Escorted Programs

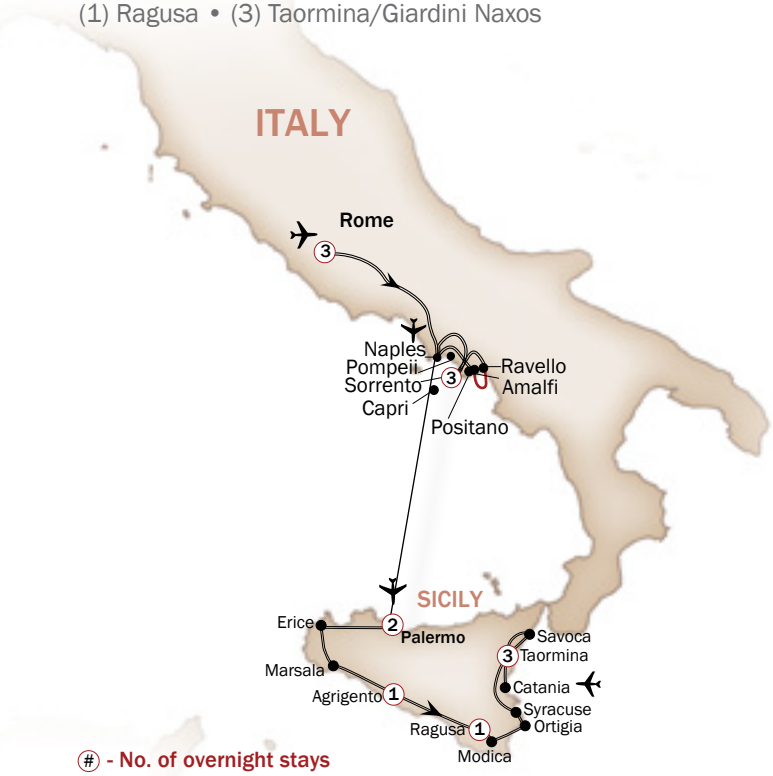
# ITALY'S SOUTHERN SPLENDORS

## 14 Days FROM $3,712

Castel Sant'Angelo in Rome

### ESCORTED TOUR PROGRAM

(3) Rome • (3) Sorrento • (2) Palermo • (1) Agrigento • (1) Ragusa • (3) Taormina/Giardini Naxos




(#) - No. of overnight stays
═══ - By motorcoach
━━━ - By air plan

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Live the old world meets modern pulse of Rome from its ancient ruins to its lively piazzas and tantalizing trattorias
- Discover the near endless treasures of Vatican City from Michelangelo's masterful paintings in the Sistine Chapel to gems in the Vatican Museums, and the grandiose St. Peter's Basilica
- Explore the remarkably preserved ruins of Pompeii, a city covered by volcanic lava 2,000 years ago
- Journey along the breathtaking Amalfi Coast, stay in Sorrento, and cross the Bay of Naples to the Isle of Capri
- Travel back in time as you delve into the Sicilian cities of Taormina and Agrigento
- Take in the majestic views of the largest active volcano in Europe, Mt. Etna
- Enjoy tasting experiences of chocolate, olive oil, and sweet Marsala wine in Sicily, and explore the towns where "The Godfather" trilogy was filmed

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**DAY 1 | SAT | ROME** Morning arrival into Rome's Leonardo da Vinci Airport. Here you'll be met and transferred to your hotel. The balance of the day is at leisure.

**DAY 2 | SUN | ROME** Rome is filled with monuments, fountains, antiquities and other sites worth exploring. Use this free day to discover, on your own, all the Eternal City has to offer. Take an optional tour or discover why Roman trattorias are famous for their fine cuisine. (B)

**DAY 3 | MON | ROME** This morning, experience a very special privately guided tour of the priceless collection of art and treasures in the Sistine Chapel and Vatican Museum. Then proceed to the Piazza Venezia and Roman Forum, with a stop at the Colosseum – a testament to the greatness of Rome's past. Continue your full day tour by viewing the Arch of Constantine, Circus Maximus, the Great Synagogue, Isola Tiberina and Castel Sant'Angelo. Tonight bid arrivederci to Rome at a special dinner with wine in a lovely Roman restaurant. (B,D)

**DAY 4 | TUE | ROME | POMPEII | SORRENTO** This morning, before heading to Sorrento, stop in Pompeii, the ancient city covered by volcanic lava 2,000 years ago, for a guided tour of the remarkably preserved ruins of temples, houses, gardens and public buildings. Then, drive along the spectacular coast road of the Bay of Naples to Sorrento, the famous resort town of orange and lemon groves. Dinner at your hotel restaurant is included. (B,D)

