Flavors of Sicily
A 9-Day Potpourri of Cuisine, Culture & Antiquities
SEPTEMBER 29, 2016 – OCTOBER 07, 2016

FLAVORS OF SICILY

No other island pulls you in as tightly and feeds the soul so completely as Sicily. Dive into the complex layers of Sicilian lore forged from a marriage of contrasts.

Tour Sicily’s main attractions, admire the stunning surroundings, and relax in the comforts of 5-star San Domenico Palace Hotel, built in an ancient Dominican monastery on a rocky hillside on the east coast of Sicily.

Dear Alumni and Friends,

With Sicilian wine and cuisine as our inspiration, and a luxurious hotel as our home base, I invite you to join us to embrace the beauty of Sicily.

An intimate, small-group atmosphere and authentically Sicilian experience distinguish this 9-day program. Immerse yourself in a cultural and culinary adventure: indulge in a decadent brioche and granita for breakfast like a local; converse with winemakers and learn secrets from celebrated chefs; and taste boutique wines paired with locally renowned antipasti, secondi, and historic dishes such as iconic pasta alla Norma.

Relax under the shade of citrus groves in the coastal town of Taormina. Journey through the landscape with talented guides who will thoughtfully introduce you to the traditions of this glorious place, and return home with stories to share that will remain with you forever.

Space is limited. Our rates for Rutgers guests represent savings of more than $800 per couple (alumni as well as family and friends are eligible). Please reserve today by calling (866) 639-0079, by visiting http://rutgers.orbridge.com, or by returning the enclosed reservation form.

Warm regards,
Program Highlights:

- Enjoy seven nights in the luxury and elegance of the 5-star San Domenico Palace Hotel in Taormina.
- Work side-by-side in the kitchens of distinguished chefs, learning time-tested techniques and modern twists with ingredients grown in the mineral-rich, volcanic soil of Mount Etna’s fertile lowlands.
- Take a cable car down to the shore for a lunch beside the sea.
- Spend time exploring the coastal towns of Taormina and Siracusa—including a stop at a local outdoor market.
- Visit Benanti, a family-owned boutique winery with a strong international focus. It was selected Top 100 Winery by *Wine & Spirits Magazine USA* in 2012.
- Visit Sicily’s archaeological masterpieces—the ancient theatres of Taormina and Siracusa, and the Villa Romana del Casale mosaics in Piazza Armerina.
- Explore Mount Etna, a natural marvel and UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Day after day, experience the fusion of tradition and modernity, and see for yourself how Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Arab, Norman, German, French, and Spanish influences have formed this magnificent island of fertility.

**What’s included:** 7 nights accommodations, 7 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 3 dinners served with wine, private motor coach transportation, luggage handling, and airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times.
Day-by-Day Itinerary:

Day 1: En Route from U.S.

Settle in at the San Domenico Palace Hotel, an enchanting property that’s carved into a hillside, overlooking the Ionian Sea. Explore the lush grounds and take in the magnificent views. Get acquainted with your travel companions at a welcome reception followed by dinner served with Sicilian wines and specialties of the region.
Overnight: San Domenico Palace Hotel (R,D)

Day 2: Arrive Catania, Sicily, Italy / Taormina

Spend the day touring Taormina, an idyllic town perched on a rocky hillside. With your local guide, delight in exploring the town’s network of winding streets and ancient Greek theatre—one of Sicily’s most picturesque and well-preserved. Charming streets open to stunning panoramas of popular beaches, the warm Ionian Sea, and snow-capped Mount Etna. Take a cable car down to the shore for a lunch beside the sea.
Overnight: San Domenico Palace Hotel (B,L)

Day 3: Taormina

Learn how to cook the Sicilian way! Join award-winning chef and author Eleonora Consoli’s team in her 18th-century home in Viagrande. First, browse the colorful and culture-rich market in nearby Catania for fresh, local ingredients. Then gather in Eleonora’s spacious kitchen to prepare a complete, 4-course menu. After lunch, venture to Benanti, a local award-winning winery, for an afternoon tasting filled with delightful conversation with fellow travelers.
Overnight: San Domenico Palace Hotel (B,L)

Day 4: Piazza Armerina

Today visit Sicily’s archaeological masterpiece and UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Villa Romana del Casale. Our guide will lead us on an exploration of the famous 4th-century site considered a display of the best preserved and extensive examples of Roman mosaics in the world, offering you a glimpse of a wealthy Sicilian family’s lifestyle of centuries past. Before heading back to the hotel, indulge in a lunch featuring Sicilian specialties.
Overnight: San Domenico Palace Hotel (B,L)

Day 5: Viagrande / Catania

Today you can opt to visit Sicily’s greatest natural attraction, Mount Etna—another UNESCO World Heritage Site and the highest active volcano in Europe. Lovingly known locally as “The Etna,” at almost 11,000 feet, it has four craters at the summit and more than 300 vents on the flanks. Marvel at its enormity as you take in its unique,
dominant features and view the destruction of previous eruptions and lava flows.

