

# Sicily & Malta

Food, wine & culture  
5 -11 September, 2022



## What to expect

“After centuries of stagnation the Mediterranean’s biggest and most historically fascinating island is now Italy’s most vital and improved wine region.”

Hugh Johnson, The World Atlas of Wine

Sicily is a delightful island set in the sparkling seas of the Mediterranean, as famous for its food as for its diverse cultural legacy that spans the ancient Greeks to the Spanish.

September is a lovely time of the year to see the island in all its glory. Along with fantastic wine visits we also get to taste homemade food, eat in great restaurants as well as enjoying some spectacular cultural highlights. Undoubtedly this trip to Sicily is bound to exhilarate the senses of any food and wine lover.

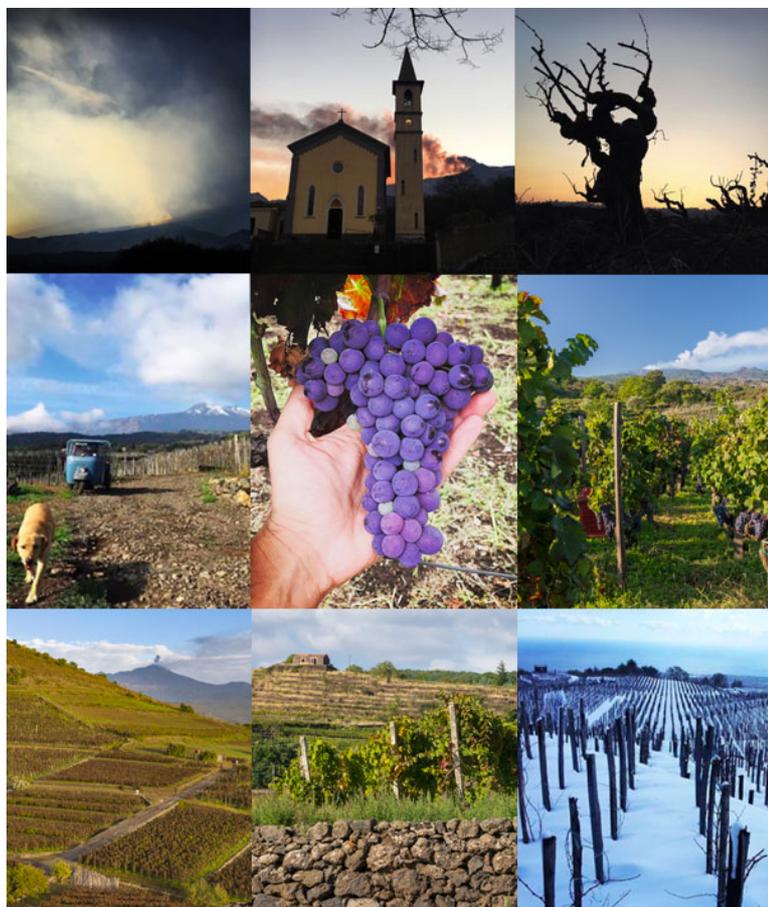
***\*\*Some visits/ hotels may be subject to change due to Covid-19 restrictions***

## Highlights

- Traditional Sicilian family made lunch
- Visit world’s largest archaeological site
- Chocolate tasting in Modica
- Drink wine on the slopes of Mount Etna
- Visit the crater of Mount Etna
- Many top class winery visits
- Michelin star dinner in Ragusa

## Winery visits

Donnafaguta, Planeta, Arianna Occhipinti, Benanti, La Gelsomina



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## Trip Itinerary

### Day 1

Welcome reception at the Hotel Habitat Boutique followed by walk to dinner in Catania at the restaurant Me Cumpari Turridu.

### Day 2

Walk around the market in Catania where we enjoy lunch before heading for Taormina , A delightful hill top town on the East coast of Sicily, Taormina is famous for its Greco-Roman theatre. We enjoy a walking tour around the Ampitheatre before checking in to The Grand Hotel Miramare in Taormina. Dinner at Villa Antonio back in the town.

### Day 3

After breakfast we leave for Presa and a visit and tasting at La Gelsomina Amphitheatre of Vines with the dramatically stunning backdrop of Etna. Then it's on to Castiglione for a tour, tasting & lunch at Firriato Cavanera Etnea. Check in to the hotel Cavanera Etnea, our base for the next 2 nights. Free evening.

