

BESPOKE ITINERARY - LUXURY - SMALL GROUP

Savour Sicily

A Tour For The Senses

14 Days / 13 Nights

Uniquely Designed Tours

To See More, Taste More & Experience More



*A Gastronomical
Food, Wine, &
Culture Tour*

Fully Escorted by Chef Dominique Rizzo
Over 10 Years Experience in Touring Sicily

Dominique Rizzo

FOOD, WINE
& CULTURE
TOURS



“Sicily is the pearl of this century...Since old times, travelers from the most faraway country...boast of its extraordinary beauty, and highlight its strengths...because it brings together the best aspects of other countries.” –

Al-Idrisi
Arabian Geographer

All my life Sicily has fascinated me. My father is Sicilian and I spent almost every year of my childhood visiting my Sicilian family, and experiencing the Sicilian way of life. I fell in love with the land, its people, the cuisine and the culture.

With over 30 years of culinary experience, my unique Food Tours focus on old fashioned hospitality, quality, affordable luxury and personalised service. Above all my food tours are created for the traveller who wants to pack a bag and book a ticket. Everything has been taken care of for you.

With small groups up to 10 people, bespoke itineraries, luxury accommodation and your own private chef and local guide, my Food Tours are definitely the best for value and experience offering something different for all travel lovers, solo, couples, young and old.

Best of all, for your personal comfort there is no twin sharing unless requested, rooms are all private, fully serviced and with your own ensuite.

Savour Sicily will give you a taste of the history of Sicily where you will see, taste and feel the influences of the Arabs, Normans, Greek and Spanish along with many others who left a rich imprint of foreign cultures evident in Sicily's art, design, architecture and cuisine.

In this tour we will visit over 15 different towns and cities offering you a wonderful introduction to Sicily.

We visit some of the most popular historical sites, galleries and museums and also take you to places that are a little off the beaten track and not listed in travel books. Our restaurants, dining experiences, hotels and activities are hand selected by myself to give you a taste of land sea, mountain and city. We meet local characters, slow food producers and passionate chefs who like all Sicilians will embrace you with their love of their homeland.

Expect to eat and drink your way through Sicilian history, connect with authentic people and enjoy some of the best culinary and cultural experiences. If you desire something more out of your travel itinerary then come on a Sicilian adventure with me as we explore this enchanting island. See you in Sicily !

Dominique – Chef, Culinary Consultant and Travel Lover

Savour Sicily Tour

Full Itinerary

Travelling to Catania, Piazza Armerina, Caltagirone, Taormina, Randazzo, Syracuse, Ortigia, Noto, Marzamemi, Segeste, Modica, Ragusa, Agrigento, Erice, Trapani, Marsala, Scopello, Monreale, Palermo, Cefalù

Day 1 Arrival in Catania

We welcome you to the majestic city of Catania. You will be personally greeted at the airport by myself then escorted by transfer to our hotel right in the heart of this bustling city. You have the day free to do your own exploring of this cosmopolitan city with its close proximity to the sea and views of Mt Etna. We meet in the lobby in the late afternoon for our first guided walking tour into this beautiful Unesco world heritage city built on the Etna lava stone. We then celebrate our first night in Sicily with an aperitif and dinner.

Overnight in Catania (D)

Day 2 Catania / Cooking Class - **optional Tour to Mt Etna

Our morning begins with a visit to the historic "La Pescheria", Catania's famous Arab inspired fish markets with an atmosphere that has remained virtually unchanged for hundreds of years. We enjoy tastings as we go, sampling some of Catania's best and interesting produce. The rest of the day is free for you to further explore this university city celebrating food, culture, music and architecture. If you opt to do the tour to Mt Etna you will head out on 4 wheel drives to explore one of the highest and most active volcanoes in Europe. Your guide will take you on a true adventure exploring the lava from the most recent eruption as well as historical sites, craters and exploring the flora and fauna on this mineral rich mountain. A light lunch is included in the tour, so just pack your walking shoes and water.

