

ESCORTED JOURNEY PRICE

**\$9,782\* pp**

Twin Share

\$1,634\* Single Supplement



continue our travel across the countryside to the magnificent Amalfi coast. Our stay for the next 2 nights is in the breathtaking village of Positano. (B)

**Hotel: Royal Hotel – 2 nights**

**DAY 17 WED 14 OCT 2020**

Isle of Capri Excursion

This morning we board the hydrofoil to the isle of Capri. Capri is famed for its upscale fashion to limoncello and handmade leather sandals. One of the best known natural sights is the Blue Grotto, a dark cave where the sea glows electric blue, the result of sunlight passing through an underwater cave. (Please note: A visit to the blue grotto is at your own expense). Travel in a topless convertible to the residential district of Anacapri, where we visit the Villa San Michele. Then some time to explore Capri town before we return to Positano. Dinner tonight is at the famous ristorante Coco Dei Saraceni in Positano. (B, DW)

**DAY 18: THU 15 OCT 2020**

Positano – Pompeii - Monte Cassino - Rome

This morning we journey north to the ancient Roman city of Pompeii, eerily preserved by the eruptions of Mount Vesuvius in 79 A.D. Your local expert walks you through cobbled

streets to explore some of the shops, villas and temples. Witness the colourful frescoes that were hidden for centuries. Visit the brooding hilltop monastery of Monte Cassino originally founded in 529 by Saint Benedict and is one of Europe's oldest monasteries. Monte Cassino was completely destroyed during a battle in World War II, it has since been rebuilt. We then continue to the Eternal City of Rome where the remainder of the afternoon is free. (B)

**Hotel: Romanico Palace Hotel – 3 nights**

**DAY 19: FRI 16 OCT 2020**

Rome

This morning we enjoy a guided tour through the Vatican museums which contain the accumulated treasures of the popes. We visit a number of rooms including the famous collection of tapestries and maps before arriving at the greatest treasure of all - the Sistine Chapel. The ceiling painted by Michelangelo is considered the work of a genius! Next door in St Peter's Basilica is another of his works, the emotive 'Pieta'. Stand beneath the splendid dome completed after Michelangelo's death. The remainder of the afternoon is free. Perhaps shop in the boutiques near the Spanish steps or relax in a sidewalk café. (B)

**DAY 20: SAT 17 OCT 2020**

Rome

This morning with our local expert, we'll explore the glorious history of the Roman Empire and hear tales of deadly gladiatorial combat inside the mighty Colosseum. Walk in the footsteps of Roman soldiers and gaze over the incredible ruins of the Forum, once the centre of political, religious and social life, while hearing tales of the mighty empire. We then discover the most charming areas in the city. Wander through the labyrinth of narrow streets and beautiful squares of Rome's historic centre, leading to highlights such as the Trevi Fountain, and the Pantheon, as well as hidden corners of the Eternal City. We will then finish in Piazza Navona with its pavement cafes, 17 century fountains and architecture. In the evening join your fellow travellers at a local restaurant for a Celebration dinner of delicious local cuisine and wine! (B, DW)

**DAY 21: SUN 18 OCT 2020**

Depart Rome

Our memorable tour ends this morning after breakfast with transfers to Rome Fiumicino airport for onward flight home. (B)

**Meal Key: (B) = Breakfast, (L) = Lunch, (LW) = Lunch with Wine, (DW) = Dinner with Wine**

**TERMS & CONDITIONS**

**NOT INCLUDED:** Airfares, passport and applicable Visa Fees, charges imposed by third parties, laundry, phone calls, items of a personal nature, beverages, meals and sightseeing not detailed in the itinerary, excess baggage, travel insurance. Please note that travel insurance is highly recommended. Please see Ida Portella Business & Travel Services for more details.

**DEPOSIT:** A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required within 7 days to secure a place on tour.

**FINAL PAYMENT:** The balance of monies due for the tour must be paid by 17 April 2020. Payments can be made by cash, cheque or credit card (fees apply). Payments after this date may incur a late fee payment.

**CANCELLATIONS:** In the event you have to cancel your booking, cancellation fees will apply. Deposit will be forfeited on cancellation prior to balance payment. After due date for final payment, additional cancellation charges are subject to the conditions imposed by individually contracted tour operators, airlines and hotels.

