

## SICILIAN CAROUSEL TOUR 2023

The most authentic tour of Sicily ★★★★★

Exclusive small groups tour up to 20 pax Exclusively in English  
8D/7N Saturday Catania - Taormina

*A Journey In The Colors, In The Flavors And In The Sicilian Traditions*

### 1<sup>st</sup> Day /Saturday CATANIA

Independent arrival at hotel in Catania, accommodation. Welcome drink and dinner at Hotel and overnight.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Day /Sunday CATANIA – SIRACUSA – CATANIA

After a buffet breakfast, departure to Syracuse: visit the World Heritage Site "Neapolis". The visit of this archaeological area includes the famous Greek theatre, the Roman Amphitheatre, the Latomie of Paradise and the "Dionisios Ear". Continue to the island of Ortigia, the small baroque old city centre of Siracusa; free time for lunch. In the afternoon visit of the beautiful Cathedral, which is built upon the site of the Doric Temple of Minerva, the legendary Arethusa's Fountain and the Temple of Apollo. Free time at disposal to stroll through the streets of the centre and for shopping. Return to your hotel in Catania. Free evening at your disposal to experience the city and its nightlife and to dine in one of the typical restaurant in the city centre. Overnight.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Day /Monday CATANIA (fish market & street food) – RAGUSA (cheese taste)

After a buffet breakfast, departure for a nice walking tour of **Catania**, stroll through the city centre with your professional guide who will charm you with the history of the city and visit the famous fish market "A PISCARIA", one of the largest fish markets in Sicily. As old as the city itself, it's a great way to experience the abundant fishing and seafood culture of Sicily, with a very special and authentic atmosphere. Here you will have the chance to taste the delights of typical Catania's street food.

Depart to **Ragusa** and visit of the enchanting historical centre "Ibla", with its stunning baroque palaces and churches; together with other seven cities in the Val di Noto, Ragusa is listed among the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Ragusa is also renowned for its cheese production, therefore we will not miss a tasting of artisan cheeses. We will continue to the reserved hotel where we will have time at disposal to relax at the swimming pool or at the Spa. Dinner in hotel and Overnight

### 4<sup>th</sup> Day /Tuesday RAGUSA – AGRIGENTO – MARSALA (wine tasting & Marsala by night)

After a buffet breakfast, departure to **Agrigento**, a hillside town famous for its magnificent Valley of the Temples, a UNESCO World Heritage Site; visit of the Valley, including the Temple of Concordia, which is in almost perfectly preserved condition, the temples of Juno and Heracles. Free time at disposal for lunch. In the afternoon we'll proceed to **Marsala** a city on the western coast famous for its production of sweet Sicilian wine. Arrival at Baglio Oneto dei Principi di San Lorenzo Resort. Here we will do a tour of the resort's wineries, starting from the vineyards, where the whole wine-making process begins. We'll explore the historic courtyard and the Palmento Room, where grapes were laid down in berries to be crushed before being transferred to barrels. We will visit the Ageing Cellar, a room that has never stopped keeping its fascinating atmosphere intact. We will taste 3 different fine wines. Free time at disposal to relax at the swimming pool or to enjoy magic moments at sunset in your hotel. In the evening, we'll reach Marsala city centre and have free time at disposal to discover the historical centre by walking and free time for dinner. Return to the hotel and overnight.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Day /Wednesday MARSALA –SALT ROUTE- ERICE (taste of traditional pastries) – PALERMO