We then meet for our afternoon cooking class and dinner with passionate local foodies who celebrate slow food in Sicily. Overnight in Catania (B/D)

Day 3 Piazza Armerina - Villa Romana Del Casale / Cheese / Caltagirone

Today we drive to our morning stop just outside Piazza Armerina. Here we visit the Villa Romana del Casale one of the finest examples of Roman mosaics and one of the most luxurious of its kind. Villa Romana del Casale, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is especially noteworthy for the richness and quality of the mosaics which decorate almost every room. We visit a local dairy farm part of slow food Sicily and enjoy a cheese demonstration and long lunch. We board our bus to Caltagirone one of the iconic Baroque towns in central Sicily and known as "The city of Sicilian ceramics" due to its thousand-year-old ceramic tradition. The name itself - Caltagirone - derives from an Arabic word meaning the Castle or Fortress of the vases. Here you are free to wander through the many artisan workshops, do a spot of shopping, visit the Regional Museum of Ceramics and tackle the 142-step monumental Staircase of Santa Maria del Monte, built from 1608 in the old part of the town. Relaxing into the afternoon we return to Catania for a siesta and give you the night free to enjoy this wonderful city. Overnight in Catania (B/L)



"Sicilians build things like they will live forever and eat like they will die tomorrow." – Plato

Day 4 Taormina / Randazzo / Etnas Music Man

Our first stop today is Taormina in the province of Messina. Set in a magnificent position above the sea. Taormina is famous for its breathtaking and most photographed views, Greek theatre and great cafes and shopping.

We take you for a guided visit to the Greek theatre with its spectacular views, then leave you to wander free, head to the beach, enjoy a bite to eat, grab a gelato, or just sit and watch the passing crowds. Before we head to Taormina we take you to the beautiful medieval village of Castelmola. Ignored by many visitors to Sicily, this quaint mountain top community offers unparalleled views of Mount Etna, Taormina, the Bay of Giardini Naxos, and the Strait of Messina. Built to protect and defend Taormina from invaders, today this quiet village makes for an interesting respite from the hustle and bustle of Taormina below.

After your day in Taormina we head to Randazzo one of the most historically important towns in Sicily and the closest town to Mt Etna's volcano crater. The town throughout history has been destroyed by war and earthquake, although surprisingly it has never been destroyed by the eruption of Mt Etna.

Randazzo offers an amazing medieval atmosphere with ancient palaces, alleys, churches and laneways built entirely in lava stone. We visit the most interesting "Casa della Musica", learning about the history of music, from prehistory to renaissance, and beyond. Ancient instruments will be brought back to life with a philosophically enlightening experience that will give you a glimpse of how music fits into the great workings of the universe, according to the geniuses of the past like Galileo Galilei. Dinner celebrates the terrain of Etna in a celebrated local restaurant. Overnight in Catania (B/D)

Day 5 Syracuse / Greek Ruins / Ortigia

After breakfast we make our way to Syracuse with a guided cultural visit to the Neapolis Archaeological Park which encompasses outstanding examples of Roman and Greek theatres, including one of the most celebrated theatres in Syracuse with a stunning and captivating display of history, architecture and design. We then drive to the island of Ortigia with our guide to wander the narrow cobble-stone streets, chance upon elegant Baroque piazzas and enjoy the character and charm of this beautiful living museum of a town. We enjoy the famous granita and brioche in a local restaurant in the heart of Ortigia overlooking the stunning Duomo, a spectacular backdrop to a beautiful day. We give you the rest of the day free to enjoy Ortigia and further explore the narrow cobbled streets, venture out for a swim or relax in the square. Meeting in the afternoon, we check into our country accommodation with an evening of canapes and dinner under the stars. Overnight in Syracuse (B/D)



