



REGIONE SICILIANA
 ASSICURATO AL TURISMO
 COMUNICAZIONI E TRASPORTI



SICILIA
 Tutta il resto è in ombra.



UNIONE EUROPEA



D e s t i n a t i o n

Sicilia



Ente Nazionale Italiano per il Turismo

Regional Series



Destination

SICILY

ISTITUTO GEOGRAFICO
DEAGOSTINI

ENIT DELEGATIONS

ITALIA (Rome)

Ente Nazionale Italiano per il Turismo (State Central)
Via Margutta, 26 - 00185 Roma
Tel. 06/478111 - Fax 06/478112/440000
E-mail: edcentrale@enit.it

ARGENTINA (Buenos Aires)

Organismo Oficial Italiano para el Turismo
Av. Corrientes, 345 - C1054AAC Buenos Aires
Tel. 00549114 3113342 - Fax 00549114 3127705
E-mail: enit@turismo.gov.ar

AUSTRALIA (Sydney)

Italian Government Tourist Office
Level 26, 44 Market Street - NSW 2000 Sydney
Tel. 00612 92 621666 - Fax 00612 92 621677
E-mail: enitaustralia@nug.com.au

AUSTRIA/ÖSTERREICH (Vienna/Wien)

Städtisches Österreichisches Fremdenverkehrsamt
Kärntnering, 4 - A-1010 Wien
Tel. 0043 1 50510012
Fax 0043 1 5051048

BEIGES/BELOUGERIE (Brussels)

Office National Italien de Tourisme
Italiense Nationale Dienst voor Toerisme
Avenue Louise, 176 Louizalaan - 1050 Bruxelles
Tel. 0032 2 6471154 - Fax 0032 2 6456603
E-mail: enit@infofon.be

BRAZIL/BRASIL

ENIT c/o Câmara Italo-Brasileira de Comércio e Indústria
Av. Paulista, 2073 24º andar-Horla II
- Conjunto Nacional
01311-940 - São Paulo - SP - Brasil
Tel. 0055 11 3179 0145 - Fax 0055 11 3179 0121
E-mail: enit@italo.com.br

CANADA (Toronto)

Italian Government Tourist Board
Office National Italien de Tourisme
175 Bloor Street East-Suite 907 - South Tower
M5W 1B8 Toronto (Ontario)
Tel. 001 416 9254882 - Fax 001 416 9254799
E-mail: enit.canada@on.abn.com

CHINA/CHINA (Pechino/Beijing)

ENIT c/o China-Italy Chamber of Commerce
Unit 3905, Jing Guang Centre
Hu Jia Lou, Chao Yang District - 100020 Beijing
Tel. 00 8610 65973078/65973388 - Fax 00 8610 65973388
E-mail: enit@chinaenit.com

COREA SEUL

ENIT - 35 Korea chamber of commerce Bldg
238 Myeonggi Bldg 135, Seosom-dong

100-737 Seoul Corea

Tel. 0082 2 775 8006 - Fax 0082 2 7758007
E-mail: enit@korea.com

DANIMARCA/DANMARK

Den Italienske Stats Turistbureau
Samuel Mont, 12, 4 TV - DK1177 København K
Tel. 0045 33 123453 - Fax 0045 33 153873
E-mail: italien@statstour.dk

FRANCIA/FRANCE (Paris/Paris)

Office National Italien de Tourisme
23 Rue de la Paix - 75002 Paris
Tel. 00331 42668888 - Fax 0033 1 47421874
E-mail: enit.paris@tourisme.fr

GERMANIA/DEUTSCHLAND (Berlino/Berlin)

Städtisches Italienisches
Fremdenverkehrsamt
Kontakthaus Mitte Fremdenverkehrsamt, 107 10117 Berlin
Tel. 0049 30 2470397-8 - Fax 0049 30 2470399
E-mail: enit-berlin@online.de

(Frankfurt sul Meno/Frankfurt/Main)

Städtisches Italienisches
Fremdenverkehrsamt
Kaiserstrasse, 65 - 60329 Frankfurt am Main
Tel. 0049 69 237434 - Fax 0049 69 23284
E-mail: enit-frankfurt@online.de

(Munich/München)

Städtisches Italienisches Fremdenverkehrsamt
Landschaftplatz, 2 - 80333 München
Tel. 0049 89 531317 - Fax 0049 89 534257
E-mail: enit-muenchen@online.de

GIAPPONE/IPPON (Tokyo)

Italia Sella Kanko Kyoku
Italian Government Tourist Board
2-7-14 Minami-Kojima Minato-Ku - Tokyo 105-0002
Tel. 0081 3 34782051 - Fax 0081 3 34782058
E-mail: enit@italo.com

GRAN BRETAGNA/GREAT BRITAIN (Londra/London)

Italian State Tourist Board
1, Prince Street - W1R 2AY London
Tel. 0044 20 74081254
Fax 0044 20 73993567
E-mail: enit@italianstateboard.co.uk

INDIA

ENIT c/o The Indo-Italian Chamber
of Commerce and Industry 502, Bengal Chemicals
Compound, Viceroy Savitri Marg, Pochampalli
400025 Mumbai (Bombay)
Tel. 0091 22 4268198 Fax 009 122 4368191
E-mail: enit@india.com

OLANDA/NEDERLAND (Amsterdam)

Nationaal Italiaans Verkeersbureau
Stadhouderskade, 2 - 1054 ES Amsterdam
Tel. 0031 20 6160248
Fax 0031 20 6160249
E-mail: enit@italo.com

POLSKA/POLSKA (Varsavia/Warsaw)

Centrala ENIT
(Stradosy Urząd Turystyki Włoskiej)
C/o Włosko-Polska Izba Handlowa - Przemysowa
Ul. Nowy Świat 39 - 00-929 Warszawa
Tel. 0048 22 6263488 - Fax 0048 22 6263489
E-mail: enit-warszawapolska@poczta.onet.pl

RUSSIA/ROSSIJA (Mosca/Moscow)

ENIT c/o Promos
Ul. Pecherskaya, 4, 119004 Moscow
Tel. 007 095 7376470 - Fax 007 095 7376476
E-mail: enit@moscow.ru

SPAGNA/ESPAÑA (Madrid/Spain)

Organismo Oficial Italiano para el Turismo
Paseo de la Castellana, 149 7º planta, 28046 Madrid
Tel. 91 567 0670
Fax 91 571 1579
E-mail: italianismo@internat.es

SVEZIA/SVERIGE (Stoccolma/Stockholm)

Italiana Svenska Turistbyrå - Strandvägen 7a
Box 14040 - SE - 10440 Stockholm
Tel. 0046 8 697000 - Fax 0046 8 6971107
E-mail: italiaturistbyra@se.italo.com

SVEZZA/SCHWITZ (Zürich)

Städtisches Italienisches Fremdenverkehrsamt
Urnaustrasse, 37 - CH-8001 Zürich
Tel. 0041 1 2117817 - Fax 0041 1 2117818
E-mail: enit@zuerich.ch

USA (New York)

Italian Government Tourist Board
630, Fifth Avenue - Suite 1905 - N.Y. 10111 New
York - Tel. 001 212 245 5818
Fax 001 212 5893149
E-mail: enit@italianstateboard.com

(Chicago)

Italian Government Tourist Board
500, North Michigan Avenue - Suite 2240
60611 Chicago 1, Illinois
Tel. 001 312 642296 - Fax 001 312 6443018
E-mail: enit@italianstateboard.com

(Los Angeles)

Italian Government Tourist Board
12401 Wilshire Blvd - Suite 500
CA 90025 Los Angeles
Tel. 001 310 8201886 - Fax 001 310 8205257
E-mail: enit@italianstateboard.com

www.italiantourism.com

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Welcome to Italy

CUSTOMS FORMALITIES AND DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENTS AND VISAS FOR ENTRY TO ITALY

There are customs posts at all points of access to Italy (airports, ports, frontiers) to control goods being imported or exported and those in transit.

The role of customs posts is to control and protect health, farming, industrial and trade poli-

cy, products and brands as well as fight the traffic of arms, drugs, currency, radioactive materials and protect the national and community cultural heritage.

They also control all citizens entering and leaving Italy - EU members and non.

Identity documents:

Identity cards issued by the commune of residence for citizens of the EU, Switzerland, Slovenia, Croatia, Malta

and Turkey.

Valid Passport and entry visa for non-EU citizens. A driving license is not considered an identity document.

Documents for cars, motorcycles and trailers:
Log book and international insurance (Green Card) for vehicles and trailers.

IMPORT-EXPORT REGULATIONS

From 1 January 1993 the countries belonging to the European Union constitute a single area within which there is free circulation of people, goods and capital. Those travelling within the European Union can carry goods purchased in shops other than duty free shops with them without restrictions or formalities. How-

ever, for certain categories of products subject to tax on manufactured goods or excise duty (processed tobaccos, alcohol and alcoholic beverages) free circulation is permitted within certain quantity limits.

For further information, visit the Internet site: www.finanze.it

ANIMALS

CERTIFICATES REQUIRED BY CUSTOMS

Dogs and cats

Entry is permitted if the animals are accompanied by a certificate of origin and health (issued by foreign public health authorities recognised in Italy) bearing all the identification particulars of the animals and their owners. The certificate must state that the animals are healthy and have received rabies vaccination at least 20 days and no more than 11 months before the date of the certificate.

