

**Sicily and Southern Italy** are a world apart from Milan, Florence, Venice, or even Rome, offering an amazing diversity of history, art, cuisine, architecture, and culture dating back to the Golden Age of Greece. For centuries, this region was the wealthiest in Italy and has the monuments to prove it, from Greek temples to grandiose baroque churches. This has been our most popular itinerary since our first trip south in 2002; over those 15 years, we have found all the best places to stay, eat, and visit, plus some tricks to make the most effective use of your time. All our guides are specialists - most with PhDs - in archeology, history, and/or art history.

**Palermo, Catania, and Naples:** each lays claim to the most spectacular opera house in Italy and even an unbiased observer is hard-pressed to say which is the grandest. We will attend **Bellini's *Il Pirata*** at the glorious Teatro Massimo Bellini in Catania, named after the city's most famous son, and **Rossini's *Barber of Seville*** at Palermo's Teatro Massimo. At Teatro San Carlo in Naples, another house steeped in tradition, we will see **Verdi's *La Traviata***.

You can spend three or four additional days with us on an optional extension to **Rome**, allowing you to explore the artistic treasures of the "Eternal City" in depth and context with our PhD art historian guide of long-standing or on your own. In addition, we will provide tickets for Mozart's ***Don Giovanni*** at the Rome Opera, and assist with any additional performances that become available; we hope for a performance in Renzo Piano's boldly modern Parco de la Musica.

**This tour is limited to 20 participants;  
space will be allotted according to the order in which deposits are received.**

### Prices, per person

**Sicily and Naples**  
\$4,950 sharing a double  
\$5,975 single occupancy

**4-day Rome extension**  
(hotel and transportation only)  
\$675 sharing a double  
\$895 single occupancy

◆  
Prices are stated in  
U.S. Dollars  
calculated on an exchange  
rate of \$1.15 to the Euro.



### YOUR ITINERARY

**September 22: Depart for Palermo.** We plan to offer group air arrangements. See the details in the box on page 3 at the left.

#### **September 23-25: Palermo with Monreale and Erice**

Palermo's strategic military and trading position attracted invaders from around the world, including the Carthaginians, the Greeks, the Romans, the Normans, the Swabians, the French, and the Spanish Bourbons. Each group left a mark, exemplified by the city's wonderful architectural and artistic diversity. **The Palatine Chapel**, built by Moorish craftsmen for the Normans, is an unusually beautiful mix of Byzantine, Moorish and Western architecture. We will visit the splendid art collection housed in the 15th-century **Palazzo Abatellis**, which contains Antonello da Messina's masterpiece, *L'Annunziata*. Time permitting, we will explore **St. John of the Hermits Monastery**, **Chiesa del Jesu Nuovo** (a Norman church built upon a mosque with five cupolas and a subtropical garden), **the Church of the Martorana** with its majestic mosaic decorations, and **the Cathedral**, which houses royal and imperial tombs.

A day trip will take us to **Monreale** and **Erice**. The Cathedral at Monreale, from the exterior, is one of the greatest extant examples of Norman architecture in the world. However, the interior is Byzantine, boasting glittering mosaics that cover the walls from almost the floor to the ceiling, depicting scenes from the Old and New Testament. Our next stop is the wonderfully preserved medieval hilltop town of Erice, offering breathtaking views over the Tyrrhenian Sea. We will stroll in the town and visit the legendary pastry shop of Maria Grammatico, made famous by the chef's gripping memoir, *Bitter Almonds*; the visit will allow us the opportunity

to taste the famous marzipan cakes made with almonds in a variety of flavors as well as Maria's mouth-watering cannolis – which were airlifted daily to the late Pope. Lunch will be provided at a local agriturismo.

Our visit to the Sicilian capital concludes at Teatro Massimo Vittorio Emmanuele, the largest opera house in Italy and third largest in Europe; we'll see a performance of **Rossini's** sparkling comedy, *The Barber of Seville*.