Day 6 Noto / Gelati / Wine & Marzamemi

We start the day a little earlier to drive to one of the most charming places in eastern Sicily. We stop at Noto for a relaxed tour admiring the baroque style of architecture and to taste some of Sicily's gelato from an iconic gelateria. The fertile Valley of Noto where lies the Etna doc zone, one of the best suited to the cultivation of the Nero d'Avola and Moscato di Noto grapes. We head to a historical family estate for a wonderful wine tasting and lunch. Then drive to the seaside town of Marzamemi, famous for its world class tuna, anchovy, sardine and fish products that can be purchased and tasted in one of the many shops throughout the town. We give you free time to enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of this quaint town then meet for drinks by the sea. Overnight in Syracuse. (B/L)

Day 7 Ragusa / Baroque Modica & Cooking Class

The cities of Ragusa and Modica are the pearls of rare beauty. Here extraordinary Baroque churches were born from stone and show living evidence of periods of ancient splendour. We enjoy a light walking tour through Ragusa Ibla (the old town) stopping to admire San Giorgio, Santa Maria delle Scale and marvel at the historic blue majolica tiles that adorn the dome of the church Santa Maria dell'Idria. During our tour we visit a grandiose Palazzo dating back to the 17th century. Stopping for an iconic cannoli and coffee at a local pasticceria we give you free time to have a wander, a spot of shopping or just to sit and take in its beauty.

Our cooking class takes place in Modica, a town made famous in the 16th century by the Cabrera family, who introduced the cocoa bean from Mexico. They began the production of what is now the chocolate of Modica. We will stop at the famous Antica Dolceria Bonajuto, founded in 1800 to taste this unique chocolate with its rich cocoa flavour and traditional grainy consistency. You will also sample some of the many traditional sweets in traditional Eastern Sicilian cuisine. This includes mpanatigghi, a light pastry filled with mince-meat, chocolate and spices. In addition to cedrata, honey and citrus rind. It is cooked to a sticky consistency and then dried and eaten as a digestive after a meal. We enjoy a walking tour of Modica and then stop for our cooking class and lunch.

We return to Syracuse and the tranquillity of our accommodation. The evening is free for you to relax in the grounds, or venture into Ortigia to enjoy Ortigia by night. Overnight in Syracuse (B/L)



Day 8 Agrigento - Valley of the Temples / Scali de Turchi / Wine Tasting

Making our way to Western Sicily we stop in for a guided tour to the Valley of the Temples, a must when visiting Sicily. The archaeological area of Agrigento, the Valley of the Temples, is on the southern coast of Sicily and covers the vast territory of the ancient polis. Founded as a Greek colony in the 6th century BCE, Agrigento became one of the leading cities in the Mediterranean region. Its supremacy and pride are demonstrated by the remains of the magnificent Doric temples that dominate the ancient town, much of which still lies intact under today's fields and orchards. We then stop at the white cliffs of the Scala dei Turchi, a rocky wall (cliff) that rises above the sea along the coast of Realmonte. For the brave and well balanced on foot its about a 15 minute walk down and onto the cliffs. For others there will be plenty of photo opportunities as we continue our journey to Western Sicily and our stunning Baglio wine resort set in the countryside of Marsala. After checking in, we meet in the evening for wine tasting and dinner enjoying our Baglios' harvest. Overnight in Marzara Del Vallo. (B/D)

Day 9 Erice / Cooking Class / Trapani

Those of you who love photography, history or have a sweet tooth will be excited as we drive to the mountain town of "Erice", known to the locals as "umunti" as it is usually shrouded in a cool mist called "the veil of Venus". Here you will sample traditional handmade "dolce", where recipes have been handed down for generations, and made famous by the nuns and some of Sicily's famous chefs and artisans. Wander up to the Castello where you will be taken back in time in the 12th century Norman fortress with its spectacular, panoramic views, wander the cobblestone streets of Erice for a spot of shopping, practice your photography or to just lose yourself in the 14th Century Baroque architecture. We share lunch with a local chef in his home where he shares with us his passion for Sicilian cuisine. The afternoon is spent with a visit to the sea side city of Trapani famous for its salt, tuna and sailing. We visit the stunning old center rich in art and architecture from the 14th-20th centuries. Wandering the maze of streets you will see remarkable examples of Sicilian architecture and art in the many religious buildings and palaces. We return to our Wine resort giving you time for a siesta. We meet in the evening for an olive oil tasting and light dinner, the evening is then free to enjoy the beautiful surroundings of our resort. Overnight in Marsala (B/L/D)

