



ART & ARCHITECTURE IN SICILY

A boutique art journey crafted for curious minds and lovers of refined, intimate travel

Join us for an intimate nine-day, eight-night journey through Sicily, designed for curious travellers who wish to experience the island through art, architecture, archaeology and local culture.

Travelling with a small group of just seven guests, we move beyond the surface of Sicily to explore its many layers — from ancient Greek temples and Arab-Norman mosaics to Roman villas, Baroque towns, and Caravaggio's final masterpieces.

Guided by expert scholars and enriched by thoughtful local encounters, beautiful meals, and carefully chosen accommodation, this is a journey for those who value depth, beauty, conversation, and a more personal way of travelling.



THE JOURNEY AT A GLANCE



Dates: 15-23 April 2027
Duration: 9 days / 8 nights
Group size: maximum 7 guests
Starts: Palermo
Ends: Taormina, with transfer to Catania Airport
Accommodation: 4- and 5-star character hotels
Pace: relaxed cultural touring, with free time
Price: EUR 5,400 per person, twin/double occupancy

Our journey begins in Palermo, Sicily's vibrant capital and one of the great cultural crossroads of the Mediterranean, where we spend three nights. Here, Arab, Norman, Byzantine, and Baroque influences come together in churches, palaces, mosaics, and museum collections of extraordinary richness.

We then continue to Agrigento, where we spend one night in an elegant hotel overlooking the ancient temples, an evocative setting for our visit to the Valley of the Temples, one of the most impressive archaeological sites of the ancient Greek world.

From there, we travel inland to the Villa Romana del Casale, renowned for its exceptional Roman mosaics, among the most extensive and best preserved to survive from antiquity.

We then continue to Ortigia, our base for two nights in the historic heart of Siracusa, where Greek, Roman, Catalan-Gothic, and Baroque architecture blend to create a richly layered urban landscape.

Our final two nights are spent in Taormina, the iconic hilltop town set above the Ionian Sea, with sweeping views towards Mount Etna and the coastline. From here, we visit the Museo Regionale di Messina, home to one of southern Italy's most important art collections, including two powerful late works by Caravaggio. We will also cross the Strait of Messina to admire the marvellous Riace Bronzes, among the finest surviving masterpieces of ancient Greek sculpture.

Discover the full itinerary in the following pages...

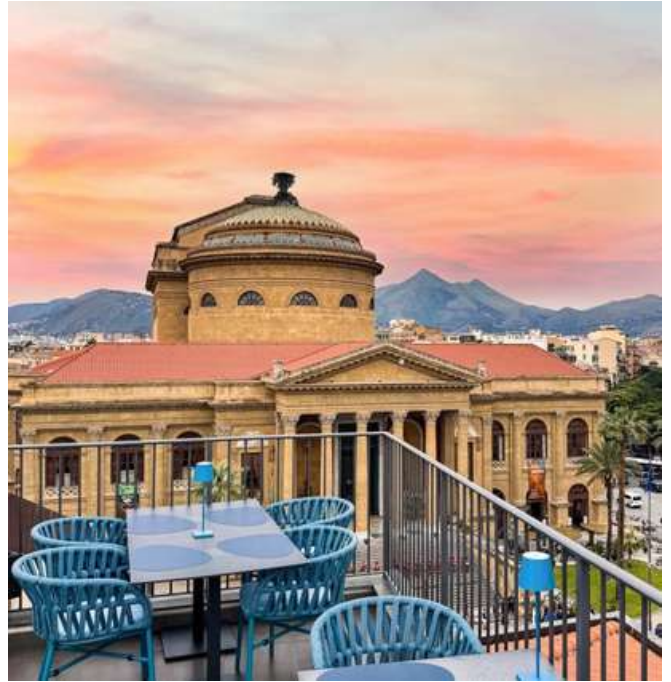


15 APRIL - WELCOME TO SICILY

Overnight in Palermo

A private transfer will meet you at Palermo Airport and accompany you to Hotel Palazzo Sovrana. At 6:30 p.m., we will gather at the hotel's rooftop restaurant for welcome drinks, introductions, and a gentle overview of Sicily's rich history and the journey ahead.

We will then enjoy our first dinner together, with beautiful views over Palermo as the city settles into evening.