Other animals

Birds, fish, frogs and tortoises may enter if accompanied by a certificate of origin issued by the authorities of the country of origin stating that the animal has been subjected to a health examination and is immune from infectious diseases.

Protected species

A CITES certificate must be produced, in accordance with the Washington Convention, for the entry of protected species.

EMBASSIES

The Italian Republic has normal diplomatic relations with all the countries in the world and the diplomatic missions of nearly all the European and non-European nations are to

be found in the capital. Some minor countries delegate larger powers to represent their political and trade interests. There are foreign consular missions in the major Italian cities-

EMBASSIES

EU COUNTRIES

Germany

Via San Martino della Battaglia, 4
Roma - Tel. 06492131

Austria

Via Pergolesi, 3 - Roma
Tel. 068440141

Belgium

Via dei Monti Parioli, 49 - Roma
Tel. 063609511

Denmark

Via dei Monti Parioli, 50
Roma - Tel. 063200441

Spain

Largo della Fontanella di Borghese, 19 - Roma - Tel. 065840401

Finland

Via Lisbona, 3 - Roma
Tel. 06852231

France

Piazza Farnese, 67 - Roma
Tel. 06686011

United Kingdom

Via XX Settembre, 80/a
Roma - Tel. 0642200001

Greece

Via Mercadante, 36
Roma - Tel. 068416505

Netherlands

Via Mercati, 8 - Roma
Tel. 063221141

Ireland

Piazza di Campitelli, 3
Roma - Tel. 066979121

Luxembourg

Via Santa Croce in
Gerusalemme, 90
Roma - Tel. 0677201177

Portugal

Viale Liegi, 21 - Roma
Tel. 068542262

Sweden

Piazza Rio de Janeiro, 3
Roma - Tel. 06441941

NON-EU COUNTRIES

Albania

Via Asmara, 5 - Roma

Tel. 068622411

Argentina

Piazza dell'Esquilino, 2 - Roma
Tel. 064742551

Australia

Via Alessandria, 215 - Roma
Tel. 06852721

Belarus

Via delle Alpi Apuane, 16
Roma - Tel. 0682002309

Bosnia-Herzegovina

Piazzale Clodio, 12
Roma - Tel. 0639742411

Brazil

Piazza Navona, 14 - Roma
Tel. 800166300

Bulgaria

Via Rubens, 21 - Roma
Tel. 063224643

Canada

Via G.B. De Rossi, 27 - Roma
Tel. 06445981

China

Via Bruxelles, 56 - Roma
Tel. 068413458

Croatia

Via Luigi Bodio, 74
Roma - Tel. 0636307650

Slovenia

Via Pisano, 10 - Roma
Tel. 068091431

Estonia

Viale Liegi, 28 - Roma
Tel. 068440751

Russian Federation

Via Gaeta, 5 - Roma
Tel. 064941681

Hungary

Via dei Villini, 12 - Roma
Tel. 064402032

India

Via XX Settembre, 5 - Roma
Tel. 064884642

Iceland

Via Flaminia, 441 - Roma
Tel. 063231840

Japan

Via Sella, 60

Roma - Tel. 06487991

Latvia

Viale Liegi, 42 - Roma
Tel. 068841227

Lithuania

Via Gian Giacomo Poma, 4
Roma - Tel. 068078291

Macedonia

Via Bruxelles, 73
Roma - Tel. 068411470

Norway

Via Giacomo Puccioni, 5
Milano - Tel. 028545141

Poland

Via Pietro della Valle, 1
Roma

Tel. 068864619

Czech Republic

Via del Gracchi, 322
Roma - Tel. 063605671

Slovakia

Via Colli della Farnesina, 144
Roma - Tel. 06367151

Romania

Via Tartaglia, 36 - Roma
Tel. 068084423

South Africa

Via Tanaro, 14 - Roma
Tel. 06852541

Switzerland

Via Orsini, 61 - Roma
Tel. 06809571

Turkey

Via Palestro, 26
Roma

Tel. 064441537

Ukraine

Via Palestro, 30
Roma

Tel. 0644700172

USA

Via Vittorio Veneto, 119/a
Roma - Tel. 0646741

Yugoslavia

Via dei Monti Parioli, 20
Roma - Tel. 063200805

AIRPORTS



Italy has domestic and international air links. For detailed information of routes and timetables contact the individual airports of departure and/or arrival.

- **ROMA**
Aeroporto Civile Roma-Ciampino - Tel. 06794941
Aeroporto Civile L. da Vinci Roma-Fiumicino - Tel. 0665851
- **ALGERO**
Aeroporto Civile Alghero-Fertilia - Tel. 079935282
- **ANCONA**
Aeroporto Ancona-Falconara - Tel. 07128271
- **BARI**
Aeroporto Civile Bari-Palese - Tel. 0805835200
- **BERGAMO**
Aeroporto Civile Bergamo-Orio al Serio - Tel. 03526111
- **BOLOGNA**
Aeroporto Civile Bologna-Borgo Panigale - Tel. 0513140499
- **BRINDISI**
Aeroporto Brindisi-Casale - Tel. 08314117208
- **CAGLIARI**
Aeroporto Civile Cagliari-Elmas - Tel. 070212076
- **CATANIA**
Aeroporto Civile Catania-Fontanarossa - Tel. 0957239111
- **FLORENCE**
Aeroporto Civile Firenze-Peretola Internazionale A. Vespucci - Tel. 05530615
- **GENOVA**
Aeroporto Civile Genova-Sestri - Tel. 01060151
- **LAMEZIA TERME**
Aeroporto Civile Lamezia Terme - Tel. 0968414111
- **LAMPEDUSA**
Aeroporto di Lampedusa - Tel. 0922970006
- **MILAN**
Aeroporto Intercontinentale Malpensa-Varese - Tel. 0274852200
Aeroporto Civile Internazionale Milano-Linate - Tel. 0274852200
- **NAPLES**
Aeroporto Civile Napoli-Capodichino - Tel. 0817805697
- **OLBIA**
Aeroporto Civile Olbia - Tel. 0789583400
- **PALERMO**
Aeroporto Civile Falcone-Borsellino - Tel. 0917020111
- **PANTELLERIA**
Aeroporto Pantelleria - Tel. 0923911398
- **PARMA**
Aeroporto Parma - Tel. 0521982626
- **PERUGIA**
Aeroporto Perugia - Tel. 075592141
- **PESCARA**
Aeroporto d'Abruzzo - Tel. 0854324200
- **PISA**
Aeroporto Civile Galileo Galilei Pisa - San Giusto - Tel. 05044325
- **RIMINI**
Aeroporto Rimini-Miramare - Tel. 0541715711
- **REGGIO DI CALABRIA**
Aeroporto Civile Reggio di Calabria - Tel. 0965643291
- **TURIN**
Aeroporto Civile Torino-Caselle - Tel. 0115676361
- **TRAPANI**
Aeroporto Trapani-Birgi - Tel. 0923841130
- **TREVISI**
Aeroporto Treviso-S. Giuseppe - Tel. 0422315111
- **TRIESTE**
Aeroporto Civile Trieste-Ronchi dei Legionari - Tel. 0481777085
- **VENEZIA**
Aeroporto Civile Venezia-Tessera - Marco Polo - Tel. 0412609260
- **VERONA**
Aeroporto Civile Verona-Villafranca - Tel. 0458095668

Principal airlines:

- **AEROFLOT** - reservations Tel. 064203851
- **ALITALIA** - reservations and info: Domestic flights Tel. 848865641 International flights Tel. 848865642 www.alitalia.it
- **AIR CHINA** - reservations and info: Tel. 028051686
- **AIR FRANCE** - reservations and info: Tel. 848884466 www.airfrance.fr
- **AIR ONE** - reservations and info: Tel. 800900966-0648880066 www.flyairone.it
- **AMERICAN AIRLINES** - reservations and info: Tel. 0665958081 www.americanairlines.com
- **BRITISH AIRWAYS** - reservations and info: Tel. 199712266 www.britishairways.com
- **BRUSSELS AIRLINES** - Tel. 0289682364

- **CANADIAN** - reservations and info: Tel. 066591300 www.aircanada.ca
- **CATHAY PACIFIC** - info: Tel. 0272021709 www.cathaypacific.com
- **CONTINENTAL AIRLINES** - reservations and info: Tel. 0269633256
- **DELTA AIRLINES** - reservations and info: Tel. 800477999
- **FINNAIR** - info: Tel. 840054747 www.finnair.com
- **IBERIA** - reservations and info: Tel. 848870000-www.iberia.com
- **JAPAN AIRLINES** - info: Tel. 0272004680
- **KLM** - Free phone 800877318
- **LUFTHANSA** - reservations and info: Tel. 0665684004 www.lufthansa.com
- **MERIDIANA** - Tel. 199111333
- **SAS** - reservations and info: Tel. 0665010771
- **SWISS** - reservations and info: Tel. 848868120 www.swiss.com
- **UNITED AIRLINES** - reservations and info: Tel. 0269633707 www.ual.com

ROADS AND MOTORWAYS

The road network comprises provincial and state roads and motorways. Provincial and state roads have blue signs bearing white lettering, the motorways green signs bearing white lettering and numbers. The backbone of the motorway system is the Autostrada del Sole; off this branch the Padano-Veneto motorway, the coastal and transversal motorways and those to the Alpine passes. The main motorways are: A1 Milano-Napoli; A3 Napoli-Reggio di Calabria; A4 Torino-Trieste; A14 Bologna-Ancona-Taranto; A21 Torino-Piacenza-Brescia; A22 Brennero-Modena. For traffic info telephone CIS Viaggiare Informati al no 1518 active 24 hours a day. The use of seat belts is compulsory in Italy on front and rear seats and safety seats for children aged between 3 and 12. Crash helmets are compulsory on two-wheeled vehicles. When travel-

ling on the motorway, head lights must be switched on at all times.

