

BESPOKE ITINERARY - LUXURY - SMALL GROUP

# Savour Sicily

## A Tour For The Senses

14 Days / 13 Nights 19th September - 2nd October 2022

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

### Catania

#### 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 early evening for our first dining experience celebrating local ingredients and classic Sicilian specialities. Overnight in Catania (D)

#### Day 2 Catania & Taormina

Our morning begins with a visit to the historic "La Pescheria", Catania's famous 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. We stop for a light lunch then onto 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, enjoy a bite to eat, grab a gelato or just sit and watch the passing crowds. We finish the day with a sensational dinner at one of the local seaside towns. Overnight Catania (B/L/D)

#### Day 3 Piazza Armerina - Villa Romana Del Casale

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 stop for a banquet style lunch celebrating local produce including the traditional Piacentino cheese PDO made with locally grown saffron. We return to Catania for a siesta and give you the night free to enjoy this wonderful city. Overnight in Catania (B/L)

#### Day 4 Randazzo - Music, Wine and Dolce

After breakfast we drive 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. We stop for lunch in a local winery and on the way back a visit to the town of Zafferana Etna to savour the excellent specialities of a local Dolceria. Overnight in Catania (B/L)

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



# Syracuse

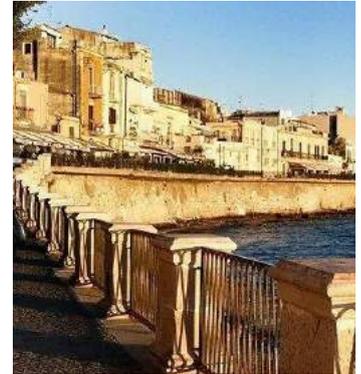
## Day 5 Caltagirone

After checking of our hotel, 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. We enjoy lunch in a local restaurant with a menu sourced from produce with a 0km distance. We then check into our resort accommodation in Syracuse and relax at the hotel kicking off with wine tasting and canapes, then a delicious dinner from our creative chef. Overnight in Syracuse (B/L/D)



## Day 6 Syracuse & 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 return to the hotel for an alfresco lunch, giving you the afternoon and evening free to enjoy Ortigia by night with our transfer service from the Hotel. This is a great opportunity to further enjoy this beautiful historic island, take a walk by the sea, enjoy the boutiques and artisan shops or enjoy some of the Eastern Sicilian cuisine. Overnight in Syracuse (B/L)



## Day 7 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 and to taste some of Sicily's best gelato. the fertile Valley of Noto where lies the Eoro 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 and dinner by the sea. Overnight in Syracuse. (B/L/D)



## Day 8 Countryside Cooking Class

Today is all about delving into Sicily's food culture in a hands on class with our passionate local cook. We take you through some of the area's most important ingredients and enjoy traditional recipes enjoying the fruits of our labour in a long lunch. We return to the hotel giving you the afternoon and evening to further enjoy Syracuse and Ortigia. Overnight in Syracuse (B/L)



# Palermo

## Day 9 Cefalu

After finishing breakfast, we visit Cefalu 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. We then head to the heart of Palermo to our luxury accommodation in an old grand piazza. Giving you time to settle in we meet in the evening to wander by foot to our dinner destination. Overnight in Palermo (B/D)

## Day 10 Palermo - Opera dei Pupi and Vintage Wine Bar

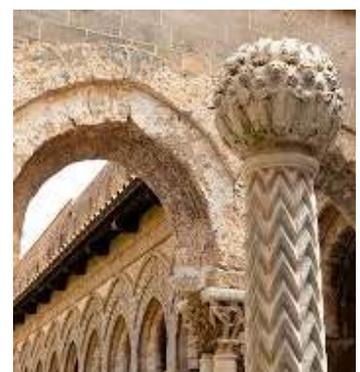
Today we discover Palermo city taking you on a walking guided tour where we visit some of the most notable churches, monuments and sites which are iconic to this capital city. After our walking tour you have free time until we meet in the afternoon to take you to our evening's entertainment and then onto enjoy one of the oldest wine bars in Palermo. Overnight in Palermo (B/D)