16 APRIL - ART, DEVOTION AND TRADITIONS IN PALERMO

Overnight in Palermo

We begin with a guided visit to Palazzo Abatellis, a 15th-century palace that now houses one of Sicily's finest art collections. We will focus on a number of exceptional works, including the haunting Triumph of Death and Antonello da Messina's celebrated Annunciation, exploring how Palermo's art reflects the city's layered history and Mediterranean identity. From here, we continue to the Oratorio di San Lorenzo, a jewel-like chapel adorned with the extraordinary stuccoes of Giacomo Serpotta, where sculpture, theatre,



and devotion come together in one of Palermo's most refined Baroque interiors. After a group lunch, we visit the Convent of Santa Caterina, wandering through its peaceful cloister and tasting the convent's famous handmade sweets, a gentle introduction to Palermo's living traditions. The rest of the afternoon and evening are at leisure, with dinner independently.



17 APRIL - MARKET LIFE AND ARAB-NORMAN SPLENDOUR

Overnight in Palermo

We begin the day in Ballarò, Palermo's historic food market, where the city's Mediterranean soul is felt in its colours, voices, aromas, and traditional street food. From here, we visit Palermo's Cathedral, a remarkable monument shaped over many centuries. After a light break, we travel to Monreale to visit its magnificent cathedral, one of the great masterpieces of medieval art and architecture. Here, dazzling Arab-Norman mosaics cover the interior in gold and light, telling biblical stories with extraordinary beauty and refinement.





18 APRIL - THE VALLEY OF THE TEMPLES

Overnight in Agrigento

Today, we leave our accommodation in Palermo and travel towards Agrigento to explore the Valley of the Temples, one of the world's most iconic archaeological sites. Led by an expert archaeologist, we will uncover the fascinating history of Greek Sicily before visiting the Archaeological Museum, home to an exceptional collection of artefacts, including one of the colossal Telamons that once supported the Temple of Zeus. We conclude the day with a group dinner in Agrigento at a traditional trattoria.





19 APRIL - ANCIENT ROMAN MOSAICS UNVEIL FASCINATING STORIES

Overnight in Ortigia (Siracusa)



Today, we journey southeast to discover more of Sicily's rich heritage. En route to Siracusa, we stop at Villa Romana del Casale, a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its 3,500 square metres of remarkably preserved Roman mosaics. An expert archaeologist will reveal the captivating stories and symbolism woven into these extraordinary works. From there, we continue to Ortigia, the charming island that forms the historic heart of Siracusa, where our next accommodation awaits.