Motorway tolls

Payments can be made at tollgates by passing through exits that accept non-cash payments. The most convenient solution is a Viacard (bought from toll gates, Posto Eln stations along the motorways, Autogrill and tobacconists; it is used at automatic gates bearing the logo). Alternatively credit cards (American Express, Visa, Eurocard-Mastercard, Diners, Carta Aura) or Bancomat cards (bearing the Fastpay) can be used but only at automatic Viacard exits.

Those equipped for this can use the electronic Telepass payment system, but only through exits bearing the logo .

SIGNS AND SPEED LIMITS



Blue signs: compulsory



Triangular road signs with red edging: danger



Round road signs with red edging: prohibition



Yellow road signs: right of way



Triangular road sign with red edging: yield way

SPEED LIMITS:

Many roads have electronic speed check devices



in urban centres



on the extra urban road network



on dual carriageways



on all the motorways



on the ring roads of some major cities



For caravans and trailers: on the extra urban road network



on all the motorways

MARITIME LINKS

The islands are linked with ferry and hydroplane services. The main ports in Sicily, Sardinia, the Tuscan and Campania archipelagos the Eolie Islands, Ustica, the Egadi islands, the Pelagie islands and Pantelleria are linked to Genoa, Livorno, Civitavecchia, Naples and Villa San Giovanni. The Ferrovie dello Stato, Tirrenia Navigazioni, Grandi Navi Veloci, Moby Line and Sardinia Ferries operate on these routes. Bookings and ticket purchases can be made at authorised travel agen-

cies. Services, guaranteed all year round, are more frequent in summer. For further ferry information visit: www.traghetti.com. The pre-Alpine lakes (Maggiore, Como, Garda, Iseo) have regular boat services. For more information on lake navigation contact:

Navigazione Laghi
Tel. 024676101
fax 0246761059
Free phone from Italy only 800551801

Maritime navigation companies:

- **Adriatica Navigazione spa**
Tel. 041781611
Fax 041781818
www.adriatica.it
- **Caremar Campania Regionale Marittima spa**
Tel. 0815805111
Fax 0815514551
- **D'Amico Società di Navigazione spa**
Tel. 06845611
Fax 068553943
- **Linee Lauro**
Tel. 0815513352
www.lineelauro.it
- **Moby Lines srl**
Tel. 0272011016
Fax 02865396
- **Saremar Sardegna Regionale Marittima spa**
Tel. 07067901
Fax 070663294
- **Siremar Sicilia Regionale Marittima spa**
Tel. 0917493111
Fax 091582267
- **Toromar Toscana Regionale Marittima spa**
Tel. 0586224511
Fax 0586224624
- **Tirrenia Navigazioni**
Tel. 028023181
Fax 0280231866
- **Sardinia Ferries**
Tel. 019215511
Fax 0192155300
- **Grandi Navi Veloci**
Tel. 0289012281
Fax 0289010184
www.gnv.it

RAILWAYS

Paris, Lyons, Brussels, Baile, Zurich, Munich, Hanover, Berlin, Vienna are some of the European cities with direct train services to Italy. This type of travel is particularly attractive if you are travelling to the north of Italy, where the stations of Turin, Milan, Verona, Venice and Trieste are Eurocity arrival destinations. The Ferrovie dello Stato (State Railways) have modern ETR Eurostar and In-

terCity/EuroCity locomotives and carriages. Local traffic is divided among Inter-Regional, Regional and Local services. As well as railway transport the F.S. also offer Ferry services (to the islands) and Autobus Gran Turismo coaches. For information contact phone no. 892021; for timetables visit the web site: www.trenitalia.com

TICKET PURCHASE AND USE

- First and second class tickets, which are priced differently, can be purchased at railway stations and travel agencies authorised by the Ferrovie dello Stato.
- Tickets must be stamped before getting onto the train, and this can be done using the machines situated in stations.
- The journey must commence no more than 6 hours after stamping.
- EuroCity, InterCity, Eurostar Italia (also known as the "Pendolino") require compulsory booking and

payment of a supplement. Groups of visitors, those over 60 or under 26 and family groups qualify for special concessions. For more information telephone no. 892021.

- Long distance trains have a restaurant

or buffet car and sleeping cars or berths (booking compulsory). Sleeping cars have 1,2,3 berth cabins and communicating double cabins with washbasin with hot and cold water, shaver socket, reading lights,

clothes hangers and other amenities.

- Some Ferrovie dello Stato trains offer a bicycle transport service and, on some routes, special "Treno + Auto" conventions which allow you to take your car with you.

HEALTH

Citizens of European Union states qualify for comprehensive health care on the condition that they are carrying a valid identification document and an E111 form (not compulsory). Citizens of non-European Union states that have agreements with Italy can obtain tem-

porary health care; those from states with no agreement with Italy must take out private insurance. Chemist's shops are usually open Monday to Saturday from 8.30am to 12.30 and from 4-8pm. Some also provide night and Sunday services.

VISITORS WITH DISABILITIES

There are structures for the care and assistance of the disabled all over Italy. Divided by region, these structures - public and private - are specially equipped to provide care and assistance. For a detailed list contact the Tourist Information Offices in the single provinces, or visit the Internet site of the Ministry of Health at: www.ministerosalute.it. For information, contact the Sportello di Informazioni Turistiche per Strutture Accessibili ai Disabili: tel. 067129011 fax 0671290125.

Travel:
by car: the disabled may use a car if they have obtained special licenses. There is facilitated parking in special areas and in areas prohibited to traffic.
by train: F.S. stations offer assistance, guaranteed by special reception centres.
by aeroplane: airlines guarantee assistance both on the ground and during flights. Wheelchair carriage is free.
by ship: some ferries and passenger ships provide access for the disabled. Ask the shipping company.

EMERGENCIES AND USEFUL NUMBERS

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

In Italy, emergency calls can be made from all public and private telephones free of charge. These services are active 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

- **Telephone numbers Directory 12**
- **Police (Carabinieri) 112**
- **Police**
- **Polizia di Stato 113**
- **Fire brigade 115**
- **ACI (Automobile Club d'Italia) 803116**
- **Customs & Excise (Guardia di Finanza) 117**
- **Medical emergency 118**
- **Sea rescue 1530**

ELECTRICITY

Italy has the same voltage as other European countries: 220 volt.
It is however advisable to carry socket

adapters (most Italian sockets have two holes) and American visitors should also carry a transformer.

TIME ZONE AND SUMMER TIME

Italy is in the same time zone as Central Europe.
Summer time (CET + 1 hour) is in force from

the end of March to the end of October, as in nearly all European countries.

VAT AND TAX-FREE SHOPPING

Customs concessions are envisaged for Citizens of non-European Union countries. Products can be purchased exempt of VAT at shops that display the "tax free-shopping" sign. For more detailed information contact the customs

offices in Italy. VAT rates in Italy are currently: 20% on services, drinks, cars, motorcycles, clothing etc.; 10% on mineral water, medicines, facilitated building etc.; 4% on milk, bread etc.

OPENING TIMES

BANKS

Although there is no national rule, transactions can normally be conducted from 8.30am to 1/1.30pm and from 2.30/3pm to 4/5pm Monday to Friday. Some counters are also open on Saturday mornings.

POST OFFICES

- part time: Monday-Friday 8am-2pm; Saturday 9.30am-1pm
- full time: Monday-Friday 8am-7pm; Saturday 9.30am-1pm

MUSEUMS

National museums ought to close one day a week, but for the convenience of visitors they often stay open all day from 9am to

5pm, especially in the high season. In summer this is sometimes extended to 11pm.

SHOPS

More and more shops are staying open through the lunch hour (usually from 9.30/10am to 7.30/8pm Monday to Saturday) especially in large city centres and the main summer resorts, where shops are often open until midnight. In the minor art centres and villages shops usually close between 12.30 and 3/4pm in the north and between 2 and 5pm in the south, especially in summer.

RESTAURANTS

In the north kitchens are,

usually, open from 12 to 3pm. In the south from 12.30 to 3/3.30.

In the evening, in the north this is from 7pm and in the south from 8pm almost until midnight.

In seaside resorts opening times may extend beyond midnight, especially in pizzerias. Take note of the day of closure, which is chosen by the owner and may not apply in the busiest periods.

PETROL STATIONS

In towns from 8am to 1pm and from 2.30 to 7.30pm. Many stations offer self-service 24 hours a day and accept bank notes and credit cards.

On motorways they are open 24 hours a day.

TIPS

These are not compulsory in Italy but are welcome.

CURRENCY AND REGULATIONS

From 1 January 2002 the Euro (€) has officially replaced the Lira as Italy's currency. The importation of Euro or other currency is not subject to restrictions. Exportation from Italy is free up to the sum

of € 10,329.13 or the equivalent in foreign currency. Customs authorisation is required for larger sums. Most shops, restaurants and hotels accept the main credit cards.

