



## WINE TOUR IN EASTERN SICILY

**DAYS:** 7 **NIGHTS:** 6

**FROM:** CATANIA **TO:** CATANIA

Sicily is a unique Italian destination. On this island, in fact, you can visit seven Unesco Sites (and there are also three intangibles ones) as well as charming villages and cities rich in history and atmosphere. Everywhere you'll be met by the warmth and friendliness of Sicilians.

Wine has been produced on the island since time immemorial, but its modern history started about forty years ago. Thanks to a small group of enlightened wine entrepreneurs and curious and brilliant oenologists and to some precious vines, the production started of new and modern wines, suited for the national and international market.

Today Sicilian wines are among the most interesting products of Italian agriculture and thanks to the different terroirs and vines and to cultivation methods, there are many different kinds. Nero d'Avola and Grillo, Cataratto, Cerasuolo and Nerello Mascalalese are just some of the vines used, and our tour will let you get in touch with them and the delicious Sicilian wines. You'll visit cellars and vineyards, meet the producers, but also see some of our amazing monuments.



### VISITED CITIES/PLACES:

MT. ETNA - SCICLI - RAGUSA  
SIRACUSA - CATANIA





## WINE TOUR IN EASTERN SICILY / ITINERARY

### 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY: CATANIA/ETNA

Arrive at Catania Airport and meet your assistant. Private transfer to a wine resort on Mt Etna, nestled among green terraces in one of the most interesting wine production areas.

The vineyards are ancient, some more than a hundred years old, with extraordinary plants, which are the expression of an age-old wine production. Welcome dinner at the resort accompanied by a tasting, starting with a fascinating metodo classico sparkling wine from Nerello Mascalese grapes, picked before their natural ripening, and continuing with wines from the traditional ampelographic heritage of the area. Accommodation, dinner and overnight at the farmhouse **CAVANERA FIRRIATO**.

### 2<sup>ND</sup> DAY: ETNA WINE TOUR

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure for our first day exploring Etna wines, with the visit to some of the quality wine producers at the feet of the biggest active volcano in Europe.

Our first stop is at Benanti winery, a family-run firm whose roots go back to the 18th century. The crus of their white and red wines come from vineyards located on the northern, eastern and southern slopes of the volcano. We focus on the Etna Renaissance and discover Carricante and Nerello Mascalese blends while walking along the vineyard and visiting an old palmento (the place where grapes were crushed).

Oak and chestnut woods embrace our next stop: Barone di Villa-grande, whose wine belongs to the most refined production. Surrounded by sloping, historical vineyards, we'll taste Etna Contrade and talk about the diversity of wine styles. Enjoy a Sicilian style lunch with wine pairing.

Very close to our resort we find Cottanera, with 65 hectares of vineyards where both autochthonous and international varieties are grown such as Nerello Mascalese, Cappuccio, Inzolia and Carricante, traditionally produced around Mt. Etna, alongside with Merlot, Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Mondeuse and Viogner. The panoramic view of the vineyards is followed by the visit of the cellar and the barrels. Accommodation, dinner on your own. Overnight at **ROMANO PALACE\*\*\*\*\*LUX**

### 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY: ETNA WINE TOUR

Breakfast at the hotel. Today we focus on exploring the concept of terroir. We start from Planeta, one of the most outstanding wineries in Sicily, built on a long agricultural tradition handed down since 1500, through 17 generations, originally in the area between Sambuca di Sicilia and Menfi. Nowadays, this winery owns six different wine estates all around Sicily. On Mt Etna Planeta has identified three extraordinary sites for a total of 16 hectares and five different wines. This half-day visit leads us to a presentation of wines and projects around the island, followed by a full Sicilian lunch.

Next winery is Passopisciaro, covering a wide range of lands at Etna feet. It counts six different territories with different chemical composition, allowing the production to be diversified and peculiar for each estate. Contrada Chiappemacine lays between sandstone overhangs and it produces a full-mouthed, perfectly balanced wine. Contrada Montedolce, meaning "sweet mountain", is characterized by long vineyards fully exposed to sun, permitting the plantation of 2 hectares of Etna Chardonnay. Contrada Rampante is located more than 1000 meters a.s.l and due to the sandy terraces

it produces the most aromatic and finest wine. Contrada Guardiola collects the most extensive variety: from ancient Nerello Mascalese vines, cultivated with the typical Sicilian system, to the younger both international and local vines.

