



SORRENTO, SICILY & MALTA

Italian and Maltese culture,
Greek Temples, ancient theatres,
magnificent opera houses,
majestic coastlines, food, wine
and song!



TRAVEL OF NOTE

8 OCTOBER - 4 NOVEMBER 2024



SORRENTO, SICILY AND MALTA

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Italian and Maltese culture, Greek Temples, ancient theatres, magnificent opera houses, majestic coastlines, food, wine and song!

Experience the Exceptional...

- This is one of our travel of note tours, limited to 20 travellers.
- 26-day epic tour of Sorrento, Sicily and Malta, three of the most fascinating parts of the world including Sorrento (4 nights), Sicily - 14 nights including Palermo (4 nights), Taormina (2 nights), Catania (2 nights), Agrigento (3 nights), Syracuse (3 nights), Malta (5 nights), Dubai (2 nights).
- Numerous music experiences including folklore concert in Sorrento, welcome dinner at the famous restaurant Caruso which pays homage to the great tenor, performances at the ancient theatres in Sicily, tour of Bellini's house and opera at Bellini's opera house and other opera performances including at the famous Teatro Massimo Vittorio Emanuele, the largest opera house in Italy and one of the most magnificent in the world, plus our own private dinners with concerts! (All performances are subject to availability and final confirmation).
- Sorrento - 4 days touring including Amalfi Coast, Sorrento, Naples and Pompeii.
- Sicily - 14 days touring including city and small town tours, ancient theatres, some built in the 1st century, Greek temples including Valley of the Temples featuring 7 Greek temples, historic churches, small seaside town visits, villas and gardens, tours and opera performances in the most beautiful opera houses in the world and majestic coastline drives.
- Malta - 5 days including tours of Valletta, opera house, catacombs tours including to the Tomb of St Paul, Vittoriosa tour, wine tasting, foodies experiences with music plus villa tour.
- Numerous other special experiences including high tea in a palace, wine tasting, vineyard tours, food experiences, local music, operas, cooking classes, ferry ride from Sicily to Malta.

OUR ARTISTS FOR THIS TRIP:
Escorted by Operatunity owners
Susan Boland and John Cameron



PLACES WE STAY

Please note that hotels are subject to final confirmation at time of printing brochure.

Grand Hotel Vesuvio, Sorrento (4 nights) offers panoramic views of the Bay of Naples and features a semi-Olympic pool with a large terrace overlooking the bay. It provides a free shuttle to the center of Sorrento, which is just under 1 mile away.

Hotel Federico Central Palace, Palermo, Sicily (4 nights) this beautiful 4 star hotel, located in the very heart of central Palermo was born from the restoration of the old Palace of Prince Granatelli, and is decorated with antique furnishings and paintings.

Hotel Villa Diodoro, Taormina (2 nights) is located just a few steps from the idyllic town and boasts a large pool terrace which looks out over the bay of Naxos.

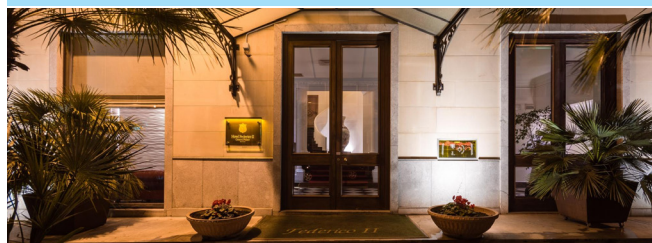
Palace Catania UNA Hotel, Catania (2 nights) centrally located, this hotel is close to the Bellini Opera House and features a rooftop terrace and restaurant with expansive views of Mt Etna.

Hotel Costazzurra, Agrigento (3 nights) this hotel as well as being located only a few minutes from the Valley of the Temples has an inhouse museum of ancient artifacts dating back over 2500 years collected by the owner.