Currency:

- Coins:
1 Eurocent, 2 Eurocent, 5 Eurocent, 10 Eurocent, 20 Eurocent, 50 Eurocent, 1 €, 2 €
- Banknotes:
5 €, 10 €, 20 €, 50 €, 100 €, 200 €, 500 €
- Currency exchange:
• 1 Euro is worth \$ 1.25

- 1 Euro is worth £ 0.68

Exchanges:

- Foreign currency and traveller's cheques can be changed at bank counters displaying a Cambio/Change/Wechsel sign, in the main railway stations, at airports and in many hotels and exchanges.

POSTAL SERVICE

Postal services:

- payment of bills
- recorded letters
- telegrams
- telexes
- faxes
- foreign exchange

2.58 €

- registered letter: 5.16 €
- ordinary letter: 0.41 € (this can vary according to weight).
- postcard 0.41 €
- letter sent by standard priority post 0.62 €

Charges:

- ordinary recorded letter:

Stamps can be bought from post offices and tobacconists

Post boxes:

- red: ordinary mail divided into urban and extra-urban post
- red and blue: priority
- blue: international

HOLIDAYS

1 January – New Year

6 January – Epiphany

Easter

Easter Monday

25 April – Liberation

1 May – Labour Day

2 June – Republic's Day

15 August – Assumption

1 November – All Saints

8 December – Immaculate Conception

25/26 December – Christmas and Boxing Day

MEASUREMENTS

UNITS OF MEASUREMENT AND CONVERSION TABLE

WEIGHT		LENGTH		LIQUID CAPACITY	
For precious objects and pharmaceutical products:		1 British inch	2.54 cm	1 pint (UK)	0.5680
1 pound		1 British foot	30.48 cm	1 pint (USA)	0.4731
1 ounce		1 yard (3 feet)	91.4399 cm	1 gallon (UK)	4.546092 l
For goods and foodstuffs:		1 fathom (2 yards)	1.8288 m	1 gallon (USA)	3.785412 l
1 grain		1 land mile	1609.344 m		
1 pound		1 nautical league	5555.55 m		
1 ounce		1 league	4445 m		
		1 nautical mile	1852 m		

TEMPERATURES

Scale		A			B
Celsius	-10 °C	0 °C	10 °C	20 °C	100 °C
Fahrenheit	14 °F	32 °F	50 °F	68 °F	212 °F

A = ice melts

B = water boils — Italy uses the Celsius scale.

SIZES

Men's clothing				Ladies' clothing				Men's footwear				Ladies' footwear			
I	F	GB	USA	I	F	GB	USA	I	F	GB	USA	I	F	GB	USA
46	38	36	36	40	36	8	6	38	39	4.5	6.5	35	36	3	5
48	40	38	38	42	38	10	8	39	40	5.5	7	36	37	3.5	5.5
50	42	40	40	44	40	12	10	40	41	6.5	7.5	37	38	4	6
52	44	42	42	46	42	14	12	41	42	7.5	8	38	39	5	6.5
54	46	44	44	48	44	16	14	42	43	8.5	8.5	39	40	6	7
56	48	46	46	50	46	18	16	43	44	9.5	9	40	41	6.5	7.5

TELEPHONES

CALLS TO AND FROM ITALY

To make international calls from Italy dial the international code of the country desired, followed by the area code (if any) and the telephone number. To call Italy from abroad from a fixed telephone

dial the international code 0039, followed by the area code including the initial zero and the telephone number; for mobile phones dial 0039 followed by the telephone number minus the initial zero.

Public telephones:

In many public places (bars, restaurants, stations, airports etc.) you will find coin-operated (1 €, 2 €) and phone card-operated (2,50 €, 5 €, 7,50 €)

to call abroad New Columbus 12,91 €, telephones; cards can be purchased from news stands, bars and tobacconists. New phone-cards in Euros will be available in 2002. Calls to

emergency numbers are free. The charges applied to all the conversations from public telephones are calculated by units; each unit costs 0,10 cent. €.

Mobile phones:

Mobile phone owners should know that the GSM system covers the entire nation and charges depend on the international roaming agreement between their national contractor and the Italian counterpart. Those coming from the United States must carry a phone for European frequencies, until now incompatible with overseas ones.

Telegrams to Italy and abroad:

Dial 186 from a fixed telephone. The service operates all over Italy every day (weekdays and holidays included) 24 hours a day.

Operator calls:

The 170 service allows you to book and make an international call (reversed charge included) with the as-

sistance (also in English) of an operator.

The 412 service provides, in Italian and English, information on: foreign directory telephone numbers, international dialling codes, time zones.

The service is provided every day holidays included, 24 hours a day.

The 412 service offers on-line translations and reverse charge calls.

DISTANCES BETWEEN THE MAJOR ITALIAN AND EUROPEAN CITIES

	Amsterdam	Athens	Brussels	Berlin	Rome	Brussels	Budapest	Dublin	Helsinki	Köbenhavn	Lisboa	London	Moscow	Oslo	Paris	Prague	Warsaw	Stockholm	Venice	Zagreb
Ancona	1958	1751	754	1258	733	1238	1015	2225	3086	1819	2578	1335	1787	2180	1218	975	1537	2452	1919	307
Aosta	1888	1713	1101	1148	139	1898	1587	2518	1475	1002	957	1348	1821	2288	1857	1590	1731	2878	2064	1384
Bari	1962	873	833	1884	1884	1780	1461	2687	3149	2320	2871	2054	2340	2859	1857	1590	1731	2878	2064	1384
Bologna	1291	1364	958	1133	513	1119	815	2071	2887	1559	2188	1953	1574	1891	1005	839	1230	2078	1237	857
Brescia	1275	1013	876	838	818	917	822	1844	2737	1314	2280	1204	1887	1721	833	980	1217	1854	1100	523
Cagliari	1881	1384	1004	1889	1001	1829	1461	2781	3149	2321	2281	1758	1287	1802	1819	1590	1731	2878	2064	1384
Campobasso	1819	1001	1078	1681	1887	1688	1326	2546	3407	2127	2641	1883	2144	2429	1515	1273	1891	2705	1922	1240
Catania	2219	1013	158	2538	1488	2075	1732	2973	3853	2554	2898	1237	2128	2819	1524	1082	1521	2182	2184	1187
Firenze	1379	1536	1048	1221	621	1207	895	2109	2885	1887	2148	1447	1587	2025	1007	835	1237	2182	1423	777
Genova	1214	1024	1102	1158	434	1242	1038	1945	3056	1554	1956	1344	1334	1857	870	821	1252	2138	1527	887
L'Aquila	1705	1221	884	2547	917	1531	1231	2431	3152	2813	2534	1761	2231	2788	1418	1188	1712	2523	1833	1140
Milano	1618	1573	1019	1023	335	907	836	1865	2920	1418	2828	1148	1434	1931	186	788	1268	1969	1590	774
Napoli	1860	1013	838	1703	1882	1688	1385	2546	3407	2127	2641	1883	2144	2429	1515	1273	1891	2705	1922	1240
Palermo	2562	1293	1314	2428	1368	2394	2091	3242	4178	2875	2488	1895	2817	3401	1581	1071	1497	2482	2371	1215
Perugia	1539	1611	929	1373	792	1388	1058	2257	3137	1838	2102	1587	1933	2212	1234	1017	1512	2285	1515	888
Potenza	1955	815	713	1797	1126	1783	1481	2881	3542	2263	2888	1895	2142	2615	1640	1405	1818	2872	2057	1325
Roma	1035	1291	1324	1887	871	1488	1181	2589	3243	1862	2540	1214	2348	2317	1295	1172	1258	2424	1825	814
Torino	1144	1630	1152	1144	315	913	1048	1707	3045	1520	1883	1083	1298	1891	713	921	1540	2007	1587	774
Trento	1038	2158	914	912	515	1001	881	1888	2791	1376	2231	1254	1834	1715	807	848	1238	1967	1293	888
Trieste	1240	1435	611	1000	704	1184	531	1071	2623	1909	2267	1411	1825	1875	1185	839	1821	1842	1891	431
Venezia	1242	1434	762	1026	541	1167	888	2005	2750	1541	2237	1218	1836	1891	1031	793	1821	1891	1201	540

SICILY

Region	Towns	ON THE MAP	SEA	ADJUTANT ON THE L	RIVERS	LAKES	PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS	CITIES	SPAS	RESTAURANTS	TOWERS AND CASTLES	CHURCHES AND MONUMENTS	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES
SICILY	Aci Castello (CT)	E2	•			•				•	•		
	Acirezza (CT)	E1	•					•	•	•	•		
	Agrigento (AG)	E2							•	•	•	•	
	Bagheria (PA)	C1	•						•	•	•	•	
	Buccheri (SR)	E3	•						•	•	•	•	
	Castagrona (CT)	E2	•						•	•	•	•	
	Castelluzzo (CL)	D2	•						•	•	•	•	
	Costa Smeralda (TP)	D1	•			•		•		•	•	•	
	Castelvetrano (TP)	D2							•	•	•	•	
	Catania (CT)	E2	•						•	•	•	•	
	Cefalù (PA)	D1	•						•	•	•	•	
	Enna (EN)	D2	•	•	•				•	•	•	•	
	Erice (TP)	D1	•	•					•	•	•	•	
	Gela (CL)	D3	•		•	•			•	•	•	•	
	Gibellina (TP)	D2								•	•	•	
	Giardini-Naxos (ME)	F2	•	•					•			•	
	Isole Egadi (TP)	A1	•				•					•	
	Isole Pelagie (AG)	D3	•			•	•						
	Isola (RG)	E3		•			•			•	•	•	
	Lentini (SR)	E2						•	•	•	•	•	
	Lipari (ME)	E1	•						•	•	•	•	
	Marsala (TP)	D2	•						•	•	•	•	
	Mazara del Vallo (TP)	D2	•	•					•	•	•	•	
	Messina (ME)	F1	•						•	•	•	•	
	Milazzo (ME)	F1	•							•	•	•	

