

## **Sicily – The Island Of The Sun**

**9 days/8 nights**

**Catania (4 nights), Caltagirone (1 night), Palermo (3 nights)**

**Departure: (with a minimum of 6 signed)**

**Small size group: Maximum 12 clients**

### **Your Itinerary**

#### **Day 1 Catania**

Welcome to Sicily. You will be met on arrival at the Hotel by your Tour Director. At 3pm we will begin our tour of Sicily with a visit to some of Catania's fascinating palaces, monuments and scenic sites. We will return to our hotel in the late afternoon. Cocktails and dinner will be in one of the regions finest restaurants celebrating local specialties where we will introduce you to the true taste of Sicily. **(D)**

#### **Day 2 Taormina/Castelmola/the Riviera of the Cyclops**

Our morning will see us visiting Taormina. A guided city tour will take us to the famous Greek/Roman Theatre with Mt Etna as its backdrop. Often called the Pearl of the Mediterranean, Taormina overlooks one of the most beautiful coastlines in the world. Lunch in Castelmola (Taormina's old Acropolis) will give you the opportunity to take a stroll along the narrow streets of this picturesque town and enjoy the breathtaking panoramic views. On our return to Catania we will stop along the Riviera of the Cyclops and enjoy the Baroque cities of Acireale, Acitrezza and Acicastello.**(L)**

#### **Day 3 Mt Etna Volcano**

Excursion to Mt Etna National Park. Today you will enjoy the unique experience of visiting Europe's largest active volcano and one of the great mountains of the world. Our Volcanologist will take you to the top craters and provide you with commentary on the

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### **Day 3 Mt Etna Volcano**

uniqueness of this site. If this seems a little strenuous you are welcome to wait in the huts near the 4 wheel-drives and enjoy a hot cup of coffee. The tour will be followed by lunch in a trattoria specializing in the local cuisine. We will conclude the day excursion with a visit to the Lava Museum. The evening will be free allowing you to explore Catania's cafes and restaurants. **(L)**

### **Day 4 Syracuse**

Today we will travel to Syracuse where our tour will take us to the Necropolis Archeological Zone and with the help of our expert guide we will be able to explore the city's antiquities set in a beautiful parklands. Lunch at a typical restaurant on the island of Ortygia, the ancient heart of Syracuse will be followed by a walking tour of the old city. As you walk around this island city you may wish to take the opportunity to visit the Papyrus workshops as Syracuse is the only place outside of Egypt where these reed plants grow. Free night in Catania. **(L)**

### **Day 5 Caltagirone**

A UNESCO World Heritage Site this wonderful city has celebrated the art of Ceramic making since antiquity. We will visit a local traditional Sicilian ceramics workshop. The afternoon and evening will provide us with the opportunity to explore the uniqueness of the local architecture featuring the ceramics as part of local government buildings, staircases, walls and apartment balconies. **(D)**

### **Day 6 Piazza Armerina/Palermo**

Today we will visit the Roman Villa del Casale, one of the most fascinating attractions in archeologically rich Sicily. Our specialist guide will escort us through this amazing nobleman's home of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. Better preserved than any other Roman villa of its period, Villa del Casale has every one of its rooms decorated with astonishingly beautiful mosaics described by experts as 'the most exceptional Roman mosaics in the world'. Through the mosaics you will be able to visualize scenes of daily life in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. We will drive to the hilltop city of Morgantina, savor a well earned lunch of local specialties and then continue our journey to Palermo. **(L)**



## Day 7 Palermo

This morning, a walking tour of Palermo city centre, where we will be introduced to its markets, parks, theatres and the rich historical background of Sicily's capital city. We will visit the famous Vucciarda Market and explore the narrow streets of old Palermo. After lunch we will meet our guide for a tour of Palermo's Cathedral, Cappella Palatina and La Zizza Palace. The name La Zizza derives from the Arabic word Aziz "Splendid Flower". Built for the Holy Roman Emperor, its architecture is a grand fusion of east and west. Dinner in a restaurant specializing in local dishes. **(D)**

## Day 8 Monreale/Mondello

Free morning. After lunch we will travel to Monreale where we will meet our local guide and visit the Cathedral famous for its remarkable interior of gold mosaics featuring the Byzantine style Christ figure. We will also visit the Benedictine Cloister next to the Cathedral which with its Moorish architecture will give you a sense of being in Morocco or the south of Spain. We then make our way to the seaside village of Mondello for a stroll along the beach and our farewell dinner and drinks in a wonderful local restaurant. **(D)**

## Day 9 Check out

Echoes will provide transfers to Palermo's International Airport by VIP Mini Bus (Conditions Apply) – NB Palermo International Airport is approximately 32 kms from Palermo City Centre by motorway. It will take approximately 45- 50 minutes travelling time.

