city](#) of 93,300 inhabitants in [southern Italy](#), the [capital](#) of the [province of Lecce](#), the third province in the region by population, as well as one of the most important cities of [Apulia](#). It is the main city of the [Salentine Peninsula](#), a sub-peninsula at the heel of the [Italian Peninsula](#) and is over 2,000 years old. Because of the rich [Baroque architectural](#) monuments found in the city, Lecce is commonly nicknamed "[The Florence of the South](#)". The city also has a long traditional affinity with [Greek culture](#) going back to its foundation. Lecce is also an important [agricultural](#) Centre, chiefly for its [olive oil](#) and [wine](#) production, as well as an industrial center specializing in [ceramic](#) production. Lunch at leisure.



Following our visit of LECCE we'll continue for a visit to Ceglie MESSAPICA well known for its Doge's Palace and for its historical city Centre. The area of Ceglie Messapica is located between the Murge and the Upper [Salento](#). After the visit board our motor coach for our return to *OSTUNI*. Dinner at leisure this evening. Overnight in *OSTUNI*. (BB)

DAY 9 /Friday May 25 –ALBEROBELLO & MARTINA FRANCA

Today's Events

Buffet Breakfast at our Hotel.

This morning following breakfast board our motor coach for our visit to the town of *ALBEROBELLO*. Alberobello (Literally "Beautiful Tree") is a small town and [comune](#) of the [Metropolitan City of Bari](#), [Apulia](#), southern [Italy](#). It has about 11,000 inhabitants and is famous all over the world for its unique [trulli](#) buildings. The Trulli of Alberobello have been designated as a [UNESCO World Heritage](#) site since 1996. Alberobello was first mentioned in the early



sixteenth century when the first 40 families got land to farm in the area. These houses were the first trulli which contributed to the expansion of the settlement. Lunch at leisure. In The afternoon we'll head to *MARTINA FRANCA*, another jewel of the Apulia Region. Visit of the village and return in the early evening to *OSTUNI*. Dinner at leisure and overnight in *OSTUNI*. (BB)

DAY 10/Saturday May 26 - POLIGNANO A MARE & CONVERSANO



Today's Events

Buffet Breakfast. This morning following breakfast board our deluxe A/C motor coach for our visit to the lovely seaside town of *POLIGNANO A MARE* a [comune](#) in the [Metropolitan City of Bari, Apulia](#) located on the [Adriatic Sea](#). The local economy mostly depends on tourism, agriculture and fishing. The area has been settled since prehistoric times, evidenced by archaeological excavations in the locality of Santa Barbara. It is believed to be the site of the ancient

Greek city of [Neapolis](#) of Apulia, not mentioned by any extant records but attested by many coins. Remains of the Roman domination include the bridge on the [Via Traiana](#). The former [cathedral](#) includes works by the sculptor Stefano of [Putignano](#). In the *frazione* of San Vito is a massive [Benedictine abbey](#). Lunch at leisure. This afternoon we'll transfer to the small town of *CONVERSANO* where we will attend the prestigious and authentic annual celebration of the *Madonna Della Fonte*. Dinner at leisure this evening in Conversano. Return to our hotel following dinner. Overnight in Ostuni. (BB)

DAY 11 / Sunday May 27- MATERA & ARRIVAL SORRENTO

Today's Events

Buffet Breakfast at our Hotel. This morning we'll check out of our hotel for our departure to the beautiful coastal town of *SORRENTO*. Along the way we'll stop for a visit and guided tour of *MATERA*, a city and a province in the region of [Basilicata](#), in southern Italy. In no other city do you come face to face with such powerful images of Italy's peasant culture. The location of Mel Gibson's choice for the film *THE PASSION of CHRIST*. The town lies in a small canyon carved out by the [Gravina](#). Known as "la Città Sotterranea" (the Subterranean City), *Matera* is well known for its historical center called "[Sassi](#)", considered [World Heritage Site](#) by [UNESCO](#) since 1993, along with the Park of the Rupestrian Churches. On October 17, 2014, *Matera* was declared Italian host of [European Capital of Culture](#) for 2019. *Matera* has gained international fame for its ancient town, the "Sassi di *Matera*" (meaning "stones of *Matera*"). The Sassi originated in a prehistoric [troglodyte](#) settlement, and these dwellings are thought to be among the first ever human settlements in what is now Italy. Lunch in *Matera* at leisure. Afterwards continue for arrival into *SORRENTO*. Check -in to our hotel. Dinner included at a local restaurant this evening. Overnight in Sorrento. (BB & D)



DAY 12 / Monday May 28 – THE AMALFI COAST

Today's Events

Buffet Breakfast at our Hotel. This morning meet with our tour director and local guide to board our motor coach for our full day excursion of the beautiful *AMALFI COAST* one of the most breath-taking coastlines in Europe that stretches 50 km east from Sorrento to the south. In 1997, the Amalfi Coast was listed as a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#) as a cultural landscape. We'll visit *POSITANO* with a panoramic view, considered the most picturesque of the coastal towns, *AMALFI* which was once a maritime superpower, with its beautiful Sant' Andrea Cathedral & *RAVELLO* with its natural balcony overhanging Amalfi and the Coast and famous for its villas & gardens like Villa Cimbrone & Villa Ruffolo. Lunch at leisure. Return to our hotel in the early evening. Dinner at leisure tonight . Overnight in Sorrento. (BB)



DAY 13 /Tuesday May 29 –POMPEII & ROME

Today's Events

Buffet Breakfast at our Hotel. This morning check –out of our hotel. Along the way we have scheduled a stop for a guided tour of the Archaeological Ruins & Excavations of Pompeii. Following our tour of Pompeii we'll stop for lunch at a typical Neapolitan Pizzeria. Continue for our arrival into *THE ETERNAL CITY of ROME*. Check –in to our hotel. Balance of the day at leisure. (BB, L)



DAY 14 /Wednesday May 30 – ROME AT LEISURE

Buffet Breakfast at our hotel. Today you will have a full day on your own independently at leisure to enjoy the Eternal City of Rome, a showcase of Western civilization, with its astonishingly ancient sights and magnificent piazzas. Take time to visit the Borghese Gallery, a beautiful villa set in the greenery of surrounding gardens. Enjoy the sheer beauty of the palace and its world class Baroque sculpture as well as paintings by Raphael, Caravaggio, Titian and Rubens. Take a stroll from the Piazza Del Popolo along the Via Del Corso to the Spanish steps, the Via Condotti where you will find Rome's most fashionable shopping. Visit the Trevi Fountain, the Ancient Lively neighbourhood of Trastevere offering the best look at medieval –village Rome.

This evening we will enjoy our included Farewell dinner at Ristorante Flavio Velavevodetto Ai Quiriti centrally located in Rome. Overnight in Rome. (BB & D)

DAY 15 /Thursday May 31 – DEPARTURE FROM ROME TO USA

Today's Events

Buffet Breakfast at our hotel. This morning check –out of our hotel. Early morning group transfer to ROME FIUMICINO AIRPORT for our return flight home arriving the USA in the afternoon.

THANK YOU FOR TRAVELING WITH DAVINCI CUSTOM TRAVEL & TOURS. We look forward to welcoming you back to BELLA ITALIA on one of our private individual or group escorted tours.