Region	Towns	ON THE MAP	SEA	ADJUTANT ON THE L	RIVERS	LAKES	PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS	CITIES	SPAS	RESTAURANTS	TOWERS AND CASTLES	CHURCHES AND MONUMENTS	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES
SICILY	Militello Val di Catania (CT)	E2								•	•		
	Modica (RG)	E3			•			•		•	•	•	
	Moerale (PA)	C1								•	•	•	
	Monte (TP)	B2								•	•	•	
	Mussomeli (CL)	C2								•	•	•	
	Naro (AG)	C2								•	•	•	
	Noto (SR)	E3								•	•	•	
	Palazzolo Acreide (SR)	E3								•	•	•	
	Palermo (PA)	C1					•			•	•	•	
	Panarea (ME)	E1						•					
	Pantelleria (TP)	A3											
	Petralia Soprana (PA)	D2								•	•	•	
	Piazza Armerina (EN)	D1								•	•	•	
	Ragusa (RG)	E3								•	•	•	
	Randazzo (CT)	E2								•	•	•	
	Salina (ME)	E1					•						
	Sclacca (AG)	B2											
	Segesta (TP)	B2											
	Solinata (TP)	D2								•	•	•	
	Siracusa (SR)	F3						•	•	•	•	•	
	Siracusa (ME)	F1						•		•	•	•	
	Taormina (ME)	F2							•	•	•	•	
	Tindari (ME)	E1							•	•	•	•	
	Trapani (TP)	B1								•	•	•	
	Vulcano (ME)	E1						•	•				



SICILIA
Tutta lì realtà è in ombra.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Sicily

Sicily starts where the sea ends, or, in other words, is the island where the Italian Apennines end, after the interruption provided by the Strait of Messina, with the Nebrodi and then the gentler Madonie mountains. The Sicilian Apennine is surrounded by a hilly landscape and by some extremely fertile plains, possibly to balance the asperity and grandeur of Mt. Etna. This huge mountain, with a shape and altitude constantly changing as a result of eruptions, appears as an enormous cone which slopes covered by a luxuriant vegetation: chestnut woods, citrus orchards, olive groves, vineyards and fruit orchards. As you walk up towards the mountaintop, you will discover the dark lavas creating fantastic landscapes against the background of the blue sky. The peak is covered in snow for most part of the year, and the contrast between the whiteness of the snow, the smoke coming out of the dark craters and the green vegetation growing below does not cease to amaze the visitor, as you get the feeling you are being granted an overall view of all the seasons of the year at the same time.

From the cliffy and rocky northern coasts, to the low and chiefly sandy southern shores, Sicily's perimeter appears frag-

mented by broad gulfs, and immersed into a beautifully clear sea. From ancient times, the clearness of the sky, the brightness of the sunlight and the mildness of the weather lead to the myth of Sicily being the paradise of the Mediterranean Sea. The hinterland displays striking chromatic contrasts, especially during the warmer months, when the deep green of citrus orchards and mountain woods stands out against the relentlessly white and ochre background of the fields and pasturelands burnt by the sun. It was named Triquetra Tellus in Latin, possibly because of its three coastlines, including almost two thousand kilometres of coast, which are so different from each other that they seem to belong to three different continents. There is no doubt as to the fact that it is an island, although it never detached itself from the Italian continent. And we are sorry for Dante and Virgil. It was always an island closer to Africa than to Europe, which it tried to get increasingly closer to. However, it never succeeded in this effort, as this was the will of the Gods. But the funniest thing is that the inhabitants of the many islands surrounding Sicily continue to view it as the "dry land". These are extraordinary islands, bearing fascinating

names: the Aeolian, Aegades and Pelagic Islands. They resemble a handful of diamonds unintentionally thrown into the green, pale and dark blue; these colours are so rich that they do not seem real, but rather recall theatre backdrops. And then we have three volcanoes permanently "on duty": Etna, Stromboli and Vulcano, plus a few others that throw a tantrum every so often. They are situated under the sea surface and make their presence felt with earthquakes. This is what occasionally happens with the Ferdinandea Island, which appears and disappears off Sciacca.

The idea that Sicily was an extraordinary island, full of mysteries, was already known to the ancients, who used it as a "setting" for mythological events. Ephesus and the Cyclopes lived on Mt Etna, Scilla and Cariddi, facing each other, were situated slightly further on. Aeolus, King of Winds, had settled in the Aeolian Islands, one of the Sibyls resided in a cave near Marsala, Venus Ericina had selected the cool highlands around Trapani, and even Hercules laboured a lot there, going backwards and forwards between robbers of sacred calves and fleeting love stories.

When young Maupassant reached Sicily, he was stunned. Of course he was one of those who fell in love with Aphrodite in Syracuse, but he was also amazed by the Macalube mud volcanoes, set like a circle of Hell in the Valle dei Platani behind Agri-

gento. Many before him had got lost in a dream, in ecstasies for Dionysian rituals or maybe fascinated by murmurs and songs rising from the Demeter Shrine in Agrigento. We should keep in mind that this is the place where myths were born. These are stories and legends among the most beautiful and fanciful within worldwide literature. The myths relate to prehistory, to legends created by people's imagination, and are associated with the sea, volcanoes, winds These were also stories that the ancient Elymi, Siculi or Sicans used to tell the seamen in transit, possibly while sharing a glass of wine. Poets from time immemorial, their stories produced The Odyssey, the adventures of astute Ulysses, who got to hear the sweet siren song, experience Circe's spells and meet sweet Nausicaa...

Later on King Arthur arrived, in bad condition after the clash with his relative Mordred, King of the Saxons.

The famous Excalibur had broken and the king needed to recover. It was Archangel Michael who enabled him to fly to Sicily, as only the fire of Mt. Etna would weld this magic sword. The sea waters lapping against the volcano's slopes proved a panacea for his wounds.

Then the Archangel himself bought him back to the misty northern countries. Could that have been the first charter flight to and from the island?

Welcome to Sicily.

THE TERRITORY

The Coasts

The long coastal perimeter of Sicily (1039 km, which become 1500 when including the Minor Islands) displays different aspects. To the east, the coastline is high and steep in its northern part up to the Catania plain and then, proceeding towards Siracusa, it becomes discontinuous with the wide opening of the Augusta gulf; proceeding southwards, the coast is low and sandy. The northern coastline is generally high and indented, interrupted here and there by sandy beaches: it is characterized by the long Milazzo headland stretching towards the Aeolian Islands, and by the two wide gulfs of Palermo and Castellammare del Golfo. The western and southern coastlines are mostly low and sandy, with rare inlets and sporadic coastal rises. Between Trapani and Marsala, the particularly shallow water near the shore makes the coast suitable for saltworks.

The Minor Islands

Some small archipelagos surround Sicily: they boast great beauty and exclusive features, which make them popular tourist resorts. To the north of Milazzo, the archipelago of the Aeolian or Lipari Islands, which has a volcanic origin, includes seven major islands (Vulcano, Lipari, Salina, Panarea, Filicudi, Alicudi and Stromboli) and a great number of rocks. To the west of Trapani are the Aegades Islands (Levanzo, Favignana and Marettimo), originated by the fragmentation, in ancient geological eras, of the western end of Sicily. Pantelleria, which also has a volcanic origin, is located to the south, at about 80 km from the coast of Sicily, while in the open sea is the small archipelago of the Pelagie Islands, which includes the bare, calcareous island of Lampedusa, the fertile island of Linosa and the large Lampione rock. Because of their constitution and position, the Pelagie Islands geographically belong to Africa.

Hills, Mountains and Volcanoes

Although it is dominated by the Etna massif and

is closed to the north by the three mountain chains of Peloritani, Nebrodi and Madonie, Sicily is a hilly land, with few woods, where wheat is mostly grown.

The presence of mountains, although only partially covered with woods, softens the climate, by reducing its dryness more than one would expect in view of the latitude of the island. A line of low mountain ranges, which do not exceed 1000 m, in altitude, diagonally crosses Sicily; this is made up by two mountain groups: the calcareous Erei and Iblei Mountains, which are dry and rather bare. The major rise on the island is Mount Etna, an active volcano since antiquity. The most memorable eruption dates back to 1669, which lasted four months and caused the lava flow to reach Catania and eventually the sea.

The Stromboli volcano is also active, whereas the one on Vulcano, which is currently in a dormant phase, is regarded dangerous because it could resume activity without a suitable forewarning.

The Climate

Thanks to over 2000 sunny hours a year, Sicily holds the European record for luminosity. Consequently, the climate is generally mild during the winter and torrid in the summer. Although temperatures are generally moderate, during the winter, from November to February, some areas of the island can display a cold and rainy climate. This happens more frequently in the hinterland, owing to the wider temperature range between day and night and between summer and winter. Fog makes its appearance in some hilly areas of the Catania, Ragusa and Enna provinces. Rainfall is scarce, close to dryness, from April to September, whereas it reaches its highest peak in December, January and February. During the cold months, abundant snowfalls on the Madonie and Nebrodi rises, as well as on Mount Etna, allow the practice of winter sports.