### Day 4

Travel the short distance to Donnafugata where we enjoy a guided tour of the historic winery and cellars and then enjoy a tasting of some of the iconic wines of Donnafugata.



Short drive for a visit, tasting and lunch at the top class Planeta family winery. For 5 centuries and 17 generations the Planeta family have dedicated themselves to the land and produce wine and olive oil in 5 different Sicilian territories. Back to the hotel where there is time relax and freshen up before a light antipasto dinner at the hotel.

### Day 5

Check out before morning visit and lunch at historic wine producers Benanti on the fertile volcanic slopes of Mount Etna. Drive up the fertile slopes of Etna to the Silvestri crater to enjoy the commanding view of the straits of Messina and on a clear day you can see the Italian mainland.

Afternoon chocolate tasting in Dolceria Bonajuto which was established in 1880 in the centre of the wonderful baroque city of Modica. It is famous for its "Cioccolato di Modica" made from an ancient Aztec recipe. Check in to San Giorgio Palace for 2 nights. Free evening in Ragusa

### Day 6

Visit and tasting at Arianna Occhipinti in Cerasuolo di Vittoria, Sicily's only DOCG. Traditional Sicilian family lunch at Baglio Occhipinti.

There will be some free time to enjoy Ragusa before the final night dinner at 1 star Michelin restaurant Locanda Don Serafino.

### Day 7

After breakfast depart Ragusa to Catania Airport and end of tour or extension to Malta (see next page)

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## Malta Extension Itinerary 11-14 September 2022

Malta is a fascinating contrast to Sicily, a much smaller island but also with a very rich history with imprints from the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Moors, Spanish, French and British. A warm and welcoming people enhance the visitor experience from the stunning visual impact of Valetta and Mdina to the delightful beaches and shores of each island. There are some very decent wines for us to discover and a unique Maltese cuisine to nourish a journey that takes in the ancient and modern aspects of a very charming island.

### Sunday 11th September

We would travel around an hour and a half to the port of Pozzallo on the south coast to catch the early afternoon ferry to Malta (this is provisional, subject to 2021 ferry timetables). The journey to Valetta takes just under 2 hours and on arrival our bus meets us to take the short journey to our hotel in Valetta for the next 3 nights. We stay at La Falconeria, an elegant 4 star hotel situated in the heart of Valetta in the street where the Maltese falcons were trained by the knights of St John before being sent to the king of Sicily each year.

We enjoy an introductory walk around the Baroque capital with our local guide Maria before we dine at Rampila a classic Valetta restaurant where we enjoy a casual welcome to Malta dinner.



### Monday 12th September

After breakfast, there is a guided walking tour of Valetta, the capital of Malta and a world heritage site. We will walk the bustling streets, taking in the magnificent St John's cathedral and some wonderful views of the harbour.

We then take a bus to the very striking Tabetta winery, which produces an excellent chardonnay as well as 2 very fine red blends, one more Bordeaux style, the other more Rhone influenced. Situated near Mdina, the scenery is magnificent and the setting very private for a wonderful lunch, accompanied of course by the Tabetta wines.

After lunch there is a visit to top olive oil producer Sammy Cremona. We then return to Valetta in the late afternoon and the evening is free.

### Tuesday 13th September

After breakfast we set off for the 5000 year old Unesco World Heritage Site Hagar Qim temples. We take the chance to visit Malta's other premium winery at Meridiana for a visit and tasting of a selection of white and red wines, noting the influence of Bordeaux enologist Denis Dubourdieu. Light lunch at the winery. Afternoon visit to the fairytale medieval hilltop town of Mdina.

We then return to Valetta for a free afternoon before our last night dinner at the Under Grain restaurant (1 star Michelin) in Valetta's old town.

### Wednesday 14th September

After breakfast the tour ends, a group transfer to Valetta would be provided.

### Malta Extension Price (Ferry to Malta included)

\$2000 per person double occupancy

\$350 single supplement

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\$4000 per person double occupancy  
\$500 single supplement  
\$500 deposit per person

## Included

- 1 night Hotel Habitat Boutique, Catania
- 1 night at the Grand Miramare Hotel, Taormina
- 2 nights at the Cavanera Etnea
- 2 nights at the San Giorgio Palace, Ragusa
- Private transport by luxury coach
- Tour manager
- Breakfast daily; 5 lunches/ 4 dinners
- Visits and activities as specified

## Not included

Airfare; meals not mentioned above; travel insurance; gratuities for guides

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*Contact us to sign up for this trip*

## Iberian Wine Tours

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