

Sicily October 11 – October 18, 2021

nwaldeck@tasteandsavor.com to SAVE YOUR SPOT

Authentic Luxury, Personalized Attention and Unique Experiences - We are thrilled to invite you to a Food, Wine and Cultural Adventure in Sicily this Fall.

Day 1 – October 11 Monday

Arrival in Catania, where we will greet you with our comfortable transportation – you can relax now, we have a fabulous trip in store for you! First stop, Gusto Gourmet where the owners of this unique restaurant will greet us with a aperitivo and treat us to an arancini lesson from the Executive Chef. Then off to the island of Ortygia and our beautiful hotel, where we will enjoy our two-night stay. After a leisurely stroll we'll enjoy dinner and wine at a much-loved neighborhood restaurant.

Day 2– October 12 Tuesday

Our day will begin at the famous food market at Ortygia, where we'll discover local specialties. Yes! Sicily has wonderful cheese; we'll appreciate it when we taste and learn at Caseificio Borderi, one of Sicily's most lauded dairies. Then we're off to an awesome olive and lemon farm visit and tasting nearby. We'll give you a bit of time to explore Siracusa before our Aperitivo dinner in Ortygia at the most interesting wine bar on the island.

Day 3– October 13 Wednesday

Our day begins with a drive to Noto, where we'll have brunch at the much talked about Caffé Sicilia and explore the town. Did you know that Sicilians often eat ice cream for breakfast?) Then we'll head to the incredible Zisol house for a farm tour and lunch, followed by one of Sicily's wine gems, the Planeta winery. We'll walk the vineyards and taste the wines with perfectly matched appetizers. Heading to Ragusa is next on our itinerary and we will check into our lovely hotel, and reconvene for a delicious dinner nearby.

We are monitoring closely Covid restrictions and travel. If any conditions change, we will respond to them quickly and inform you as soon as possible.

Day 4 – October 14 Thursday

Everyone loves Ricotta! And we'll learn the ins and outs of this incredibly versatile product from those who make and love it. And what's cheese without spice? That's our next stop; an herb farm visit and lunch. Chocolate awaits us in Modica, you won't believe the fascinating story behind the chocolate we'll find in this ancient city. After returning to Ragusa, we'll let you explore this awesome shopping and eating destination on your own for the evening. Even if you just sit on the square and enjoy a glass of wine, you'll have an amazing time.

Day 5– October 15 Friday

Do you love Italian ceramics? Just wait until you see Caltagirone, a city dedicated to the colorful pottery of Sicily, and learn the stories behind it. Then off to the Nanfro winery where we will enjoy tasting and lunch. One more wonderful visit and tasting at another unique winery and then off to Etna, where we will actually stay on the most amazing winery grounds, and look at our windows at the volcano. We'll enjoy dinner there, too!

Day 6 – October 16 Saturday

Love Pistachios as much as we do? Did you know Sicilian pistachios are famous? We are on the road for a quick trip to learn all about it at the farm. Then a fun lunch at a typical Sicilian pizzeria. You're going to have to work for dinner tonight – you'll be eating the results along with incredible wine, olive oils and honey.

Day 7– October 17 Sunday

We are traveling to Taormina today – We'll experience a guided tour of the ancient theater by a local, with a stop by at "bam bar" for granita afterwards. We'll continue on to Catania where we'll enjoy a food tour of the city. That will give you a great opportunity to get your bearings to explore the city on your own for dinner.

Day 8– October 18 Monday

Optional – meet at the Catania Fish Market, or we'll whisk you off early for departure from the Catania Airport.

We don't believe in over-scheduling you; transit and hotel transfers are kept to an absolute minimum. You'll have plenty of free time to explore at your own pace.

The group is purposefully small and limited to 12. Seats have already been booked – so expect the remaining to book very quickly – so here are the key details:

Dates: October 11 – 18, 2021 Eight Fun Days, Seven Beautiful Nights

Location: Arrive and depart from Catania Airport

Two nights in Ortygia - Two nights in Ragusa - Two nights in Etna - One night in Catania

Cost: \$3,900 pp/double occupancy - \$500 single supplement.