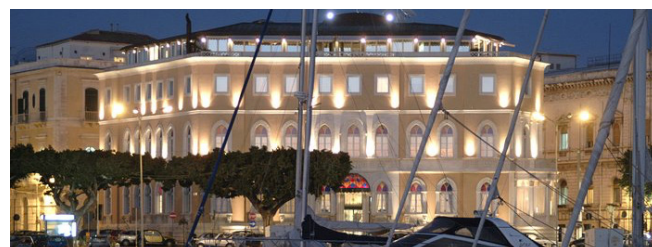
Grand Hotel Ortigia, Syracuse (3 nights) is over one hundred years old, built in the late 19th century. Although completely renovated in 1995, it kept its original charm, architectural lines and attractive Liberty style alive.

The Phoenicia, Malta (5 nights) is surrounded by gorgeous landscaped gardens, is a landmark and luxury retreat and is considered Malta's most iconic hotel, claiming numerous stars and celebrities as guests and now us! When the Queen lived in Malta this was the location of state dinners and gala events.

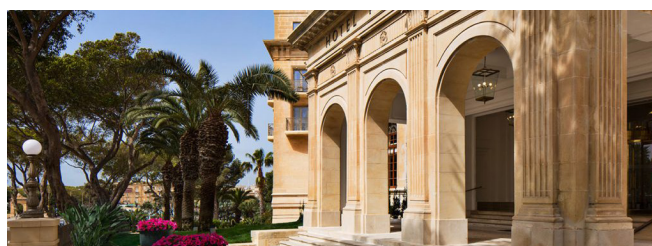
Dubai Sheraton Mall of the Emirates (2 nights) is a hotel we have stayed at for many years and features a swimming pool and is adjacent to the Mall of Emirates which means you can enjoy the shopping and restaurants.



Hotel Federico Central Palace



Grand Hotel Ortigia



The Phoenicia, Malta



Amalfi Coast

Today we fly into Naples and are met by our coach to travel to Sorrento over the hills with views of the Bay of Naples and Mount Vesuvius.

SORRENTO - Grand Hotel Vesuvio (4 nights)

Sorrento is a coastal town in southwestern Italy, facing the Bay of Naples. It is known for its sweeping views, cliffs that separate the town from its busy marinas and the historic centre which is a warren of fabulous alleys, shops and restaurants.

Highlights Include:

- Time off to recover from a big flight.
- Walking tour of Sorrento with free time to enjoy our own lunch and shopping.
- Dinner and local folklore show, welcoming us to Southern Italy with all its charm and tradition.
- Welcome dinner at the famous restaurant Caruso which pays homage to the great tenor. Caruso was born in Naples and died in Sorrento at the age of 48.
- Tour to Pompeii, a vast archaeological site which was once a thriving and sophisticated Roman city. Pompeii was buried under meters of ash and pumice after the catastrophic eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 A.D. we explore the preserved site which features excavated ruins of streets and houses.
- Free time to explore Sorrento at your pace and enjoy the shopping, atmosphere and great cafes.
- Tour to the Amalfi Coast with its views over the sparkling blue seas, winding roads, seafront villages, Italian villas and Ravello, home to the famous festival.
- A day trip to Naples including tours of the Duomo and Opera House.



Pompeii

SORRENTO - NAPLES - PALERMO

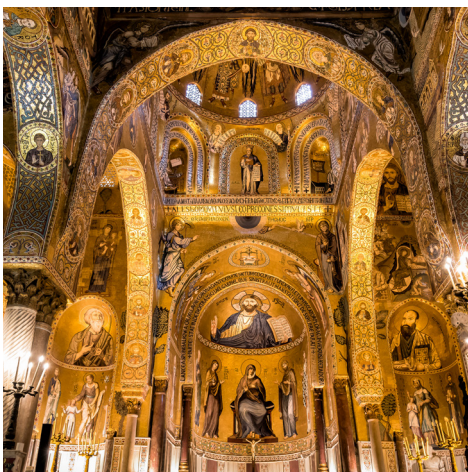
Today we transfer back to Naples Airport for a flight to Palermo, Sicily.