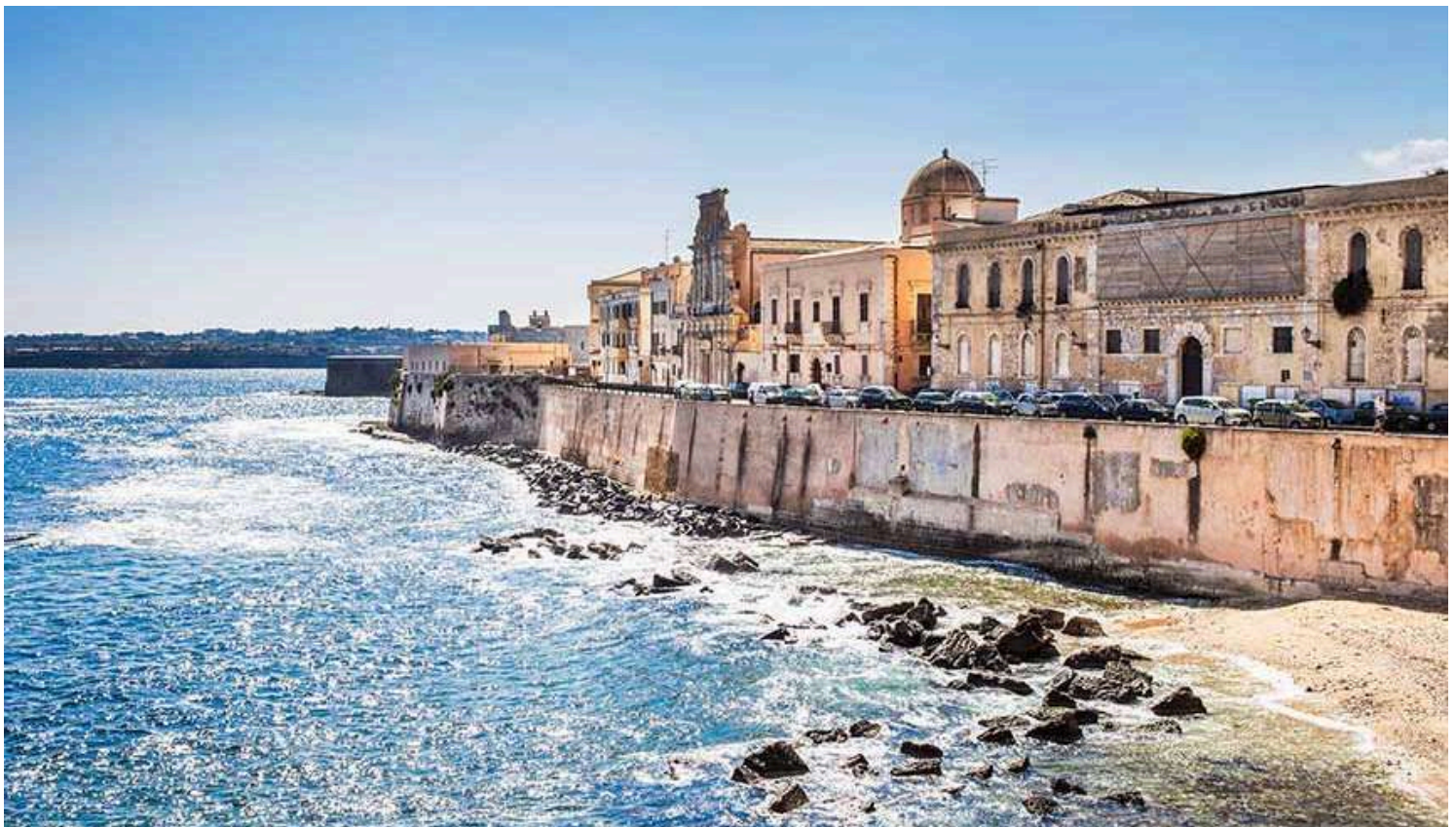
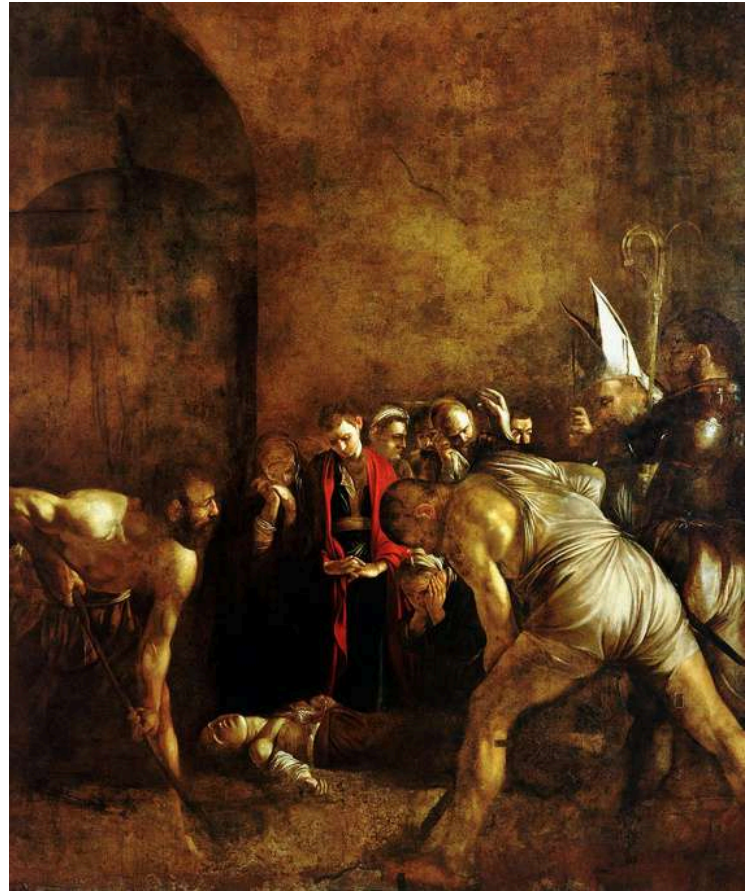


20 APRIL - EXPLORING SIRACUSA'S ART AND ARCHITECTURE

Overnight in Ortigia (Siracusa)

The morning in Ortigia is yours to enjoy at leisure. We will meet at 2:00 p.m. to begin a guided tour of Ortigia, including the Temple of Apollo, the oldest Doric temple in Sicily; the Cathedral, a magnificent Baroque masterpiece built over an ancient Greek temple; and the island's most iconic monuments.

