



Massimo and Friends' Sicily Tour

October 12th – 22nd, 2024

Massimo and Friends' Sicily Tour 2024

BRIEF ITINERARY (asterisks stand for UNESCO sites)

October 12th: Arrival (into Palermo airport). Palermo. Overnight: Palermo*

October 13th: Palermo – Palazzo Francavilla (Special Dinner). Overnight: Palermo

October 14th: Erice (Visit and cooking show). Overnight: Palermo

October 15th: Monreale* – Cefalù*. Overnight: Cefalù

October 16th: Cefalù – Caccamo (Visit and dinner with Sicilian folk band). Overnight: Cefalù

October 17th: Valley of the Temples*. Overnight: Ortigia* (historical center of Syracuse)

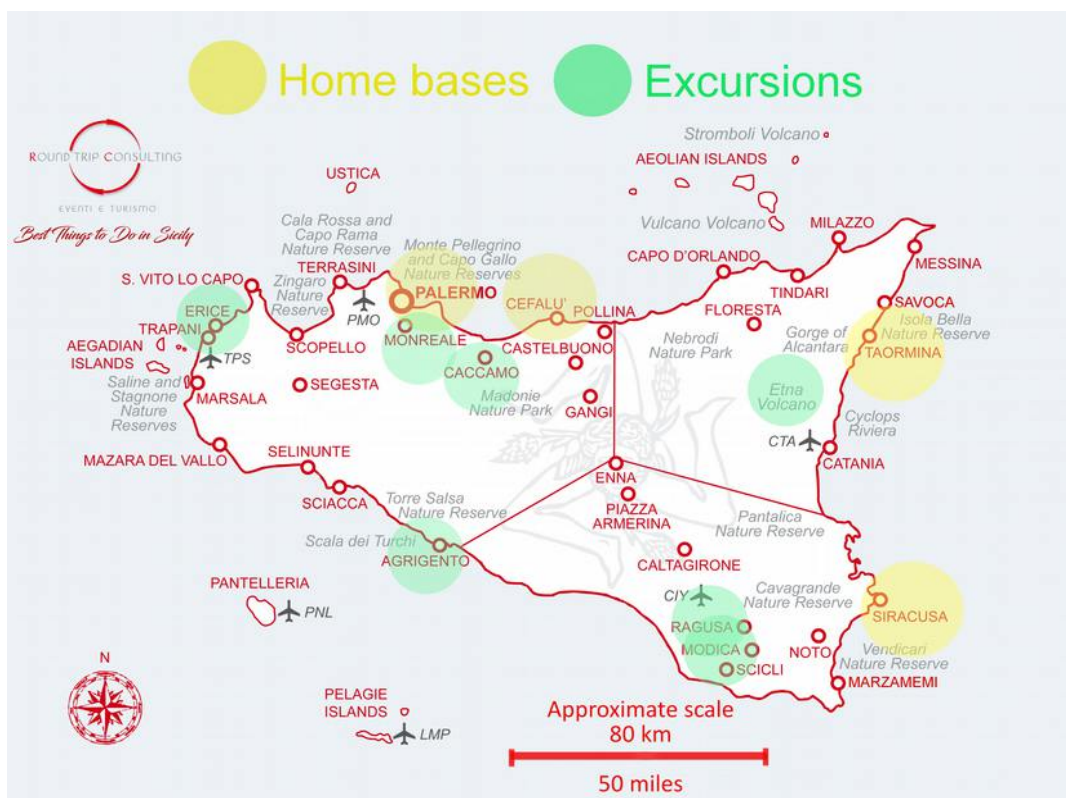
October 18th: Ortigia. Overnight: Ortigia

October 19th: Modica* by Vintage Fiat 500 – Ragusa Ibla*. Overnight: Ortigia*

October 20th: Mt. Etna* – Winery on the slopes of the volcano. Overnight: Taormina

October 21st: Taormina – Cooking class. Overnight: Taormina

October 22nd: Departure (from Catania airport)



Massimo and Friends' Sicily Tour 2024

HIGHLIGHTS



Conveniently located high quality accommodations: you will stay at 4-star and 5-star hotels well situated in the historic centers of the most illustrious cities of art or in seaside locations with a gorgeous sea view. We have selected the best accommodations in the safest areas that are within walking distance from the best shops, restaurants and nightclubs.

You will enjoy fascinating day trips and guided visits with licensed English speaking local guides in the most popular attractions during the day (entrance tickets to churches, archaeological sites, etc. are included).

Once you've returned to your hotel, you may choose to spend your leisure time by shopping, strolling in the old streets of our ancient towns, enjoying Sicilian food and wine, or taking in our vibrant nightlife.

List of the home bases: 3 nights at a 4-star hotel **Palermo** (the most beautiful hotel in the historic center of Palermo; deluxe city view rooms), 2 nights at a 4-star hotel in **Cefalù** (a ideally hotel located in front of the beach and close the historical area; deluxe sea view rooms), 3 nights at a 5-star hotel in **Ortigia** (in the heart of the gorgeous historic center of Syracuse; Deluxe city view rooms), 2 nights at a 4-star hotel by the sea in front of Isola Bella (the most famous beach in **Taormina**; deluxe sea view rooms).

The itinerary has been optimized to break up the driving time as much as possible. Furthermore, this Sicily tour package consists of only a few home bases meaning there is no need to constantly pack and unpack your luggage.

10 night - 11 day is the perfect time-frame to discover the highest number of must see locations in the most relaxing way yet still have enough leisure time to enjoy every day.

Comfortable transportation: air-conditioned, 30 seat tour coaches, with safe and reliable drivers. Transportation also includes the transfers from Palermo airport (PMO) to the hotel in Palermo and the transfer from the hotel in Taormina to Catania airport (CTA). The transportation from/to the airports is guaranteed regardless of the time and the day of your arrival/departure.



Massimo and Friends' Sicily Tour 2024

HIGHLIGHTS



Meals: **10 breakfasts** at the hotels; **6 complete lunches** (including 1 lunch at chef's house in Erice + 1 lunch at historic winery on the slopes of Mt. Etna); **6 complete dinners** (1 welcome dinner + 1 special dinner at Francavilla Palace + 1 unconventional dinner in Caccamo based on traditional sausage and cold cuts with folk musicians and singers + 1 dinner in Taormina + 1 cooking class and dinner at chef's house in Taormina).

