



Flavors of Sicily

April 17 - 25, 2020

With Sicilian wine, cuisine, and culture as the inspiration, and a private villa as your home base, we invite you to join fellow alumni, family and friends and explore the beauty of Sicily. An intimate, small-group atmosphere and authentically Sicilian experience distinguish this nine-day program. Immerse yourself in a journey that feeds all your senses. Explore Sicily's ancient and archaeological history, and interact with locals—including farmers, vintners, and chefs—who will make this friendly island come alive. Travel through the landscape with experts who will thoughtfully introduce you to the traditions of this captivating place as well as its epicurean delights.

Your Accommodations - Don Arcangelo all'Olmo

Don Arcangelo all'Olmo, lovingly known as L'Olmo, is a Think Exquisite villa from the award-winning villa

company The Thinking Traveller, and it sits serenely between Mount Etna and the Ionian Sea. Once a farm building on a wine-producing estate, the property was painstakingly restored to create the grand villa that exists today.

Day 1: En Route from U.S.

Day 2: Arrive Catania, Sicily, Italy / Giarre

Settle in at Don Arcangelo all'Olmo, an enchanting villa featuring lush gardens and views of Mount Etna. Explore the property, then become acquainted with your travel companions during dinner served with Sicilian wines and specialties of the region.

Overnight: Don Arcangelo all'Olmo (D)



Program Cost* : Land Only (no airfare Included):

Classic Double	\$4,995
Deluxe with Sea View	\$5,995
Classic Single	\$6,995
Palermo Extension	\$1,395
Extension - Single	\$1,895

Program Inclusions

- 7 nights accommodations;
- 7 breakfasts, 4 lunches, and 7 dinners served with wine;
- All lessons, private tours, and unique small-group excursions on the 9-day itinerary;
- Private motor coach transportation; luggage handling;
- Gratuities to Travel Director, local guides, drivers, and wait staff for included meals;
- Airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times.

To make a reservation, please contact Orbridge at (866) 639-0079 or via email guestservices@orbridge.com

Day 3: Taormina

Spend the day touring Taormina, an idyllic town perched on a rocky hillside. With your local guide, delight in exploring the town's network of winding streets and ancient Greek theatre - one theatre—one of Sicily's most picturesque and well-preserved. Charming streets open to stunning panoramas of popular beaches,



the warm Ionian Sea, and snow-capped Mount Etna. This afternoon, stroll down the pedestrian-only Corso Umberto with leisure time to discover the lively shops and restaurants.

Overnight: Don Arcangelo all'Olmo (B,D)

Day 4: Piazza Armerina

Today visit Sicily's archaeological masterpiece and UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Villa Romana del Casale. During a guided tour, explore the famous 4th-century site considered a display of the best preserved and extensive examples of Roman mosaics in the world, offering a glimpse into a wealthy Sicilian family's lifestyle of centuries past. Overnight: Don Arcangelo all'Olmo (B,L,D)

Day 5 - Viagrande / Catania

This morning, browse the colorful and culture-rich outdoor street market in nearby Catania, a local tradition dating back to the 9th century. Then venture to Benanti, an award-winning winery, for a unique cooking lesson followed by a vineyard tour and wine tasting. Overnight: Don Arcangelo all'Olmo (B,L,D)

Day 6: Mount Etna

Today you can opt to visit Sicily's greatest natural attraction, Mount Etna—another UNESCO World Heritage Site and the highest active volcano in Europe. Lovingly known locally as "The Etna," at almost 11,000 feet, it has four craters at the summit and more than 300 vents on the flanks. Marvel at its enormity as you take in its unique, dominant features and view the destruction of previous eruptions and lava flows.

Guests opting to relax at the villa in the morning instead of taking part in the high-elevation hike up to 9,580 feet can rejoin the group in the afternoon for a wine tasting and delicious lunch at award-winning Planeta winery. Here, focus on how the cultivation of the ancient fertile land around Mount Etna influences the wine.

Overnight: Don Arcangelo all'Olmo (B,L,D)

Day 7: Siracusa / Ortigia

Welcome to the historic city of Siracusa, a 2,700-year-old fortified seaport founded by Greek Corinthians and Teneans. During the Athenian Empire, Siracusa rivaled Athens in size and importance. Cicero described Siracusa as the greatest and most beautiful of the Greek city-states. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, it features many structures dating back to the 5th century B.C. Visit the storied island of Ortigia, the heart of the ancient city, then the massive Greek

theater and the "Ear of Dionysius," the famous stone quarry nearby. In the old city, the kaleidoscopic markets overflow with local seafood, dairy, meat, and succulent produce such as ruby-red tomatoes, tender figs, and dark green capers. Overnight: Don Arcangelo all'Olmo (B,D)

Day 8: Taormina

After breakfast, travel to Villa Britannia to experience a hands-on cooking class of traditional Sicilian fare with a celebrated chef who selects only locally grown, hand-picked ingredients to concoct a unique menu for the group. Made from the freshest ingredients chosen daily, you'll have an opportunity to create a variety of mouth-watering dishes like marinated prawns, caponata, pasta alla Norma, seafood risotto, zuppa di pesce, veal rolls, chicken alla cacciatore, plus amazing desserts such as Sicilian cassata, tiramisu, or crespelle. Tonight, enjoy a special farewell dinner at the villa, sure to be a memorable celebration that caps off of a fabulous week of new memories and adventures.

Overnight: Don Arcangelo all'Olmo (B,L,D)

Day 9: Depart Sicily for U.S.

Program Highlights

- With your small group, enjoy seven nights in the luxury and elegance of your private villa, Don Arcangelo all'Olmo.
- Work side-by-side in the kitchens of distinguished chefs, learning time-tested techniques and modern twists with ingredients grown in the mineral-rich, volcanic soil of Mount Etna's fertile lowlands.
- Spend time exploring the coastal towns of Taormina and Siracusa - including a stop at a local outdoor market.



• Visit Benanti, a family-owned boutique winery with a strong international focus, and winner of over 80 awards since 1994.

• Stop by the award-winning Planeta winery for a tasting and lunch.

• Visit Sicily's archaeological masterpieces—the ancient theatres of Taormina and Siracusa, and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Villa Romana del Casale mosaics in Piazza Armerina.

• Explore Mount Etna, a natural marvel and UNESCO World Heritage Site.

• Day after day, experience the fusion of tradition and modernity, and see for yourself how Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Arab, Norman, German, French, and Spanish influences have formed this magnificent island of fertility.

Palermo Extension

Enjoy Sicily's fascinating and bustling capital, Palermo. The city, which is over 2,700 years old, is rich in history, culture, art, music, and gourmet cuisine. Also visit the seaside village of Cefalù—home to just 14,000 residents and one of the most popular attractions near Palermo. Cefalù is known for its various Greek ruins, delightful streets lined with colorful shops, and its sandy beaches.