SICILY

Sicily, the largest Mediterranean island, is just off the "toe" of Italy's "boot." Its rich history is reflected in sites like the Valley of the Temples, the well-preserved ruins of 7 monumental, Doric-style Greek temples, and in the Byzantine mosaics at the Cappella Palatina, a former royal chapel in capital city Palermo. On Sicily's eastern edge is Mount Etna, one of Europe's highest active volcanoes. It has a rich culture with music, food and history like no other part of Italy.

PALERMO - Hotel Federico Central Palace, Sicily (4 nights)

Palermo is the capital of the island of Sicily and is noted for its history, culture, architecture and great food. It has always enjoyed an important role throughout much of its existence; it is over 2,700 years old and landmarks include the 12th-century Palermo Cathedral which houses royal tombs and the huge neoclassical Teatro Massimo is known for opera performances.



Cappella Palatina

Highlights in Palermo Include:

- Walking tour of Palermo which includes Martorana Cathedral and gold mosaics.
- Tour of the Palazzo dei Normanni which is also called Royal Palace of Palermo, the seat of the Kings of Sicily and the oldest royal palace in Europe.
- Dinner at local restaurant with live music.
- Enjoy the Targa Florio Classica, famous classic car rally in mid October (subject to availability).
- A visit to a medieval palace with a private tour from the owner while we enjoy aperitifs.
- A day tour out of Palermo to Segesta including a local lunch. An absolute must-see on any trip to Sicily, the ancient Greek temple and Roman amphitheatre at Segesta are simply breathtaking. High up in a mountainous area towards the west of Sicily, the Segesta archaeological site is less crowded than the Valley of the Temples but no less spectacular.
- Vineyard lunch with Wine tasting and cooking class.
- Pre opera dinner and then opera performance at the famous Teatro Massimo Vittorio Emanuele, the largest opera house in Italy and one of the most magnificent in the world! (Subject to availability).

TRAVEL FROM PALERMO TO TAORMINA VIA CEFALU AND MESSINA

Highlights Include:

- Visit and wander the pretty seaside town of Cefalu, considered one of the most beautiful in all of Italy.
- Drive around the Ionian coast to Messina, with time to wander, have lunch and tour the opera house and local area.

TAORMINA, Hotel Villa Diodoro, (2 nights)

Taormina is a hilltop town on the east coast of Sicily. It sits near Mount Etna, an active volcano with trails leading to the summit. The town is known for the Teatro Antico di Taormina, an ancient Greco-Roman theater still used today.

Highlights Include:

- Tour to Mount Etna, the most active volcano in Italy, which includes a cable car ride up the mountain including lunch.
- Tour of the Taormina Ancient Theatre, the second largest in Sicily. The ancient theatre is without question the most important feature in Taormina, built in the 3rd century BC, it is situated in a natural setting, with splendid views toward the Calabrian coast, the Ionian coast of Sicily and the spectacular cone of Etna.
- Performance at the ancient theatre (depending on availability).
- Performance at the Messina Opera House (depending on availability).

TRAVEL FROM TAORMINA TO CATANIA

On route through the rich agricultural soils of the Mt Etna valley we visit a family owned Agriturismo and see our sumptuous lunch prepared in front of us by the owner.

CATANIA, Palace Catania UNA Hotel, (2 nights)

Catania has been a prize of many empires over the centuries, from Greeks to Romans to Arabs to Normans to Spaniards (to name a few). Catania is multicoloured, from the glittering whiteness of its Baroque stuccoes (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) to the lava black of the Liotru, the elephant sculpted from basalt that greets us in Piazza Duomo in the heart of the city.



