

Sicily

DISCOVER SICILY WITH CHEF RIC ORLANDO

SAVOR SICILY'S CULINARY DELIGHTS



ITINERARY

DAY 1 - APR. 2, 2022 » ARRIVAL IN SICILY AND WELCOME DINNER

Whether you fly into Palermo or Catania, check in to the Hotel Villa Schuler in Taormina by mid-afternoon.

The Hotel Villa Schuler will be our home base for the first 4 days in Sicily. This family-run hotel — overlooking the salt-kissed Bay of Naxos — is simply extraordinary — vaunting epic sea views, comfortable rooms, and genuine Italian hospitality.

In the afternoon: Meet and greet at Hotel Villa Schuler, overlooking the sapphire sea and Mount Etna in the distance.

Group Welcome dinner at an authentic local restaurant.



ITINERARY

DAY 2 - APR. 3, 2022 » TAORMINA WALKING TOUR & HAZELNUT FARM VISIT WITH LUNCH

After breakfast at the Hotel Schuler, we will meet our guide for the walking tour of Taormina.

Commonly known as the Pearl of the Ionian Sea, Taormina, develops around an Agorà whose ruins, which are still visible along the street that leads to the theatre, were the settlement of the Roman Forum. In the surroundings, you can admire the ruins of holy and public monuments (the Aphrodite's Temple, the Roman Thermal Baths, and the Odeon).

We will then be transported in comfort to a local hazelnut farm where we will enjoy an authentic lunch at a local hazelnut farm — savoring a true taste of Sicilian farm-to-table fare.

We will then return to Taormina for a relaxing evening on own.

Dinner at leisure and overnight at Villa Schuler.



ITINERARY

DAY 3 - APR. 4, 2022 » CATANIA FOOD MARKET & FRESH PASTA-MAKING CLASS

Today, we will transfer by private bus to Catania, where my Sicilian friend, Chef Loredana, will bring our group inside the vibrant (and delicious) Catania Food Market — one of the liveliest open-air daily markets in all of Italy.

Together, we will hunt for the freshest of ingredients for our authentic cooking class with Loredana. You will learn to make fresh cavatelli and many other Southern Italian dishes — all based on what is freshest that day in the market. The dishes we create will be our delicious Sicilian lunch — so be prepared to eat *molto* (a lot!)

After our class and meal, we will return to Taormina, where you will have the evening at leisure to explore the city on your own.

Dinner at leisure and overnight at Villa Schuler.



ITINERARY

DAY 4 - APR. 5, 2022 » PISTACCHIO & WINE TASTING ON MOUNT ETNA

After breakfast, pack your bags and say arrivederci to Taormina. Today we head to Bronte, famous for its pistacchio production.

Here we will visit a pistacchio farm and taste the excellent products made with pistacchio: creams, cakes, nougats, pesto, spirits and more.

After the tasting, we will go behind-the-scenes at a family-owned winery on the mineral-rich slopes of Etna. The Etna volcano produces some of Sicily's most prized varietals, including the famous Etna Rosso wine.

We will then transfer to Agrigento area and check-in at Fontes Episcopi.

Famiata experience with dinner and overnight at Fontes Episcopi.



ITINERARY

DAY 5 - APR. 6, 2022 » VILLAGE EXPERIENCE IN SANT'ANGELO MUXARO

Today will be one of the highlights of your trip.

After breakfast at our inn, we will visit my friend Pier Filippo Spoto for a true farm fresh "Agriturismo" experience. Pier Filippo will introduce us the local artisanal foods of a tiny hilltop village. As we walk the town's stone streets, we will meet the sheep whose milk makes the hamlet's fresh ricotta. You will be in awe by the city's take on "sfincione" -- a fluffy Sicilian pizza topped in local cheese and farm-fresh vegetables. We will also have lunch based on local products and dishes.

We will then head back to our accommodation and spend the afternoon at leisure.

Dinner at a local restaurant and overnight at Fontes Episcopi.



ITINERARY

DAY 6 - APR. 7, 2022 » FARM EXPERIENCE AT PIANA DEGLI ALBANESI

After breakfast, pack your bags and be ready for your next experience.

With our driver we will reach a small family-owned farm in Piana degli Albanesi where we will experience a stunning day with the owners of the dairy farm. After discovering Giovanni and his family's daily life, you are going to learn about the process of making stretched cured cheeses such as caciocavallo and vastedda. You'll then put the fingers in the pie to knead your "muffulette" and cook them into the stone oven. Finally, you will have a great homey lunch with all the dairy products and other delicacies produced by this wonderful family.

After lunch, we will head to Palermo and check-in at Piazza Borsa hotel.

Dinner at leisure and overnight at Piazza Borsa hotel.



ITINERARY

DAY 7- APR. 8, 2022 » PALERMO WITH DINNER AT ENOTECA PICONE WITH GIANLUCA

Today will savor a fascinating tour of the city of Palermo, including its stunning Opera House and 1,000-year-old churches. We will then enjoy light lunch in one of the open-air Market, enjoying the bounty of Sicilian street food.

After lunching with my friends at the Market, you will have time to explore Palermo on your own.

In late afternoon, we will meet again and reach a local Food&Wine with our food&wine guide.

We will have dinner at the local wine bar to learn about the Sicilian gastronomic heritage.

Overnight at Piazza Borsa.



ITINERARY

DAY 8 – APR. 9, 2022 » MONREALE TOUR & FAREWELL DINNER WITH CHEF RIC

In the morning, we will meet our guide and driver at the hotel and we will head to Monreale (for those who could be interested) to visit one of Sicily's most glorious Arab-Norman architectural marvels: the gold-domed cathedral of Monreale and its cloisters—adorned with sculpted columns and ornate capitals.

We will be back in Palermo in late morning to enjoy lunch at leisure and free time.

In late afternoon, we will meet again to reach together Laura's home where we will enjoy a local farewell dinner cooked by your very own Chef Ric Orlando using local Sicilian ingredients.

Overnight at Piazza Borsa.

DAY 9 – APR. 10, 2022 » CHECK OUT OF HOTEL & DEPARTURE

Check-out of your hotel in the morning and proceed to the airport or your next destination. Say arrivederci (until we see each other again!) to the stunning heart of Sicily.