



**New Year's Eve Tour of Sicily**  
**Special program**  
**Tour Catania/Catania**  
**Departure on Friday December 27th**

**8 days / 7 nights**  
**in half board**

**Day 1 - Friday 12.27: CATANIA (hotel in Catania)**

New Year's Eve Tour of Sicily starts with the independent arrive to the hotel in the charming city of **Catania** (optional private transfer on request). In the evening meet our tour-leader and your travel companions and enjoy welcome dinner. Overnight in hotel.

**Day 2 – Saturday 12.28: ETNA - CATANIA (hotel in Catania)**

After breakfast, we'll going throughout the "Pescheria" in Catania (the ancient fish market) and then we will proceed to **Etna**, the highest volcano in Europe (c. 3350m) and one of the largest and most active in the world, nowadays Unesco World Heritage Site. Its regional park protects 59.000 hectares of unique geology, flora and fauna. We will reach the "Crateri Silvestri", small volcanic cones now inactive, surrounded by ancient lava flows. The view, beyond the mountain's hundreds of subsidiary cones and craters, can extend across the whole of Sicily, the Aeolian islands and Calabria. The spectacle is unique! Visit, wine tasting and lunch in a typical Etnashire winery. Heading to **Catania** city centre, stated Unesco World Heritage Site; it has original Baroque style and unique streets built with black lava stone. We reach the scenic Duomo square with its magnificent Cathedral and the famous "Liotru" statue, antique lava-stone elephant, symbol of the city. Not far from here, we will reach University Square and we will have a walk along the splendid baroque Via dei Crociferi, the most representative 18th century street in Catania, where we will admire the famous S. Benedict Monastery, Unesco World Heritage Site. We will stop in a bar for a delicious tasting of Sicilian cannolo. Back to hotel, dinner and overnight.

### Day 3 – Sunday 12.29: SYRACUSE - NOTO (hotel in Catania)

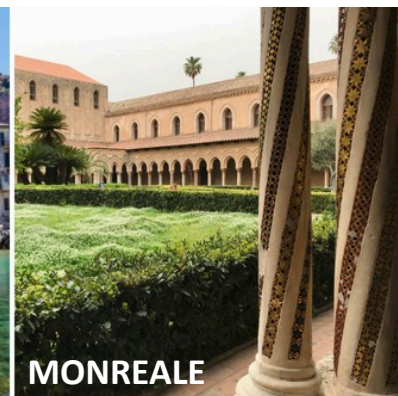
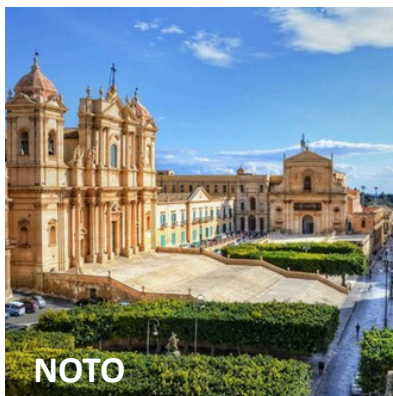
After breakfast in hotel we will visit **Syracuse**, the most beautiful and greatest Greek colony in Sicily and World Heritage Site! The visit will start with the Archaeological Park of Neapolis, with its Greek Theatre, the Roman Amphitheatre, the Latomie of Paradise and the Ear of Dionysius. We will continue visiting the splendid **Ortigia**, a small island which is the historical centre of Syracuse. In Ortigia you will admire the beautiful Cathedral which dominates the square with its authoritative presence. The present façade is a powerful Sicilian-Baroque composition but it gives no hint that this building was once a Doric temple! From Piazza Duomo you will reach a wide terrace on the waterfront surrounding the famous **Arethusa's Fountain**, one of the most famous fresh-water sources of the Greek world. Free time for lunch. Departure to **Noto**, the capital of Sicilian Baroque, famous for its fine buildings of the early eighteenth century and declared Unesco World Heritage Site. Inspired by Baroque ideals of “open city”, Noto is a rare masterpiece and the most clear example of theatrical tastes in 18th century architecture whose local limestone has been burnt gold by the sun. Noto's Baroque is in fact a game of elegant curves, floral weaves, perspective views palaces and gardens, capitals and ornaments that adorn the facades of churches and monasteries. We will visit **Palazzo Nicolaci Villadorata**, beautiful noble residence in Baroque style and once the residence of Don Giacomo Nicolaci, a patron of the arts. Back to Catania for dinner and overnight in hotel.