Guests opting to remain at the hotel in the morning to relax and enjoy the fine amenities instead of the high-elevation hike at 6,000 feet can view Mount Etna’s splendor from the hotel’s hilltop location. Later, rejoin the group for a wine tasting and a delicious lunch in the afternoon at Planeta winery. Here, focus on how the cultivation of the ancient fertile lands around Mount Etna influences the wine.

*Overnight: San Domenico Palace Hotel (B,L)*

**Day 7: Siracusa / Ortigia**
Welcome to the historically notable town of Siracusa, a 2,700-year-old seaside city founded by Greek Corinthians and Teneans. Cicero was said to have described Siracusa as the greatest Greek city and most beautiful of them all. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, it flaunts many structures from as early as the 5th century B.C. Become a part of coastal Ortigia, a small island often called the heart of Siracusa. Indulge your senses with the sights, sounds and flavors as you follow cobblestone walkways. The kaleidoscopic markets overflow with local seafood, dairy, meat, and succulent produce such as ruby-red tomatoes, tender figs, and dark green capers. In the evening, have a relaxing dinner at the hotel.

*Overnight: San Domenico Palace Hotel (B,D)*

**Day 8: Taormina**
After breakfast, embark on a brief journey to Villa Britannia and experience a hands-on cooking class of traditional Sicilian fare with celebrated Chef Carmelo U Boss. The chef chooses only locally grown, hand-picked ingredients to concoct a unique menu for our group. Create mouth-watering dishes like marinated prawns, caponata, pasta alla Norma, seafood risotto, zuppa di pesce, veal rolls, chicken alla cacciatore, plus amazing desserts such as Sicilian cassata, tiramisu, or crespelle. Your farewell dinner is a celebration at The Principe Cerami, a 2-Michelin-star restaurant run by Chef Massimo Mantarro and features his refined haute cuisine.

*Overnight: San Domenico Palace Hotel (B,L,D)*

**Day 9: Depart Sicily**
After breakfast, guests departing during the suggested times take a complimentary transfer to the airport for a flight home. *(B)*

*B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner, R = Reception*

*Itinerary subject to change*

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**What’s Included:**

- Seven nights accommodations at San Domenico Palace Hotel (or similar)
- 7 breakfasts, 5 lunches, and 3 dinners served with wine
- Full services of an Orbridge Travel Director in addition to expert local guides
- Intimate cooking classes with celebrated chefs
- In-depth, guided exploration of Sicily’s main attractions—Taormina, Mount Etna, Villa Romana del Casale, Siracusa, and Ortigia
- Private motor coach transportation, luggage handling, and airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times
- Gratuities to Orbridge Travel Director, local guides, drivers and porters
Your Guide(s):

Chiara: Insider, Interpreter, Epicure, Host

Chiara’s opinion is that wine and food are the best ways to understand and get to know a country. Chiara is Milano-born and lived in Northern Italy for many years. After studying art and literature, she relocated to Tuscany where she worked with the producer of the famous Chianti Classico in the hills between Siena and Florence. In charge of export, grape harvest, and olive oil production, she is expert in her knowledge of Italian foods and wine. Having owned an Agriturismo working farm in the Siena countryside, she understands what people appreciate most about the significance of Italy’s ‘slow food’ roots. Speaking five languages and a gifted sommelier, she is among the founders of the national association “Donne del Vino” (women of wine). Catch Chiara’s enthusiasm and explore the flavors of this wonderful region with added confidence, understanding, and appreciation. Cheers!

Guide subject to change.

Program Accommodations:

San Domenico Palace Hotel

Built in an ancient Dominican monastery, San Domenico Palace Hotel’s luxurious, 5-star accommodations provide the ideal balance between style and comfort. Carved into a rocky hillside on the east coast of Sicily, this enchanting property overlooks Taormina Bay with mesmerizing views of nearby Mount Etna. Stroll the grounds and discover the fragrant gardens, and enrich your senses breathing in the fresh breeze off the Ionian Sea.

Property Amenities: Two restaurants (one is rated 2-Michelin-stars and is run by Chef Massimo Mantarro), two bars, free Wi-Fi zone, spa, and fitness center.

