



# THE TRAVEL CLUB

## *Pre-Departure Itinerary* **Exploring Sicily\***

**Friday, October 29 – Saturday, November 6, 2010**

Sicily is dramatic—in every sense of the word. Lying only 80 miles from the coast of North Africa, Sicily has seen invaders—Greeks, Romans, Arabs, French and many more—all attracted to its beauty, fertility and magic. That doesn't sound all that dramatic, you say? Try this: Sicily is both blessed by the spectacular, turquoise Mediterranean Sea and cursed by volcanoes and earthquakes. Not enough? Quintessentially Italian, yet uniquely Sicilian, the island has seen plagues, family vendettas, poverty and prosperity. It has always attracted poets, painters and lovers of beauty. It has mountains and beaches and vineyards; its cities and towns are both ancient and modern. In short—it's dramatic! Join us this October as we explore Sicily from the storied streets of **Palermo** to the most famous of all Italian resort towns—Taormina. In between we'll visit **Marsala** and sip some wine; spend a day marveling at the Greek temples in **Agrigento**; wander the streets of **Catania**; see where scenes from *The Godfather* were filmed; and, finally, discover the charms of Taormina, to this day, a hot spot for the rich and famous. There will be plenty of time to explore on your own—even enjoy an excursion to Mount Etna. Now that's dramatic!

### **Includes**

- Round-trip air transportation on regularly scheduled **Alitalia Airlines** non stop flights from Boston to Palermo and Catania to Boston, via Rome
- Seven nights' three and four -star accommodations
- Eleven meals; seven buffet breakfasts, four dinners
- One **wine tasting in Marsala**
- Round-trip, private airport/hotel transfers with assistance
- Services of professional local Tour Manager

### **Rates**

**\$1,869** person double occupancy  
**\$2,229** for single reservations  
Triple accommodations may be available upon request. Add \$380 for current taxes, fees charges and surcharges. Passport required.

### **Features**

Guided full-day tour of Palermo and Monreale, full-day excursion to Erice and Marsala, visit to the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento, visit to Catania, half-day walking tour of Taormina; OPTIONAL: Excursion to Mt Etna or Siracusa

## **DAILY ITINERARY**

### **October 29: Departure from Boston**

Evening departure from Boston on Alitalia Airlines non-stop flight to Rome.

### **October 30: Arrive Rome – connecting flight to Palermo**

Upon arrival at the Rome airport you'll transfer to your connecting flight to Palermo. Claim your luggage and proceed through customs. You'll be met by your Tour Manager who will direct you to the motor coach for the transfer to the Hotel Mercure in Palermo. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

### **October 31: Palermo – Monreale**

After breakfast you'll depart for a full days sightseeing of Palermo and Monreale. Your tour starts in Palermo's old town -- which is the heart of Palermo. At its center lies Quattro Canti di Citta, an ostentatious square complete with fountains, statues and a large portion of the city's important sites. You'll visit the Cathedral, the Norman Palace and the Church of San Giovanni degli Eremeti (St. John of the Hermits) a 12th-century Norman church with five, Arab-inspired red domes. In the afternoon you'll drive Monreale where you'll visit the Cathedral -- famed for its glorious golden mosaics it is perhaps the finest Norman building in Sicily -- built in the 12th century as part of a grand royal complex. In the late afternoon return to the hotel. Evening at leisure. (B)

**November 1: Erice**

Today you'll visit Erice, a wonderfully preserved medieval town offering the most breathtaking views and timeless Greek ruins. Transfer to world-renown Donnafugata's winery. This is one of Italy's finest wineries and praised by wine critics and wine lovers all over the globe. This historic cellar in Marsala is just one of Donnafugata's various estates and you'll enjoy a wine tasting of four wines in the charming "Sala delle Botti" along with typical specialties such as, cous cous, local cheese and fresh fruit. Return to hotel. Evening at leisure. (B)

**November 2: Agrigento**

After breakfast you'll take a short journey to Agrigento – defined by Pindaro as "the most beautiful city of the Earth's cities." Here you'll visit the Valley of the Temples, one of the most important archaeological centers of the Mediterranean. This evening enjoy dinner and overnight accommodations at the Hotel Kaos. (B,D)

**November 3: Catania – Taormina**

Leaving Agrigento you'll travel to Catania, on Sicily's east coast, where you'll enjoy a stop and some free time in the city center. In the afternoon you'll head north to the coastal resort city of Taormina. After check-in at the Hotel Continentale you'll enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. (B,D)

**November 4: Taormina**

After breakfast you'll enjoy a half-day walking tour of Taormina – known as the Pearl of the Mediterranean. You'll see the historic medieval center, the Greek-roman theatre, amazing scenery, Baroque architecture, quaint street and romantic gardens. After an afternoon at leisure you'll enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. (B,D)

**November 5: Taormina**

Today is a day at leisure for you to enjoy exploring Taormina on your own or lounging around the hotel. If sufficient numbers reserve on the program, we'll offer optional excursions to Mount Etna and Siracusa. Enjoy dinner tonight at a local restaurant. (B,B)

**November 6: Return to Boston**

Early this morning you'll transfer to Catania airport for your flight to Rome and your transatlantic flight back to Boston.

**Proof of Citizenship** is required for all trips outside the United States. U.S. citizens require valid Passport. Passports are the responsibility of each client.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured. We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2–3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.