## Package prices include

### Accommodation in these carefully chosen four-star hotels

Grand Hotel et des Palmes

Hotel Museum Costazzura

Relais Parco Cavalonga

Hotel Palace Catania

Grand Hotel Oriente



Four nights in Rome optional  
Hotel Quirinale



Breakfast each day



Lunch or dinner on 11 days



Wine tastings



Airport transfers



Ground transport by  
private coach



Flight from Catania to Naples  
(tourist class)



Minimum of three performances,  
four if including Rome



Tours with expert guides as  
described to the right



## September 26: Selinunte and Agrigento

Today we drive southwest from Palermo to **Selinunte**, the westernmost outpost of Greek civilization in Sicily. Destroyed by Carthaginians twice (first as victors and second as defenders, fleeing mighty Rome), the city was abandoned in 250 BC. The archeological park at Selinunte is the largest and most imposing in Europe, containing numerous temples, sanctuaries, and altars. Then we continue to **The Valley of the Temples at Agrigento**, without a doubt one of the most outstanding monuments of Greater Greek art and architecture. In its heyday in the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC, the Greek city of Akragas rivaled Athens and Syracuse; eight well-preserved Greek temples attest to that fact and are included in the UNESCO World Heritage list.

## September 27: Villa Romana del Casale and Caltagirone

Today we drive through Sicily's rugged, ravishing interior to our intimate relais hotel close to the famous baroque cities of the Val di Noto, stopping at Piazza Armerina to see the remains of a Roman country villa, one of the most sumptuous private homes of the late Roman era (4<sup>th</sup> c. AD). Built by the emperor Maximilian, the villa's extensive floor mosaics are the finest in situ anywhere in the Roman world. We also make a stop at Caltagirone for lunch (on your own). The capital of the Sicilian pottery industry, Caltagirone is one of eight World Heritage-listed "Late Baroque Towns of the Val di Noto." The most famous sight there is the **Stairway of Santa Maria del Monte**, a staircase connecting the Upper and Lower Towns, whose 142 steps are covered in splendid polychrome ceramic tiles, offering breathtaking views over the town. The centuries-old art of pottery-making has been part of the history of Caltagirone since ancient times; the culture of pottery is evident everywhere: ceramics adorn the streets, balconies, squares, fountains, churches, and palaces. You can admire (and buy) local artists' handmade artefacts in the over 120 ceramic shops. Tonight's dinner, at our relais hotel, will include a wine tasting.

## September 28: Val di Noto to Catania

Today we explore three splendid jewels of Baroque city planning, all among the World Heritage-listed "Late Baroque Towns of the Val di Noto": **Ragusa, Modica, and Noto**. All three were damaged in the 1693 earthquake and rebuilt in the most extreme version of the Sicilian Baroque. The opulence of ornamentation, inside and out, of not only public but also private buildings, attests to the cities' wealth in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Fortunately for us, these cities fell from economic importance long before the building boom of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, so

much of their fabric remains intact. In the 15<sup>th</sup> century, when Modica was under Spanish control, chocolate (*N.B. the word comes from the Maya word "xocoatl" meaning bitter water*) brought from the Aztec areas of South America was introduced to Modica. Here, they still make chocolate using the ancient Aztec recipe. We will visit the oldest chocolate maker in Sicily and taste their wonderful chocolates, including chocolate liquor with chili pepper and chocolates with different spices: cinnamon, cardamom, orange peels, marjoram, nutmeg, red chili pepper etc. We end up in Catania, Sicily's second largest city and our base of operations for the next three days.

## September 29: Catania \* *see note at bottom left column, concerning Jewish Holidays*

Despite a history dating back thousands of years, Catania is a baroque city, having been almost completely destroyed in the 1693 earthquake and eruption of Mt. Etna and rebuilt during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Our walking tour will focus on the city center and include not only the prime monuments and sites associated with Catania's favorite son, Vincenzo Bellini, but also the exciting sights, sounds, and scents of the city's vibrant outdoor market. Our performance in Catania is **Bellini's *Il Pirata*** at the legendary Teatro Massimo Bellini. Designed by the same architect as the Paris Opéra, Charles Garnier, Teatro Bellini was considered the best opera house in the world by Caruso and many of the grand singers of opera's "Golden Age." It continues to be a favorite of singers and conductors (Hans Graf among them) as well.

