

BESPOKE ITINERARY - LUXURY - SMALL GROUP

# **Savour Sicily**

## **A Tour For The Senses**

**16 Days / 15 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 14 people, bespoke itineraries, your own private host and local guide, my Food Tours are definitely the best for value and experience offering something different for all travel lovers. 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.

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, Acireale, Acitezza, Acicastello, Piazza Armarina, Caltagirone, Taormina, Syracuse, Ortigia, Noto, Marzamemi, Modica, Ragusa, Agrigento, Erice, Trapani, Marsala, Scopello, Monreale, Palermo, Cefalù, Castebuono

### Day 1 Arrival in Catania

We recommend you arrive a day before the tour starts so we can make the most of your first day on tour.

This morning is all about Catania as we embark on a full day Catania walking tour introducing you to the history of Sicily. We visit some of the city's main sights such as Piazza del Duomo, The Elephant's Fountain (fontana dell' elefante, Fontana dell'Amenano, The Cathedral, Palazzo Municipio, Piazza Università, Greek Ruins, Castel Ursino. We stop for lunch at one of the famous cafes in the main square to sample some of Catania local home cooking.

We continue our tour, giving you some free time before we meet for our short walk to dinner and a delicious meal of local seafood.

Overnight in Catania (B/L/D)

### Day 2 Catania / Cooking Class

We kick off today with a visit to one of Catania's most beautiful Palazzo, then head for a market tour and tasting of the real food markets in Catania - where the locals shop. Our afternoon is a guided tour to Acireale / Acitezza and Acicastello then onwards to Cooking class and dinner with passionate local foodie who mother was a catalyst in the slow food movement in Sicily. We visit her home and enjoy a relaxed cooking class and dinner.

Overnight in Catania. (B/ Light Lunch Tasting/ Cooking class Dinner)

### Day 3 Taormina

Fans of Italian inspired movies/series such as "The White Lotus" and "The God Father" to name just a few will love our walking tour and our day in Taormina. We visit the incredible historic Greek Theatre, the Villa Comunale, Duomo and wander the famous Corso Umberto. You have free time to wander, do a spot of shopping and to have lunch before we head higher in the clouds to visit Castlemola and the famous Bar Turissi. We return to Catania and then meet for our degustation dinner celebrating Sicilian fusion and a modern take on some Sicilian classics.

Overnight in Catania (B/D)



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



#### Day 4 Caltagirone Ceramics – Cooking class and Food Experience

Checking out of Catania, our first stop is 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.

We meet up with our passionate chef and enjoy an afternoon of food, wine, laughter and a food experience celebrating a Sicilian country menu ending in an early dinner. We check into our Borgo in Syracuse and give you the rest of the evening to relax in the beautiful surroundings.

Overnight in Catania (B/D)

#### Day 5 Ragusa / Baroque Modica

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.

Our cooking class is at an old water flour mill where ancient grains are being bought back to life producing traditional breads, pastas and biscuits. We enjoy lunch in the cave of the mill finishing the day with a visit to Modica where we take a short tour and taste Modica chocolate and the unchanged recipe of Mpanatigghi spiced chocolate filled biscuits made with minced meat.

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 6 Marzamemme / Wine Tasting / Noto

We start the day driving 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. The fertile Valley of Noto lies the Etna wine 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 bbq lunch, Sicilian style. Our afternoon is spent in Noto for a relaxed tour admiring the baroque style of architecture and to taste some of Sicily's gelato from an iconic gelateria, or try their coffee with almond granita. Returning to our Borgo, your evening is free.

Overnight in Syracuse. (B/L)





### Day 7 Sunset Boat Tour around Ortigia

Today we give you the morning off to relax in our beautiful Borgo. Relax by the pool, book a massage or take a bike ride to the beach. You can also take a hotel transfer into Ortigia for some shopping or to do some exploration on your own.

In the afternoon we meet at the hotel to head into Ortigia for a Sunset boat tour around the island with drinks and light dinner on board, those of you who are keen can go for an afternoon swim - well worth the experience!

The rest of the night is yours. Overnight in Syracuse (B/Light Dinner)



### Day 8 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 cafe 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 some shopping, a bit to eat or just relax in a local cafe and people watch. Returning to the hotel you have time to relax before dinner at the Borgo.