Since the traditional Sicilian cuisine is so rich, we have created different menus so that you may taste something new every day. This will give you the opportunity to experience a broad view of our cuisine throughout your entire trip.

Additional wine and food tastings: **1 welcome aperitif** in Palermo; almond pastries and cannoli in Palermo (they are still traditionally made following the nuns' recipe of a stunning Baroque church in the city's old quarter); **1 Wine tasting at amazing historic wineries** on the slopes of Mt. Etna); **Olive oil** tasting in Erice; **Chocolate** tasting in Modica; **Granita** (traditional Sicilian Gelato) tasting at the best café in Ortigia.

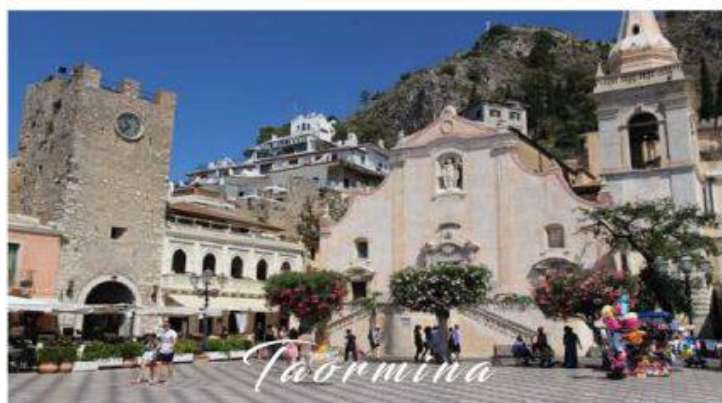
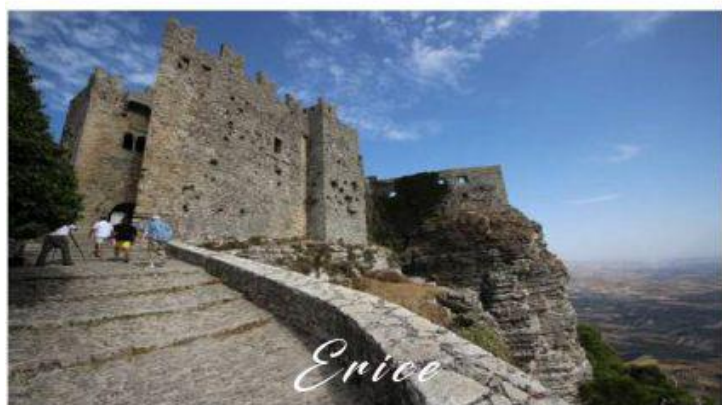
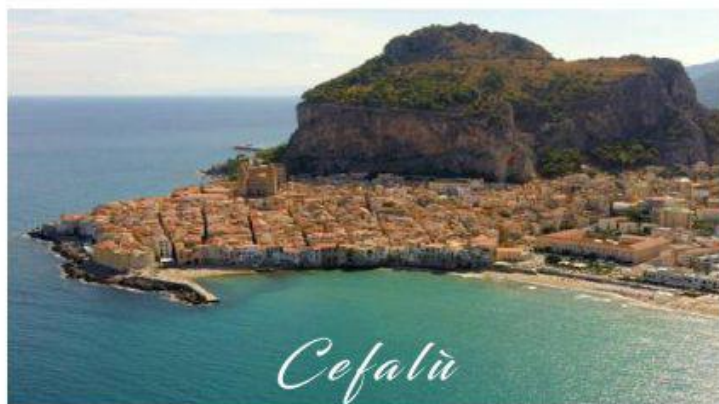
Authentic food experiences and fun interaction with locals: **Fish Cous Cous cooking show** in Erice; **Making of sausage** in Caccamo; **Chocolate cooking show** in Modica; **Cooking class** in Taormina. You will have many opportunities to interact with warm and friendly people and discover the true Sicilian lifestyle.

Our personal touch: any tour company can give you a tour of Sicily. However, as native Sicilian travel consultants, we take pride in sharing Sicily's beauty and the most authentic culture of our beloved island. This multi-sensory tour will allow you many opportunities to absorb the true Sicilian atmosphere: living, eating, and doing the things Sicilian people do!



Massimo and Friends' Sicily Tour 2024

Some of the Sicilian locations you will discover



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A preview of some traditional Sicilian food you may enjoy!

STARTERS AND STREET FOOD



"Arancine" (rice balls of many flavours: cheese and ham or meat ragù or mushrooms or sausage or eggplant and sauce)



"Pannelle e Crochè" (chickpea fritters and potato croquettes)



"Sfincione" (spongy pizza)



Eggplants "Parmigiana"



Eggplants "Caponata"

MAIN COURSES



"Pasta alla Norma" (tomato sauce, eggplants and salty ricotta cheese)



"Anelletti al forno" (baked pasta)



"Couscous"



"Pasta c'anciova"



Traditional pizza

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A preview of some traditional Sicilian food you may enjoy!

SECOND COURSES



Mediterranean fish and seafood



Sausage with traditional vegetables



Cheese and cold cuts



"Beccafico sardines" with pine nuts and raisins



Swordfish rolls

DESSERTS AND PASTRIES



"Granita" with sweet brioche



Almond pastries



"Cassatelle" and Marzipan pastries



"Sicilian Cassata"



Ice cream with sweet brioche



Ricotta cheese "Cannolo"

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A preview of some traditional Sicilian food you may enjoy!

FRUIT, WINES AND LIQUORS



Prickly pears



Pomegranates



Figs



Wine from a winery on the slopes of Mt. Etna



Wine from a winery in Marsala



Orange juice



Oranges, lemons and... Limoncello



Are you ready to join us and enjoy all this?



Massimo and Friends' Sicily Tour 2024

1st accommodation: Hotel Quintocanto **** (Palermo)



In the heart of historic center of Palermo, next to the gorgeous Quattro Canti square from the 16th century ("Four Corners"), Church of San Giuseppe dei Teatini and Corso Vittorio Emanuele, (the oldest street in town), Quintocanto Hotel & Spa welcomes its guests in a relaxing and restoring dimension.