## September 30: Free in Catania - or choose either of two optional activities:

### Suggested Flights:

Outbound via United  
and Lufthansa  
Departing Houston Sept. 22,  
one stop, arriving Palermo  
Sept. 23 at about 11:00 AM

Return from Rome Oct. 6 or 9  
via Munich or Frankfurt,  
arriving Houston  
that afternoon

If there is sufficient interest,  
we will explore the potential  
for a Group Air Package

**Day-trip to Syracuse (lunch included)** Once part of Magna Graecia, together with Messina and Catania, Syracuse is everything you would expect or imagine Sicily to be – golden limestone buildings exuding the scent of the past, a quiet maze of streets, charming alleys, and squares with fountains. It feels like time has stopped, or rather, stalled in the period following the 1693 earthquake that destroyed every city in the eastern part of Sicily. But the ruins of the ancient temples of Athena and Apollo are a reminder of the ancient Greek city where Archimedes fought heroically against the Romans during the siege of Syracuse (212 BC). The columns of the Temple of Minerva have been visibly incorporated into a Christian cathedral, whose façade is an example of Sicilian Baroque at its most flamboyant. Nearby are massive fortifications, designed by Archimedes, which the Romans breached by not by skill or force but by treachery. There are also notable reminders of the Byzantine era and period of Norman dominion. We will make a point to see Caravaggio's *Burial of St. Lucy* in the church of Santa Lucia alla Badia.

**Sicilian Cooking Class, from Market to Table.** Start with a visit to the famous Catania Fish Market to purchase ingredients; then head back to begin cooking and, eventually, eating. With a Sicilian chef by your side, you will learn about the history of the Sicilian cuisine and prepare a delicious 3-course meal (e.g. caponata, ravioli or pasta, fish, and a Sicilian dessert such as cannoli). The final tasting includes a typical Sicilian aperitif and two glasses of Sicilian wine per person.

## October 1: Taormina and Etna Winery

Today we drive to Taormina, a favorite haunt of such notables as Truman Capote, Tennessee Williams, Marlene Dietrich, Joan Crawford, Rita Hayworth, and Greta Garbo as well as the place where Sofia Loren famously turned down Cary Grant's proposal of marriage. Absent the hordes of summer tourists, it is possible to enjoy Taormina's medieval character as you stroll through the intimate piazzas surrounded by palaces dating from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Of course, we will visit the Greek theater (3<sup>rd</sup> c. BC) with its spectacular views across the sea to Calabria and inland to Etna. Our wine tasting lunch will be at a winery famous for producing wines from grapes grown in the volcanic soil on the slopes of Mt. Etna. Afterwards, we drive to Catania airport for our short (one-hour) flight to Naples.

## October 1 – 4: Naples, Pompeii, and the Amalfi Coast

Our sightseeing in Naples includes the **Cathedral of San Gennaro**; **Gesú Nuovo** and **Capella San Severo**, two baroque masterpieces of exuberant multi-colored marble; and **Santa Chiara**, an austere Gothic building with a delightful tile-encrusted Rococo cloister.

One morning we will explore **Pompeii**, the city destroyed by an eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD. The fascination with this wealthy first-century resort town, buried for centuries in volcanic ash, lies not only in the impressive theatre, temples, and forum, but also in the many commercial buildings and domestic dwellings, from cramped apartments to luxurious villas.

An afternoon is reserved for the **Capodimonte Museum**, one of the world's great art museums set, like Paris's Louvre, in a former Royal Palace. We will explore the highlights of the collection, from Tiziano, Massaccio, Lorenzo Lotto, and Parmigianino, to Caravaggio and Ribera, while getting a glimpse of Naples still life artists such as Ruoppolo and Recco, as well as a woman painter influenced by Caravaggio, Gentileschi.

André Gide wrote that **the Amalfi Coast** is "so beautiful that nothing more beautiful can be seen on this earth." We will dedicate a full day to that stretch where mountains plunge into the azure sea, visiting towns and cities whose very names invoke idyllic images: Sorrento, Positano (a favorite of Paul Klee and Tennessee Williams), Amalfi, and Ravello (where Wagner composed parts of Parsifal).

**Verdi's *La Traviata*** at the stunning Teatro San Carlo is a highlight of our visit to Naples, reminding us of its glory days when it was capital of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies.

### **Naples to Rome: October 5**

En route to Rome, we stop at the 18<sup>th</sup>-century **Royal Palace of Caserta**, constructed for the Bourbon kings of Naples. A UNESCO World Heritage site, the monumental complex was meant to rival Versailles, bringing together a magnificent palace, park and gardens, as well as natural woodland and hunting lodges.