Overnight in Syracuse (B/D)



### Day 9 Villa Romana Del Casale / Agrigento - Valley of the Temples

We head off this morning for a day of delving into the History of Sicily with two incredible UNESCO stops. Our first is the Villa Romana del Casale. Villa Romana del Casale is a Roman archaeological renowned for its incredibly well-preserved mosaics that depict scenes of ancient life, including vibrant portrayals of daily activities, mythological tales, and intricate details of the Roman lifestyle.

We then drive to just outside of Agrigento and 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. Lunch is free and you can pick up something light in the cafe on the grounds of the temples. 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. 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 Marsala. (B/D)





### Day 10 Salt Pans / Marsala Tour and Tasting

After a later start to the day we head to the famous Salt Pans of Marsala for boat ride to the Island of Mozia and a Tour of the island. We then visit the Salt mill with a tour of the salt mill, tasting and lunch. We return to our hotel and meet for the evening for an evening of Marsala tasting and light dinner in the historical center of Marsala in one of the local taverna.

Overnight in Marsala (B/L/Light D)



### Day 11 Erice - Sweet Tasting / Cooking Class / Wine Tasting

Our morning starts with a 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. Lunch is spent with a wonderful local chef and his family as they open up their house for a cooking class of rustic flavours and traditional cous cous - the local dish of Trapani. In the afternoon, those of you who love photography, history or have a sweet tooth will be excited as we We return to our Wine resort giving you time for a siesta. We meet in the evening for a wine and olive oil tasting and light dinner, the evening is then free to enjoy the beautiful surroundings of our resort.

Overnight in Marsala (B/L/ Wine Tasting and Light D)



### Day 12 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 have a tour of the Tonnara learning the history of "La Mattanza", a traditional tuna fishing technique that uses a series of large nets to trap and exhaust the fish. Heading towards Palermo, we 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 before we drive to Palermo and check into our accommodation. We meet in the evening to walk to dinner in one of the local restaurants.

Over night in Palermo ( B/D)





### Day 13 – 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 14 - Cefalu / Castlebuono

After finishing breakfast, we drive to Cefalu for 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, and we meet for lunch is one of the local restaurants with cliff views of Cefalu. We then head to Castlebuono a charming medieval town known for its historic castle and two local specialties, Manna & Pannettone. Manna is a sweet sap extracted from ash trees in the Madonie Mountains near the town of Castlebuono. It has a unique flavor and is often used in traditional Sicilian cuisine, especially in desserts and pastries. The extraction of manna is a centuries-old practice, and the substance is valued for its natural sweetness. We return to Palermo giving you the evening free to explore the radiant city of Palermo. Overnight in Palermo (B/L)

### Day 15 Slow Food Cheese and I Pupi

We meet at the hotel in the late morning to drive to our slow food cheese experience. We have a wonderful cheese making demonstration as well as a rustic country cheese tasting and lunch. Our afternoon 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 close to the hotel. Overnight in Palermo (B/L/D)

### Day 16 - 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



M: 0434 141 322

W: dominiquerizzo.com

E: info@dominiquerizzo.com





### PRICE INCLUDES

- Fully escorted tour, 16 days, 15 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 15 days
- Pick up transfer from Catania Airport or your hotel in Catania a day before the tour starts
- 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)
- All Private, escorted visits and tastings
- Full breakfast every day, 8 lunches and 10 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)

### HIGHLIGHTS

3 Cooking classes including Pizza and traditional Sicilian bread making / Pasta making/ / Cheese tastings / Wine tasting / Palermo street food tasting / Catania Market tour /Villa Romana del Casale / Sicilian Pupi concert / Boat Tour around Ortigia/ Pallazzo Visit / Olive Oil Tasting / Black Pig salumi experience ...and much more

### GUIDED WALKING TOURS & UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES

Palermo / Catania / 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



M: 0434 141 322

W: dominiquerizzo.com

E: info@dominiquerizzo.com





## 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 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, stairs, and walking on cobble stone streets is necessary. . 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 14-16 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.



M: 0434 141 322

W: [dominiquerizzo.com](http://dominiquerizzo.com)

E: [info@dominiquerizzo.com](mailto:info@dominiquerizzo.com)





## 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



M: 0434 141 322

W: [dominiquerizzo.com](http://dominiquerizzo.com)

E: [info@dominiquerizzo.com](mailto:info@dominiquerizzo.com)





*Dominique Rizzo*

FOOD, WINE  
& CULTURE  
TOURS

M: 0434 141 322

W: [dominiquerizzo.com](http://dominiquerizzo.com)

E: [info@dominiquerizzo.com](mailto:info@dominiquerizzo.com)