Afterwards, we will take a short trip just beyond Ortigia to see Caravaggio's Burial of Saint Lucy, housed in the Basilica of Santa Lucia al Sepolcro.





21 APRIL - TAORMINA

Overnight in Taormina

Today, we check out from our accommodation in Ortigia and travel towards Taormina, Sicily's iconic hilltop town. After settling into our hotel, we will enjoy a group lunch in a beautiful Sicilian garden restaurant, followed by an afternoon guided visit to the Ancient Theatre of Taormina, a spectacular Greco-Roman site renowned for its dramatic setting, with sweeping views of Mount Etna and the Ionian Sea. The evening is yours to enjoy at leisure.





22 APRIL - ACROSS THE STRAIT: CARAVAGGIO AND THE RIACE BRONZES

Overnight in Taormina

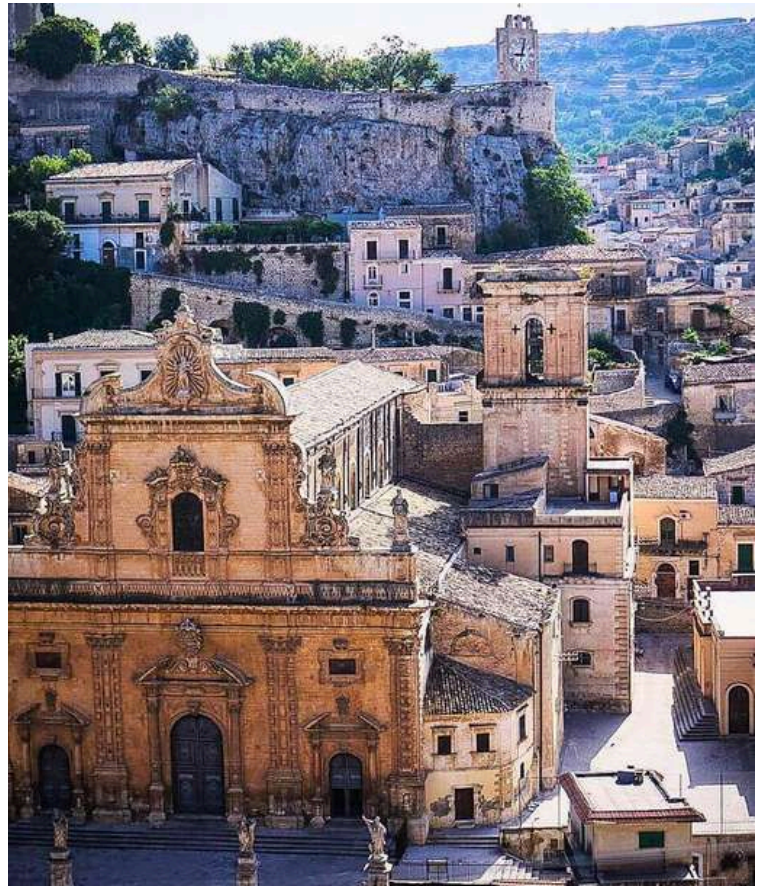
On our final day, we travel to the Museo Regionale di Messina, home to one of southern Italy's most important art collections. Highlights include masterpieces by Caravaggio and Antonello da Messina. We will also cross the Strait of Messina to Reggio Calabria to admire the magnificent Riace Bronzes, among the finest surviving examples of ancient Greek sculpture. We conclude the day with a farewell dinner in Taormina.





23 APRIL - DEPARTURE

On this day, you may choose to extend your stay in Sicily with visits to Catania and Mount Etna, or to the island's southeast, including the Baroque towns of Modica, Ragusa Ibla, and Scicli. You may also wish to consider a few days in Malta, easily accessible from Sicily. Alternatively, private transport can be arranged for your departure from Catania Airport. Should you wish to organise an extended itinerary, we would be delighted to assist you.





ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Palazzo Sovrana (4 stars) - Palermo (3 Nights)

Palazzo Sovrana is a beautifully restored historic residence offering elegant suites and refined hospitality in the heart of Palermo. With views of the grand Teatro Massimo and walking access to the city's most important landmarks, it seamlessly blends historic charm with contemporary design.



Hotel Villa Athena (5 stars) - Agrigento (1 Night)

An elegant retreat within the Valley of the Temples, Villa Athena offers an unforgettable stay surrounded by ancient history, refined comfort, and exceptional views of Sicily's most iconic archaeological landscape.





ACCOMMODATION

Grand Hotel Ortigia (5 stars) - Ortigia, Siracusa *(2 Nights)*

The Grand Hotel Ortigia is a historic, refined waterfront hotel located at the entrance of Ortigia. Its elegant early 20th-century architecture, panoramic rooftop restaurant and views over the marina create an atmosphere of timeless charm.



Palazzo Vecchio (5 stars) - Taormina *(2 Nights)*

An intimate historic residence in the heart of Taormina, Palazzo Vecchio combines graceful interiors, Sicilian charm, and sweeping views over the Ionian coast.



TOUR LEADERS



Eolo Paul Bottaro

Artist & Curator at Sicily Art Tours

An Australian artist of Sicilian heritage, Eolo is internationally recognised for his evocative works inspired by the classical traditions of Italian art. Although born and raised in Australia, Sicily has always been central to his artistic identity, a place of ancestral memory and continual inspiration. Over the past decade, he has divided his time between Australia and Sicily, where he has established both a studio and a home. Today, alongside his artistic practice, Eolo curates and leads small-group journeys devoted to art, architecture and archaeology, offering discerning travellers an insider's perspective on the island's most captivating treasures.



Serena Firera

Founder at Sicily Art Tours

Born in Sicily, Serena combines a background in psychology and publishing with a lifelong passion for art and culture. Guided by a refined sense of beauty and human connection, she founded Sicily Art Tours to offer travellers a deeper way to experience her island, through its artistic heritage, its living traditions, and its people. Serena curates each journey with an eye for authenticity and a taste for elegance, collaborating with scholars, artists, and local experts to create truly distinctive cultural experiences. Her vision is to reveal Sicily not only as a destination, but as an encounter with history, creativity, and the warmth of its people.



REVIEWS

Jan Bollington-Dixon

Guide at The Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art.
Brisbane, Australia

I found the passion and knowledge of Serena, Eolo and the art gallery curators proved to be a highlight of the trip. They gave both social and art historical context which afforded me a deeper understanding of the many exquisite paintings and sculptures. The absolute highlight was to see so many Caravaggios in situ. I knew he had worked in Sicily but didn't realise how many beautiful masterpieces he produced there. The whole of the art tour was a wonderful experience with stunning scenery, picturesque villages and authentically delicious Sicilian dining experiences. Our stay at the Sicilian House in the village of Polizzi Generosa was my favorite part of the trip. What a gem that turned out to be. Prepare to be wowed by local knowledge, celebrity neighbours and art treasures! Serena and Eolo are the perfect tour leaders. Great knowledge and wonderful people.

Elisa Nudelman

HR Specialist
Melbourne, Australia

We cannot speak highly enough of our recent experience with Sicily Art Tours. Serena and Eolo are exceptional tour operators who looked after every detail for our group. The itinerary was amazing, versatile and kept the group engaged and organised so we didn't miss out on any of the planned activities. The accommodation was perfect and we loved everywhere we visited on the tour. The tours offered by Serena and Eolo are art, archeological and historically based, a taste of what Sicily has to offer. If you are after a bespoke tour, get in touch with them, you will not be disappointed.



REVIEWS

Patrick Dixon

Consulting Property Advisor
Brisbane, Australia

As I had dragged my wife along on golfing trips in Ireland, Scotland, and America, I felt obligated to accompany her when she suggested we join Serena and Eolo's Sicilian Art, Culture, and Food Tour. Given my elementary knowledge of ancient history—and even less of art—my expectations for enjoying the tour were low, although I was looking forward to the "food" portion of the trip! That assumption was quickly shattered. I soon became engrossed in the fascinating history of Sicily and how it was expressed through the art we viewed and the places we visited. Thanks to Serena and her gallery curator's deep knowledge, what could have been, for me, a string of boring churches, statues, and ruins instead came vividly to life. Byzantine, Greek, and Arab history were woven into the storytelling, turbocharging the experience. My eyes were opened to a whole new world. Add to this the authentic Sicilian accommodations, a group of diverse and interesting fellow travelers, a variety of splendid meals (I especially loved the street food), and the patience and charm of Serena and Eolo—and this tour became a truly life-enhancing experience.