### **From that point, you have two choices:**

- **Go directly to Rome airport** where you can relax at a very nice hotel that offers shuttle service to the nearby terminals, making your trip home tomorrow (Oct.6) as easy as possible.
- **Continue to our hotel in the heart of Rome for four days.** We've arranged for rooms at the excellent hotel, located 5 minutes from the Rome Opera House. Rome Opera has announced its 2019 performances, and we can secure tickets to **Mozart's *Don Giovanni***. When we know the full performance season, we'll send you a list of "what's on" and get you tickets for the events of your choice. If several of the group agree on an itinerary, we can set up special tours with our great specialist guide on history, art, and architecture.

### **ROME EXTENSION (October 5-9)**

In Rome, we can arrange for special tours with our great specialist guide on history, art, and architecture; he brings the characters and situations of Rome's long history and rich treasury of art vividly to life. Even the "standard" sites like the Pantheon, Spanish Steps, or Trevi Fountain are seen through new eyes.

One possibility is a full day dedicated to the Vatican. Descend to the necropolis under St. Peter's to learn the history of the site from the pre-Christian era to around 1400, seeing the foundations of the earlier Basilica of Constantine and the actual grave of St. Peter. Then tour the glorious interior of St. Peter's. Even if you have "seen it before," you probably haven't had this masterpiece of architecture explained in the depth that our art historian provides.

We can also arrange a visit to the Pallavicini Palace specifically to see the ceiling fresco by Guido Reni in the Casino dell'Aurora. Continue to the exquisite churches of San Ignazio (Andrea Pozzo) and San Carlino (Borromini) nearby, ending at the Cornaro Chapel to see The Ecstasy of Santa Teresa, one of the most inspired monuments of art history.

Another possibility is an "art walk," starting at the Piazza del Popolo with its superb Church of Santa Maria, which houses not only Caravaggio's Crucifixion of St. Peter and Conversion on the Road to Damascus but also an Assumption of the Virgin by Annibale Carracci, frescoes by Pinturicchio, sculptures by Andrea Bregno and Gian Lorenzo Bernini, and the Chigi Chapel, designed by Raffaello Sanzio. Learn about the rivalry between Borromini and Bernini as you stroll to the Piazza Navona passing some of Rome's most noted baroque monuments – plus the Pantheon for good measure. If you want a great lunch to cap off your morning walk, one of Rome's most famous trattorias, Da Constanza, is hidden away in a little street nearby; our guide will help you find it.

***\*Please note: Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown on Sunday September 29.  
If you wish to attend services that evening, we will assist you in making arrangements.  
We will also provide tickets for the Monday evening performance of Il Pirata.  
All daytime activities on Monday are extra-cost options.***

**Participation is limited to 20; reservations will be honored in the order deposits are received. Payment in full is due by May 20, 2019.**

<u>Prices per person</u>	<u>Sharing a double</u>	<u>Single occupancy</u>
<b>Two-week Sicily and Naples program</b>	<b>\$4,950.00</b>	<b>\$5,975.00</b>
<b>Three-day Rome Extension</b>	<b>\$675.00</b>	<b>\$895.00</b>

For details, visit DeanDaltonTours.com or email DD@DeanDaltonTours.com or call 713-213-6447.

*You should be prepared for a good bit of walking, cobbled streets, hills and stairs.  
If your mobility is limited, please travel with a friend or relative committed to assisting you.*

Complete and mail this form and your check for \$500 per person payable to **Dean Dalton Tours** to:

**Dean Dalton Tours**  
1904 Banks St.  
Houston, TX 77098

Name 1 as it appears on passport (LAST/First): \_\_\_\_\_

Name 2 as it appears on passport (LAST/First): \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport # 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Issue date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date and **place** of Birth: ; \_\_\_\_\_

Passport # 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Issue date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date and **place** of Birth: ; \_\_\_\_\_

Name and phone of emergency contact: \_\_\_\_\_

If reserving for two:  prefer one bed  prefer two beds

If reserving for one:  prefer a single room  need help finding a potential roommate

will be sharing twin room with \_\_\_\_\_

I/we wish to include the Rome extension

I/we wish to participate in the group air arrangements  economy  premium economy  business

**Travel Protection:** I/we prefer  Group Deluxe, full  Group Deluxe \$0 trip cost  Decline \_\_\_\_\_

Special needs: \_\_\_\_\_

**I have read the brochure and accompanying "Terms and Conditions" and agree to their contents.**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

