

L3's CULTURAL EXCHANGE

TO

SICILY



August 25 – September 5, 2023

DAY 1 – AUGUST 25

Arrive Catania International Airport
Welcome dinner at the hotel

Overnight: Belmond Villa Sant' Andrea

DAY 2 – AUGUST 26

4x4 Jeep excursion to Etna volcano
Tasting lunch on the Etna slopes
Walking tour of Taormina
Dinner at Kiste

Overnight: Belmond Villa Sant' Andrea

DAY 3 – AUGUST 27

Day by the sea on a private boat
Lunch on board
Afternoon free
Dinner at Al Duomo

Overnight: Belmond Villa Sant' Andrea

DAY 4 – AUGUST 28

Catania fish market tour with lunch
Walking tour of Ortigia Island
Dinner at Macalle Sicilian Bistort

Overnight: Grand Hotel Ortigia - Syracuse

DAY 5 – AUGUST 29

Travel to UNESCO World Heritage
Site Noto
Tasting lunch
Visit Archaeological Park
Dinner at the hotel

Overnight: Grand Hotel Ortigia – Syracuse

DAY 6 – AUGUST 30

Tour of Modica in vintage cars
Chocolate tasting
Free time at hotel
Dinner at hotel followed by
skygazing

Overnight: Eremo della Guibiliana





DAY 7 – AUGUST 31

Walking tour of Ragusa
Lunch at Serfino a Mare Beach Club
Free time to relax
Dinner on your own

Overnight: Eremo della Guibiliana

DAY 8 – SEPTEMBER 1

Travel to Agrigento and tour Temple Valley
Lunch at local restaurant
Transfer to Verdura Resort
Dinner at the hotel

Overnight: Verdura Resort

DAY 9 – SEPTEMBER 2

Morning free to experience resort
Dinner at the local

Overnight: Verdura Resort

DAY 10 – SEPTEMBER 3

Travel to Planeta Ulmo
Lunch at winery
Visit Monreale
Dinner at hotel

Overnight: Villa Igiea in Palermo

DAY 11 – SEPTEMBER 4

Walking tour of Palermo
Street food lunch
Farewell dinner at historic Palazzo Alliata

Overnight: Villa Igiea in Palermo

Day 12 –SEPTEMBER 5

Depart or option to continue to Puglia Region

Day 1 - August 25
Welcome to Sicily

Plan to arrive at Catania International Airport.

Our tour leader will meet you and transfer you to our hotel, the Belmond Villa Sant' Andrea.

Travel time is about 50 minutes to the hotel.

Welcome dinner at the hotel.



Day 2 - August 26

Etna Volcano: 4x4 Jeep Excursion & Hike

Elevation: 5,905-10,827 ft.

Depart via mini coach to discover the fascinating nature trails of the highest active volcano in Europe. We'll be at 5,905 feet.

From here we board 4x4 Jeeps (6 guests per Jeep) to travel off road up to the peak of Etna volcano, about 9,514 feet above sea level. Those who do not want to hike will enjoy the view from here and be provided alternative programming.

From here, we hike for about an hour up to the main crater to an elevation of 10,827. *OPTIONAL*

You'll need hiking boots and a wind jacket for this excursion. This hike is only for folks in good health and physical condition. The view from the top is breathtaking.

We descend (45 minutes) and board the 4x4 Jeeps to return to our mini coach and travel to a private house for lunch.



Day 2 - August 26

Snack Lunch at Casa Merlino

Casa Merlino stands on a strip of land on the slopes of Mount Etna.

The area is rich in lava minerals and optimal natural exposure and weather conditions. The land was originally the site of a hazelnut grove. In 1990, hazelnut cultivation was abandoned and the owner decided to transform the land by planting the current olive grove. In 2007, the company began production of extra virgin olive oil.

We will visit the farm and then have an olive oil tasting and informal lunch.

2:30 p.m. Depart for hotel.



Day 2 - August 26 Taormina Historical Walking Tour

At 5:30 p.m., we walk from our hotel to the ancient amphitheater. Built in 300 BC and expanded by the Romans, the theater is now the site of dramatic performances during the summer. The view of Mount Etna and the sea before it are world-famous.

Our walking tour will continue to the Roman Odeon, Corvaia Palace, the Dome and the beautiful landscape of Belvedere Square. This walking tour will last about two hours and will include a Granita tasting.