Day 10 Segesta / Salt Pans / Marsala

Our morning starts with a tour to Segesta, a magical place and our favourite ancient Greek site in Sicily. Set between lush rolling hills with distant views to the sea and mountains. The surrounding fields, with their exact rows of silver green olive trees and vines are archetypal Italian and just add to the atmosphere of the site. The architecture of both temple and in particular the amphitheatre is breathtaking. After our tour, we head to the famous Salt Pans of Marsala for a salt tasting and lunch, then later that afternoon we drive to the historical centre of Marsala for a passeggiata, Marsala tasting and dinner in one of the local taverna. Overnight in Marsala (B/L/D)



Day 11 Scopello / Monreale / Palermo

On our way to Palermo, we stop into Scopello, a fascinating little village centered around a fortified baglio. Scopello's coastline is rocky, craggy and dramatic. In a small bay amongst all this natural beauty sits the tonnara, a tuna fishery dating back to the 13th century.

We then visit Monreale, a town located on the slope of Monte Caputo, overlooking the very fertile valley called "La Conca d'oro" (the Golden Shell), famed for its orange, olive, and almond trees. We visit the stunning Norman-Byzantine cathedral, one of the most exquisitely gold mosaiced churches in Italy. After our tour we stop for lunch and give you some free time to re visit the church or take a small walk before we check into our accommodation in Palermo right in the heart of the city. We meet in the evening to walk to dinner in one of the oldest wine bars in Sicily. Over night in Palermo (B/L/D)

Day 12 – Palermo

Today we discover Palermo city taking you on a walking guided tour where we visit some of the most notable churches, monuments and sites which are iconic to this capital city. We enjoy a street food lunch sampling some of the popular and historical dishes of Palermo. After lunch the rest of the day is free for you to further explore this wonderful city. Overnight in Palermo (B/L)

Day 13 - Cefalu and I Pupi

After finishing breakfast, we visit Cefalù on a walking guided tour. Noted as one of Sicily's most beautiful seaside towns, famous for its beaches and a top holiday hotspot. Here we explore the history of the town, visit the Duomo, and the interesting ancient laundry. We give you free time to wander the cobbled streets, do some shopping, grab some lunch or take a stroll along the beach. Our afternoon and evening entertainment showcases the history and importance of the Sicilian aristocrats with a performance by the significant Sicilian Pupi. To celebrate an incredible tour, our final dinner in one of Palermo's local restaurants. Overnight in Palermo (B/D)

Day 14 - Saying Good Bye to Sicily

Today we say goodbye to you and to Sicily. We hope you have enjoyed your Sicilian experience and leave with wonderful memories. We assist you with your transfers, and thank you for travelling with us, wishing you well for your onward journey. (B)

"Palermo was lovely. The most beautifully situated town in the world – it dreams away its life in the Conca d'Oro, the exquisite valley that lies between two seas. The lemon groves and the orange gardens were entirely perfect."
– Oscar Wilde





****Optional Extra****
10 Day Aeolian Island Tour

Includes
 Island Resort Accommodation
 Fully Escorted Tour
 Cooking class with Michelin Chef
 Bout Tour and Day trip to Panarea and Stromboli Islands
 Boat Tour and Day Trip to Lipari & Volcano Island
 Caper and Malvasia wine tasting Tasting
 Access to Hotel Thermal & Mineral Pools & Spa
 Gourmet Breakfast Every Day
 5 Dinners & 7 Lunches
 Transfers to & From Salina Island From Palermo
 2 nights in Palermo
 Mafia tour to Corleone
 Transfers to &
 From Airport in Palermo

*Book Both Tours
 and Save \$500.00*



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Savour Sicily - A Tour For The Senses