GENERAL INFORMATION

PROVINCE DATA*

	PALERMO	AGRIGENTO	CATANISSETTA	CATANIA	ENNA	MESSINA	LAGUSA	SIRACUSA	TRAPANI	SICILY
Province abbreviation	PA	AG	CL	CT	EN	ME	RG	SR	TP	
Number of towns per province	82	43	32	58	28	108	12	21	34	388
Area of province territories	4.092	3.042	2.128	3.552	2.582	3.248	1.814	2.109	2.001	25.708
Total population per province	1.198.644	441.660	272.402	1.040.547	177.291	641.753	292.000	391.516	410.391	4.868.202
Population density per province	290	145	128	293	68	198	161	186	167	189

*Source of data: 2003 De Agostini Atlas Calendar

REGION DATA (2001)*

CLIMATOLOGIE		ARRIVÉES ET PRÉSENCES TOURISTIQUES	
Température moyenne annuelle	22 °C	Arrivées de clients italiens	2.458.808
Température en janvier	25,5 °C	Présences de clients italiens	8.221.676
Température en juillet	11,8 °C	Arrivées de clients étrangers	1.501.408
Précipitations moyennes annuelles	433 mm	Présences de clients étrangers	5.187.918
Jours de pluie	120	Total des arrivées	3.958.202
Humidité relative moyenne	-	Total des présences	13.409.594

*Source of data: 2003 De Agostini Atlas Calendar

PATRON SAINTS

Agrigento: St. Gerlando, 25 February; Catanzetta: St. Michael the Archangel, 29 September; Catania: St. Agata, 5 February; Enna: Santa Maria della Visitazione (St. Mary of the Visitation), 2 July; Messina: Madonna della Lettera, 3 June; Palermo: St. Rosalia, 15 July and 4 September; Ragusa: St. John the Baptist, 29 August; Siracusa: St. Lucy, 13 December; Trapani: Our Lady of the Assumption, 15 August

REGIONAL ACCESS ROUTES

By Car: Sicily can be reached by car by driving along the Salerno-Reggio Calabria motorway up to the exit for Villa San Giovanni, and then having one's vehicle ferried across to Messina. The crossing takes between 30 and 45 minutes. The Sicilian motorway network includes the following motorways: A20 Messina-Palermo, A18 Messina-Catania, A19 Catania-Palermo and A29 Palermo-Mazara del Vallo/Trapani.

By Train: There are trains for Palermo, Catania, Messina and Syracuse leaving from Milan, Turin, Rome, Venice and Bologna. For information, please contact Trenitalia (toll-free number 892021, www.trenitalia.com). We recommend trying the Ferrovia Circumetnea (the railway circling Mt. Etna), where an old

steam engine carries visitors around Mt. Etna, from Catania to Riposto (tel. no.: +39 095541111-095541250, www.circumetnea.it). The train named Trinacria Express runs every day from 5:00 a.m. to midnight, connecting Palermo's Central Railway Station to Falcone Borsellino Airport.

By Plane: Sicily has two airports for national and international transportation: Falcone Borsellino Airport in Palermo (toll-free number 0917020111 and 800541880, www.gesap.it) and Fontanarossa Airport in Catania (tel. no.: +39 0957239111, www.cormorano.net/aeroporto.catania). Vincenzo Florio Airport of Trapani-Birgi (tel. no.: +39 0923842502, www.airgest.com), Pantelleria Airport

(tel. no.: +39 0923911398, www.pantelleriaairport.it) and Lampedusa Airport (tel. no.: +39 0922971548) are on the other hand designed for national traffic only.

By Boat: The Aegean Islands can be reached by means of the services offered by Siremar from Marsala and by Siremar and Ustica Lines from Trapani. The Aeolian Islands can be reached by means of the services offered by Snav from Messina and Palermo and by Siremar, Snav and Ngi from Milazzo. Siremar also connects Palermo and Trapani to Ustica, as well as Trapani and Mazara del Vallo to Pantelleria. Lastly, Linosa and Lampedusa, are connected to Porto Empedocle by Siremar and Ustica Lines.

WATER TRANSPORTATION

HARBOUR OFFICES

Palermo
Via F. Crispi, 153 - Tel. no.: +39 0916043111
palermo@guardiacostiera.it

Siracusa
Piazzale IV Novembre, 8 - Tel. no.: +39 0931481011
siracusa@guardiacostiera.it

Trapani
Via Torrearsa - Tel. no.: +39 0923543911
trapani@guardiacostiera.it

Messina
Via Garibaldi, 245 - Tel. no.:

+39 09045830
messina@guardiacostiera.it

Lipari (ME)
Via Vittorio Emanuele, 7
Complesso Il Mulino
Tel. no.: +39 0909880819
lipari@guardiacostiera.it

Gela (CL)
Viale Federico II di Svevia, 156
Tel. no.: +39 0933917755
gela@guardiacostiera.it

Marsala (TP)
Via Piemonte Lombardo, 38
Tel. no.: +39 0923951184

marsala@guardiacostiera.it

CHIEF SHIPPING LINES

SIREMAR
Tel. no.: +39 199123199
www.gruppottirrenia.it/siremar

USTICA LINES
Tel. no.: +39 092322200 (Trapani)
Tel. no.: +39 0922636110 (Porto Empedocle)
www.usticalines.it

SNAV
Tel. no.: +39 0916317900

(Palermo)
Tel. no.: +39 0909249199

(Milazzo) - www.snav.it
NGI

Tel. no.: +39 0909284091
www.cormorano.net/ngi

LOCAL AND EXTRA-URBAN PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Palermo
AMAT - Via Roccuzzo
Tel. no.: +39 0917291111
www.amat.pa.it
A.S.T. - Via Caduti senza Croce
Tel. no.: +39 0916208111

Agrigento
TUA - Viale Emporium - Tel. no.: +39 0922412024
www.saistrasporti.it
A.T.A. - Via XXV Aprile
Tel. no.: +39 0922401360

Caltanissetta
SCAT - Via S. Giuliano
Tel. no.: +39 0934581711
ASTRA - Contrada Grotticella - Tel. no.: +39 093421613

Catania
AMT - Via del Plebiscito, 747 - Tel. no.: +39 0957360111
C.L.T.A. - Via Adolfo Bartoli - Tel. no.: +39 095354857

Messina
ATM - Via La Farina, 336 - Tel.

no.: +39 090228511

JONICA TRASPORTI E TURISMO S.r.l.
Via I Settembre - 090771400

Ragusa
AST - Via Sorda Sampieri
Tel. no.: +39 0932681818

Siracusa
AST - Strada Provinciale, 14
Tel. no.: +39 0931462711

Trapani
AST - Via Virgilio Tel. no.: +39 092321021

TAXI

PALERMO
Tel. no.: +39 091513311

AGRIGENTO
Tel. no.: +39 092226670

SIRACUSA
Tel. no.: +39 0931757557

CATANIA
Tel. no.: +39 0957150515

TRAPANI
Tel. no.: +39 092324324

RAGUSA
Tel. no.: +39 0932655449

MESSINA
Tel. no.: +39 0906505111

CALTANISSETTA
Tel. no.: +39 093426893

ENNA
Tel. no.: +39 0935530525

CAR RENTAL

It is possible to hire cars from Palermo and Catania airports, where you will find, among other companies, Avis, Hertz, Europcar, Maggiore and Sicily by car. Car rental agencies are also available in all the major towns in Sicily.

Palermo
AVIS - Tel. no.: +39 091591684 (Falcone Borsellino Airport)

www.avisautonoleggio.it

Agrigento
AVIS - Tel. no.: +39 092226353
www.avisautonoleggio.it

Caltanissetta
AVIS - Tel. no.: +39 0934592400
www.avisautonoleggio.it

Catania
EUROPCAR - Tel. no.: +39 095348125 (Fontanarossa

Airport) - www.europcar.it

Messina
EUROPCAR - Tel. no.: +39 090661365 - www.europcar.it

Ragusa
EUROPCAR - Tel. no.: +39 0932228678
www.europcar.it

Trapani
EUROPCAR - Tel. no.: +39 091591688 (Trapani-Birgi Airport) - www.europcar.it

ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES

Sicily boasts a broad and well-organised hotel structure, made up of modern and efficient facilities; however, July and August are extremely busy periods in the chief seaside resorts and it is advisable to book well in advance.

Information Centre: www.regione.sicilia.it/turismo - Tel. no.: +39 0916968201
U.R.P.: Tel. no.: +39 0916968100
URAS: Tel. no.: +39 09158631, Fax no.: +39 0916110754 - e-mail: uraspa@libero.it

Hotels

Hotels are graded according to a certain number of stars, ranging from one- to five-star hotels. Some five-star hotels have the additional denomination "lusso" ("de luxe"). Rates are freely set, but hoteliers are compelled to notify their rates every six months. A notice board is to be displayed in the reception lounge, listing room number, bed space and rates. In each room, a notice displaying prices must be available. Four- and five-star hotels have staff speaking and mastering at least two languages. All hotel facilities are to guarantee reception and porter's services for at least 12 hours a day. All three-, four- and five-star hotels are provided with telephone sets for outgoing calls (two-star hotels are to provide rooms with telephone sets, even if they are not enabled for outgoing calls). The bar service is active for 8 hours a day in two-star facilities, for 12 hours in three-star facilities, and for 16 hours in four- and five-star hotels. Four- and five-star hotels are provided with breakfast areas, whereas in other hotels breakfast may be served in common areas (the availability of room service subject to additional charge is compulsory in facilities from 3 stars up-

wards). In all hotel facilities from 2 stars upwards, the rooms are provided with private bathrooms with alarm and attendant-calling service. Room cleaning is guaranteed once a day in all hotels; for three-, four- and five-star hotels, an afternoon tidying-up service is also provided. Linen change is carried out daily in four- and five-star facilities, three times a week in three-star hotels, twice a week in two-star facilities and at least once a week for the one-star category. The heating system is compulsory in all hotels, and in five-star hotels an air-conditioning system is also compulsory. All four- and five-star facilities must be provided with a lift, and the same obligation exists for two- and three-star hotels which have more than two floors. New hotels will have to comply with the architectural barrier-related provisions.

