



In cooperation with



Our Local Travel Partners in Italy

## **Italy's Best of South & Sicily Group Tour**

### **Departing from Cleveland**

### **September 16 -29, 2018.14 days/12 nights**

**Hosted by Frankie Scinta of The Scinta's and 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 Campania. Continue to the beautiful coastal town of Sorrento, The Amalfi Coast and the Eternal City of Rome.*

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### **Day 1/Sunday September 16 – DEPARTURE TO ROME**

This evening we'll board our scheduled group flight on UNITED AIRLINES departing from CLEVELAND to connect to our overnight non-stop TRANS-ATLANTIC flight to ROME FIUMICINO AIRPORT.

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### **Day 2 / Monday September 17– WELCOME TO PALERMO, SICILY.**

#### **Today's Program**

Early morning arrival into **ROME AIRPORT**. After clearing all entry formalities, we will claim our checked luggage and proceed to check –in for our domestic flight to **PALERMO CAPODICHINO 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 motor coach for our transfer directly to **PALERMO** city Centre. Check –in to the 4 star **HOTEL PLAZA OPERA**. After our group check –in there will be time to rest and relax from our overnight flight. This evening we'll enjoy our group welcome dinner in a local restaurant centrally located in Palermo. Overnight in Palermo. (D)



## Day 3 / Tuesday September 18 – PALERMO & MONREALE

### Today's Program

Buffet breakfast at our hotel.

At 9:00 a.m. we'll meet in the lobby of our hotel with our local guide who will escort us to our private deluxe motor coach for a full day excursion of PALERMO & MONREALE. You will be enchanted by Palermo's wide boulevards, traditional Sicilian Old Quarter, and baroque palaces. You'll see the city's main sights, including Quattro Canti (The Four Corners), Palermo's extravagant baroque square. The square is ringed by four buildings with baroque sculptures that depict the Four Seasons, Spanish kings, and the patron saints of Palermo's four old quarters. See the twelfth-century Cathedral of Palermo, which houses a pantheon of royal tombs and the Normani Palace. Afterwards we will stop to visit LA VUCCIRIA, Palermo's largest outdoor food market typical par excellence, full of colour and folkloric. Here you will taste typical street food such as *pani ca meusa*, *panelle*, and *arancini*. Lunch at leisure in Palermo. Then we'll discover the Arab-Norman splendour of the MONREALE CATHEDRAL and the CLOISTER. This nearby treasure dates from the 12th century and shows the diverse architectural influences of both the Normans and the Arab population. In the late afternoon we will have a private exclusive afterhours visit and aperitif to the TEATRO MASSIMO, Europe's third largest Opera House and setting for COPPOLA'S GODFATHER III movie. Return to our hotel. Dinner this evening at leisure. Overnight in Palermo. (BB)

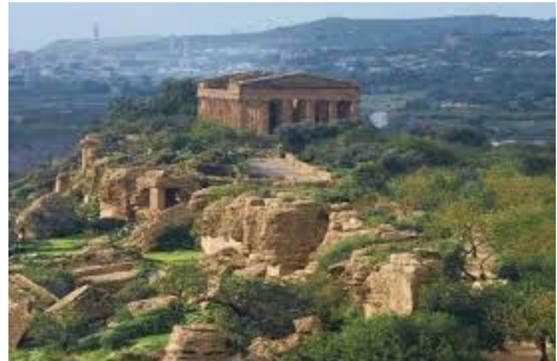


## Day 4 / Wednesday September 19 – DEPART PALERMO, AGRIGENTO, and VALLEY of the TEMPLES. ARRIVE IN SIRACUSA.

### Today's Program

Buffet breakfast at our hotel. Check out of our hotel.

At 9:00 a.m. we'll board our private motor coach to depart for AGRIGENTO, SICILY's most important Archaeological site and famous for its VALLEY of THE TEMPLES, part of the ancient city of AKRAGAS. Lunch in AGRIGENTO at leisure. Afterwards continue for our arrival into the beautiful city of SYRACUSA. Check in to the 5 star deluxe G.H. ORTIGIA centrally located in SIRACUSA. Dinner at leisure and overnight in Siracusa. (BB)



## Day 5/ Thursday September 20 - SIRACUSA & ORTIGIA

### Today's Program

Buffet Breakfast at our hotel.

This morning, enjoy a half day 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. You 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. Lunch at leisure. Balance of the day at leisure to explore the city on your own.



Dinner at leisure and overnight in SIRACUSA. (BB)

## Day 6/ Friday September 21- DEPART FROM SIRACUSA, CATANIA & ARRIVE IN TAORMINA

### Today's Program

Buffet breakfast at our hotel. Following breakfast check –out of our hotel. At 9:00 a.m. 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. Along the way we have scheduled a stop in CATANIA where we will have the chance to visit the largest and most famous outdoor fish market in Sicily, 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, hosting many museums, restaurants, churches, parks and theatres. Catania is well known for its street food. We'll enjoy a typical included street food lunch in CATANIA. After lunch transfer to TAORMINA. Check –in to the beautiful 5 star sea side luxury MAZZARO' SEA PALACE HOTEL fronting the Ionian Sea in Taormina Bassa.