**CHANGES IN PRICE AND ITINERARY:** Prices in this brochure are based on costs, charges, tariffs, taxes, levies and exchange rates at the time of publication. In the event that such fluctuations affect the price to be paid for services, Ida Portella Business & Travel Services reserves the right to adjust the price as necessary at any time. Insight Vacations reserve the right to deviate from this itinerary or change hotels should it be necessary due to unforeseen circumstances.

**PORTERAGE:** One suitcase on trip is included in the trip price and at arrival or departure from each hotel.

Due to limited coach capacity, this single bag should have a weight not exceeding 30 kg and dimensions not exceeding 77.5 cm x 56 cm x 32 cm. Charges will be levied in the event these limits are exceeded and our promise to transport you as indicated may be invalidated. Note: Airlines may restrict check-in baggage to 20kgs per person – check with your travel agent for airline luggage allowance.

**LOCAL CURRENCY, TRAVELLER CHEQUES:** We recommend that you take with you a combination of holiday money, credit cards and local currency. Ida Portella Business & Travel Services can provide further assistance if required.

**PASSPORT, VISAS AND TAXES:** You must have a valid passport with 6 months validity from date of return.

**SMOKING:** is not permitted on board aircraft or coaches, and within the airport terminals.

**SEAT CHANGES:** A seat rotation system will apply on board our coach whilst touring.

**DOCUMENTATION:** Approximately 2 weeks prior to departure from Australia, documentation will be received by your travel agent including a trip itinerary, a full hotel list, baggage labels and ticket wallet.

**MINIMUM NUMBERS:** A minimum of 22 passengers is required to operate this trip as brochure. Should this not be met, Ida Portella Business & Travel Services reserves the right to alter or cancel arrangements.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Insight Vacations reserve the right to alter or deviate from the trip itinerary should circumstances dictate. Coach use is subject to EEC Regulations.

For further information on any of the above conditions, please contact our friendly staff at Ida Portella Business & Travel Services

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# SICILY & SOUTHERN ITALY

21 DAYS DEPARTING 28 SEPTEMBER 2020



**BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES**

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# SICILY & SOUTHERN ITALY

28 SEPTEMBER - 18 OCTOBER 2020



## INCLUSIONS

- Personally escorted by Angela Miethke
- 20 nights in First Class Hotel Accommodation as indicated
- Luxury air-conditioned 40 seater coach with extended leg room, on-board washroom and panoramic windows
- Escorted by an expert Insight Travel Director
- Included airport transfer service on the first and last day of tour
- Included sightseeing and meals as indicated on the itinerary
- Headsets for all guided visits and walking tours
- Hotel and restaurant tips
- Porterage at all hotels
- 20 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, 4 Lunches with wine & 7 Dinners with wine
- Gratuities to Travel Director and Driver

### DAY 1: MON 28 SEP 2020

#### Arrive Palermo

Welcome to Palermo, a bustling city with its many layers of civilisations and history. Palermo today is a vibrant, living testimony to this cultural heritage. On arrival into Palermo airport, you will be met by your Travel Director and transferred to your hotel. This evening you will join your fellow travellers for a Welcome Drink and then enjoy your first authentic Sicilian dinner at a local trattoria. (DW)

**Hotel: To Be Advised - 3 nights**

### DAY 2: TUE 29 SEP 2020

#### Palermo & Monreale

Enjoy breakfast at our hotel before embarking on a sightseeing tour showcasing the highlights of this historic city. We visit the Teatro Massimo (largest opera house in Italy), the Baroque Quattro Canti Square, Palermo Cathedral, the Palace of the Normans and the colourful Bolero Markets, famous for its street food. This afternoon we travel to the hill top town of Monreale (UNESCO World Heritage site), where we visit the magnificent Norman Cathedral, an architectural masterpiece with its interior of glittering 12th century Byzantine mosaics. (B)

### DAY 3: WED 30 SEP 2020

#### Erice, Trapani & Segesta

This morning we visit the hill top medieval village of Erice with its breathtaking views. Erice is often referred to as the 'Village in the Clouds.' This historic town is surrounded by defensive town walls, crowned by a castle and dominates the surrounding area from its mountainous height of approximately 800 metres above sea level. Walk along the cobbled streets lined with superb examples of Gothic, Baroque and Renaissance architecture. Be sure to sample the famous sweets of Erice, where ancient recipes

were handed down by the nuns of cloistered monasteries. Drive through Trapani and head to the magnificent temple of Segesta. Lunch will be at a farmhouse with delicious authentic homemade food and wine - Agriturismo Baglio Poceroba Segesta. (B,LW)