This is an elegant design 4-star hotel boasts a relaxing atmosphere and a very central location: it is the ideal place for those who want to explore the old city center of Palermo, the beautiful capital of Sicily (Unesco site).

Quintocanto Hotel & SPA is an oasis of relax in the city center: it offers an exclusive SPA, a reading room, a restaurant, and some comfortable and functional common areas.

The hotel is located in a pedestrian area, about 7 minutes walking from the bus dropoff point.



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2nd accommodation: Hotel Riva del Sole **** (Cefalù)



Hotel Riva del Sole is a **4-star** hotel located along the coast of Cefalù in front of its wonderful sandy beach.

It is strategically located, just few steps away from the heart of the historic town.

We will provide you with the best Deluxe rooms overlooking the sea.

Guests receive a discount to access a partner private beach, located near the hotel.

Room facilities: air conditioning, satellite TV, mini-bar, WiFi.



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3rd accommodation: Grand Hotel Ortigia*****(Ortigia, Syracuse)



Grand Hotel Ortigia is a **5-star** hotel ideally located in the heart of Ortigia, the historic center of Syracuse, next to the marina and a 5-minute walk from the Aretusa Fountain.

Built in the late 19th century, the building has now over a hundred years of life, and even though it was completely renovated in 1995, maintains the original architecture and the charm of the Liberty style. Spanish Walls (Bastion Hall) and other archaeological artifacts are preserved in perfect condition.

The hotel offers a glass elevator and a rooftop terrace with a stunning sea views. The Terrazza sul Mare restaurant is on the top floor of the hotel, overlooking the sea and marina.

We have chosen for you the best deluxe rooms with city view.

Room facilities: air conditioning, satellite TV, mini-bar, WiFi.



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4th accommodation: Hotel Panoramic **** (Taormina)



The Panoramic Hotel is a 4-star hotel strategically located in front of Isola Bella Bay, the famous beach of Taormina, the jewel of Sicily.

The hotel boasts a terrace with a wonderful sea view, where you will enjoy your breakfast in the morning.

The bay of Isola Bella can be reached in about 10 minutes on foot.

The funicular station is just few steps from the hotel: a panoramic cable car takes you to the historic center of Taormina in 5 minutes.

We are glad to offer you a Deluxe room with balcony overlooking the stunning Mediterranean sea with a special view on the bay of Isola Bella!

Room facilities: air conditioning, satellite TV, mini-bar, WiFi.



Massimo and Friends' Sicily Tour 2024

October 12th: Arrival – Palermo



WELCOME TO SICILY!

Upon your arrival in Sicily your English speaking driver will be very happy to greet you at Falcone e Borsellino Airport (Palermo airport, PMO). He will show you a sign with your name and take you to **Palermo** (39 km - 24 miles), the capital of Sicily in the Northern coast of the island, a town that boasts more than 2,700 years of history, art and culture.

The transportation from the airport of Palermo to the hotel is guaranteed regardless of the time and the day of your arrival in Sicily. We will provide you with a private Mercedes minivan and an English speaking driver.

Then you will check-in at Hotel Quintocanto, your 4-star hotel in the heart of Palermo. We have selected for you an accommodation within the city center (it is located in Corso Vittorio Emanuele, the most ancient street in Palermo), near the Fountain of the Shame and the Four Corners.

You will check-in at the hotel and spend some time at leisure according to the arrival time.

05.45 pm: you will meet Massimo, Rosella and Gianca in the hotel lobby. We will reach a beautiful rooftop bar facing the “Fountain of the Shame” We will enjoy a welcome aperitif and toast together to celebrate the beginning of the tour!

During the aperitif your local guide will give you some general information about Sicily. We will also explain you in more details your tour of Sicily.

Then we will enjoy a dinner based on culinary classics and delicious traditional Palermitan food. You will wash down your meal with refined Sicilian wine!

Then, if you are not still tired you may go ahead: if you are into the party scene and meeting locals, the city is also known for its vibrant nightlife.

Overnight: Hotel Quintocanto**, Palermo.**

Meals included: aperitif, dinner.



Massimo and Friends' Sicily Tour 2024

OPTIONS FOR EARLY ARRIVAL IN PALERMO

(SUPPLEMENTS ON REQUEST)



We may provide you with a private vehicle and an English speaking driver at your disposal to visit Mt. Pellegrino or Mondello beach, the amazing surroundings of Palermo.

Mondello is a small fishing village located on the coast north of Palermo. It is just a short drive away from the city center. The Gulf of Mondello is sure to enchant you. Its white sandy beach, turquoise sea, and wide U-shaped bay make it one of the best beaches in Sicily and one of the most popular places in all of Italy.

You can enjoy your time here relaxing on the beach or eat a traditional seafood lunch at one of the many restaurants on the seafront promenade. Driver provided on request.

Mount Pellegrino is the most famous mountain in Palermo! Goethe described it as “the most beautiful promontory in the world”. Today Mount Pellegrino is a protected Nature Reserve. However, it is most popular for being the location of Santa Rosalia, Palermo’s Patron Saint. You may visit the church built in the cave in which Santa Rosalia is believed to have lived. Driver provided on request.

Further activities (we may provide a local guide or you may visit these places on your own):

- You may take a guided visit into the Massimo Opera House (the third largest opera house in Europe) and also attend a classical music concert, an opera or a ballet (according to the event scheduled for the theatrical season).
- You may stroll along the Botanical Garden of Palermo. It hosts rare and spectacular species and covers an area of about 10 hectares.
- You may visit the Salinas Museum. A must see museum for all archaeology enthusiasts.
- If you are passionate about sacred architecture, you may visit the Palatine Chapel a masterpiece of the Arab-Norman style, located inside the Royal Palace (it is considered a small version of the beautiful Cathedral in Monreale) or Chiesa del Gesù (a stunning baroque church also called Casa Professa) or the church of Santa Maria dell'Ammiraglio (a great evidence of the byzantine style). You may even visit the roof of the cathedral: it gives you the opportunity to enjoy a wonderful view on the historical center of Palermo.
- If you have a **Sicilian origin**, you can meet your relatives or visit your ancestors' places in Palermo or in its surroundings. On request: private vehicle with English speaking driver.