Teatro Massimo Vittorio Emanuele



Cefalu



Taormina Ancient Theatre



Valley of Temples in Agrigento

Highlights in Catania Include:

- Tour of the main sights of Catania including Piazza Duomo and the famous opera composer Bellini's house and museum plus the opera house Teatro Massimo Bellini.
- Opera at the Teatro Massimo Bellini (depending on availability).
- Free time for your own wandering, shopping or generally enjoying this beautiful city.

TRAVEL FROM CATANIA TO AGRIGENTO

Visit Villa Romana de Casale where excavations have revealed one of the richest, largest, and varied collections of Roman mosaics in the world, for which the site has been designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

AGRIGENTO, Hotel Costazzurra, (3 nights)

Agrigento is a hilltop city on Sicily's southwest shore. It is known for the ruins of the ancient city of Akragas in the Valley of the Temples, a vast UNESCO listed archaeological site with well-preserved Greek temples.

Highlights Include:

- Walking tour of the ancient parts of the centre of Agrigento. Visit and tour the Valley of the Temples, one of the most outstanding examples of ancient Greek art and architecture. It comprises seven temples and is considered one of the most important sites of Greek temples in the world.
- Visit the Archeology Museum which houses, amongst other treasures, a massive model of the Telamones (column) which supported the Temple of Zeus.
- Drive along the coast to Marsala, known for its ancient ruins, fortified wine, salt pans and windmills and enjoy lunch and a chance to soak up the atmosphere.
- Visit the museum of the 3000 year old Punic Ship and see the world famous Satyr of Mazara, a Greek bronze statue only recently discovered in the harbour.
- Dinner overlooking the Valley of Temples.
- Opera performance (subject to availability).



Villa Romana de Casale

TRAVEL FROM AGRIGENTO TO SYRACUSE VIA CALTAGIRONE

Highlights Include:

Tour of the mountaintop town of Caltagirone which is the ceramics capital of a region renowned for this ancient art form and also for its sweets!

SYRACUSE - Grand Hotel Ortigia, (3 nights)

This city is notable for its rich Greek and Roman history, culture, amphitheatres, architecture, and as the birthplace of the pre-eminent mathematician and engineer Archimedes. The 2,700-year-old city played a key role in ancient times, when it was one of the major powers of the Mediterranean world.

Highlights Include:

- Visit the catacombs of San Giovanni.
- Visit and tour of Paolo Orsi Regional Archaeological Museum, which is one of the largest museums in Europe in terms of exhibition space. It is unique because it houses the results of a series of researches in the area from the end of the 18th century onwards.
- Tour of the Neopolis Archaeology Park - This UNESCO-listed park complex features one of the largest and most impressive Greek theatres in existence, as well as a Roman arena and grottos.
- Performances in the Greek Theatre or Opera House (depending on availability).
- Tour to the Island of Ortygia, which is still the historical heart of Syracuse, and is joined by three bridges. It is known as the 'old town' - and is an absolute treasure! It is brimming with two and a half thousand years of history and many notable buildings including the Basilica Madonna delle Lacrime, which was built in 1994. It is also home to numerous archaeological sites and one of the oldest and most beautiful piazzas in all of Sicily, the Piazza Duomo.



Island of Ortigia

FERRY FROM SYRACUSE TO VALETTA, MALTA

Highlights Include:

- Visit to Noto, which is known for its baroque architecture, including the reconstructed 18th-century Noto Cathedral. Across the street is the Palazzo Ducezio, now the town hall, with the Hall of Mirrors embellished by gilding and stuccos. The region is also known for wine production and we will definitely find time to learn more about wine production and to sample some!

MALTA - The Phoenicia, (5 nights)

Positioned between Sicily and North Africa, Malta is the smallest member of the European Union by population, with only half a million people. Thanks to its strategic position, Malta has been continuously inhabited since prehistoric times, as well as conquered by pretty much all civilisations with interest in Mediterranean domination. However, the Maltese and their language remain unique in many ways.