After a buffet breakfast, departure to Erice, via the spectacular "Salt Route", a road flanked by the salt pans, windmills, and the "salt houses" where they still extract the sea salt as the Phoenicians. Arrival in Erice, placed on the top of a hill overlooking the city of Trapani and the Egadi Islands: walk through its tiny and characteristic streets, the winding lanes and, inner courtyards and stop for marzipan and biscuit tasting. Free time at disposal for lunch. Continue to Palermo, the capital of Sicily. We will visit the Cathedral, one of the most important architectural monuments. We will continue our visit by walking along Corso Vittorio Emanuele to reach "I Quattro Canti di Città" Piazza Pretoria, Piazza Bellini and we'll visit the Martorana Church, one of the most beautiful churches of Palermo. We will then reach one of the most famous and historical markets of Palermo to experience the authenticity of this wonderful and colorful city. We will end our tour with a taste the delights of typical Palermo's street food, one of the most renowned all over the world. Accommodation at hotel and free time at disposal for shopping and dinner. Overnight.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Day /Thursday PALERMO – MONREALE – CEFALU' – MESSINA - TAORMINA

After a buffet breakfast departure to visit the town of **Monreale**, situated on a hill at few kms far from Palermo in panoramic position. Visit of the Cathedral, one of the most beautiful monuments in the world with its Moorish architecture, housing very fine mosaics representing a complete cycle of the Old and New Testaments in Arab-Norman style. Continue to **Cefalù**, a former fishing village, now a charming coastal town. Enjoy a walk to the city centre and down main street to reach the Arab-Norman Cathedral and the medieval wash-house built in the rock. Free time at disposal to explore the town and shopping and lunch on your own. Proceed to Taormina through the coastal road passing through **Messina** from where we'll have the chance to admire the suggestive scenery of the Strait of Messina. Accommodation at your hotel and free time at disposal for dinner. Overnight.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Day /Friday TAORMINA – MT. ETNA (wine tasting) – TAORMINA

After a buffet breakfast, excursion to **Mount Etna**, the highest active Volcano in Europe. Weather conditions permitting, across fascinating landscape with different kind of vegetation, a mixture of citrus groves, vineyards and fruit trees. We will reach a height of 1800 metres to visit the Sylvester Craters where we'll enjoy a spectacular panorama over the Ionian Sea. Stop at a local vineyard on the eastern slopes of Etna and visit a prestigious cellar. We will have the opportunity to taste different local wines accompanied by local cheese and cold cuts. In the afternoon back to **Taormina**, charming city called "the pearl of the Ionian Sea": enjoy time at leisure for shopping or walking through its tiny streets. Possibility to visit the Greek-Roman Theatre on your own (Ticket € 12,00 p.p.), with its spectacular view of Giardini Naxos and Mount Etna. Free time for dinner and overnight.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Day /Saturday TAORMINA

After buffet breakfast, end of the Tour

### HOTELS SELECTED FOR THE TOUR:

<b>Catania</b>	<b>Katane hotel 4****</b> or similar
<b>Ragusa</b>	<b>Poggio Del Sole Resort 4****</b> or similar
<b>Marsala</b>	<b>Baglio Oneto Resort 5****L</b> or similar
<b>Palermo</b>	<b>Grand Hotel Piazza Borsa 4****</b> <b>Politeama Palace 4****</b> or similar
<b>Taormina</b>	<b>Villa Diodoro 4****</b> <b>Hotel Caparena 4****</b> or similar

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TOUR

- ✓ We have designed this program to alternate the visits to the main archaeological and monumental sites with gastronomic and enological experiences.
- ✓ Visit to the 2 main historical markets of the island to have a full immersion in the "Authentic Sicilian life"
- ✓ Free time at disposal in each city/town for shopping or to enjoy a walk
- ✓ Exclusive tour for **small groups up to 18/20** People max
- ✓ Exclusively In English
- ✓ We have selected Charming Hotels located In the historical centres of the main sicilian towns or Exclusive Resorts with swimming pools and spa.
- ✓ Visit of the Main Sicilian **UNESCO SITES** :  
(The late Baroque towns of the "Val di Noto": Ragusa, Siracusa, Valley of Temples, Etna volcan, the Arab-Norman Palermo itinerary and the Cathedrals of Monreale and Cefalù)
- ✓ Other visits: Catania, Erice, Ragusa Ibla, Salt Route and Marsala by night, Cefalù, Palermo; Panoramic tour of the Messina strait