### DAY 4: THU 1 OCT 2020

#### Palermo - Agrigento

This morning we travel to the wine growing town of Menfi, whose surrounding hills are carpeted by acre upon acre of vineyards. Here, at Planeta Dispensa winery we will enjoy a walk through the vineyards, a wine tasting and lunch. The grape harvest "vendemmia" occurs this time of year. This afternoon, we visit Agrigento with its famous 'Valley of the Temples', one of the largest and best preserved collections of ancient Greek architecture outside of Greece. This magnificent archaeological park consists of eight temples built between 430 and 510BC, all majestically positioned in the same area on rocky crests south of modern day Agrigento. (B, LW)

**Hotel: Hotel Dioscuri Bay Palace - 1 night**

### DAY 5: FRI 2 OCT 2020

#### Agrigento - Syracuse

On route to Syracuse we visit Piazza Armerina, the splendid medieval village founded by the Normans in XI century. We visit the UNESCO world heritage site 'Villa del Casale' a Roman villa built in the 4th century and one of the best preserved villas in the Roman Empire. Excavations reveal one of the richest, largest and varied collections of Roman mosaics in the world. Lunch is then included at restaurant nearby. This afternoon is at our leisure. (B,L)

**Hotel: Grand Hotel Villa Politi - 2 nights**

### DAY 6: SAT 3 OCT 2020

#### Modica & Ragusa

After breakfast we visit the Baroque towns of Modica and Ragusa. Both these towns have

been inscribed by UNESCO World Heritage as 'representing the culmination and final flowering of Baroque art in Europe'. Ragusa is a favourite stop for fans of inspector Montalbano where scenes were shot at the castle of Donnafugata and neighbouring town of Modica. Modica chocolate makers believe their chocolate has certain health benefits claiming one square of dark chocolate a day reduces sugar cravings and can help lose weight! We visit Antica Pasticceria Bonaiuto in Cordova Umberto I, for chocolate tastings. We then visit a typical cheese factory for a tasting before visiting highlights - the Church of San Pietro, the Church of San Giorgio and the magnificent view of Modica from the gorge, which should not be missed. Ragusa is picturesque aristocratic and grand as well as urban and modernistic. Giardino Ibleo Monica, like Ragusa was severely damaged in 1693 by an earthquake and consists of an upper and lower town. It is famous for its Baroque style churches and Aztec chocolate, a 400 year tradition of chocolate making. The town is divided in two parts, the older Ragusa and the new, both unique and totally different to each other. Here we visit Ragusa Ibla (old town), Cathedral San Giovanni and Duomo Di San Giorgio. Tonight, we learn the wine making process at a local winery and then enjoy dinner. (B,DW)

### DAY 7: SUN 4 OCT 2020

#### Syracuse - Giardini Naxos

Syracuse was the largest city in the ancient world during the Greek Classical Period. Today we will visit the Neapolis Archaeological park, with its famous Greek Theatre, the Apollo Temple and Cathedral Square. Your walk will continue to Ortigia Island, the historical centre of Syracuse. The tour will end at the vibrant local fish markets where you will be confronted with an explosion of colour, scents, authentic flavours and where you can enjoy all delicious street food on offer. Arrive in Giardini Naxos early afternoon with free time to enjoy. (B)

**Hotel: RG Hotel Giardini Naxos - 4 nights**

### DAY 8: MON 5 OCT 2020

#### Taormina & Castlemola

The morning is set aside for shopping at the famous outlet store Sicilia for Gucci, Hugo Boss, Armani, Michael Kors, Coach, Hilfiger, Dolce and Gabbana, etc. Or perhaps sit in the square enjoying a coffee and a delicious canola, or a wine while absorbing the atmosphere and the spectacular views! Late afternoon we visit Castlemola, a village perched precariously on a mountaintop above the community of Taormina. Here we have some free time. Perhaps visit Caffe Turrisi, which can be entertaining. (B)