At 7:30 p.m., we will reach our restaurant for dinner.





Day 2 - August 26 Dinner at Kiste

At 7:30 p.m., we arrive in the heart of Taormina, a few steps from the Duomo Cathedral, at the ancient and charming home, Cipolla. This is a 15th century palace with two large Roman cisterns Kiste (hence the name, in Greek).

The Kiste offers the best Sicilian flavors and indoor or outdoor dining in a relaxed and informal environment.

Head Chef Pietro D'Agostino is a Michelin starred chef and only uses the finest ingredients, giving special attention to quality and freshness.

Kiste is about a 15-minute walk from and to our hotel.





Day 3 - August 27

A Day by the Sea

At 10 a.m., we depart our hotel via motor coach for Giardini Harbor to set sail on the private Gullet. Travel time to the harbor is about 20 minutes. We board our vessel via small wooden boats.

We sail along the beautiful coast with a traditional Sicilian lunch served on board.

After lunch, we head back to the harbor and transfer to the hotel by mini coach.



Day 3 - August 27

Dinner at “Al Duomo”

At 7:30 we dine on typical dishes prepared to perfection to delight the palate of Sicilians and tourists who want to taste the "real" sardines a beccafico, the macco "of the past" or a textbook fried tuma cheese.

In a magical atmosphere, the Al Duomo Restaurant in Taormina offers an elegant and comfortable environment, made even more precious by an enviable collection of local wines.

A 15-minute walk from our hotel.





Day 4 - August 28 Catania Foodie Tour

We check out of our hotel and depart for Syracuse.

On the way we will stop in Catania for a walking tour of Catania guided by a food expert with samples of the most delicious wares. Travel time is about 50 minutes.

Our tour includes tastings of a “Coppo”: a selection of traditional and almost forgotten snacks, such as cotognata, mostarda, calia, dried and candied fruit, cheese and cured meats, arancino (fried rice ball stuffed with fried aubergines, basil and cheese), cipollina (with onion, tomato sauce and ham) and Siciliana (fried calzone stuffed with tuma cheese and anchovies).

After the tour we head for Syracuse and check in at the hotel with time to rest before dinner. Travel time is about 1 hour.



Day 4 - August 28 Discover Syracuse

At 6 p.m., we depart in Ape cars (pictured) to discover Ortygia Island. This is the heart of the beautiful city of Syracuse. Centuries of history, art and culture have marked this charming Sicilian place. Tour duration is 90 minutes.



The tour ends at the restaurant for dinner.

Day 4 - August 28

Dinner at Sicilian Bistrot Macallè

Macallè Sicilian Bistrot is a place where you can enjoy traditional Sicilian cuisine with a contemporary twist. The chef's philosophy is to transform his grandmother's recipes into contemporary dishes, paying meticulous attention to seasonal, strictly local and fresh products.

A 10-minute walk to our hotel.





Day 5 - August 29 UNESCO World Heritage Site - Noto

At 9 a.m., we depart for Noto, known for its baroque architecture and its early 18th-century buildings. It is considered a masterpiece of Sicilian baroque style. We will have a one-hour guided tour.

The tour ends at a tasting lunch with a stop at the city's historical pastry shop managed by the famous pastry Chef Corrado Assenza.

We return to the hotel at 3 p.m. Travel time is about 45 minutes.



