# Best of Italy and Sicily



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# Day 1 | Welcome to Palermo



The multicultural capital of Palermo launches your journey across Sicily and Italy. You'll have some free time before meeting your Travel Director and fellow travellers for a Welcome Reception and orientation of the city's attractions, so why not head straight out to explore its fascinating history on your own?

Meals: Welcome Reception Hotel: Mercure Centro

# Day 2 | Enjoy the Views in Monreale



Join your Local Specialist for a sightseeing tour, which includes the Teatro Massimo and old 'La Cala' harbour. Later, travel to Monreale on the slopes of Monte Caputo overlooking the almond, olive and orange groves of La Conca d'Oro. Here you'll visit the 12<sup>th</sup>-century Norman Cathedral, dedicated to the Assumption of the Virgin Mary.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Mercure Centro

#### **Optional Experiences:**

A Visit To Cefalù - Take a drive along the blue coastal highway to the quaint medieval village of Cefalù. You'll have the chance to stroll from the long golden beaches into the winding Arab streets with your Local Specialist. Adult: **36.00 EUR** 

Sferracavallo with Dinner - Join us for a drive to the coast of Sicily, where we'll arrive at the quaint fishing village of Sferracavallo. You'll have the chance to sample a delicious feast of local Palermo specialities, accompanied by wine and soft drinks.

Adult: 60.00 EUR

#### Day 3 | Journey to Ancient Agrigento



Continue to the pretty seaside resort of Mondello. Journey to Agrigento to tour the impressive Greek Valley of the Temples, dating back to the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC, with a Local Specialist. This evening, dinner is served at your hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner Hotel: Dioscuri Bay Palace

# **Optional Experiences:**

Colours and Traditions of Palermo - A panoramic drive through verdant forest with spectacular views over the city of Palermo brings us to the summit of Mt. Pellegrino. Here we visit the grotto of Santa Rosalia, Palermo's patron saint. Later, with a Local Specialist, we explore and sample Palermitano street food at one of the most famous and colourful markets with its stalls of olives and spices. A wonderful opportunity to enjoy picturesque Sicilian everyday life.

Adult: 30.00 EUR

# Day 4 | Onwards to Scenic Taormina



Travel through the vineyards of the southern hills towards the seaside resort of Taormina, your home for the next two nights. Enjoy spectacular vistas and a taste of la dolce vita in this hillside town, with some free time on arrival.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Caesar Palace Giardini Naxos

#### **Optional Experiences:**

You will be offered one of the following two optional experiences depending on availability:

**Dinner in Castelmola** - Climb by minibus to the heights of Castelmola, above Taormina, to enjoy a tasty Sicilian Dinner with local wine in a characteristic restaurant with some of the best views of this magical part of the island. Then enjoy a tasty Sicilian Dinner with wine.

Adult: **82.00 EUR** 

**Sicilian Dinner and Entertainment** - Join us for a fantastic Sicilian evening where we'll enjoy a dinner of Southern Italian specialities with musical entertainment.

Adult: **75.00 EUR** 

#### Day 5 | Taormina Your Way



Spend the day relaxing at your chic Sicilian resort. Dive into the warm Mediterranean waters, shop for exquisite hand-painted ceramics on Corso Umberto or indulge in a mulberry granita. Consider joining an Optional Experience to Savoca, the village made famous by 'The Godfather', or Europe's most active volcano, Mount Etna. This evening, Connect With Locals during a Be My Guest experience hosted at a beautiful family owned Sicilian lemon farm overlooking Mount Etna.

Meals: Breakfast, Be My Guest Hotel: Caesar Palace Giardini Naxos

#### **Optional Experiences:**

Mt Etna, Savoca And The Godfather - Discover rustic village life with your Local Specialist as we visit Savoca, the Sicilian setting for 'The Godfather'. Enjoy the stunning views before a visit to Vitelli's bar, featured in the film and

famous for 'granita di limone'. Later, you'll journey up Mt Etna, one of the most intriguing volcanoes in the world. Adult: 56.00 EUR

# Day 6 | Travel to Sorrento



Today we cross the Strait of Messina to mainland Italy by ferry, driving north through rustic Calabria via Salerno. Perhaps consider a visit to the Amalfi Coast and Positano, a Mediterranean landscape with beautiful views. We continue to our hotel in Sorrento where we'll spend the next two nights.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Grand Parco del Sole

#### **Optional Experiences:**

Amalfi Coast and Positano - Come with us for a drive along the famous Amalfi Coast. You'll have a chance to visit the exclusive artists' paradise of Positano, which is magnificently positioned on the Mediterranean coast. Adult: **59.00 EUR** 

# Day 7 | A Day on the Isle of Capri



We cruise to the Isle of Capri where we'll enjoy a guided walking tour of Capri town with a Local Specialist. Window-shop along Via Camerelle and watch the beautiful people in the Piazzetta before returning to Sorrento, where you will have the evening at leisure to indulge in a little limoncello in one of the town's many cafés.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Grand Parco del Sole

# **Optional Experiences:**

**Discover The Isle Of Capri** - Experience the spectacular cliffs and famous turquoise waters of Capri during a relaxing cruise to the most beautiful part of the island, the southern side. View the beautiful grottoes and unique coastline before ascending to Capri town. This optional experience is weather dependent and may be replaced by a minibus tour of the Island with a visit to Anacapri and the Villa San Michele.