In Contrada Sciaranuova the lava is incredibly soft, kneaded and friable, conferring an intense taste of fermented hay upon the final product. In Contrada Porcaria the fragile and sharp lava incises the wine with changing aromas and an exotic corp. Return at the hotel. Dinner in the restaurant A Vuciata.

Overnight at **ROMANO PALACE\*\*\*\*\*LUX**

### 4<sup>TH</sup> DAY: SCICLI - RAGUSA

Early departure to Ragusa area, known as the "white province" due to the limestone widely used for the building of the baroque-style palazzi and the dry-stone walls of the countryside. The area is the known as the Sicilian Baroque District, proclaimed by UNESCO as part of the World Heritage.

Ragusa area is located in south-eastern Sicily, and is characterized by a picturesque landscape with olive-groves, carobs, almond trees, vineyards. First stop is a unique herbs nursery garden located in the countryside of Scicli: here, more than 150 varieties of Mediterranean herbs and spices are cultivated and the nursery is a unique benchmark for chefs and foodies.

The inspiring tour along pineapple sage, lemon thyme, orange geranium, bergamot mint and many other unusual herbs and tropical plants will end with a country style aperitif and a cooking class. Proceed to Ragusa Ibla, for a short tour of the historical center of the town. Accommodation, dinner and overnight at the Historical Boutique Hotel **LOCANDA DON SERAFINO**.

### 5<sup>TH</sup> DAY: RAGUSA IBLA - SIRACUSA

After breakfast we'll travel to Siracusa, which was once the most powerful city of the whole Mediterranean area. We'll enjoy a guided walking tour of Ortigia (old city center of Siracusa), that will lead us through centuries of history and art, from the Greek, with the ruins of Apollo's temple, to the Baroque monuments. Lunch in a local restaurant. Afternoon at leisure. Accommodation, dinner on your own. Overnight at **GRAND HOTEL ORTIGIA\*\*\*\*\***

### 6<sup>TH</sup> DAY: CATANIA

Today is entirely devoted to Catania, the second biggest town in Sicily, a lively town with many monuments witnessing an ancient history, known as the "black-city" due to the dark color of the façades of the buildings, made of lava stone. Catania is part of the UNESCO World Heritage List thanks to its Baroque buildings. We start with a visit to the colorful and picturesque fish-market, located close to the Town Hall and the Cathedral, and then proceed with a nice walking tour of the town centre to visit the hidden treasures of this special city. We'll have lunch at a local bar with typical Catanese finger-food and complete with the delights of the pasticceria such as cannoli, cassata and mignon pastries. Dinner on your own. Afternoon at leisure. Accommodation and overnight at **ROMANO PALACE\*\*\*\*\*LUX**

### 7<sup>TH</sup> DAY: CATANIA/AIRPORT

After breakfast, visit of the charming town of Taormina with its beautiful Greek Roman theatre. Catania Airport.



## WINE TOUR IN EASTERN SICILY / INFO AND CONDITIONS

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Overnight in selected hotels
- Cooking class with lunch
- Visit to cellar and tasting
- Discover Baroque heart of Sicily
- 7 days with local english speaking driver program



### RATE INCLUDES

- Minivan 8 seats for 4/6 pax
- English speaking assistant for transfer in/out
- Nr. 6 nights at the hotels according to our itinerary
- Meals as per itinerary
- 1 cooking class in Scicli
- Beverages ¼ of wine and ½ Water, and coffee for all the included meals
- Wine tasting in wine cellars on Etna (FIRRIATO-BARONE DI VILLAGRANDE-COTTANERA-PLANETA-PASSO PISCIARO)
- Local english speaking-driver
- English speaking licensed local guide: + half day Siracusa + half day Catania + 2 hour Taormina
- Activities according to our itinerary
- Hotel portorage
- Entrances fees for all the included sites
- City tax to be paid at the hotels

### RATE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Tips and personal extras
- All not mentioned as included

### CANCELLATION FEES

-100% PENALTY FOR NO SHOW -70% FROM 1 TO 3 DAYS BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE TOUR  
-50% FROM 4 TO 7 DAYS BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE TOUR -25% FROM 8 TO 14 DAYS BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE TOUR

PLEASE NOTE: SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES MAY VARY DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS AND OPENING DAYS/HOURS.