Day 5 - August 29

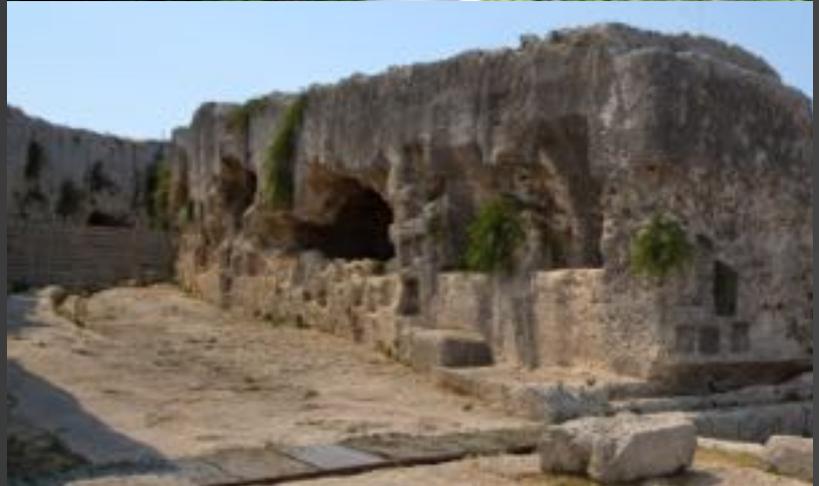
Archaeological Site in Syracuse

At 5 p.m., we visit the most famous monument of the archaeological park, the Greek theater. It is one of the largest and most important theaters in the ancient world with origins dating back the fifth century B.C.

This complex has been identified as the Mouseion, seat of the guild of actors.

At the end of the guided visit, we return to our hotel for dinner at 7 p.m.

Travel time is 10 minutes from the hotel.





Day 6 - August 30 Modica & Scicli

We check out of our hotel and depart for Ragusa. Travel time is 70 minutes.

On the way, we stop in Modica for a guided visit of the city. The minibus cannot easily move in Modica, so we take 500 FIAT vintage models to discover Modica.

Afterwards, a sweet break in the small shops selling the famous chocolate of Modica.

A snack lunch at a farm and then we travel 20 minutes to the charming village of Scicli.

The guided walking tour will last no more than 1 hour. Then we transfer to our hotel.

Day 6 - August 30

Dinner & Skygazing Experience

At 7 p.m., we have dinner at the hotel followed by stargazing.

An expert astronomer will guide us in observing the fascinating stars whose beauty are enhanced by the clarity of the skies in Sicily. This activity lasts for 90 minutes.





Day 7 - August 31 Ragusa

At 9 a.m., we depart for a guided walking of Ragusa. It is a 30-minute drive to reach the city center where we find more than 50 churches.

On the eastern side, lies the Garden Ibleo and the ancient city, the famous Hybla. Walking through the main streets to reach the magnificent Cathedral of St. John the Baptist and Palazzo Bertini.

We continue to the magnificent and imposing Basilica of San Giorgio and the Church of St. Joseph.

The guided walking will last about 2 hours.

Then a short transfer to the seaside to reach the restaurant for a relaxing lunch on the beach.





Day 7 - August 31

Lunch at Serafino a Mare Beach Club

A cozy and cheerful beach club, Lido Azzurro was founded by Serafino La Rosa in 1953. The sons, Antonio and Giuseppe, run the beach club and the restaurant.

The cellar contains more than 450 wine labels and a huge selection of spirits and dessert wines.

After lunch we return to the hotel and relax.

Travel time is about 40 minutes from Ragusa city center.

Dinner will be on your own this evening.





Day 8 – September 1 Agrigento and The Temple Valley UNESCO World Heritage Site

At 9 a.m. we check out and depart for Agrigento. It is a 2 hour and 30-minute drive.

At 11:30 a.m., we reach the archaeological area known as the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento. It is one of the most important archaeological sites in the world.

We will visit the park via golf carts for a 90-minute tour.

Lunch will be at the end of the tour.

In the afternoon, we transfer to Verdura Resort to check-in, relax and have dinner at the hotel. Travel time is 50 minutes.



DAY 9 – SEPTEMBER 2

Agrigento and Vertura Resort

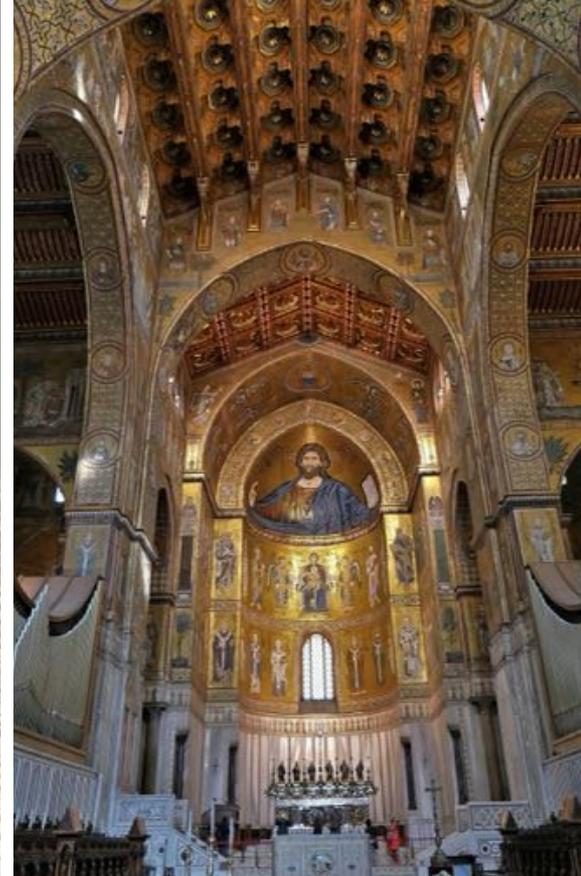
This morning is for you to relax in the gorgeous surroundings of Vertura Resort.