14 Days / 13 Nights

PRICE INCLUDES

- Fully escorted tour, 14 days, 13 nights in the beautiful scenic surrounds of Sicily.
- Specialised escorted service of Chef Dominique Rizzo, Director and Curator of Pure Food, Wine Culture Tours
- Private Italian Guide for 14 days also speaks German/English/Spanish
- Pick up transfer from Catania Airport or your hotel in Catania on the tour start date
- Transfer to Palermo Airport/train station or hotel in Palermo on the tour finish date
- Air-conditioned private bus and transport with our own private driver
- 4 and 5 star Hotels, Spa Resorts and Country style accommodation selected for their personalised service, amenities, locations and hospitality (Room upgrades are available upon request, prices to be quoted upon application)
- Signature "My Taste of Sicily" Sicilian Cook Book and shopping/travel tote bag
- Maps, Italian travel language brochure, travel hints and tips, details of hotels
- All Private, escorted visits and tastings
- Full breakfast every day, 9 lunches and 9 dinners are also included, some morning/afternoon teas and aperitives are provided as stated—where lunches/dinners are not provided, the listed multi course meals are of ample abundance including a combination of fine dining, long lunches and street food.
- Beverages - All beverages with meals including wine, beer, juice, soft drink, tea and coffee are provided
- All guided tours as specified / All transfers by boat, bus, car, taxi as specified
- Admission to all historical sites, galleries and museums mentioned in the itinerary are included
- Tips for Restaurants and Guides

NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

- Airfares to and from Sicily
- Everything not included in itinerary
- General expenses - phone calls, laundry, room upgrades
- Transfers outside of the tour dates, personal transport outside the tour dates, excess baggage, security and government taxes outside the tour dates, travel and medical insurance.
- Beverages and meals outside of described "Tour Inclusions"
- Room service beverages and meals when not participating in the scheduled meals
- Tourist Taxes where applicable in hotels
- Travel Insurance (Compulsory)
- ****Mt Etna Private Tour - Price available upon request

HIGHLIGHTS

3 Cooking classes / Cheese tastings / Wine tasting / Palermo street food tasting / Villa Romana del Casale / Sicilian Pupi concert / Pallazzo Visit / Visit and Tasting in Catania Markets / Dolce Tasting, Olive Oil Tasting ...and much more

GUIDED WALKING TOURS & UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES

Palermo / Catania / Randazzo / Taormina / Erice Monreale and the Duomo/ Syracuse and Ortigia / Cefalu

UNESCO listed Norman monuments, city center in Palermo

UNESCO listed mosaics of Villa Romana

UNESCO listed archaeological park and theatre of Syracuse and old Ortigia

UNESCO listed baroque monuments of Val di Noto
UNESCO Valley of the Temples / Segeste



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TRAVEL WITH DOMINIQUE RIZZO TO EXPERIENCE THE BEST

Menus' selected restaurants and dining experiences are hand chosen to give you a variety of tastes and flavours allowing you to experience foods from the land, sea, city and mountain. We consciously include zero kilometre venues and restaurants with Slow Food accolades who support sustainability, preservation of tradition and local produce.

Our 4 & 5 star Hotels, Resorts and country style accommodation is also personally selected for not only its quality, but also its location, services, hospitality and the relationships we have built up over the years. We want to ensure you are not only very comfortable and relaxed but you also get to experience all aspects of a regions terrain and lifestyle.

Our guides are personally selected for their knowledge of the regions, their spoken English and their humour. This ensures you enjoy informative, interesting and fun guided tours. We do when necessary use whispers or small group microphones to ensure you can wander at your own pace without missing out on understanding the history and unique aspects of each area we visit.

We are not about racing you around the country. We prefer to stay in each of the accommodation for a minimum of 2 -4 nights giving you an opportunity to unpack and settle in.

Moderate walking is involved on guided tours, we can certainly accommodate people who are a little slower on their feet. Luggage services are available to assist with retrieving luggage off and on our bus and to and from the hotels/rooms if required.

The places we visit do include some of the main tourist sites of a region. Although unique to Dominique Rizzo Tours are the sights and activities that are personally booked for these tours alone. You will not find these on any other Tour.