Massimo and Friends' Sicily Tour 2024

Oct 13th: Palermo and special Dinner at Palazzo Francavilla



Breakfast at the hotel restaurant.

09.15 am: appointment in the hotel lobby.

PALERMO: STREET FOOD AND MILLENARY HERITAGE

Our day begins with the pleasant guided walking tour of the historic center of Palermo (around 3,5 hours with several stops).

The Sicilian capital is one of the largest historical centers in Italy and practically an open-air museum. You will visit some of **Palermo's Arab-Norman UNESCO** world heritage sites. The old city districts are charming and pedestrian friendly.

Palermo is the capital of Sicily and has been a cultural melting pot since the 6th century BC. The city's architectural heritage is a testimony to centuries of foreign dominations.

Palermo is a safe and exciting place to visit. The city was named "Italian Capital of Culture" of 2018 and is becoming a center of Italian tourism.

Along this tour, you will be awe struck by the beautiful Cathedral, the Quattro Canti (the 4 corners), the Fountain of Shame, the Teatro Massimo Opera House (the Teatro Massimo is the third largest opera house in Europe, and is featured in The Godfather III), and many more churches, palaces, and other must-see places in Palermo.

We take pride in introducing you to the most authentically Sicilian dishes. Your culinary venture will start with the delicious ricotta filled pastries in a stunning Baroque church in the city's old quarter. You will enjoy the best **Cannoli** in Palermo in the cloister of one of the most beautiful churches in town! These Cannoli are still traditionally made following the **old recipe by the nuns**.

We will also discover Ballarò, the biggest open air market in Palermo. Thanks to its **street food** and theatrical vendors, Ballarò is an attraction worth visiting, and tasting! The city is ranked 5th among the world's best places for the quality of its street food. The food sold in the market is some of the freshest and most authentic Sicilian produce. Discovering the city's culinary heritage is like going back in time and exploring the layers of Sicily's past.

Then we will move to a restaurant close to the Cathedral to enjoy a lunch based on the **traditional Palermitan cuisine**. You will taste some delicious specialties such as Pasta alla Norma, Pasta with sardines, Palermitan meat rolls, and Citrus Sorbet.

After lunch you will take some hours for yourself: your afternoon is on your own.



Massimo and Friends' Sicily Tour 2024

Oct 13th: Palermo and special Dinner at Palazzo Francavilla



7.00 pm: we will meet again in the hotel lobby to enjoy a nice evening stroll to Palazzo Francavilla, a historic palazzo built in 1783. It is located in the heart of Palermo, right in front of the Massimo Opera House.

His first owner, Duke of Sperlinga and the other successive aristocratic noblemen owner of the palace involved the greatest architects and other **talented artists of the 18th and 19th** century to enrich the building with wonderful frescoes, paintings, sculptures and other important works from the Liberty period.

The current owner will be so glad to greet you and show you all the corner of his stunning Palazzo.

Following the guided visit of the Palazzo Francavilla a special dinner will be served in one of the most beautiful rooms of the palace.

You will enjoy a multiple course menu based on the traditional Sicilian cuisine!

The entire Palazzo Francavilla will be reserved for **your exclusive use**.

Note: even if a special dress code is not required, please consider that this will be your most elegant night in Sicily!

Overnight: Hotel Quintocanto**, Palermo.**

Meals included: breakfast, nuns' pastries and cannoli tasting, lunch, special dinner at Palazzo Francavilla.



Massimo and Friends' Sicily Tour 2024

October 14th: Erice – Cooking show at chef's house



Breakfast at the hotel restaurant.

08.30 am: meeting in the hotel lobby with your tour guide. You will move to the Westernmost point of Sicily.

ERICE: A MEDIEVAL VILLAGE WITH A BREATHTAKING VIEW

You will head up to Erice (124 km – 77 miles from Palermo), a beautiful village ‘suspended in time’ at 750 meters (2200 feet) above sea level.

The town was founded by Trojan exiles in the 3rd century bC and became, over the centuries, Roman, then Byzantine and Arabic, and finally Norman.

Erice boasts one of the most spectacular views in Sicily facing the Egadian Islands and Trapani!

You will also look out the terrace at the Pepoli towers that overlook Mt. Cofano and the gorgeous coastline to San Vito lo Capo. Then you will walk through the narrow, well-kept, cobblestone streets that lead to the cathedral and cross the ancient Trapani gate.

In Erice, you will be invited by a renowned chef at his house that boasts a great view on Mt. Cofano and the west coast of Sicily.

You will learn how he prepares some traditional Sicilian recipes such as the “fish cous cous” (an Arabic culinary specialty, now great expression of our culture) and then you will enjoy the lunch all together. During the lunch you will realize why the area of Trapani is famous for the great quality of its olive tree groves and so you will enjoy the **traditional Sicilian olive oil** paired with delicious food made by the chef.

You will return to the hotel in Palermo in the late afternoon. Your evening is on your own.

Overnight: Hotel Quintocanto**, Palermo.**

Meals included: breakfast, olive oil tasting, lunch.



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October 15th: Monreale – Cefalù



Breakfast at the hotel restaurant and check out.

The morning and the lunch are on your own. You are required to check out within 11.00 am but you may leave your luggage in the hotel lobby.

Tip: Palermo is a great place for **shopping**. You will find a variety of artisanal shops and high-end brand name stores.

1.15 pm: we will meet you in the hotel lobby and depart to Monreale.

MONREALE: THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CATHEDRAL IN SICILY

You will venture off to **Monreale** by tour bus (12 km - 7 miles from Palermo).

The main reason for visiting Monreale is to see the Cathedral built in the 12th century, a must in your tour of Sicily. Monreale is a small village situated on the slopes of a rugged hill.

It overlooks the 'Conca d'oro', the fertile valley of Palermo with the shore of the Mediterranean in the near distance and the city of Palermo.

The Norman Cathedral of Monreale (1174) is one of the finest examples of sacred architecture in Italy because of its refined Byzantine mosaics made with gold tesserae. They represent scenes from the Old and New Testament. You will be amazed by the famous **Christ Pantocrator**.