**DAY 5 | WED | SORRENTO | POSITANO | AMALFI | RAVELLO | SORRENTO** Leave Sorrento in the morning for Positano. Enjoy a brief stop at the Belvedere for a unique view of Moorish architecture blended with pastel colored houses. Weather permitting, board a motorlaunch and cruise along the coast to Amalfi for a walking tour of the old town. Continue to Ravello for lunch at a restaurant with spectacular views of the Amalfi Coast and the Bay of Salerno. Enjoy some free time for a stroll around the center of town before returning to Sorrento. (B,L)

**DAY 6 | THU | SORRENTO | CAPRI | SORRENTO** A morning jetfoil whisks you across the blue Bay of Naples to the fabled Isle of Capri, where you will ascend to the Piazzetta, visit the Floral Gardens of Caesar Augustus, and still have free time for lunch and some shopping before returning to Sorrento. Tonight dinner is at a local restaurant. (B,D)

Lemon Sorbet on the Amalfi Coast

Blue Grotto, Capri

**DAY 7 | FRI | SORRENTO | NAPLES | PALERMO** Today we say goodbye to Sorrento. Transfer to Naples airport for your flight to Palermo (not included). Arrival in Palermo and transfer to your hotel. Tonight enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. (B,D)

**DAY 8 | SAT | PALERMO** This morning enjoy a tour of Palermo featuring the Massimo Theater, Quattro Canti, a splendid example of Spanish Baroque architecture, the Palace of the Normans, and the Cathedral housing the shrine of Santa Rosalia. The last stop will be at the Abbey of Monreale, an Arab-Norman Cathedral built in the 12th century famous for its magnificent Byzantine mosaics and the adjacent Benedictine cloister. Balance of the day is at leisure to relax or to take an optional tour of Cefalu, a picturesque fishing village outside of Palermo. (B)

**DAY 9 | SUN | PALERMO | ERICE | MARSALA | AGRIGENTO** This morning we take a breathtaking scenic drive up to the medieval town of Erice. After the Elymians settled here, it became an important religious site associated with the goddess Venus. Wander through its ancient streets, each cobbled with rectangular stones, and take some time to stop by one of the famous homemade pastry shops selling delicacies such as marzipan candies and pistachio pastries. After enjoying an olive oil tasting session and lunch accompanied by Marsala wine at a local farmhouse, we will travel along a coastline mostly made up of salt pans built back in roman times. Overnight in Agrigento. (B,L)

**DAY 10 | MON | AGRIGENTO | RAGUSA** This morning enjoy a guided tour of "The Valley of the Temples", a UNESCO World Heritage Site. One of the main archaeological treasures of the Mediterranean, this site is immersed in a rural landscape of rare beauty characterized by the presence of century-old olive and almond trees. Your guided walking tour will cover about one mile in a mostly downhill direction, with stops along the "Via Sacra" (holy pathway) to admire the Temple of Concordia, the Temple of Herakles and ruins of the Temple of Zeus. In the afternoon we continue to Ragusa. Dinner and overnight at hotel. (B,D)

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# ITALY'S SOUTHERN SPLENDORS

Cathedral of Palermo

Salt Mill, Marsala

**DAY 11 | TUE | RAGUSA | MODICA | ORTIGIA (SYRACUSE) | TAORMINA/GIARDINI NAXOS** Today's first stop will be in Modica, a quaint historic town and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Boasting some very fine Baroque architecture, picturesque views and historic sites, Modica is also known for its chocolate. Rich, dark and crumbly, it is produced in a traditional method imported from the New World by Sicily's Spanish overlords. After a chocolate tasting session at one of the most prestigious chocolate makers, we continue to the enchanting island of Ortigia, the old town center of Syracuse. Highlights of Ortigia are the cathedral square with its church built over an ancient Greek temple and the beautiful promenade with its panorama over the sea and the natural bay of the town. Dinner and overnight at hotel. (B,D)

**DAY 12 | WED | TAORMINA/GIARDINI NAXOS | SAVOCA | D'AGRO VALLEY | TAORMINA/GIARDINI NAXOS** This morning, enjoy a walking tour of Taormina's charming city center including the Greek/Roman amphitheater with breathtaking views looking over the bay of Naxos. In the afternoon, enjoy a once in a lifetime experience: the "Godfather" tour. See the real Sicily while exploring Savoca and D'Agro Valley, the towns and area that served as location when filming the "The Godfather" trilogy. (B)

**DAY 13 | THU | TAORMINA/GIARDINI NAXOS** Today, you are at leisure to relax, or to take an optional excursion to the slopes of Mt. Etna, the largest active volcano in Europe. In the evening, bid arrivederci to your travel companions during a festive farewell dinner with delectable cuisine and sparkling wine in a fashionable restaurant. (B,D)

**DAY 14 | FRI | TAORMINA/GIARDINI NAXOS | CATANIA TO USA (OR EXTEND YOUR STAY)** Morning transfer to Catania Airport for your return flight home. (B)