Adult: 47.00 EUR

You will be offered one of the following two optional experiences depending on availability:

Sorrento Countryside and Farmhouse Meal - Join us at a traditional farm in the Sorrento countryside, where you'll visit the lemon groves, olive oil mill and see first-hand how mozzarella is made. Afterwards, enjoy the authentic flavours of home-produced cold cuts, marinated vegetables, fresh olives and more - all washed down with the local wine. The atmosphere is informal, as the family are welcoming you into their home.

Adult: 53.00 EUR

#### Dinner Neapolitan Style with Music -

Join us for an evening of Neapolitan specialties at one of our favourite family-run restaurants. Savour local dishes all served up with the famous Neapolitan hospitality, music and zest for life.

Adult: 65.00 EUR

# Day 8 | Explore Pompeii's Ruins and Rome



This morning, we visit the UNESCO World Heritage-listed ruins of Pompeii where a Local Specialist will take you on a walking tour. For centuries, the city was lost to the world – its rediscovery in the 18<sup>th</sup> century revealed a time capsule of well-preserved ruins that provides insights into the day-to-day life of a Roman city, centuries ago. Later, admire the dramatic coastline, driving north from Pompeii to the 'Eternal City' of Rome. This evening, an exclusive Trafalgar experience will see you Dive Into Culture and enjoy a visit to the extraordinary Vatican Museums including the famous frescoed ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, followed by a special dinner inside the Anima Mundi Museum.

Meals: Breakfast, Regional Dinner

**Hotel:** Grand Tiberio

# Day 9 | Explore Ancient Rome and the Vatican City



Rome was once the capital of the world and is a city with an irresistible verve. Join your Local Specialist for a sightseeing tour to admire the city's iconic and unexpected highlights. Head to the Vatican and see Michelangelo's magnificent Pietà inside St. Peter's Basilica. Your next stop is Ancient Rome, where you'll see Circus Maximus and visit the Colosseum where gladiators and slaves once fought to their deaths. Spend the rest of the day exploring the city your way.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Il Cantico

# **Optional Experiences:**

Piazzas and Fountains - Discover the most charming areas in the city with a Local Specialist. Wander through the labyrinth of narrow streets and beautiful squares of Rome's historic centre, leading to highlights such as the Trevi Fountain and the Pantheon, as well as hidden corners of the Eternal City.

Adult: **37.00 EUR** 

Roman Evening with Dinner - Tonight, spend a lively evening with us in Rome. After a short drive, we'll arrive at a characteristic trattoria to relax and enjoy a typical Italian meal, soaking up The Eternal City's unique atmosphere all the while.

Adult: 62.00 EUR

# Day 10 | Off to Historic Assisi



Today, we drive north to the mystical medieval hilltop town of Assisi, most famous for being the birthplace of St. Francis. Join a Local Specialist for a tour of the Basilica of St. Francis to view its magnificent frescoes and carvings. Tonight, we'll stay at one of Trafalgar's Stays With Stories - a fully renovated old Franciscan monastery.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Cenacolo

## **Optional Experiences:**

You will be offered one of the following two optional experiences depending on availability:

Tivoli And Gardens Of The Villa D'Este - Visit the ancient Sabine town of Tivoli with our Local Specialist to enjoy the gardens and fountains of the Villa D'Este. We'll see its grottos and pavilions, the Avenue of a Hundred Fountains, and the Dragon Fountain of the Organ.

Adult: **46.00 EUR** 

\*On occasion, the price of this optional may increase due to group size.

**Umbrian Countryside and Spello** - Enjoy a drive through the charming Umbrian countryside to Spello, one of the treasures of the region. We'll explore this unspoilt medieval village with our Local Specialist, strolling through its narrow cobbled streets with ancient arches and its quaint houses, with their hanging flower pots. Spello, with its historic and cultural allure, is also a photographer's paradise, with its enveloping Roman walls and stunning panoramas. An unforgettable experience.