## Day 11 Country Cheese Tasting & Monreale

Our morning takes us to a local farm for cheese making and tasting. We spend the morning at a Masseria famous for being the set for the film "The Leopard" an epic historical drama film based on Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa's 1958 novel of the same title. Using produce from their local gardens we share a traditional country lunch and enjoy the traditional Sicilian cannoli filling them ourselves with local ricotta. After lunch we take our bus to 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. The evening is free for you to further explore Palermo and perhaps practice some of your Sicilian. Overnight in Palermo (B/L)

*"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*



# Palermo

## Day 12 – Erice and Scopello

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.

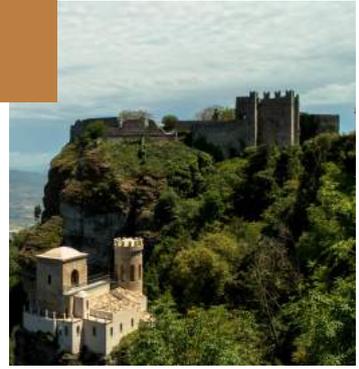
On our way back to Palermo, we stop into Scopello, a fascinating little village centered around a fortified baglio. Scopello’s coastline is rocky, craggy and dramatic. In a small bay amongst all this bay of natural beauty sits the tonnara, a tuna fishery. Dating back to the 13th century, the harmonious perfection of the tonnara and its surroundings has piqued the imagination of location managers, who have featured it in several films and TV programs in recent years, including Ocean’s Twelve (with Brad Pitt and George Clooney) and Inspector Montalbano. Heading back to Palermo the night is yours to relax and ponder over the day’s activities, take a tour to the opera, a horse ride around the city or take yourself on a passeggiata through town. Overnight in Palermo (B/L)

## Day 13 – Palermo

Today is yours to enjoy Palermo for your last day, venture out for some shopping, wander through the markets or take one of the local buses to the nearby beach town of Mondello. We meet you in the evening for our final dinner together. (B/D)

## Day 14 - Palermo

Today as we say goodbye, we hope you have enjoyed your magical Sicilian journey. We assist you with your transfers, thank you for travelling with us and wish you all the best for your onward journey. (B)



*Book Both Tours  
and Save \$800.00*

### **\*\*Optional Extra\*\***

**6 Day Aeolian Island Tour  
2nd October - 8th October  
\$3165.00 pp**

#### Includes

- Island Resort Accommodation
- Fully Escorted Tour
- Cooking class with Michelin Chef
- Boat Tour and Day Trip to Lipari Island
- Caper and Malvasia Tasting
- Access to Hotel Thermal & Mineral Pools & Spa
- Gourmet Breakfast Every Day
- 3 Dinners & 2 Lunches
- Transfers to & From Salina Island From Palermo
- 2 nights in Palermo
- Transfers to & From Airport in Palermo

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## Savour Sicily - A Tour For The Senses

**Price Per Person \$9504.00**

14 Days / 13 Nights 19th September - 2nd October 2022

### 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 spacious private bus 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 kitchen apron, "Mt Taste of Sicily" Sicilian Cook Book & shopping/travel tote bag
- Maps, Italian travel language brochure, travel hints and tips, details of hotels
- All Private, escorted visits and tastings
- Full luxury breakfast every day, 9 lunches and 7 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

### HIGHLIGHTS

2 Hands-on cooking classes / Cheese tastings / Wine tasting /  
Palermo street food tasting /Villa Romana del Casale  
Case della Musica / Sicilian Pupi /  
Visit and Tasting in Catania Markets / Dolce Tasting, Cannoli  
and many more...

