



NAPLES ITALIAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION

SICILY

May 11 / May 22, 2015

May 11, 2015 – U.S.: Depart from Miami for your flight to Italy.

May 12, 2015 – Catania / Taormina: Arrival in Taormina. Welcome to Italy. Upon arrival into Catania airport collect the luggage, meet & greet with your tour director and transfer by private coach to the hotel in Taormina. Explore on your own this afternoon start your discovery of the beautiful island of Sicily, the great melting pot of the Mediterranean world: Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Saracens, Normans, French, and Spanish have left their marks and contributed to its rich heritage. Taormina is a resort town built on a cliff overlooking the Mediterranean Sea, probably the most popular town of Sicily with its main street full of boutiques and little bars and restaurants. Enjoy welcome dinner this evening at a hotel. (Dinner)

May 13, 2015 – Taormina: After breakfast enjoy a half day tour in Taormina. Visit the amphitheater “Teatro Greco” offering spectacular views of Mount Etna and fine artifacts from classical and early Christian periods, the Corvaia Palace and the Lido of Mazzarò. Enjoy the rest of the afternoon at leisure. You can explore the local shops specialized in fine hand embroidery and lace, stroll down to the main square, enjoy a cappuccino in one of the many cafes’ this lovely quaint town has to offer . Dinner on own tonight (Breakfast)

May 14, 2015 – Taormina / Mount Etna: After breakfast depart for tour to Mount Etna the largest active Volcano in Europe, walk through extinct craters and stop for photo opportunities. View this awesome active Volcano, learn about its history and enjoy its natural and wild scenery. Afterwards we stop at a farmhouse for a demonstration and tasting of local wines and regional food. (Breakfast, Lunch)

May 15, 2015 – Taormina / Siracusa: After breakfast at the hotel, depart to Syracuse. Upon arrival, enjoy half day tour of Greek theatre and city center. Visit the Neapolis archaeological park in Siracusa featuring the well-preserved Roman Amphitheatre, Greco Roman edifices and the Greek theatre. See the excavations including the “Ear of Dionysius” and the Roman Temple. Walk through the historical center on the Ortigia Island to admire the Cathedral, the Aretusa fountain and the ancient streets. Dinner is at the local restaurant. (Breakfast, Dinner)

May 16, 2015 – Siracusa / Ragusa: Enjoy breakfast at the Hotel. Today is dedicated to discover a baroque jewel Ragusa. Upon arrival guided tour of historical town Ragusa Ibla, badly damaged after the earthquake in 1693, was rebuilt in an impressive array of Baroque architecture. See the evolution of the Sicilian baroque by walking along the narrow streets. After lunch on own return to Siracusa for afternoon at leisure. (Breakfast)

May 17, 2015 – Siracusa / Piazza Armerina / Agrigento: After breakfast at the hotel, depart to Agrigento. You will visit along the way Villa del Casale at Piazza Armerina a Roman Villa known for its beautiful well-preserved Roman mosaics, but only excavated in the 20th century. We will reach Agrigento in the afternoon, check in into our hotel, time a t leisure. Dinner is at the hotel. (Breakfast, Dinner)

May 18, 2015 – Agrigento / Palermo: After breakfast before departing for Palermo visit the “Valley of the Temples” a UNESCO World Heritage site. This archaeological park includes many of the Greek temples of the 5th century BC, among the most sublime evidence of the Greek civilization in Sicily. Along the way to

Palermo we will make a stop that you can't miss at the Regaleali Estate of the Tasca d'Almerita Family ** which has been a thriving enterprise for more than 150 years; appreciated throughout the world for the award winning wines. The Regaleali 400 hectares of vineyards are between landscape of almond and olive trees and among this expanse there are wheat, oat and eucalyptus plants that create a rural landscape of rare charm and beauty. After visiting the Estate and the winery, we are welcomed in the country house of the Tasca family for a traditional Sicilian lunch. Our lunch will include also a wine tasting with selection of white and red wines. Arrival in Palermo in the afternoon. (Breakfast, Lunch)

**** Subject to availability upon confirmation**

May 19, 2015 – Palermo: After breakfast at the hotel, depart for tour of Palermo Sicily's capital. Here the architecture reflects its many conquerors over the centuries including Normans, Arabs, Asians, and Greeks with distinct styles ranging from Arabic to Baroque, from Norman to Art Nouveau. Visit Monreale, with its spectacular Duomo famed for its 12th and 13th century mosaics. Afternoon is at leisure. Dinner is the local restaurant. (Breakfast, Dinner)

May 20, 2015 - Palermo/Erice/Salt Road / Palermo: After breakfast there will be a full day excursion to discover the western part of the island. Visit Erice, a medieval town, built on the top of Monte San Giuliano. It was an ancient settlement, predating the Middle Ages, but little remains from this period. Instead it has incredible city walls, fine paved streets, stone houses with decorated doorways, and open spaces with churches, all dating from the Middle Ages. Then on to an Oil Mill and Farmhouse, locally called *Baglio*, to experience the Sicilian traditions and have a country style lunch with simple and delicious Sicilian products that have passed from generation to generation. After lunch drive along salt pans and Sicilian windmills, it is possible to see numerous dazzlingly white mountains shimmering in the sun. These are not snow-capped mountains but hills of salt, an unreal scenario created by the salt flats, which form a sort of immense chessboard that ranges in color from off-green to pink. Return to Palermo in the afternoon. (Breakfast, Lunch)

May 21, 2015 – Palermo / Cefalu / Palermo: After breakfast visit Cefalu with your tour manager. Cefalù was founded on a hillside facing the sea near Palermo. It retains its medieval appearance with the center of the town located around a Norman cathedral which was built by Roger II in the 12th century. As a leading bishopric there are many churches. The homes in the town have interesting architectural detail and the many shops offer an array of local crafts. There is a beautiful long beach with fine sand in the town. Farewell lunch in Cefalu. Return to Palermo, afternoon at leisure. (Breakfast, Lunch)

May 22, 2015 – Palermo / USA: After breakfast at the hotel transfer to airport for your flight back home. (Breakfast)

PRICING

Group size: Minimum 20 passengers

Per person in double: \$4529 / per person

Group size: Minimum 25 passengers

Per person in double: \$4369 / per person

Group size: Minimum 30 passengers

Per person in double: \$4239 / per person

Group size: Minimum 35 passengers

Per person in double: \$4149 / per person

Single room supplement: \$819 / per room

Air Credit: \$1195 / per person. (If you prefer to arrange on your own air, please deduct this amount from the tour price)

Price Includes:

- Round trip airfare from Miami. Fuel surcharges and airport taxes are included. (Valid at present time)
- 4* centrally located Hotel 3 nights at the Montetauro 4* in Taormina, 2 nights at the G H Alfeo 4* in Siracusa, 1 night at the Hotel Baia di Ulisse in Agrigento, 4 nights at the Piazza Borsa 4* in Palermo or similar. Hotel taxes and service charges are included.

- Daily breakfast, 4 lunches and 4 dinners (½ water and ¼ wine included)
- Professional local Tour manager throughout
- Deluxe touring coach for all transfers, tours, excursions
- All guided tours with local English speaking guides
- Entrance fees of Greek Theatre in Taormina, Archaeological Park in Syracuse, Villa del Casale, Valley of Temples in Agrigento, Palatine Chapel in Palermo, Cathedral in Monreale.
- Visit of one 2 wineries and one oil mill with demonstration and tasting.
- Headphones
- City Tax
- Baggage handling one piece per person

Price does not Include:

- Tips
- Travel Insurance
- Round trip transfers from Naples to Miami airport.