Classic: Spacious and bright, these classically appointed rooms overlook either the Cloisters or the town of Taormina.

Deluxe: Perched from this delightful room’s balcony, you will have spanning views of either Taormina Bay or the Greek theatre.

Room Amenities: Air conditioning, LCD television with satellite channels, Wi-Fi internet (charges apply), telephone, en suite bathroom with bathtub and shower, hair dryer, safe deposit box, mini-bar.
Activity Level:

Moderate

Activities are generally not very strenuous, however, we expect that guests on this program can enjoy two hours or more of walking, are sure-footed on cobbled surfaces, and can walk up and down stairs without assistance. Historic city centers are usually more accessible by foot than vehicle. Due to the structure of some buildings, facilities for the disabled may be limited. Also, dexterity to use kitchen tools and participate in lessons is not necessary, but adds to the enjoyment of this program.

Optional Extension:

ADD DAYS 9-12 IN PALERMO

Enjoy Sicily’s fascinating and bustling capital, Palermo. The city, which is over 2,700 years old, is rich in history, culture, art, music, and gourmet cuisine.

Itinerary:

Day 9: Depart Taormina / Arrive Palermo
Begin your panoramic tour of Palermo, including visits to the opera house Teatro Politeama, “La Cala” (the old harbour), Piazza Indipendenza, Porta Nuova, Piazza del Parlamento and Villa Bonanno Garden, and Monreale Cathedral.
Overnight: Grand Hotel Villa Igiea

Day 10: Palermo / Cefalù / Guided Sightseeing
After breakfast, enjoy a half-day, walking tour of the historical center of Palermo. Stop at Teatro Massimo, then stroll through Mercato di Capo market and the Jewish Quarter, and visit Palermo’s cathedral, Martorana. Later, travel to picturesque Cefalù for an introductory tour to see the old walls, Pescara gate, and a popular beach.
Overnight: Grand Hotel Villa Igiea (B)

Day 11: Leisure
Today includes activities at your leisure. Enjoy Palermo for all it has to offer. Visit one of the extraordinary monuments not yet seen or simply explore one of its lively markets. Or, take advantage of the lovely amenities at
the Grand Hotel Villa Igiea.

Overnight: Grand Hotel Villa Igiea (B)

Day 12: Depart Sicily
In the morning, transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)

B = Breakfast

Please note: extensions are not escorted by an Orbridge Travel Director. Included sightseeing is accompanied by a local guide. Group space may not be available within 90 days of departure.

Accommodations:

Grand Hotel Villa Igiea (or similar)

Located in the sun-soaked capital city of Palermo, the luxurious, 5-star Grand Hotel Villa Igiea was restored from a private family home at the end of the 19th century by renowned Art Nouveau architect Ernesto Basile for the Florio family and still proudly displays its original frescoes and period-themed decoration and furniture. Relax in the villa’s modern comforts and enjoy its breathtaking coastal views. Or, opt for nearby resort activities that include tennis, golf, or a romantic evening cruise (additional fees apply).

Property Amenities: Free Wi-Fi zone, outdoor swimming pool, tennis court, business center, fitness center, spa, two fine-dining restaurants and a pool bar/grill.

Room Amenities: Individually controlled heating and air conditioning, Wi-Fi Internet access (charges apply), telephone, LCD satellite television, mini-bar, safe, and en suite bathroom with shower and/or tub and hair dryer.

What's Included:

- Transfer from Taormina to Palermo
- Three nights accommodations at Grand Hotel Villa Igiea (or similar), with breakfast each morning
- Guided sightseeing of Palermo and Cefalù, as well as entrance fees to Monreale Cathedral
- Transfer from hotel to airport with luggage handling, as well as gratuities to your guide and drivers
Reservation Form

Flavors of Sicily

SEPTEMBER 29, 2016 — OCTOBER 07, 2016
EXTENSION: OCTOBER 07, 2016 — OCTOBER 10, 2016

☐ Option 1: Reserve online now
at http://rutgers.orbridge.com
or call (866) 639-0079.

☐ Option 2: Secure your reservation with
a deposit charged to the credit card below,
or with the enclosed check payable to:
Orbridge LLC.