Camping Sites

Camping sites are graded according to a certain number of stars, depending on services available. Prices are freely set by owners. Free areas represent not less than 10% (15% for four-star camping sites) of the overall camping site surface. Four-star camping sites are to provide shaded areas equal to 100% of their surface, three-star facilities are to guarantee shaded areas equal to 70% of their surface, and two- and one- star sites shaded areas amounting to not less than 50% of their overall surface. The clear-spaces are to guarantee parking areas for caravans equal to not less than 250 m² in one- and two-star camping sites and not less than 60 m² in the three- and four-star facilities. Camper-vans must have an area of at least 30 m² available, whereas for tents offering bed space to up to 4 people the

area must not be less than 10 m². Each area is provided with a power socket and those designed for camper-vans also have a water intake and a sewerage outlet. Living units with separate living rooms and bedrooms offer hot and cold running water and bathrooms. The supply of drinking water is ensured for washbasins, dish-washbasins and showers. Rubbish collection is guaranteed at least once a day. Each camping site has a bar and at least one shop; camping sites from two-stars upwards guarantee a snack-bar service and self-service restaurant.

Holiday Farms

The farm holiday service offers lodging in rooms (with private or shared bathrooms) or in independent apartments, provided with bathrooms, equipped kitchens, bed and bathroom linen, medical kit and telephone set.

The service also guarantees the availability of meals and drinks made up by two thirds by local produce, as well as the organisation of entertainment activities.

www.turismoverde.it

Tel. no.: +39 091308151

Youth Hostels

These are accommodation facilities designed for young people and group at-

tendants.

Information Centre:
Associazione Italiana Alberghi per la Gioventù (Italian Youth Hostel Association)

www.ostellionline.org

Tel. no.: +39 064871152

Holiday Houses

These are accommodation facilities are managed by public bodies or non-profit associations.

Lodging Houses

These are facilities managed by private citizens who make their own home or part of it available for periods of not less than 7 days and for a maximum number of 12 people.

It is compulsory to provide at least one bathroom every three rooms, as well as a heating system and power supply.

Bed and Breakfast

Bed and Breakfast facilities are widespread in Sicily.

This service includes the offer of lodging and breakfast in one's own private home, when limited bed space is required.

Other Accommodation Facilities

Sicily also offers other accommodation facilities, such as the so-called "Rifugi CAI" for hikers (www.cai.it); for long-term stays, tourist-hotel residences are also available (referred to as "Residence" in Italian), providing independent apartments or rooms, as part of facilities offering hotel services.

Information centre: www.cai.it

Tel. no.: +39 091329407

ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES - SUMMARY DATA

HOTELS	881
CAMPING SITES	102
HOLIDAY FARMS	276
YOUTH HOSTELS	10
LODGING HOUSES	26
OTHER ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES	772

EVENTS

-  Religious events
-  Cultural and folk events
-  Gastronomic events
-  Sporting events
-  Fairs

ACIREALE (CT)

 *Carnival*
This is the best-known and most spectacular event in Sicily, and was already performed in the late 16th century. Together with floats, enormous carts adorned with flowers parade.

AGRIGENTO
February

 *Blooming Almond Tree Festival*
 This festival was first introduced around 1935 in the town of Naro, as a rural feast with the aim of promoting the typical products of Sicily. Later, it was moved to the Valle dei Templi and includes float parades, rallies, footraces and cycle races. One of the events connected to this one is the International Folk Festival, with the

attendance of folk groups coming from all over the world.

July-August

 *Pirandello Week*
Theatrical performances are held in honour of Luigi Pirandello in front of his native house, and the "Kaos" prize is awarded to actors, producers, musicians and writers, whose work has involved the great dramatist.

AIDONE-MORGANTINA (EN)
July-August

 Classic theatrical representations are performed in the Greek theatre of Aidone-Morgantina.

ALCARA (ME)
June

 *Muzzuni Festival*
 The sacred and the profane meet up in the summer solstice. The feast of St. John

the Baptist during the summer solstice, astronomically opposed to the birth of Jesus (Christmas represents the rising sun, whereas St. John represents the sunset) is based on ancestral rites and traditions. The Muzzuni is a jug collecting buds of life.

BRONTE (CT)
September

 *Pistachio Festival*
 During the pistachio harvest, guided visits to the commercial farms are organised with the purpose of showing the fruit growing sites and allowing the tasting of freshly picked fruit and of local gastronomic specialities. Exhibitions of typical products from the Etna area are held along the roads of the town, with a special emphasis on pistachio

and its by-products.

BUTERA (CL)

 *Holy Week*
Among the most attractive practices of the Holy Week are the Palm procession, in fancy costumes, and the "Giunta" (meeting) on Easter Sunday, when the statue of the dead Christ meets with the statue of the Holy Mother.

August 15th

 *Feast of San Rocco*
 Celebrations in honour of the patron San Rocco, which include the singular ceremony known as "Sirpintazzu".

CALATAFIMI (TP)
May 1st-3rd

 *Crucifix Feast*
 This feast is held every five years and is characterized by various processions, the main one taking place on May 2. On the first of May, floats with living scenes portraying biblical episodes parade.

CALTAGIRONE (CT)
July 24th-25th

Feast of San Giacomo
On the occasion of this feast, the 142-step long staircase of Santa Maria del Monte, which leads from the lower to the upper part of the town, is lightened up by thousands of multi-coloured candles, which form complex and fascinating traceries.

CALTANISSETTA

 *Holy Week*
The Passion celebrations start on the Wednesday with the original procession of the "Real Maestranza", a parade of 400 walk-ons, and continues with the Thursday procession of the Mysteries and the Friday procession of the Black Christ.

CASTELBUONO (PA)
August 15th

 *"Arruccata di li Ventimiglia"*
This fancy dress performance, which is held on the flat area before the castle, recalls the most significant events in the history of the town.

CASTELTERMINI (AG)
May

 *Feast of the Holy Cross and Tataratà Festival*
 This is one of the most original and sumptuous feasts of Sicily, where the feast of Santa Croce (of the Holy Cross) is combined with the Tataratà festival. During the Tataratà Festival, cadenced by the frantic sound of drums, a group of young people, dressed in white in an Arabian style, stage a duel fought with iron swords. These extremely skilled young people perform a number of spectacular figures, either forming a circle or in pairs, staging what seems a battle and a dance at the same time.

CATANIA
February

 *Feast of Sant'Agata*
 The patron Saint of Catania is celebrated with two solemn processions and the attendance of the most important civil, religious and military city authorities. The

celebrations also include magnificent fireworks and the Sant'Agata International Foot Trophy, where cross champions from all over the world challenge each other along the roads of the old town centre.

October

-  **Mediterranean Cup**
International horse show performed in the Coda Volpe district.

CUSTOMACI (TP) January

-  **Living Crib**
This is one of the most attractive Christmas events in the area, and its peculiarity consists in the fact that it takes place inside the Mangiapane Grotto where, a few years ago, a village was built at Christmas time: this village is animated by scenes recalling the rural-pastoral culture.

ENNA

-  **Holy Week**
Throughout the Holy Week, thousands of hooded monks

parade in town at one-hour intervals. The celebration reaches its climax with the solemn Good Friday procession. On Easter Sunday, the statues of the risen Christ and of the Holy Mother meet in Piazza Duomo.

ERICE (TP)

- July**
 **International Week of Mediaeval and Renaissance Music**
Every summer in the over 60 churches of Erice, Mediaeval and Renaissance music resounds, performed by well-known international artists.

GIBELLINA (TP) July-September

-  **"Orestadi di Gibellina"**
This is a series of classic theatrical representations, which is held every year among the Gibellina remains.

LIPARI, AEOLIAN ISLANDS, (ME)

-  **"Un mare di cinema, Efestò d'oro"**
A film festival with prizes, which brings on the screen the best

production of the year together with the first works produced by movie lovers and students.

MESSINA

August 13th-14th

-  **"Cavalcata dei Giganti"**
The Giants are the protagonists of the feast: two equestrian statues representing the Moor Grifone, a bearded warrior, and Mata, a noble-looking lady, mythical founder of the town.

August 15th

-  **Feast of Our Lady of the Assumption**
During the feast, the "Grande Vara" is carried along the roads of the town. This is an ingenious triumphal cart decorated with movable papier-mâché figures, weighing 8 tons and more than 15 metres high. The towline used to carry it is 60 m long. About one thousand people, coordinated by 50 rowers and steersmen, take part in the heavy pulling. The Vara portrays the

Creator among the angels, holding the Virgin on His palm. All figures are in papier-mâché.