### GUIDED WALKING TOURS & UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES

Palermo / Catania / Randazzo / Taormina /  
Monreale and the Duomo/ Syracuse and Ortigia  
UNESCO listed Norman monuments, city centre 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

### 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)



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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



"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

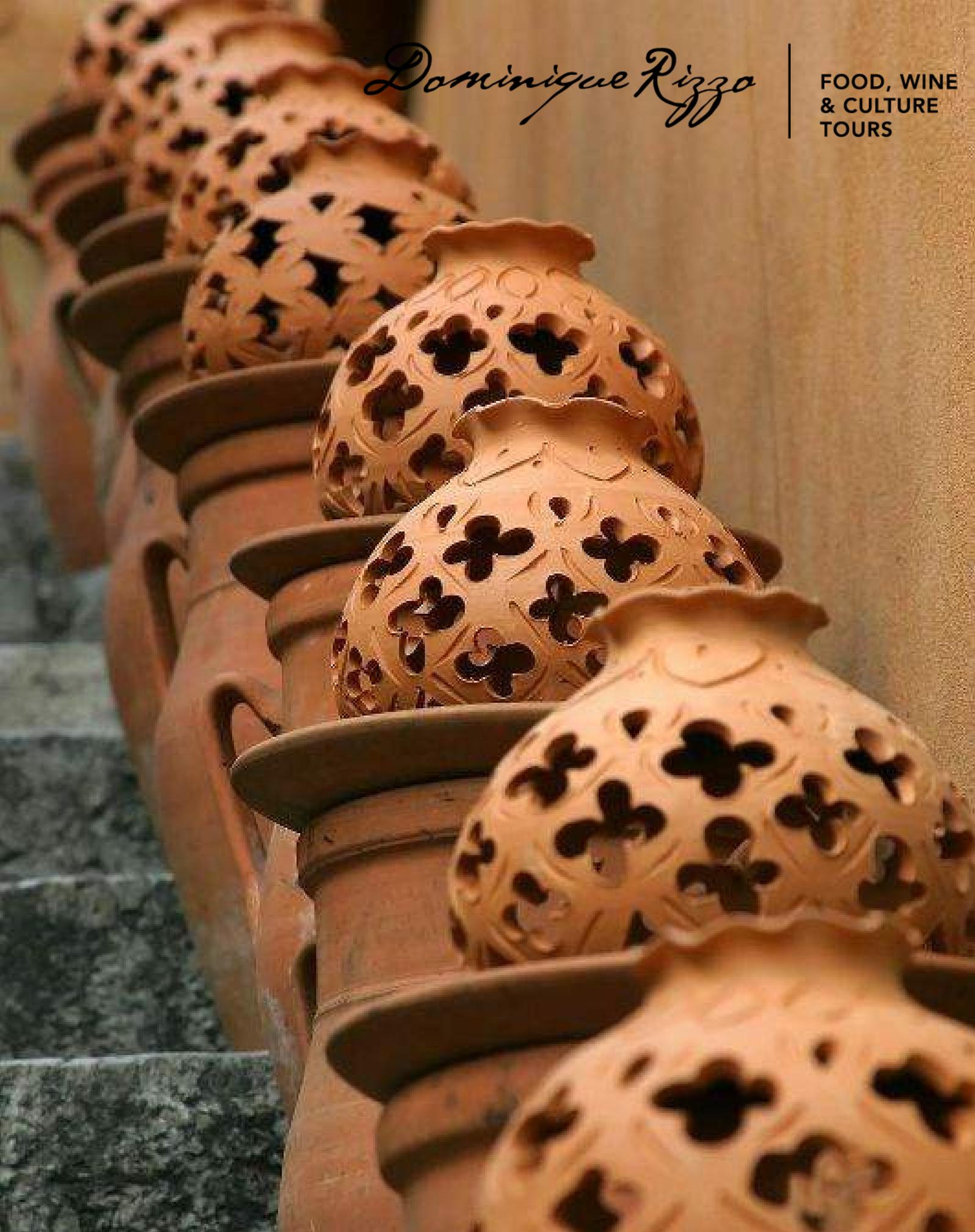
"I have never eaten and drank so much"  
Words cannot describe the amazing experience we had. An all-expense paid holiday seeing the most amazing sights and history and FOOD, FOOD, FOOD! My goodness, I have never eaten and drank so much food and wine, all whilst sitting in the most beautiful environments.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



"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



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