Guest Information:
Guest #1 (as printed on passport): ____________________________ Class Year __________
Guest #2 (as printed on passport): ____________________________ Class Year __________
Guest #1 (preferred on name badge): ____________________________
Guest #2 (preferred on name badge): ____________________________
Address: __________________________________________________________
City: ____________________________ State: __________ ZIP: __________
Email: ____________________________ Phone: __________ Alt. Phone: __________
Category Preference (if applicable): 1st choice_________________ 2nd choice_________________

Payment:
Card type: □ MasterCard □ Visa □ American Express □ Discover □ Check enclosed
Card #: ______________________________________ Exp. date: _______ CVV: _______
Name (as printed on card): __________________________________________
Billing address (if different than above): ________________________________
City: ____________________________ State: __________ ZIP: __________
(#) ______ guests joining program ($850/person) +
(#) ______ guests joining extension ($500/person if applicable) = Total deposit: $ __________

I/we have read, understand, and agree to the full Terms & Conditions at http://terms.orbridge.com and detailed in program documents; and that Orbridge LLC is authorized to charge my credit card above and/or take my/our deposit for this program.

Signature: ____________________________ Date: __________

Send or fax reservation form and deposit to:
Orbridge
P.O. Box 10339, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
Fax: (206) 452-5655

*Special group rates; limited offer. Rates are per person based on double occupancy except where noted as Single, in U.S. dollars. Single availability limited. Airfare not included. **Extension rate is per person based on double occupancy except where noted as Single, in U.S. dollars. Single availability limited. Airfare not included.
Travel Insurance. Orbridge strongly recommends that you purchase travel and cancellation insurance to protect your interests in the event of unexpected or unforeseen circumstances, including travel-related event sequences, that cause the cancellation of your participation in a tour or trip. In addition, we recommend that you consider obtaining a policy that will cover some or all of your losses associated with baggage or personal effects. To achieve this, you must write, be advised that air carriers often impose restrictions or limitations on the number of pieces, size and weight of luggage and may reject or impose additional fees on luggage exceeding such restrictions.

Travel Advisories and Warnings. It is the sole responsibility of each guest to stay informed about the most current international travel advisories and warnings by visiting the U.S. State Department’s travel website at or by contacting the U.S. State Department directly. In the event of an active State Department Travel Warning (“Warning”) against travel to a program’s specific destination location(s) and you elect to travel to the location(s) notwithstanding such Warning, you hereby agree, individually and on behalf of your marital community, heirs, estates, personal representatives, executors and assigns, to assume, at your own risk and faced with and against, all actual or potential personal injuries, death, property damage and other loss or casualty arising from or related to events that are the same or similar to those specified in the Warning.

Children. Orbridge welcomes the participation of children in its programs. However, in the event you do include your children or other minors for whom you serve as legal guardian (together, “Dependents”) in your travel plans, you hereby acknowledge and agree that you are and shall be at all times solely responsible for their care, actions, safety and protection during the program and any extension(s). Should you have any questions whether a particular program or inclusion is suitable for your Dependent(s), please contact us and we will do our best to provide you with answers.

Baggage. Program rates include the price of two (2) pieces of policy-compliant luggage per person during the land or cruise portion of the program only unless specified in the itinerary. Please be advised that air carriers often impose restrictions or limitations on the number of pieces, size and weight of luggage and may reject or impose additional fees on luggage exceeding such restrictions or limitations. All such fees are your sole responsibility and cost incurred. In addition, and regardless of location or transportation method, your baggage and personal effects are and shall at all times be at your sole responsibility and risk throughout the entire program. Please check with your international carrier for other baggage restrictions and limitations applicable to international flights.

Travel Documents. U.S. citizens, valid passports are required for travel to foreign destinations and some countries require specific visas prior to entry. Please directly any questions in respect to visa requirements to Orbridge, which shall use commercially reasonable efforts to provide answers as a courtesy, provided that it shall remain your sole responsibility and obligation to obtain and verify any required travel documents, including visas, for your nationality and appropriate for the program location(s) and sufficient blank pages in your passport for visas and immigration stamps. Orbridge is not liable and expressly disclaims all such liability, for any expenses or costs you may incur due to your prohibition or restriction from entering a country on the program itinerary or reentering the United States at the conclusion of the program.

Photos and Videos. Orbridge and its representatives may, from time to time, make photographic or video recording(s) during a program, which may include images of you and/or your

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Orbridge may at any time and without notice modify these terms and conditions, and any modification so made will be effective for all reservations made from and after the posted Effective Date.

In the event any term in these terms and conditions is deemed unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, the unenforceable clause shall be interpreted to give effect to the parties’ intentions to the greatest enforceable extent, and all other provisions hereof shall remain fully enforceable according to their terms.

Acceptance of Contract. ANY PAYMENT TO ORBRIDGE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO DEPOSITS, CONSTITUTES YOUR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF AND AGREEMENT TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS SET FORTH ABOVE AND IN MORE SPECIFIC TOUR DOCUMENTS.

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