Dinner is included this evening at the Mazzaro Sea Palace restaurant in Taormina Bassa including a special group welcome aperitif and a private musical performance by FRANKIE SCINTA at our hotel. Overnight in Taormina.

(BB, L & D )

## Day 7/ Saturday September 22 – TAORMINA & CASTELMOLA

### Today's Program

Buffet breakfast at our hotel. Following breakfast meet with our tour director and local guide and we will 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. Lunch at leisure in Taormina and free time. In the afternoon we will visit the charming hilly village of CASTELMOLA located close Taormina. Return to our hotel. Dinner at leisure. Overnight in Taormina. (BB)



## Day 8/ Sunday September 23 – MOUNT ETNA VOLCANO & VILLA of THE GODFATHER

### Today's Program

Buffet breakfast at our hotel. Following breakfast we'll depart for MOUNT ETNA, the most active volcano in Europe and one of the oldest recorded active volcano in the world. Weather and volcanic conditions permitting, we will experience the lava fields and incredible view of Europe's highest and most active volcano. After the excursion you will visit the Fessina Winery, an ancient estate located on the slopes of the volcano Etna. You will visit the winery and taste their best wines during the lunch. In the afternoon depart for FIUMEFREDDO for a private exclusive visit of the Castello degli Schiavi, Francis Ford Coppola location and setting for the epic movie of GODFATHER I, II



& III. We'll be hosted by the owner **BARON FRANCO PLATANIA**.  
Return to our hotel in the early evening, dinner at leisure and overnight **TAORMINA**. (BB, L , WT)

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### Day 9 /Monday September 24 – *ARRIVEDERCI TO SICILY & ARRIVAL IN SORRENTO!*

#### 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 short one way flight to **NAPLES AIRPORT**. Upon our arrival board our private motor coach for our transfer to the beautiful coastal town of **SORRENTO** where we will check in to the **Hotel Mediterraneo**. Sorrento is a town overlooking the **Bay of Naples** in Southern Italy. The **Sorrentine Peninsula** has views of **Naples**, **Vesuvius** and the **Isle of Capri**. The **Amalfi Drive**, connecting Sorrento and Amalfi, is a narrow road that threads along the high cliffs above the **Tyrrhenian Sea**. Sorrento's sea cliffs and luxury hotels have attracted celebrities including **Enrico Caruso** and **Luciano Pavarotti**. Dinner at leisure. Overnight in Sorrento. (BB)



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### DAY 10 /Tuesday September 25 – *THE AMALFI COAST (Positano, Amalfi & Ravello)*

#### 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 to 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 is included at the Mediterraneo hotel restaurant. Following dinner our group will be treated to a special musical performance by FRANKIE SCINTA at the Sky Bar Lounge of the Hotel Mediterraneo. Overnight in Sorrento. (BB & D)



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### DAY 11 / Wednesday September 26 - *THE ISLE of CAPRI & ANACAPRI*

#### 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 transfer to the **SORRENTO PIER** where we are scheduled to depart by the local public hydrofoil for our full day excursion to the **ISLE of CAPRI**. Upon arrival we will enjoy a private guided walking tour of **CAPRI** and of the hilltop village of **ANACAPRI**. Lunch at leisure. Return to our hotel in the early evening. Dinner at leisure this evening. Overnight in Sorrento. (BB)



## DAY 12 /Thursday September 27– **DEPART FROM SORRENTO & ARRIVAL IN ROME**

### Today's Events

Buffet Breakfast at our Hotel. This morning check –out of our hotel to depart directly to **ROME**.

Arrive and check –in to the 4 star Hotel Donna Camilla in Rome city Centre. Lunch at leisure. In the afternoon meet in the lobby of our hotel with your private English speaking guide for our guided walking tour of **ANCIENT ROME** which includes the visit at the Coliseum, the Roman Forum, the panoramic tour of Circus Maximum and Caracalla Baths ending the tour at the Pantheon. Dinner at leisure this evening. Overnight in Rome. (BB)



## DAY 13 /Friday September 28 – **ROME AT LEISURE, VATICAN MUSEUM & ST. PETER'S**

### Today's Events

Buffet Breakfast at our Hotel. Today enjoy a complete full day independently at leisure to take in the sites of the **ETERNAL CITY OF ROME**. Optional tour will be available for the Vatican Museum & St. Peter's Basilica. Lunch at leisure. This evening we have arranged for our group included Farewell dinner at the Ristorante Orazio centrally located in Rome. Overnight in Rome. (BB & D)

## DAY 14 / Saturday September 29 – **DEPARTURE TO USA FROM ROME**

### 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 on **UNITED AIRLINES**.



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