It's an impressive huge mosaic and also a masterpiece of perspective illusion on the spherical wall behind the main altar. This guided tour lasts 1,5 hours.

Then it's off to depart to **Cefalù** (75 km - 46 miles from Monreale), a picturesque fishing village located on the northern coastline of Sicily, that will be your home base for the next 2 nights in Sicily. Cefalù is surrounded by an enviable promontory that follows a beautiful coastline. It is certainly a 'postcard-worthy' Sicilian village!

You will check-in at Hotel Riva del Sole, your 4-star accommodation by the sea.

5.30 pm: you will meet your English speaking local guide in the hotel lobby and start a 2 hour guided walking tour of beautiful Cefalù, a town which also boasts an important heritage. In addition to the lovely seaside, Cefalù is very picturesque thanks to its medieval architecture.

During your guided visit of Cefalù you will stroll through charming narrow streets covered with cobblestones that lead to the majestic cathedral built in 1131. The Cathedral in Cefalù belongs to the Arab-Norman itinerary (UNESCO's World Heritage Sites).

At the end of the tour you will enjoy a dinner at one of the great restaurants with a stunning sea view. Finally, you will be free to return to the hotel or keep strolling on your own in the old town.

Overnight: Hotel Riva del Sole**, Cefalù.**

Meals included: breakfast, dinner.

Massimo and Friends' Sicily Tour 2024

October 16th: Cefalù – Caccamo – Sicilian folk dinner



Breakfast at the hotel restaurant and free time in Cefalù: take a morning for yourself at the sandy beach in Cefalù (one of the best beaches in Sicily) or go browse at one of the many handicraft shops in the quaint medieval streets.

4.30 pm: meeting in the hotel lobby with your English speaking tour guide.

CACCAMO: MIDDLE AGES AND THE BEST SAUSAGE IN SICILY

You will depart to Caccamo (42 km - 26 miles from Palermo) to visit a part of Sicily that is off the beaten track and still unknown to tourists. The town's medieval architecture and ancient narrow streets set a timeless atmosphere that is sure to leave a strong impression on you.

Your local guide will show you around the Caccamo Castle (the guided visit lasts 1 hour). This **impressive fortress** is the largest of its kind and the best preserved in Sicily. It was built by the Normans in the 12th century at the summit of a rocky peak.

The castle offers breathtaking views extending on the Rosamarina Lake and as far as the Mediterranean Sea. The castle holds an important historical significance as it was never successfully conquered. It is sure to make you feel like you travelled back into middle ages.

A trip to Caccamo also gives you the opportunity to enjoy authentic food. We will invite you to meet a local meat producer and enjoy a unique hands-on experience. This is an opportunity for you to participate in the making of traditional **Caccamo sausage**, that is the best in Sicily.

You will enjoy an unconventional dinner based on sausage, homemade cold cuts and other great Sicilian dishes in company of a group of musicians and singers who will perform the traditional **Sicilian folk music** for us. It's time to dance all together!

You will return to Cefalù in the night.

Overnight: Hotel Riva del Sole**, Cefalù.**

Meals included: breakfast, folk dinner based on sausage and cold cuts.



Massimo and Friends' Sicily Tour 2024

October 17th: Valley of the Temples – Syracuse



Breakfast at the hotel restaurant and check-out.

8.30 am: meeting in the hotel lobby.

AGRIGENTO: THE STUNNING VALLEY OF THE TEMPLES

We will cross Sicily from North to South to the **Valley of the Temples** (153 km – 95 miles from Cefalù) a UNESCO site and one of the best places to visit in Sicily!

We'll take a pleasant guided walking tour of this amazing archaeological site. Our English speaking local guide will show you the buildings that were once dedicated to the Pagan Gods.

As you walk amongst the ruins, you will find yourself surrounded by olive trees and almond trees that are hundreds of years old. One of the most impressive monuments, Temple of Concordia, built in the fifth century BC is still standing. This temple is one of the most beautiful Greek temples in Sicily and definitely the **best preserved Greek temple** outside of Greece.

Then we will have a great Sicilian lunch at one of the most renowned restaurants in the area. You will enjoy some delicious dishes such as the famous "*parmigiana*", and if you have a sweet tooth, a terrific "*tiramisù*".

Finally it's off to reach the island of Ortigia, the heart of the ancient town of Syracuse.

Ortigia is separated from the mainland by a narrow canal and is accessible by bridge. We have chosen for you the beautiful 5-star Grand Hotel Ortigia, an **ideally located accommodation** few steps away from the Marina.

Ortigia will be your home base in Sicily for the next 3 nights. You will check-in at a hotel and spend the evening at leisure.

Overnight: Grand Hotel Ortigia**, Ortigia, Syracuse.**

Meals included: breakfast, lunch.



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October 18th: Ortigia (Syracuse)



Breakfast at the hotel restaurant.

09.00 am: meeting in the hotel lobby.

SYRACUSE: A CHARMING SEASIDE WHITE TOWN

You will enjoy an amazing guided walking tour of Ortigia, the wonderful historic center of Syracuse (about 3 hours pleasant walking tour with several stops).

Syracuse combines a rich cultural heritage, small town charm, beautiful scenery, and offers a great variety of activities. Historically, Syracuse was the most important Greek Colony in Sicily. The town is almost 2700 years old and it is one of the **most beautiful UNESCO sites in Sicily**.

In the city center, you will have the chance to admire the remains of Sicily's Greek past: the temple of Apollo (the oldest temple in Sicily), and the temple of Athena (incorporated into the town's Cathedral, which is also one of the first Christian churches in Europe). Syracuse's white limestone buildings are sure to amaze you.

During the walking tour you will also visit the outdoor market of Ortigia and experience a delicious '**granita**' (traditional Sicilian puree of fruit and sugar).

Try the pistachio and almonds flavors, a wonderful combination from the East side of Sicily, but don't forget to also order the brioche (sweet soft bread). You'll feel like a typical Sicilian!

Then you will discover some beautiful palaces and fountains from last centuries and some proofs of the Norman period (12th century) such as the Castle of Maniace.

