

This itinerary is designed as a guide, not a script.
Each day has a clear sense of place, while allowing space for weather,
seasonal moments, local opportunities - and the unexpected - to shape the experience.

What remains constant is thoughtful pacing, deep local connection,
and meals that tell the story of Sicily through people, produce and place.

This is a small-group experience designed for connection, conversation and shared table moments -
travelling with local insight rather than a fixed agenda.



OVERVIEW

Dates & Duration: 18 – 25 September 2026
8 days / 7 nights

Region: South-East Sicily: Taormina, Catania, Etna villages & wine region, Ortigia

Weather: September in south-east Sicily brings warm days, cool nights, and golden light, with a sense of harvest energy across the region. Coastal breezes temper the heat, while the slopes of Mount Etna can feel noticeably cooler, reflecting the island's dramatic changes in landscape and altitude.

Guests remain based in the same local accommodation throughout the experience, allowing time to settle in, unpack once, and experience Sicily without constant movement.



MEALS AND ACCOMMODATION

A Place to Settle: One local base for the duration of the journey - a charming nineteenth-century noble palace in a typical small town on the slopes of Etna, offering comfort, authenticity, and the ease of returning to the same place each day.

Shared Tables: All meals are included - breakfast, lunch and dinner - and enjoyed together across a range of settings, from local favourites to more refined kitchens, always grounded in place, season and Sicilian hospitality.

Ease and Comfort: With no daily packing or relocations, the experience unfolds at a relaxed pace - allowing space for conversation, rest, spontaneity, and a deeper connection to place.



ARRIVAL DAY
18 SEPTEMBER 2026

A gentle arrival day designed for settling in, orienting yourself, and meeting the group over a shared table - no scheduled activities, just arrival, connection, and a shared table.

- **Arrival:** Guests arrive independently and check in at their own pace.
- **Orientation:** Time to unpack, rest, or take a first wander around the town - giving you a chance to take in your surrounds and adjust to the rhythm of place.
- **Welcome Gathering:** The experience begins with a relaxed evening together - sharing a first meal, meeting the group, and setting the tone for the days ahead.



CATANIA

A port city of contrast - loud, vibrant, chaotic, and full of beauty when you know where to look.

- **Market Life & City's Beat:** A guided introduction to Catania's daily pulse through its vibrant street market - voices, colour and produce offering an immediate sense of place, energy and its people.
- **Culture, Streets & Passeggiata:** Time to wander Via Etnea and its surrounds at your own pace - practising the art of the *passeggiata*, as locals do - visiting gardens, piazze and churches, pausing for coffee or aperitivo, and experiencing the city through observation as much as movement.
- **Street Food to Slow Table:** Sicilian street food enjoyed along the way - arancini, pizzette, cipolline or fritto misto di mare - balanced with a meal at a locally respected kitchen, where the city's energy gives way to warmth, generosity, and depth.

La Maestà, as the locals call her. Europe's largest active volcano - its influence felt in the land, the flavours, and the flow of daily life.



ETNA

- **Walking the Volcano:** Time spent on Etna itself - guided, on foot, and shaped by conditions on the day - offering an opportunity to walk the land, feel its scale, and understand the volcano as a living presence rather than a spectacle.
- **Landscape, Layers & Contrast:** A gradual immersion into Etna's changing landscape - vegetation, light, temperature and terrain shifting as you move across the mountain - revealing how dramatically life changes with altitude.
- **A Mountain Table:** A rustic lunch enjoyed on the mountain — simple, generous food shaped by place and season - offering a perspective on Sicilian cuisine rarely associated with the coast.

moving between village life, coast and history



Where lava stone villages, volcanic terroir, and tradition shape the everyday flow of life.



ETNA VILLAGES, WINE
& DAILY LIFE

- **Village Mornings & Daily Life:** An introduction to life on Etna - traditional Sicilian breakfasts, time spent in characteristic lava-stone villages, and a shared cooking experience hosted by Mario, rooted in everyday Sicilian food traditions.
- **Vineyards, Harvest & Volcanic Terroir:** Time among Etna's vineyards - walking the land, learning what a grape harvest looks like, and tasting wines shaped by altitude, volcanic terrain and season.
- **From Street Food to Polished Tables:** Meals enjoyed across the spectrum of this region - revealing how land, sea, history, altitude, and seasonality shape flavour, culture, tradition, and hospitality.

Cinematic and picturesque – best savoured slowly, beyond the postcard views.



TAORMINA & SURROUNDS

- **Above the Coast, Into the Hills:** Time spent moving between Taormina and its surrounds - including hilltop villages and coastal outlooks - offering perspective beyond the main streets and an understanding of how this landscape has shaped life here.
- **Passeggiata & Personal Time:** Space to wander Taormina at your own pace - exploring side streets, shopping, lingering over coffee or aperitivo, and taking in the town's beauty beyond the bustle.
- **Sea, Table & Light:** Meals shaped by the coast and season - from relaxed local seafood to simple pleasures enjoyed as the light changes - grounding Taormina's beauty in flavour and ease.

As volcanic stone gives way to pale limestone, Ortigia unfolds - its historic streets, waterside charm, and architecture revealing another hue of Sicily.



SIRACUSA & ORTIGIA

- **Arrival & Orientation:** A gentle introduction to Siracusa - gaining context from the city outward before crossing into Ortigia, where layers of history begin to reveal themselves.
- **Limestone Streets & Living Craft:** Time to wander Ortigia's white limestone streets at leisure - embracing the *passeggiata* through artisan shops and small boutiques - allowing the island's flow to unfold slowly.
- **Simple Food, Local Rituals:** A taste of Ortigia through humble, much-loved local food, enjoyed alongside time for passeggiata, lingering conversations, and observation as much as movement.

At this time of year, villages across the Etna region gather to celebrate harvest, food, wine and tradition - and we join the community and celebrate with them.



**AN EVENING SHAPED
BY SEASON & LOCAL
CELEBRATION**

- **Seasonal Gathering:** An evening immersed in a local town celebration, chosen to reflect the agricultural and cultural traditions of late summer - where food, wine, and community come together in the streets.
- **Food, Wine & Folklore:** Time spent moving through artisan stalls, tasting local produce and wines, and experiencing live music, folklore and costume - a joyful expression of place, season, and shared heritage.
- **Local Access & Ease:** Hosted with local insight, allowing space to participate comfortably and authentically - observing, tasting, and celebrating alongside families and locals, rather than as spectators.

By this time, we hope you've enjoyed your journey and that a little piece of Sicily has found its way into your heart. You've tasted, learned, and experienced a side of the island that feels entirely its own.



**FINAL DAY
25 SEPTEMBER 2026**

- **Farewell Morning:** A shared breakfast to close the journey - time to linger, reflect on the days passed, and say goodbyes.
- **Reflection & Departure:** Guests depart independently, carrying the experience forward in their own time.
- **Unhurried Close:** A simple final moment together, shaped by the group and the place - offering a quiet sense of completion before departure.

"To have seen Italy without having seen Sicily is not to have seen Italy at all, for Sicily is the clue to everything." – Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



**UNDERSTANDING
SICILY**

- **Layered Histories:** Sicily has been shaped by centuries of movement - Greek, Arab, Norman and Spanish - each leaving traces in architecture, language, food and daily ritual.
- **Land of Influence:** Volcano, sea and sun shape not only the landscape, but how people eat, gather, celebrate and live - creating a culture defined as much by environment as by history.
- **Living Heritage:** Across the island, traditions continue not as performance, but as everyday life - expressed through foodways, festivals, language, craft and hospitality.