### TYPICAL SICILIAN EXPERIENCES

- ✓ fish market & street food in Catania (Eastern Sicily)
- ✓ cheese taste in Ragusa
- ✓ wine tasting Experience in Marsala (Western Sicily)
- ✓ taste of traditional almond pastries in Erice
- ✓ Typical Street Food (light dinner) in Palermo (Western Sicily)
- ✓ Visit of a typical winery on Etna and wine tasting (Eastern Sicily)

### BOOKING SERVICES PRE/POST TOUR

Available on request our department: [\*\*tours@retevacanze.it\*\*](mailto:tours@retevacanze.it)

**Hotels:** pre-night / post-night tour booking

**Transfers:** in / out from the airport or other Cities

### CANCELLATION FEES:

- 100 % penalty **from 2 days** before and **NO SHOW**
- 80 % **from 3 to 7 days** before the beginning of the Tour.
- 40 % **from 8 to 14 days** before the beginning of the Tour
- 20 % **from 15 to 30 days** before the beginning of the Tour

Covid-19 restrictive policies: At the printing date of this brochure, no particular restrictive measures have been foreseen for the containment of the spread of COVID-19. It will be Retevacanze's responsibility to keep customers informed about possible measures introduced by the government as soon as the news is made public.

### DEPARTURE DATES Summer 2023:

From **Catania on Saturdays**

#### LOW SEASON

April ...08...  
June .....03..17..24  
September... 30  
October...07..14

#### HIGH SEASON

May ..06..13..20..27  
July..15  
August....26  
September..02..09..16..23

#### GROSS RATES:

Rate per Person	Low Season	High Season
In Double room	€ 1.550,00	€ 1.600,00
Suppl. Single room	€ 288,00	€ 310,00
3 <sup>rd</sup> pax in triple room	On Request	

#### RATE INCLUDES:

- 6 nights accommodation in 4\* hotels /
- 1 night in a 4\*S or 5\* stars Luxury Resort
- Welcome drink on day 1.
- Board: 2 Dinners (Catania on day 1 and Ragusa on day 3) and 7 Breakfasts at Hotel.
- Mineral water (1/2 per person) at meals in Hotel
- 2 Street food experiences in Catania and Palermo
- Cheese tasting in Ragusa
- Almond pastries tasting in Erice
- Visit of a cellar and Wine tasting in Marsala
- Visit of a cellar and Wine tasting on Mount Etna
- Transportation de Luxe motor coach\* with free wi-fi
- \*a **minivan** with English Speaking driver, normally not equipped with wifi, will be provided if the number of participants is equal to or less than eight
- English speaking Tour Escort\*
- Local Guides where necessary
- Whispers Kit (for group with more than 10 passengers)
- Porterage at hotels
- Retevacanze staff assistance

#### RATE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Transfers in/out
- Entrance tickets to sites and museums
- City Tax: to be paid directly at the Hotel
- Beverages (excluded water at meals in the Hotels)
- Everything which is not clearly specified under "rate includes"

#### ENTRANCE TICKETS SUPPLEMENT:

**TOTAL € 41,50 (net rate) per person** up-to-date Sept. 2021

SIRACUSA: Neapolis € 16,50 + Dome € 2,00 / AGRIGENTO: Valley of Temples € 12,00/PALERMO: Martorana Church € 2,00 /MONREALE: Dome € 4,00 + € 5,00 presale fees

**Attention:** \*The above price is valid on September 2021. In case of price increases, we will have to update it.

#### **important information:**

\* For reasons not dependent on Retevacanze (public events, religious holidays, sporting events or adverse weather conditions), the itinerary can be changed without notice; in this case Retevacanze ensures - where possible - similar visits and excursions according to the spirit of the tour program

If the number of participants does not reach the minimum of 9 pax, Retevacanze **will guarantee the departure**, with a **minivan**, **English Speaking driver** and Local Guide services where necessary, reserving the right to make changes to the travel program by giving notice within 30 days before the departure date;