### DAY 9: TUE 6 OCT 2020

#### Taormina, Savoca & Forza d'Agro

After breakfast our guide will take us on a walking tour of the nearby attractions including, the splendid Greek Theatre dating back to the third century BC with magnificent views of the coastline and the fashionable Corsica Umbretto 1, being the vibrant main street of Taormina. Enjoy the breathtaking views from Belvedere Square, stroll on the small courtyard of Palazzo Corvaja, the most majestic building in Taormina. We continue our tour to Savoca and Forza d'Agro where we enjoy lunch at 'Trattoria Anni 60' in Forza d'Agro. Director Francis Ford Coppola has chosen these two typical Sicilian villages to set and film many of the most important scenes in the film "Il Padrino" the Godfather starring El Piccino. Visit the church of Santa Lucia where the wedding scene took place or maybe sit down and enjoy a typical Sicilian granita at bar Vitelli,

where the meeting between Michael Corleone and Apollonia's father took place. (B,LW)

### DAY 10: WED 7 OCT 2020

#### Mt Etna Excursion

This morning with a local expert we will drive up Mt. Etna, Europe's largest active volcano. Ascend through the fertile foothills, bypassing small villages, lush forests, ancient craters and lava flows to see amazing lunar landscapes and houses surrounded by lava. Admire astonishing panoramic views over the eastern Sicilian coast and Ionian Sea whilst discovering the history of Sicily's most popular attraction and its eruptions. We then enjoy lunch and a wine tasting at Barone di Villagrande, located on the slopes of Mt Etna. After lunch we stop in the ancient village of Linguaglossa, a typical village on the slopes of mount Etna. We will admire the Dome of Santa Maria delle Grazie, with its beautiful façade decorated with lava stone. (B,LW)

### DAY 11: THU 8 OCT 2020

#### Taormina Riveria - Tropea

This morning we travel to Messina, where we board our ferry to cross the Messina straight toward Italy. Travel through the mountainous region of Calabria to our coastal destination of Tropea, which is perched above the Tyrrhenian Sea and is stunningly beautiful with fantastic beaches, a charming historical centre, and restaurants serving the most delicious fresh seafood. (B)

**Hotel: Tropis Hotel - 2 nights**

### DAY 12: FRI 9 OCTOBER 2020

#### Tropea

This morning we have a walking tour of this beautiful town, exploring its wonderful streets and pristine white beaches renowned for being amongst the best and cleanest in Italy. Dramatic rock formations, cliffs coves, and grottoes dot the coastline of this Caribbean-like water. Be sure to taste their famous chocolate truffle ice cream, you'll go back for more. Dinner is included tonight at a local restaurant. (B, DW)

### DAY 13: SAT 10 OCT 2020

#### Tropea - Ostuni

Today we travel to the picturesque Polignano

a Mare, perched on a high rocky outcrop that reaches into the Adriatic Sea. We take a walk through the historic centre where you see the churches and alleys adorned with flowers. We have some free time before continuing to the stunning city of Ostuni for our 3 night stay. (B)

**Hotel: Rosa Marina Hotel - 3 nights**

### DAY 14: SUN 11 OCT 2020

#### Alberobello Excursion

Explore the narrow streets of the unique and spectacular town of Alberobello. These small white-washed houses known as Trulli - circular structures with conical roofs, domed interiors and built entirely without mortar are clustered together throughout the city. This region is a paradise for wine lovers so join an expert vintner for a tasting of Puglia's most robust and structured reds. Tonight we visit a local 'Masseria' a typical ancient fortified 'Farmhouse' of Puglia. We enjoy an incredible, authentic Puglian style dinner in a beautiful setting. (B,DW)

### DAY 15: MON 12 OCT 2020

#### Ostuni

This morning we have a guided tour of Ostuni, with its stark white-washed buildings, narrow cobbled streets and arched stairways. Ostuni is reminiscent of a North African Arab Medina. Perched high above the sea, the white town is a photographer's delight. Visit the museum 'Civita' found in the church of San Vito Martire, and see the 26,000 year old skeleton of a pregnant Palaeolithic woman (later named Donna Di Ostuni). We then visit a mill to taste the renowned olive oil produced in this area that incorporate olives from the ancient groves of Puglia. We then enjoy a tasting and dinner at a local winery in Alberobello. (B,DW)

### DAY 16 TUE 13 OCT 2020

#### Ostuni - Positano

On route to Positano we visit the UNESCO World Heritage site and 2019 Cultural Capital of Europe for 2019, the city of Matera. Matera is a labyrinth of cave dwellings, churches, staircases and arches, hewn out of solid rock. You may recognise Matera as the biblical backdrop for the film 'The Passion Of Christ', it is the 3rd oldest city in the world. We