At lunchtime you will be welcomed in one of the most renowned restaurants in town that offers great seafood and delicious dishes from the most traditional Sicilian cuisine.

The afternoon and evening will be dedicated to leisure. Please look at the next page for further activities on request.

Overnight: Grand Hotel Ortigia***, Ortigia, Syracuse.**

Meals included: breakfast, granita tasting, lunch.



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OPTIONS FOR THE AFTERNOON ON OCTOBER 18th (Supplement on request):

- **Private boat tour**

If you are sea lover, we may arrange a private boat tour along the coastline of Ortigia at sunset. We may provide you with a very nice 54 feet sail boat by wood (this tour lasts 3 hours) or a smaller "gozo", the traditional boat used by the Sicilian fishermen (this tour lasts 2 hours).

In both cases the captain will be glad to offer you an aperitif wich consists of traditional Sicilian food and a glass of prosecco.

- **Half day tour to Noto**

The ancient town of Noto was virtually razed by the 1693 Sicilian earthquake. It was then decided to re-build the new town 5 miles south of the original location. The best architects of that time created a masterpiece! The layout utilized the sloping hillside for outstanding scenic effects. The town was dubbed the "Stone Garden" and is currently listed among UNESCO's World Heritage Sites. Noto will surprise you with gorgeous buildings, stairways and churches from the 18th century. The majestic cathedral and most of the buildings are made with yellow limestone. You will be impressed by the stunning balconies adorned with animals, funny faces, and mythological figures!

During the stroll in Noto, we recommend you to have a pleasant stop at one of the best café in town. You must try a flavorful 'granita' (traditional Sicilian puree of fruit and sugar). Try it with pistachio and almonds, a wonderful combination from the East side of Sicily, but don't forget to also order the brioche (sweet soft bread). You'll feel like a typical Sicilian!

- **Archaeological park of Syracuse**

If you are an archaeology enthusiast, we can provide you with a private vehicle and an English speaking local guide to visit the nearby archaeological park of Syracuse. The park's main attractions are the ancient Greek theater (the largest and the best preserved in the entire Hellenic world), and the Ear of Dionysus.



Massimo and Friends' Sicily Tour 2024

October 19th: Modica and Ragusa Ibla



Breakfast at the hotel restaurant.

8.30 am: meeting in the hotel lobby and departure to **Modica**, in the South East of Sicily!

You will be astonished by a wonderful view of the historic center of this village from a viewpoint. This area is popular thanks to its unique architectural style, the **Val di Noto Baroque**. This area was destroyed by the devastating earthquake in 1693 and the most important architects of that time were involved in its reconstruction. This is the reason why this town retains various artistic wonders and has been included in the UNESCO Heritage Site list in 2002.

Then you will board a **vintage Fiat 500** from the late 60s or early 70s, an unusual and funny iconic Italian vehicle ideal for exploring the narrow streets of Modica. With expert local drivers you will enjoy an unconventional ride along the cathedral of Saint George and the other highlights in Modica.

Then you will meet a chocolate maker and discover the secrets of the **traditional chocolate** while tasting it. The chocolate of Modica still respects the ancient Aztec recipe imported to Sicily by the Spaniards in the 16th century.

At lunchtime you will enjoy a lunch based on the most traditional Sicilian food. We will be glad to reserve one of our favorite restaurants in Modica with a superb view on the church of San Peter.

After lunch it's off to reach the nearby **Ragusa**, one more Unesco site!

With an English speaking local guide you'll take a wonderful guided walking tour of **Ibla**, the oldest part of Ragusa.

You will discover true postcard landscapes and a stunning village rich in narrow cobbled streets, churches, and palaces from the 17th and 18th century. The most of them are adorned with capitals made of local stone and inlaid by the hands of skilled craftsmen.

You'll return to Ortigia in the evening.

Overnight: Grand Hotel Ortigia**, Ortigia, Syracuse.**

Meals included: Breakfast at the hotel, chocolate tasting, lunch.



Massimo and Friends' Sicily Tour 2024

October 20th: Mt. Etna, Barone di Villagrande winery, Taormina



Breakfast at the hotel restaurant and check-out.

08.30 am: meeting in the hotel lobby.

We will depart to **Mt. Etna** and reach Rifugio Sapienza (1900 mt – 6000 ft). Wear your sport shoes and wind jacket... you will get the opportunity to walk along the edge of an extinguished crater and see the remnants of previous lava flows. This is a very easy and pleasant trail!

Mt Etna was added to the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 2013 and is the **highest active volcano in Europe** (3430 mt – 10.922 ft), but offers a wide range of activities to do at lower altitudes.

The slopes of the volcano are also covered by many stunning wineries which produce some of the finest wines in the world.

At lunch time we will bring you to **Barone di Villagrande** winery whose vineyards are surrounded by beautiful and fascinating natural environments. An enologist-sommelier will show you the old cellars in which renowned Mt. Etna wines are aged.

Then, you will enjoy a complete lunch serving the **best Sicilian food** paired with **excellent wines**.

Finally we will depart to **Taormina** (34 km – 21 miles), the **jewel of Sicily** and your home base for the last two nights in Sicily.

You will check-in at Hotel Panoramic, your 4-star hotel by the sea in the bay of Taormina. Your room boasts a **stunning sea view** on *Isola Bella* (the Beautiful Island), the best beach in Taormina.

5.45 pm: after some time at leisure at the hotel we will meet again in the hotel lobby and move to the historic center of Taormina. Taormina was built by the ancient Greeks on a fertile hill above the Ionian Sea. It offers **spectacular views** on the bay of Naxos and Mt. Etna!

This beautiful village combines natural beauty and a rich artistic and archaeological heritage.

We will stroll along the Cathedral and Palazzo Corvaja. We will also stop at one of the town's belvederes. Here you'll be able to appreciate the impressive views of the surrounding sea and mountains.

Finally we will reach our favorite restaurant in Taormina. You will enjoy one of the tastiest pizzas in Sicily paired with other delicious food.

After dinner you will return to the hotel independently: it will be your chance to enjoy the vibrant night life of Taormina. You will be free to stroll along Corso Umberto, the most elegant of streets in Taormina, and the town's fashion district.