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## INCLUDED FEATURES

- First class hotel accommodation for 13 nights
- 22 included meals consisting of:
  - 13 buffet breakfasts
  - 1 gourmet lunch with mini a-la-carte menu at local restaurant
  - 1 lunch at a local farmhouse
  - 3 dinners at hotels
  - 4 gourmet dinners with mini a-la-carte menu at local restaurants
- Wine, mineral water and coffee or cappuccino served with meals at hotels and restaurants
- Touring by private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach
- Assistance of a professional tour director for the entire length of the tour
- Complete program of sightseeing tours and excursions with entrance fees:
  - Tour of Rome, including a visit to the Colosseum, Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel
  - Guided tour of Pompeii
  - Amalfi Coast excursion, including cruise (weather permitting)
  - Excursion to Capri and visit of the Gardens of Caesar Augustus
  - Tour of Palermo featuring Quattro Canti, Cathedral and Monreale
  - Visit of Erice
  - Olive oil tasting in Marsala
  - Tour of the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento
  - Chocolate tasting in Modica
  - Visit of Syracuse
  - Tour of the D'Agro Valley and "Godfather" filming locations
- Arrival and departure airport transfers (see page 98)
- Baggage handling
- Document holder and luggage tags
- Personalized audio system to hear your guide from a distance
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- City tax

SAVE up to 10%*

## 2020 TOUR DATES & PRICES

| Tour's Start Date | Tour's End Date | Price | Tour's Start Date | Tour's End Date | Price |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4-Apr | 17-Apr | $3,942 | 1-Aug | 14-Aug | $3,991 |
| 18-Apr | 1-May | $3,942 | 8-Aug | 21-Aug | $3,991 |
| 25-Apr | 8-May | $4,044 | 22-Aug | 4-Sep | $3,932 |
| 2-May | 15-May | $4,069 | 29-Aug | 11-Sep | $4,008 |
| 9-May | 22-May | $4,069 | 5-Sep | 18-Sep | $4,195 |
| 16-May | 29-May | $4,069 | 12-Sep | 25-Sep | $4,195 |
| 23-May | 5-Jun | $4,119 | 19-Sep | 2-Oct | $4,178 |
| 6-Jun | 19-Jun | $4,119 | 26-Sep | 9-Oct | $4,111 |
| 13-Jun | 26-Jun | $4,119 | 10-Oct | 23-Oct | $4,044 |
| 20-Jun | 3-Jul | $4,119 | 17-Oct | 30-Oct | $4,044 |
| 4-Jul | 17-Jul | $4,028 | 24-Oct | 6-Nov | $3,934 |
| 11-Jul | 24-Jul | $3,983 | 31-Oct | 13-Nov | $3,760 |
| 18-Jul | 31-Jul | $3,991 | 7-Nov | 20-Nov | $3,712 |
| 25-Jul | 7-Aug | $3,991 | | | |

Guaranteed departures in red

## PREFERRED HOTELS (or similar)

| City | Nts. | Hotels | Cat. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rome | 3 | Mediterraneo or Cicerone | First Class |
| Sorrento | 3 | Grand Hotel Vesuvio | First Class |
| Palermo | 2 | Principe di Villafranca or Plaza Opera | First Class |
| Agrigento | 1 | Della Valle | First Class |
| Ragusa | 1 | Poggio del Sole | First Class |
| Taormina/ Giardini Naxos | 3 | RG Naxos Hotel | First Class |

Etna seen through the Ancient Amphitheater in Taormina

## ADDITIONAL INCLUDED FEATURES

SMALL GROUPS

- Group size up to 16 people
- "Welcome Souvenir" in Rome
- Bottle of wine in the room in Rome
- Cappuccino break during city tour in Rome
- Visit of a gelato factory in Rome
- Pizza lunch in Pompeii
- Limoncello tasting in Sorrento
- Neapolitan pastries tasting on the Amalfi Coast
- Street food tour in Palermo including tasting of local delicacies
- Picnic in Kolymbetra – Sicily's Valley of the Temples' hidden garden
- Honey tasting in Taormina
- Cannoli and Granita tasting in Taormina
- Free wi-fi on bus
- One bottle of water on bus daily

SAVE up to 10%*

## 2020 SMALL GROUP TOUR DATES & PRICES

| Tour's Start Date | Tour's End Date | Price |
|---|---|---|
| 11-Apr | 24-Apr | $4,189 |
| 30-May | 12-Jun | $4,366 |
| 27-Jun | 10-Jul | $4,366 |
| 15-Aug | 28-Aug | $4,238 |
| 3-Oct | 16-Oct | $4,290 |
| 14-Nov | 27-Nov | $3,958 |

**General Information:**

**Single and triple rooms: On Request**
**Single supplement: $1,156**
**Reduction for third person sharing twin-bedded room: $108**
**Price is per person based on double occupancy**
**Rates for additional nights in first and last city are available**
***Book and pay in full 4-7 months or more before departure. See website for full details.**

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