### Day 4 – Monday 12.30: TAORMINA – CEFALU' (hotel in Palermo)

This morning we will leave to visit Taormina, charming town renowned for its magnificent position above the sea commanding a celebrated view of Etna! In the afternoon we will visit Taormina's fascinating Greek theatre, and then you will have free time for a nice walk among the picturesque Medieval typical narrow streets, go shopping and looking around the local handycraft (coral jewels, precious laces, ceramics, sweets and much more). After free time for lunch, transfer to **Cefalù**, charming Medieval town situated at the northern coast of Sicily. We will visit its stunning Norman Dome and you will have free time to stroll through the town or to visit the famous and well-known **Mandalisca Museum**. We will proceed to Palermo; dinner and overnight in hotel.

### Day 5 – Tuesday 12.31 MONREALE - PALERMO (hotel in Palermo)

After breakfast in hotel, the morning will be spent visiting **Monreale**, its huge Norman Cathedral, proclaimed the Eighth Wonder of the World, and its splendid Cloister in Arab-Norman style: admirable masterpiece of art, sculpture, and semi-precious stones marquetry! Later we will discover the stunning **Palermo**, one of the richest towns in the Island for its history and art. Palermo stands on a bay at the foot of Mt Pellegrino, a headland described by Goethe as the loveliest he had ever seen. While the Baroque predominates, there is a profusion of different architectural styles reflecting the city's multicultural past, including an elegant opera house! ! We will visit the wonderful **Arab-Norman Cathedral**, the astonishing **Martorana Church** and the amazing **Cappella Palatina**, mirable example from an historical and an artistic point of view, of how different cultures, religions and way of thinking apparently incompatible can coexist.





Ruggero II in fact employed both Bizantyne, Muslim and Latin workers. Free time for lunch. Continuing our walk we will admire the Teatro Massimo and the debated fountain in Pretoria Square, situated in the ancient Kalsa area and adorned with XVI century sculptures. Along the visiting day we will have a stop for a **food surprise** in a local bakery. Free time available. Back to the hotel, free time for dinner and overnight. Let's celebrate **New Year's Eve** in Palermo, with its stunning lights and colors!

**Day 6 – Wednesday 01.01: AGRIGENTO (hotel in Agrigento)**

Let's celebrate the new year in the Pirandello's city. After breakfast we proceed to **Agrigento** to visit of the **Valley of the Temples** stated World Heritage Site; among hundreds of almond trees, the rests of the ancient Akragas rise. It was defined by Pyndar "the most beautiful city of mortals". Once one of the most prosperous of the ancient Greek cities on the island, Agrigento presents a remarkable series of Doric Temples of the 5th century. You will see the "Temple of Hera", the "Temple of Concordia" and the "Temple of Heracles". Lunch at local restaurant and free time for a walk in the city centre . Accommodation in hotel, dinner and overnight.

**Day 7 – Thursday 01.02: PIAZZA ARMERINA - CALTAGIRONE (hotel in Catania)**

Today we will reach **Piazza Armerina** where we will admire the splendid polychrome mosaics of the famous **Villa Romana del Casale**, World Heritage Site. The complex includes some of the most extensive and most beautiful Roman mosaics known. This majestic villa, belonged to a member of the Roman Senatorial aristocracy, hosts prestigious mosaics representing mythological and historical episodes and scenes of hunting and entertainments. After free time for lunch, we will proceed to **Caltagirone**; this Unesco site has an ancient pottery tradition made with simple terracotta wares or maiolica. Nowadays the production is more and more oriented to an artistic making, above all for what concerns the beautiful nativity scenes; we'll have the chance to visit them during their exhibition on Christmas time. Proceed to Catania for dinner and overnight in hotel.