We include everything! Even days and evenings off from the tour for you to relax on your own or to further explore a destination. There are no hidden costs or payments that are further required to complete the full itinerary. You are welcome to opt out of any of the activities to do your own thing, although we have selected each of the activities to give you an opportunity to see, do and taste as much of Sicily as possible with siesta time in-between.

Our tours suit couples, solo travelers and people of all ages. Our tours are privately booked with a minimum of 10 and maximum of 12 guests so that you get personalised attention, comfort when travelling and opportunity to visit boutique establishments, restaurants, and unique venues not suitable for large number tours.

We can certainly cater for dietary intolerances and can accommodate coeliac, dairy free, vegans and vegetarians. This is not just a cooking tour, although our cooking classes are for everyone from the novice cook to the budding chef and are fun and informative giving you an opportunity to pick up some new skills and learn about the cuisine.



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Sharing The Love of Food

Best quality of food...loved every minute of it"

To experience Dominique's Food Tour is to experience Sicily at its best, from the best quality of food, amazing lunches at Acireale with luscious figs wrapped in smoked salmon, and tasting delicious olives, cheese, salami and bread for lunch in the olive grove. It wasn't just the food that was amazing, there was the experience of the fish market in Catania, the boat trip around the Aeolian Islands topped off with Stromboli erupting. We loved every minute of it and learnt so much about Sicily from Dom and Gian Luca, the guide.

Jay and Igor Gold Coast, Australia.



"A true holiday...more than a taste, an absolute feast"

The promotional material for the Western Sicily Food and Wine Cooking Tour, as usual, promised a wonderful experience. We, however, were treated to so much more than we could ever imagine and it was far beyond our wildest expectations. The exceptional planning and execution of the tour made for a most memorable time. The tour, fully escorted by Dominique Rizzo and her capable and friendly team, left us wanting for nothing. The diversity and quality of the food, drinks, accommodation and places of interest were superb. A true holiday! More than a taste – an absolute feast! Well, what a wonderful tour we had with Dom. It exceeded all our expectations and fulfilled our dreams.

G & B Mayes Toowoomba, Australia



"Very hard for us to top that holiday!"

Our cooking is progressing really well - a big improvement in confidence level since our classes in Sicily. We have repeated the chicken dish we cooked during your class and it is now a regular. Also working through the cookbook and I did a very small dinner party for my sister and husband for their 40th wedding anniversary last week. I tackled the potato cake which was fun to cook and actually looked great along with the zucchini carpaccio and Sicilian-style steak. Best wishes for your ventures and adventures and thank you for orchestrating the wonderful time we had on our trip in July. It will be very hard for us to top that holiday!

Carmel and Richard Brisbane, Australia



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Sharing The Love of Food

"An amazing tour...well organised and relaxing"
I wanted to thank you for an amazing tour. You are gorgeous, personable and fun, and together with Gianluca and Fortunato make a fantastic team. I had so many wonderful experiences, the tour was well organised and relaxing. And what a lovely, friendly group of fellow travellers. Carroll, Australia



"Experience that we will never forget"
What a wonderful time we have had on Dominique Rizzo's Food, Wine and Cooking tour. We just hadn't expected Sicily to be so beautiful. It was really a magnificent and pleasurable experience that we will never forget. Ancora mille grazie e buon viaggio for the next trip.
Julie and Peter, Brisbane, Australia



"You have thought of everything."
The planning and organisation of all the events and the food we consumed was amazing; you have thought of everything. Thank you for your patience and friendliness, I felt extremely comfortable and at ease with you and everyone else on the tour.
Comerford, Wagga Wagga Australia




"I have never eaten and drank so much"
Words cannot describe the amazing experience we had. An all-expense paid holiday seeing the most amazing sights and history and FOOD, FOOD, FOOD! My goodness, I have never eaten and drank so much food and wine, all whilst sitting in the most beautiful environments. It was something we will never forget.
Nicholas Sydney, Australia



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Dominique Rizzo

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TOURS

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