Includes: Ground transportation, hotel rooms, all breakfasts, 5 dinners, 7 lunches, all with specially selected local wines, cooking classes, winery visits, tastings, admission fees, and tours.
Airfare and travel insurance are not included.

Deadline: \$1,000 pp deposit to reserve your seat due by July 15.

If you're in Atlanta, plan to attend our Pre-trip Food and Wine Tasting!

nwaldeck@tasteandsavor.com for QUESTIONS

Have Questions about the Trip, the Planned Itinerary? Here's some Answers!

What should I expect from my trip to Italy?

Our goal is always to put together an itinerary that you cannot create on your own. We are taking you to visit our friends – we are not just tour guides. We have vetted every stop we make and every place we stay. This is an interesting, enriching, rewarding and memorable travel experience. **With us you are not simply a tourist; you are a guest. That's why you are going with a professional chef, two advanced certified wine experts and a food historian with a Ph.D.** You'll taste and learn about wine, sample new and authentic regional cuisine, meet locals and discover history and traditions of the regions we visit.

What is the age group of people who join Taste and Savor Travels to Italy?

We typically have a wide age range on a trip – in the past we've had travelers from 28 to 80 on the same trip. We welcome anyone over 21 who is interested in culturally immersive, active, small group travel.

What kinds of meals are included on the trip?

We have an authentic culinary experience in Italy. All meals are included, except for the ones noted on each the itinerary. (When we receive your trip deposit, we will send a Traveler Biography for you to complete. That's when you tell us more about yourself (your food allergies, for example) so that we can make sure the trip is perfect for you.

What kind of hotels will we stay in?

The hotels we choose always have three things, a great location – close to key historic and cultural sights, regional ambiance and excellent service. The tour price includes all hotel accommodations with private baths and comfortable amenities. Our standards for our entire trip are high, whether it is where we stay, where we eat or who we meet. Although the hotel types may differ, our commitment to your comfort is unwavering.

How much walking should I expect?

Mountain climbing and fording rapids are not required, but you should be ready for comfortable action. We do walk in old historic city sections, in and around attractions, over cobblestone streets, up some hills and climb staircases. We try to plan at least 2 nights in a hotel, so our packing and unpacking is minimized, but keep in mind that a heavy suitcase can be a drag! We'll help you in any way we can, (and our bus driver will, too!)

How do I pay for the trip? Can I pay with a credit card?

Of course, you can pay with a credit card. Credit card payments cost a premium for us, so we would prefer that you pay with a check. If you do pay by credit card, we will need to charge you an additional 3%.

What kind of information should I expect to receive after I make my reservation?

Once you've booked your space on the trip by sending in your deposit, we will keep in close touch with you. We want you to be as ready as we are to experience a trip of a lifetime (That's what one of our recent travelers called their trip!) We will be sending out interesting information to you, on wines, the places we will go and the people we will meet. About a month before your trip begins, we'll have a Traveler Get-Together and you'll receive additional information. At this get together, we will provide you with a final itinerary, with contact numbers and further information.

Can you help me with accommodations, tours or other information for the beginning or end of my trip?

Absolutely. We have lots of friends and ideas, vetted hotels and BnBs that we can share with you.

Why is it called a planned itinerary?

We pledge to make every effort to operate all tours as advertised. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, we reserve the right to alter or curtail the itinerary, or substitute sightseeing, hotels, and/or conveyances as deemed necessary. (Any savings realized by these changes will be refunded to you.) We will cover any resultant added expenses. If for some reason beyond our control, a trip is canceled, we will refund your money promptly and completely. (We have LOTS of experience with this from COVID last year.)

Can I cancel my participation in the trip or change my plans?

We have an industry standard cancellation policy. Your deposit will be refunded in full, minus a \$200 administration fee until 60 days before departure (August 12). If you let us know less than 60 days before departure that you are unable to take the trip, we will refund 50% of your payment. At 30 days before the trip (September 11), your deposit/full payment is non-refundable if we cannot find a replacement for your spot. Of course, we will try to work with you anyway possible. Your travel experience is an important investment. We highly recommend purchasing travel insurance.

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