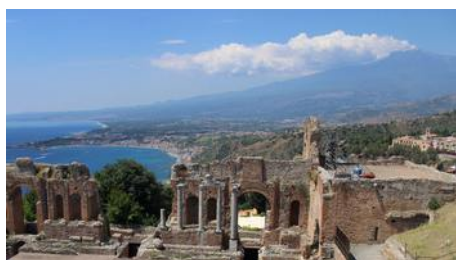
Overnight: Hotel Panoramic**, Taormina.**

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, wine tasting, dinner.



Massimo and Friends' Sicily Tour 2024

Oct 21st: Taormina (Cooking Class and farewell dinner)



Breakfast at the hotel restaurant. Your morning is on your own.

You will spend the morning at leisure:

- You may go to the stunning **Isola Bella** beach that is just few step away from your hotel. Here you may take one of the several boat tours in order to admire **Taormina's stunning coastline** and enjoy snorkeling in pristine waters. Since the tour depends on the sea conditions, we recommend you to book the tour on the same day.
- You may return to the historical center or Taormina in order to visit the famous **ancient theater**, built in the 2nd century BC.

5.15 pm: we will meet in the hotel lobby. Then we will reach the house of a **local chef with a stunning sea view** (it offers a gorgeous sea view on the Bay of Letojanni).

You will enjoy a fascinating experience into Sicily's rich cuisine, history and culture.

In his warm and welcoming kitchen, you will engage in a **hands-on cooking class** and enjoy the four course Sicilian menu that you have prepared together (Traditional Caponata and fresh pasta are two of the dishes you will enjoy).

We will return to the hotel at the end of the dinner.

Overnight: Hotel Panoramic**, Taormina.**

Meals included: breakfast, dinner.

October 22th: Departure

Breakfast at the hotel restaurant. Leisure time according to your flight departure and check-out.

Departure to the airport Fontanarossa, Catania, CTA (67 km – 41 miles from Taormina). Bye bye Sicily!

Note: the transportation from the hotel in Taormina to the airport of Catania is guaranteed regardless of the time and the day of your departure from Sicily.

Meals included: breakfast.

Massimo and Friends' Sicily Tour 2024

General conditions

RESERVATION AND PAYMENT:

The tour package called “Massimo and Friends' Sicily Tour 2024” which will take place in Sicily between October 12th and 22nd, 2024 is valid for a group of minimum 12 participants.

The tour package has a total price of 7,250 Canadian Dollars per person with accommodation in double room.

- Reservation Deposit: the non-refundable deposit required at the time of booking is 30% of the total.
- Balance Payment: the balance will be due 60 days prior to arrival.

CANCELLATION POLICY

- Up to 60 days prior to arrival: the 30% deposit will not be refunded.
- From 59 days prior to arrival, or no show: cancellations will be charged 100% of the total amount.

CANCELLATION POLICY RELATED TO PANDEMIC RESTRICTIONS

In case of unforeseen events of force majeure*, we offer you a voucher or “refund credit note” which corresponds to the amount that you have already paid. It gives you the chance to re-book your tour for a later date.

*Events of “Force majeure” consist of all cases that are out of our control such as wars, pandemic diseases, earthquakes and other natural disasters, social riots, etc. In those cases, the international law of tourism covers the suppliers involved in a tour and give them the possibility to offer clients a “refund credit note” which corresponds to the amount that clients have already paid. In other words you would have the chance to re-book your tour for a later date and you would not lose your money.

Anyway, we strongly recommend getting a travel insurance in order to make your trip completely tension-free. Please see the paragraph dedicated to travel insurance.



Massimo and Friends' Sicily Tour 2024

General conditions

THE TOUR PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- 3 overnights at Hotel Quinto Canto**** in Palermo (Accommodation in Deluxe double room with city view), 2 Nights at Hotel Riva del Sole**** in Cefalù (Accommodation in Deluxe double room with sea view), 3 nights at Grand Hotel Ortigia***** in Ortigia, Syracuse (Accommodation in double Deluxe room with city view) and 2 nights at Hotel Panoramic **** in Taormina (Accommodation in double Deluxe room with sea view).
- Transportation and excursions by air conditioned 30-seat motor coach with professional drivers according to the program. Transportation includes the ride by Vintage Fiat 500 in Modica and the transfers from Palermo airport (PMO) to the hotel in Palermo and the transfer from the hotel in Taormina to Catania airport (CTA). The transportation from/to the airports is guaranteed regardless of the time and the day of your arrival/departure.
- Guided visits with licensed English speaking local guides according to the program (asterisks stand for Unesco Site): Palermo*, Francavilla Palace, Erice, Monreale*, Castle of Caccamo, Cefalù*, Valley of the Temples*, Ortigia* (Syracuse), Ragusa Ibla*, Modica*, Mt. Etna*, Barone di Villagrande Winery on the slopes of Mt. Etna, Taormina.
- 10 breakfasts at the hotels, 6 complete lunches and 6 complete dinners according to the program (lunch and dinners consist at least of 3 courses. Water and 1 bottle of wine each 3 persons is included)
- 1 Welcome aperitif and 1 Wine tasting according to the program (4 different wines per person each wine tasting).
- Other food tastings according to the program (Granita, cannoli, chocolate etc).
- Authentic experiences with local food producers: Fish cous cous cooking show in Erice, Making of sausage in Caccamo; Chocolate cooking show in Modica, cooking class in Taormina.
- Entrance tickets to churches, archaeological sites, etc. according to the program.
- Whisper tour guide audio system during the whole tour.
- A traditional gift for each couple of participants.
- City taxes and vat.



Massimo and Friends' Sicily Tour 2024

General conditions

THE TOUR PACKAGE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Airfare tickets.
- Extra costs at the hotel (minibar, room service, telephone, etc).
- Other meals not included in the program.
- Tips (not mandatory: you can tip at your own discretion).
- Travel and medical insurance.
- Everything non indicated on the: "THE TOUR PACKAGE INCLUDES".

SUPPLEMENTS:

- Single traveler supplement accommodated in DUS Room (Double Room Single Use): **\$1,250** (Canadian Dollars) per person
- Other transfers from/to other Sicilian airports (different airports from the scheduled ones).
- Private vehicle and English speaking driver during the free time.