You may want to schedule a spa treatment or play the exceptional Kyle Phillips designed and renovated golf course.

Lunch is on your own.

Plan to be ready to leave the property for a tour and dinner at 5 p.m.





Day 10 - September 3 Planeta Ulmo and Monreale

We check out and travel north to the Planeta Ulmo estate (Sambuca de Sicilia). The family will welcome us and lead us on a tour followed by lunch and wine tasting. Travel time to Planeta Ulmo is about 45 minutes.

After lunch we travel to Monreale. This UNESCO World Heritage Site offers extraordinary examples of Arab-Norman architecture and Byzantine mosaics. Travel time to Monreale is about 1 hour and 15 minutes.

We depart Monreale and head to our hotel in Palermo. Travel time to the hotel is about 40 minutes. We plan to reach our hotel at 5 p.m. Dinner will be at the hotel.



Day 11 - September 4 Palermo

This guided walking tour will start at 9 a.m., from “Borgo Vecchio,” an important village for the commercial activities of the city. Travel time from the hotel is about 20 minutes.

During the walk, we will stop to admire the ancient art of Sicilian puppets in a historical shop and visit Casa Professa and Santa Cita Oratory and the beautiful Martorana Church.

Then we will walk up the colorful market as we absorb the sounds, scents and Mediterranean colors among the stalls full of fresh fish, fruit and vegetables, the famous Sicilian citrus, spices and freshly baked bread.

We have lunch as we discover the local traditional street food gastronomy.

We return to the hotel at 3 p.m.





Day 11 – September 4 Farewell Dinner at Historic Residence

This is one of the most important historical residences in all of Sicily. Palazzo Alliata was built in the middle of 15th century, it's a stunning example of the works of the most important Sicilian architects.

We will be welcomed by Princess Alliata who will explain the story of the palace and her family.

Dinner will be served in the main hall. The 18th-century glass chandelier, made in Murano Ca' Rezzonico, is considered one of the largest ever made.





Belmond Villa Sant' Andrea

Old-world glamour on the Sicilian coast. Enchanting guests since the 50s, a stay in this beach residence is like reuniting with long lost friends.



Grand Hotel Ortigia Syracuse

Built in the late nineteenth century, the Grand Hotel Ortigia is over a hundred years old. Although completely renovated in 1995, it kept its original charm, architectural lines and attractive Liberty style alive thanks to a refinement without excess. The design of this charming hotel is intended to let you breathe an exclusive atmosphere in every moment of your stay.



RAGUSA HOTEL Eremo della Giubiliana



Hermitage (13th and 16th centuries) is south of Ragusa where the plateau is covered with carob trees and slopes gently towards the sea, facing the islands of Malta and the African coast, a horizon full of charm and memory. Ancient and thick white stone walls surround it and protect the courtyards and internal beams.





AGRIGENTO HOTEL Verdura Resort

Verdura Resort hosts 230 hectares of sun-kissed Mediterranean coastline, countryside, spa and golf, olive trees, orange groves and white-sand beaches. tennis courts, water sports, championship golf and kids' clubs. Infinity pools, thalassotherapy and the flagship Rocco Forte Spa.



PALERMO HOTEL

Villa Igiea

Discover history, majesty and serenity at Villa Igiea: a turn-of-the-century palazzo at the perimeter of Palermo at the foot of Mount Pellegrino and the Gulf of Palermo. A long-loved seaside-meets-city sanctuary for royalty, dignitaries and Hollywood luminaries, trace their paths through tiered villa gardens that sweep down to the port and out to the Tyrrhenian Sea.