Highlights Include:

- Walking guided tour of Valletta including The Upper Barrakka Gardens, and the Old Town.
- Opera at Teatro Manoel, one of the most beautiful opera houses in the world (depending on availability).
- Visit to the Manoel Theatre for a historic and costume tour.
- Fabulous Malta food experiences including local wine, food and music!
- Visit to the city of Rabat to the Catacombs with walking tour, then wine tasting and food and a visit to the Grotto of St Paul, interconnecting catacombs used up until the 4th century.
- Visit Palazzo Parisio, a luxury villa where we can enjoy the garden and a high tea.
- Tour of the Neolithic Temples of Hagar and Mnajdra - UNESCO heritage site.
- Boat ride to Wied iz Zurrieq, the blue grotto which offers incredible sea and rock formations.
- Tour to Birgu, also known by its title Città Vittoriosa which is an old fortified city on the south side of the Grand Harbour in the South Eastern Region of Malta including the Inquisitor's Palace.
- Free time in Malta to explore the city or enjoy sitting by our infinity pool!
- Final night dinner in Malta at a luxury private castle with music - what a way to end our amazing tour!

Today we fly from Malta to Dubai. Please note that due to flight schedules this tour includes 2 nights in Dubai on return.

DUBAI - Dubai Sheraton Mall of the Emirates (2 nights)

Highlights Include:

- Rest before our long flight home.
- Casual dinner, city lights tour and time to enjoy one of the largest malls in the world!



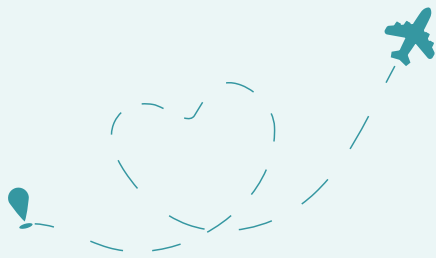
Noto



Valletta



Malta Harbour



\$24,265 per person
twin share
Single Room Supplement Add \$6900

Initial Deposit on booking: \$2000
Second Deposit due: 10 April 2024 \$4000
Final Balance due: 19 June 2024

THIS TRIP INCLUDES:

- Return economy flights with Emirates - Auckland - Naples via Dubai // Malta - Dubai stopover - Auckland
- 26 day epic tour of Sorrento, Sicily and Malta, three of the most fascinating parts of the world including Sorrento (4 nights), Sicily - 14 nights: Palermo (4 nights), Taormina (2 nights), Catania (2 nights), Agrigento (3 nights), Syracuse (3 nights), Malta (5 nights), Dubai (2 nights).
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- Numerous other special experiences including high tea in a palace, wine tasting, vineyard tours, food experiences, local music, operas, ferry ride from Sicily to Malta.
- All visits, transfers, cruises, tours, tips as per the itinerary are included. Performances are subject to final confirmation depending on availability as many programmes are yet to be announced.
- All breakfasts, 12 lunches, 1 high tea and 11 dinners are included.
- This trip is one of our Travel of Note tours limited to 20 travellers.
- Hosted by Operatunity owners Susan Boland and John Cameron.

MODERATE TOUR

All our trips are specifically designed for our core market but this trip does contain travel challenges, either because of the region visited or the walking distances or uneven surfaces that arise at some sites. We do advise that you and your doctor evaluate your level of fitness before you consider booking this tour.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- All itinerary details are subject to change, but changes will be replaced with a comparable or better option.
- Initial & Second deposits are fully refundable up until final balance due date, minus an administration fee of up to \$500 plus any non-recoverable costs.
- All monies are non-refundable at final balance due date. This becomes an insurance claim.
- Payment by direct credit incurs no surcharge. Credit card payments will incur a surcharge of 1.5%.
- Travellers need to be independently mobile and fit to travel.
- Bookings will only be accepted with initial deposit.
- All travellers must obtain comprehensive travel insurance for international travel and insurance for domestic travel is recommended.
- Please refer to our terms and conditions on booking form.



TRAVEL OF NOTE

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