Anthia Galanis

Public sector employee
Melbourne, Australia

Thank you Serena and Eolo for such an extraordinary experience - words simply can't do justice to your sense of artistry, dedication and love of your island home, your commitment to sharing your culture, history, landscape, and food (I am still digesting mentally and physically the Sicilian riches you presented to us). Thank you from the bottom of heart - I will always cherish our time together forever. This is not goodbye, it's arrivederci until we meet again.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is this journey for?

This journey is designed for travellers who enjoy art, architecture, archaeology, good food, thoughtful conversation, and a slower, more personal way of discovering a place. It is ideal for those who value cultural depth and comfort, without the formality of an academic tour or the pace of mass tourism.

What time do daily activities start?

Daily activities generally begin around 10:00 a.m., allowing for a relaxed morning and an unhurried breakfast.

What level of fitness is required?

This tour requires a moderate level of fitness. Some days include approximately three to four hours of relaxed walking or standing, often during guided visits in museums, archaeological sites, and historic centres. However, the pace is unhurried, with frequent breaks and ample time to rest.

Can I skip some of the scheduled activities for more free time?

Yes, the tour is designed to offer flexibility, so you can opt in and out of certain activities.

Which flights should I book to and from Sicily for this tour?

We recommend arriving in Palermo after 1:30 p.m. on April 15th, as check-in at the accommodation is available after 2:30 p.m. Unless you plan to extend your stay, we suggest scheduling your departure from Catania Airport on April 23rd. Please keep in mind that the transfer from Taormina to Catania Airport takes approximately one hour, so we advise avoiding very early morning flights. These guidelines are intended to ensure smooth and comfortable transitions in line with hotel check-in and check-out times; however, guests are welcome to select alternative arrival or departure times if they prefer.

Can I do this tour on dates other than the scheduled ones?

Yes, please contact us to inquire about bespoke tour options.

What will the weather be like in April in Sicily?

April in Sicily is generally mild and pleasant, with daytime temperatures ranging from 18°C to 22°C and mostly bright, sunny days. Occasional showers are possible, and temperatures can vary between coastal and inland areas. Nights can be noticeably cooler. We recommend packing layers and versatile clothing suitable for both warm and cooler moments.



PRICING, TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Pricing

EUR 5,400 per person, based on twin/double-share, non-smoking room

Single occupancy supplement: EUR 1,590

What's Included

The tour includes eight nights in carefully selected 4- and 5-star historic residences and hotels, in deluxe or superior rooms, with the option to upgrade room category upon request and subject to availability. The journey is fully escorted and includes daily breakfast, three lunches, two dinners, welcome drinks and aperitivo on arrival. All admissions to sites and museums mentioned in the itinerary are included, along with professionally guided visits led by expert scholars, private transportation throughout the itinerary. The program also provides a private airport pickup upon arrival in Palermo and a transfer to Catania Airport on April 23rd. City taxes, as well as full assistance before, during, and after the tour, are also included.

What's Not Included

The tour price does not include international or domestic flights, travel insurance, personal expenses, additional meals or beverages not specified in the itinerary.

How to confirm your booking

A 30% deposit is required to confirm the booking.

Final payment is due 60 days before the tour commences.

Cancellation Policy

We strongly recommend purchasing a "Cancel for Any Reason" insurance to protect against unforeseen changes to your plans. Otherwise, please refer to our cancellation terms below:

- More than 60 days before the tour commences: Your deposit will be credited toward another tour departing within 12 months of the original tour date.
- Between 60 and 20 days before the tour commences: 40% of the full amount will be reimbursed, 60% of the full amount credited toward another tour departing within 12 months.
- Less than 20 days before the tour commences: Full charges will apply.

**To enquire about availability or request a personal conversation about the journey,
please contact Serena and Eolo at sicilyartours@gmail.com**