Adult: 35.00 EUR

#### Day 11 | Admire Pisa and on to La Spezia



We venture to Pisa to visit the Square of Miracles and view the Leaning Tower that bears this city's name. A short drive north takes us to La Spezia, known as the 'Pearl of the Tyrrhenian Sea'. Tonight is free to explore as you wish.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: NH La Spezia

#### **Optional Experiences:**

You will be offered one of the following two optional experiences depending on availability:

Wine Tasting and Sarzana Visit - Near the ancient Via Aurelia, we'll visit a winery to learn about "vermentino" grapes, the pride of Liguria. We'll taste several wines paired with local morsels and tour the 18th-century country farm house. Then, we'll continue exploring the area, as we drive up to Sarzana, a small village found by the Romans with rich history and heritage.

Adult: 49.00 EUR

Sarzana Dinner and Drive - Tonight we'll go off the beaten track to the alluring medieval town of Sarzana, a hidden gem. We've chosen an elegant venue, where you'll enjoy dinner with drinks. Its distinctive ambiance is brimming with charm and unique character which make it a firm favourite with the locals.

Adult: **68.00 EUR** 

# Day 12 | Enjoy Colourful Cinque Terre and Florence



Ioin a Local Specialist to visit Cinque Terre, a series of centuries-old seaside villages clinging impossibly to rugged cliffs that plunge into the Ligurian Sea. Continue later to Florence, once a vibrant republic under the rule of the dynamic Medici family, whose love for art and antiquities created one of the world's most cultural cities. You'll have the night off to see the sights on your

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Grand Mediterraneo

# **Optional Experiences:**

You will be offered one of the following two optional experiences depending on availability:

#### Dinner. Wine and Music in the Tuscan Hills -

This evening we'll take a scenic drive to experience a fun and relaxed evening at a friendly, typical restaurant in the countryside. The chef will delight our senses with regional dishes, made with freshly-bought ingredients from the local farmers' markets. Your delicious meal will be accompanied by excellent wines from the vineyards for which this area is so well known. In short, a Tuscan dream come true in an authentic setting.

Adult: **65.00 EUR** 

Tuscan Dinner at Villa Machiavelli - Through the Chianti hills, we'll drive past vineyards to a delightful hamlet. Our destination is the ancient stone house of Machiavelli, where the great political theorist wrote his immortal work, 'The Prince'. After a welcome drink and a visit of the villa and its wine-cellars, we'll enjoy the best of Tuscan cuisine accompanied by great music and drinks, including of course, Chianti from the Villa's own vines. Adult: **68.00 EUR** 

## Day 13 | Journey to Venice



The magnificent marble Duomo, Santa Croce Basilica, Ponte Vecchio and Piazza della Signoria feature on your walking tour with a Local Specialist through Florence's grand boulevards and narrow lanes. Head north to Venice, the 'Queen of the Adriatic'.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Le Boulevard Lido

#### **Optional Experiences:**

**Lagoon Cruise to Burano with Food and Drinks** - This afternoon, discover the Venetian Lagoon by private boat. You'll enjoy a delicious meal, with a selection of drinks, on the fisherman's island of Burano, famous for its multicoloured houses - a photographer's paradise.

Adult: **72.00 EUR** 

# Day 14 | Cruise the Canals of Venice



Witness the centuries-old craft of glassblowing. Your unforgettable MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience helps keep this delicate tradition for which Venice is justifiably famous alive and you'll watch enchanted how the master craftsmen shape the molten glass into the exquisite pieces that adorn homes all over the world. Next. embark on an orientation cruise by private launch to the gateway of Venice, St. Mark's Square, which Napoleon once called the 'drawing room of Europe'. See the Doge's Palace, St. Mark's Cathedral and the Bridge of Sighs, where prisoners would have one last look at their beloved city before facing imprisonment. The rest of the afternoon is yours to explore more of the sights or consider an Optional Experience, navigating the city's elegant canals from the comfort of a traditional gondola. Tonight, you'll join your fellow travellers for a Farewell Dinner and toast to shared memories that will linger long after the evening ends.

Meals: Breakfast, Farewell Dinner

Hotel: Le Boulevard Lido

#### **Optional Experiences:**

Venice's Secrets and St. Mark's Basilica - Explore the hidden maze of streets which make up this unique city as your Local Specialist gives you a fascinating insight into Venice's past and present. You'll visit the majestic Basilica of St Mark, where you'll admire magnificent mosaics in one of the most ornate churches in the world. Adult: 38.00 EUR

**Gondolas & the Grand Canal** - Join us for a breathtaking cruise by private water taxi along Venice's Grand Canal. You'll admire the magnificent palazzi, catching a glimpse of the Rialto Bridge and St. Mark's Square. Later on, you'll glide gracefully on a gondola along Venice's dreamy, narrow waterways. Adult: **79.00 EUR** 

Day 15 | Farewell Venice



For now, it's a fond ciao Venezia as you say goodbye to new friends and prepare to depart for our journey home. Find out more about your free airport transfer at trafalgar.com/freetransfers.

Meals: Breakfast