A Trip Protection plan is strongly suggested for all participants. We offer Travel Insured International's Group Deluxe Travel Protection plan. Plan details and pricing can be found via the links below. Payment may be made at any time up to your final payment for the tour, with checks payable to Dean Dalton Tours or included with your final payment. **If you decline to purchase our Trip Protection, please check the appropriate box on the reservation form and initial to indicate that you accept full responsibility.**

The "\$0 trip cost" plan does not cover pre-existing conditions or cancellation and only limited trip interruption benefits. Group Deluxe Travel Plan, description and prices: <http://www.deandaltontours.com/docs/InsDescr2017Plan.pdf>  
Complete Policy Document: <http://www.deandaltontours.com/docs/GroupDeluxeDoc2017.pdf>

## Terms and Conditions of Sale—Sicily and Naples Tour, Sept.22 – Oct.6 or 9, 2019

A deposit of \$500.00 per person is required to guarantee your reservation; the date of receipt will determine the order in which travelers are booked, in the event of a sold-out tour. The balance of the tour price is due on or before May 20, 2019.

### Cancellation forfeitures, ground portion:

120 days or more prior to departure: deposit will be refunded, less a service charge of \$100 per person  
From 120 to 90 days prior to departure: full deposit is forfeited  
89 to 45 days prior to departure: 30% of tour cost is forfeited  
44 to 30 days prior to departure: 60% of tour cost is forfeited  
30 days or less, prior to departure: 100% of tour cost is forfeited

### Cancellation forfeitures, group flights, if chosen:

Following commitment to the group but before ticketing (apx. 60 days prior to departure): \$100 is forfeited  
Following ticketing (apx. 60 days prior to departure): \$500 is forfeited on economy class tickets; \$700 on business class

**Included in quoted tour prices:** All ground transportation by private coach, from arrival at Palermo airport, September 23, to departure from Rome airport, October 6 (group air from Houston is optional at additional cost), including one internal flight from Catania to Naples; luggage handling (1 piece, maximum 44 pounds, at owner's risk); accommodations in hotels listed in the itinerary or comparable, including hotel taxes and daily breakfast; lunches and dinners, sightseeing, entrance fees, performance tickets, guide and escort services, as indicated in the online itinerary.

**Not included in quoted tour prices:** Airfare to Italy and returning, costs of passports or visas (visas are not required for U.S. citizens), laundry; meals or beverages, optional performances, and sightseeing not included in the itinerary; room service; travel protection; gratuities to guides and drivers; communication charges; excess baggage fees.

**Exchange Rates:** Dean Dalton Tours reserves the right to adjust prices to reflect fluctuations in foreign exchange rates. The listed prices for this program were calculated at an exchange rate of 1.00 euro = \$1.15 US dollar.

Dean Dalton Tours also reserves the right to withdraw a tour or any part of it, to make such alterations in the itinerary as it deems necessary or desirable, to refuse to accept or retain as a member of any tour any person at any time, and to pass on to tour members any expenditures or losses caused by delays or events beyond its control.

**Passports and Visas:** Passports are required for international travel; visas are not required for U.S. citizens traveling to Italy.

**Itineraries:** Hotel accommodations, performances, and sightseeing are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.

**Guaranteed Departures:** Dean Dalton Tours guarantees the departure of most escorted programs that reach the stated minimum number of participants (12 for this tour), with exception only in case of "force majeure." This includes any major world event that adversely affects international travel patterns, or other circumstances beyond Dean Dalton Tours' control.

**Claims and Refunds:** Except for verifiable extenuating circumstances, refunds are not made for any missed tour services. For verifiable claims to be considered, they must be received in writing within 30 days of the termination of the tour and be accompanied by supporting documentation. Any adjustment will be based on the actual cost of the services involved and not on a per diem basis. Adjustments will not be made for sightseeing trips or meals not used at traveler's choice. Dean Dalton Tours will not accept any liability for any claims not received within 30 days of the termination of this tour.

**Photography:** Dean Dalton Tours reserves the right to take photographs or videos during the operation of any tour or part thereof, and to use the resulting photography for promotional purposes. By booking a reservation, tour members agree to allow their image to be used in such photography; tour members who prefer that their image not be used are asked to identify themselves to their tour escort at the commencement of the tour.

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