If you'd like to extend your tour of Sicily, we are glad to assist you with your travel plans and reservations.

- Additional overnights in Palermo, Taormina, or other locations in Sicily: on request.



Massimo and Friends' Sicily Tour 2024

General conditions

SALES AGREEMENT

The aforementioned tour package called "Massimo and Friends' Sicily Tour 2023" is the result of the collaboration between Luigia Zilli (380 Wellington St, Tower B, 6th Floor London ON N6A 5B5 - TICO #1549342), Wato Tours of Wafe Tours S.r.l. (Corso Umberto I, 401 - 90045 Cinisi PA - Regional Authorization: D.D.S. 527/S7 – P. Iva: 06224810827 - UnipolSai Assicurazioni n.1/2483/319/103807707/3) and Round Trip Consulting of Campagna Rosella (registered office in Via Antonello da Messina 69 - 90142 Palermo, P.IVA 06249160828).

Luigia Zilli is an independent agent with Nexion Travel Group Canada

Wato Tours of Wafe Tours Srl is a Tour Operator operating in the sector of professional travel organization in Italy and abroad, according to the terms and principles provided by the Italian Laws (art. 2 D.Lgs 17 Marzo 1995, n.111).

Round Trip Consulting is a DMC (Destination Management Company) and a PCO (Professional Congress Organizer) operating in the sector of professional organization of corporate events and tourism services. Round Trip Consulting supplies to Wato Tours of Wafe Tours S.r.l. his consultancy as a Voyage Designer Consultant with a view to designing private and customized tours in Sicily for individuals and groups.

The aforementioned tour package is marketed by Wato Tours of Wafe Tours S.r.l. (which owns the technical management) and addressed exclusively to clients of Luigia Zilli.

For booking, please contact Luigia Zilli at:

Email: luigiazilli@nexioncanada.com Phone +1 289.815.0331 Cell/WhatsApp +1 289.400.6309

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this contract the following terms shall have the following meanings:

- a) Wato Tours di Wafe Tours S.r.l. hereinafter referred to as the "travel organizer" or the "organizer" is the subject which provides to the buyer a tour package, in accordance with a request in written form and a payment established in the contract.
- b) the purchaser of this tour package, hereinafter referred to as the "buyer".
- c) "Tour package": the combination of transportation, accommodations and additional tourism services not included in transportation or accommodation costs.

ADJUSTMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The organizer reserves the right to make any changes to the program that may be necessary for technical-organizational reasons or if causes beyond its control or causes of force majeure prevent it from proceeding correctly.

The organizer shall immediately inform of such changes.

The organizer declines all moral, civil and property liability for any damage, theft or other incidents to persons and property during the event, which do not depend on his direct responsibility or negligence.



Massimo and Friends' Sicily Tour 2024

General conditions

OBLIGATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS AND BUYER

Participants should also follow the rules of normal prudence and diligence and to those specifications in force in the countries of destinations, all information provided by the organizer, as well as regulations, legislative or administrative provisions relating to the tourism package.

Sicily is a large island, very mountainous in some areas; our schedule has been designed to optimize your time in Sicily and break up the driving as much as possible, but sometime long drives are necessary.

Although there will not be hard excursions or hiking, there is a significant amount of walking tours, especially in the historic centers and archaeological sites.

We recommend you to be in good physical health to enjoy this tour. We also recommend you to wear your most comfortable shoes.

Participants are still obliged to inform the organizer of any special needs or conditions (diseases, pregnancy, food allergies, disabilities, physical limitations, etc.) and to explicitly specify the request for personalized services.

Please check Italian travel requirements before entering Italy. Participants may need to show proof of COVID vaccine, passports and any other document such as official CDC card valid to visit Italy, as well as visas, transit and health certificates if required. Some documents may be no longer required in 2023.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We would like to inform you that we pay in advance our suppliers using the deposit and the balance.

In case of unforeseen causes of force majeure, such as events caused by Covid, the Italian Government gives hotels and all suppliers involved in a tour package the chance to provide vouchers (or “refund credit notes”) to customers instead of refunds. For us, it may be very difficult to get your money back instead of the voucher. Therefore we strongly recommend getting a travel insurance in order to make your trip completely tension-free.

A good international travel insurance covers cancellation penalties, as well as health care policies, payment of medical expenses, baggage protection or compensation for inconvenience due to forced travel extension and which take into account the unforeseen events caused by Covid.

Pay attention: only CFAR (cancel-for-any-reason) travel insurances cover in case of cancellations by pandemic. They reimburse clients no matter what their reason for cancelling is.

ADVICE ON WHEATHER AND PACKING

October is one of the best period to visit Sicily, although temperatures are not high and the humidity may be annoying in the late evening and night. That's why we recommend you to bring some sweater and a jacket.

We recommend you to wear your most comfortable shoes to enjoy the walking tours.

The excursion on Mt. Etna is very easy, but we will be at 2,000 meters – 6,000 feet above sea level so please don't forget to wear your sport shoes and a wind jacket!

Also a hat to cover your head under the sun may be important.



Massimo and Friends' Sicily Tour 2024

General conditions

JURISDICTION AND APPLICABLE LAWS

The parties hereto submit to the jurisdiction and competence of the courts and tribunals of Italy.

The parties agree that the court of Palermo will exclusively manage any litigation concerning the application and/or the interpretation of this agreement.

Both parties hereby ratify this agreement and sign duplicate copies hereof, to a sole effect, in the place and on the date first written above.

Palermo, October 30th, 2023

Wato Tours di Wafe Tours S.r.l.

Corso Umberto I, 401

90045 Cinisi (PA)

Aut. Regionale: D.D.S. 527/S7

P.Iva: 06224810827

Round Trip Consulting di

Campagna Rosella

Via A. da Messina 69

90142 Palermo

P.IVA 06249160828

Buyer's details

(Name, Family name and complete address)



Buyer's signature



Massimo and Friends' Sicily Tour

October 12th – 22nd, 2024

Are you ready to feel the Sicilian good vibrations, restore your soul, and enjoy yourself to the fullest?



“We look forward to taking care of you!”