## Tour Highlights

Catania	Baroque and Neo –Classical Architecture
Taormina	Described as the 'Pearl of the Mediterranean' Taormina is well known as one of the most refined and cosmopolitan tourist centres of Europe. Taormina is a treasure trove of archeological sites, beautiful beaches and emerald seas
Mt Etna	One of the world's largest active volcanoes. Guided tours of the observatory park and craters.

## Tour Highlights

Syracuse	Greek Theatre originally built in 6 BC, it could seat up to 15,000 spectators. It was used as a theatre for over 1000 years. The Neapolis tours of caves, grottos and burial grounds
Caltagirone	A city with public buildings, walkways, and apartments displaying beautiful Sicilian ceramic tiles and sculptures
Piazza Armerina	Villa Del Casale, greatest example of frescos and mosaics of Roman times from the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Century AD
Palermo	The Norman Palace and Palatine Chapel. The seat of the Sicilian Regional Parliament. The Palace houses the Palatine Chapel, a place of ravishing beauty and artistic magnificence.

## Tour Features

- Fully escorted tour
- Non Smoking
- Accommodation in 4 star or better (3 star available on request)
- Transfers and travel in deluxe minibus with air conditioning
- English speaking Driver
- No of meals included in the Tour: 9 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 4 dinners
- Fluent English speaking Specialist Local Guides
- Services of a Volcanologist for Mt Etna excursion
- Access to museums, galleries, buildings and other places of interest as specified in the itinerary
- Evenings to explore the city nightlife at your leisure

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### **Tour Rate (LAND ONLY)**

\$AUD 6,000 per person in double occupancy (early bird rates available contact our office)

\$AUD 6,800 per person in single occupancy (early bird rates available contact our office)

Deposit: \$AUD 1,200pp

### **What Is Included?**

- Private Airport Transfers for services between 8.00am and 1.00pm
- Daily transport by deluxe minibus with English speaking Driver
- Meals and beverages as specified
- Echoes Australian Tour Director
- Specialist guides for all attractions fluent in English
- Sightseeing and orientation tours as specified in the itinerary
- Entrance fees to all museums, galleries and places of interest as specified in the itinerary
- Tips and Gratuities
- Hotel and City taxes
- Mineral water for each day

### **What Is Not Included?**

- Airfares
- Special Meal requests
- Additional beverages to the ones specified in the Tour program



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### **What Is Not Included?**

- Costs of additional specific itineraries or excursions not included in the Tour itinerary
- Travel Insurance
- Airport transfers done outside of 9.00am to 1.00pm

### **Departure**

October 8<sup>th</sup> 2008

May 6<sup>th</sup> 2009

October 7<sup>th</sup> 2009

### **Return**

October 16<sup>th</sup> 2008

May 14<sup>th</sup> 2009

October 15<sup>th</sup> 2009

### **Cancellation Policy, per person**

Echoes Events Pty Ltd reserves the right to cancel or reschedule any tour departure in accordance with operating requirements and circumstances beyond its control. If a cancellation is made anytime prior to departure of the tour Echoes Events Pty Ltd's only liability will be to refund to the client the amount it has received for the tour booking. FOR DETAILS on Echoes Events 'Terms and Conditions please refer to the section 'Terms and Conditions' on our website [www.echoesevents.com](http://www.echoesevents.com).

### **Reservation and Payment**

A deposit of 20% per person is required at the time of reservation. Final payment of the tour is due 45 days prior to departure.

**List of Hotels will be advised 21 days before departure.**

Valid as at 11<sup>th</sup> July 2008