**Day 8 – Friday 01.03: CATANIA**

New Year's Eve Tour of Sicily ends today. Breakfast in hotel and end of services.

**RATE PER PERSON: € 835,00 in double room**

**Single room supplement: € 210,00 - 3rd bed reduction: € 60,00**

**OPTIONAL:**

**NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA DINNER**

**(menu 6 / 7 courses, beverages included)**

**€ 145,00 PER PERSON**



### RATE INCLUDES

Multilingual Tour leader and professional travel guide (*English, Italian, Spanish*) for the whole tour (from the evening of the 1st day to the evening of the 7th day), local guides or audio-guides where necessary.

- Deluxe bus from day 2 to day 7
- Whisper kit
- Accommodation in charming 4 stars hotels, mostly located in the city centre  
Catania: **Il Principe Hotel 4\* or similar**  
Palermo: **Ibis Styles Palermo Cristal 4\* or similar**  
Agrigento: **Baia di Ulisse Wellness&SPA 4\* or similar**
- 2 Lunches: Day 2 in a local Etna winery- Day 6 in Agrigento
- Half board basis (dinner – 3 main courses menu, beverages not included) to have a taste of Sicilian cuisine except dinner of December 31st
- Tasting of Sicilian typical products: Catania (day 2) tasting of the typical Sicilian cannolo; Etna (day 2): visit of a local winery with tasting; Palermo (day 5): tasting of local street food.
- Visit of the main suggestive Unesco World Heritage Sites: Catania city centre, Syracuse, Noto, Palermo, Monreale, Agrigento, Piazza Armerina, Caltagirone

### RATE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Transfers in/out
- All lunches except for the one on day 2 in Etna area and in Agrigento on day 6
- Dinner on December 31st
- Beverages
- Entrance fees for monuments/museums
- City taxes (where compulsory)
- Tips and extras in general
- Anything not specified under “Rate includes”

### SUPPLEMENTS

- Pre-night/ Post night in Catania hotel (BB treatment): Classic Double room €68,00 p.p/night; Classic Single room €107,00 p.p/night
- Transfers from Catania airport to hotel in Catania and vice versa: 1/2 pax € 29,00 each way with car ; € 43,00 each way with minivan
- Assistance – Medical Expense Reimbursement – Luggage insurance – Travel Cancellation Expenses Insurance: on request.

### PRIVILEGE PACKAGE € 325,00 P.P

Includes: Superior/Deluxe Room – Private transfer in/out- City taxes- All entrance fees as per program

### EXTRA ENTRANCE FEES \*

- ◆ Syracuse Archeological Park € 10,00 p.p.
- ◆ Syracuse Cathedral € 2,00 p.p.
- ◆ Noto Palazzo Nicolaci € 4,00 p.p.
- ◆ Taormina Greek theatre € 10,00 p.p.
- ◆ Monreale Cathedral € 4,00 p.p.
- ◆ Monreale Cloister € 6,00 p.p.
- ◆ Palermo Cappella Palatina € 10,00 p.p.
- ◆ Palermo Martorana Church € 2,00 p.p.
- ◆ Palermo Cathedral € 3,00 p.p.
- ◆ Agrigento Valley of Temples € 10,00 p.p.
- ◆ Piazza Armerina Villa Romana € 10,00 p.p.

\*to be confirmed



**Special GIFT to participants:**  
a splendid illustrated book about Sicilian culinary tradition with recipes in English

**For organizational reasons or due to force majeure, the itinerary may be modified**



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