MODICA (RG)

Easter

-  **"Vasa-Vasa"**
Easter is celebrated in Modica by the unfailing appointment with Our Lady of Vasa-Vasa. Corso Umberto is hardly able to contain the crowd of devotees in attendance, from the point in which the road starts up to the church of Santa Maria di Betlem, to watch the traditional kiss, at noon, between Our Lady and the Risen Christ. Before this crucial moment, Our Lady and the Christ, carried by the devotees on their shoulders, look for each other along the main street. Grown-up and children are enchanted when Our Lady, seeing the Risen Christ, spreads out and folds her arms in sign of joy and disbelief, and gets rid of the black mantle to display the classic light-blue mantle.



August

-  **The County Palio**

MONREALE (PA)

November-December

-  **Sacred Music Week**
The event, housed in the magnificent cathedral, is an important reference point for artists and enthusiasts of sacred music.

NOTO (SR)

May

-  **Flower Decorations**
During this attractive event, the main road of Noto is covered with a colourful flower carpet.

PALAZZOLO ACREIDE (SR)

May

-  **International Festival of the Young People's Classical Theatre**
This is an international meeting held in the splendid Greek theatre of Palazzolo Acreide. It provides for the performance of Italian and foreign student groups.

June

-  **Feast of San Paolo**
The celebrations last three days. On the evening of the first

day, a concert of pop music takes place in the Public Garden (a sirata a villa). On the second day (a vigilia) the Saint is unveiled on the high altar of the church dedicated to Him (a sciuta ra cammira). On the third day, possibly the most moving moment, the Saint leaves the church (a sciuta ri manziomu) among pealing of bells, fireworks and the throwing of "nzareddi", carried on the shoulders (a spada nura) of devotees and is followed above all by barefoot women (u viaggiu scausu) who in this way fulfil a vow.

The statue of the Saint is also carried in procession throughout the town in the evening, accompanied by the bands and the devotees. The feast lasts until late at night, with concerts or other shows, and is closed by a grand finale of artistic fireworks.

August 10th

-  **Feast of San Sebastiano**

PALERMO**July**

-  **Santa Rosalia Festival**
Santa Rosalia became the patron Saint of Palermo in the 17th century, after she eradicated the plague that raged in town. The most singular moment of the feast is represented by the procession of the enormous boat-shaped triumphal cart along the roads of the old town centre.

September

-  **International Tennis Championship**
The International Championship, included in the A.T.P. circuit, takes place every year on the outdoor clay-courts of the Palermo Tennis Club.

October

-  **"Coppa degli Assi"**
The International Showjumping Competition and the "Coppa degli Assi", a competition which athletes boasting the best results in the most remarkable international contests

take part in, take place within the setting of the Parco della Favorita.

PERGUSA (EN)
April-October

-  Car and motorcycle races for the Italian championship take place on the racetrack of Pergusa, which is unique in Sicily.

PIAZZA ARMERINA (EN)
July

-  **The Normans' Palio**
 This old mediaeval recollection remembers the successful undertaking of Sicily by the Normans around 1060, when Ruggero d'Altavilla chased away the Saracens and imposed his rule over Sicily. In the tournament taking place among the four districts, the knights challenge each other in a number of dexterity trials, and when the exhibitions come to an end the crowd parades in a solemn procession along the old roads of Piazza Armerina.

RAGUSA

-  **International Organ Festival of Ragusa**
This event provides for the participation of well-known European artists.

December

-  **Baroque Festival**

SAN FRATELLO (ME)
Holy Week

-  **Judaeans' Festival**
This feast, whose origin is unknown, is unique in the whole of Sicily. A great crowd, wearing a peculiar costume, performs an unlikely pandemonium with incidental music. The splendid costume, carefully kept at home, is made up of red muslin blouse and trousers, adorned with yellow and white strips of material. The head is covered by a hood ending in some kind of tail. The characters represent the Judaeans mocking Jesus while He being led to the Calvary.

September

-  **The Tournament**

Among the Nebrodi woods, at San Fratello, every year a spectacular tournament is performed, which is in no way inferior to those of the American Wild West. The trials take place at the end of September, and the protagonists are the best horses of the local breed, which is named "sanfratellana", after the town.

SAN VITO LO CAPO (TP)
September

-  **"Cous Cous Fest"**
Women and men coming from four different continents and sharing a passion for good food, work side by side, in order to prepare the "dish of peace".

SEGESTA (TP)
July-August

-  **Classic Representations**
The Greek theatre, dating back to the 2nd century B.C., is carved into the rock on the peak of Mount Barbaro and during the summer becomes the setting for

theatrical performances. Should the play not be performed at its best, it is easy to be distracted by the background spectacle offered by nature itself, made even more attractive by the caw of the crows and the glimmering lights of the dusk.

SCIACCA (AG)

-  **Carnival**
This feast dates back to the beginning of the 17th century and its most important moment is the float parade, which starts on the Saturday and lasts until the Tuesday, when the cart of the Carnival King is burnt in the square.

SIRACUSA
May-June

-  **Classic Representations**
Ancient dramas are performed in the attractive Greek theatre.

TAORMINA (ME)
June-August

-  The "Taormina Arte" association organises a rich schedule of events in the ancient

theatre.

TERMINI IMERSE (PA)
February

-  **Carnival**
Its origins date back to the 19th century, and it is one of the best-known Sicilian Carnival events. The entire feast centres on two local stock characters: "u Nannu ca' Nanna". It is a pungent satire related to current affairs.

TINDARI (ME)
July-August

-  A rich season of prose, music and dance takes place in the Greek theatre, which was reopened in 1956.

TRAPANI
Holy Week

-  The most fascinating among the Holy Week events is the "Processione dei Misteri" (The Procession of the Mysteries), where 17th-century statues representing scenes from the Passion are processioned along the roads of the town from Good Friday afternoon until Saturday morning.

ART

Prehistory

The history of art in Sicily started about 10,000 years ago, during the Upper Palaeolithic Age. In those remote ages, the hunters and gatherers painted and engraved the rock of the caves on the northwest coast of the island. The most important cycle is the one discovered on the island of Levanzo in the Cala del Genovese cave: here 32 figures can be admired: they represent the contour of Bovidae, Cervidae and Equidae portrayed naturalistically, almost always in profile. Attybow, the most fascinating find relates to the Adlaura cave, which opens sheer to Mount Pellegrino, near Palermo, where moving human figures are portrayed, wearing headgear over their heads or else a mask: some have interpreted these figures as engaged in a ritual dance, others have even thought they represented a gruesome ceremony of hogtiding, namely slow suffocation by means of ropes tied to the neck and ankles.

In the Cala del Genovese cave, on the same rock faces where Palaeolithic men had engraved their figures, the most important figurative complex of the Neolithic age has also been found: these are schematic and symbolic figures entirely painted in black.

The Greek Colonisation*Sculpture and Crafts*

Following the Greek colonisation, a massive transfer of Greek artisans and artists to Sicily took place; they imported here their own techniques, shapes and styles. Sicilian sculpture, namely the local version of the archaic and classic works produced in the motherland, displays its finest results in the metopes coming from the Selinunte temples (6th century B.C.), which are preserved in the Palermo Archaeological Museum. Terracotta handicrafts soon developed in Sicily, and mainly involved temple decorations and votive statues; their common provenance seems to be Lipari, where several colourful theatrical masks were also found (now on display at the Lipari Aeolian Archaeological Museum). On the other hand, the production of painted vases underwent a long break between the 6th and the 4th century B.C., when the importation of pottery from Greece (mainly Athens) prevailed.

Temples and Theatres

During the 6th century B.C., the big temples of Selinunte and Syracuse were built. During the following century, when the Greek towns in Sicily reached the peak of their power, the temples of Agrigento and Imera were built, and displayed as their distinctive feature the largeness of their size and strict adherence to the rules of Greek architecture. Temple G in Selinunte and the temple of Zeus in Agrigento are amongst the most remarkable vestiges from ancient times. During the Greek colonisation, theatres also displayed a great development in Sicily. They were usually situated in splendid natural positions. It is still possible to admire the theatres of Taormina, Syracuse, Segesta, Morgantina, Tindari, Catania and Eraclea Minore. They date back to the 4th-2nd century B.C.

The Phoenician-Carthaginian Colonisation

Major evidence of the Phoenician-Punic colonisation is mostly to be found in Mozia: here you can admire the stelae of the Tophet, the sanctuary under the open sky where vases containing the mortal remains of human sacrifices were kept, as well as small vases, pieces of jewellery in glass paste and terracotta masks. Even Phoenician and Carthaginian settlers were not indifferent to the charms of Greek art, and evidence of this is provided by the magnificent Ephebe (or Charioteer) of Mozia, concealing behind a chaste veil florid virile forms.

The Roman Period

From the Roman period some public monuments are left, which often are the result of reconstruction or conversion of Greek monuments. The theatre of Taormina, furnished by the Romans with a magnificent scene, adorned with niches and columns on two levels, is the most illustrious example. This period witnessed the development of the custom of building sumptuous private houses and villas in the countryside, embellished by large mosaic floors. The best-known example is the Roman Casale Villa, near the town of Piazza Armerina: it dates back to the 4th century A.D. and the mosaic floors portray hunting scenes, circus games and mythical figures. Other wonderful mosaic floors have been unearthed at the mouth of river Tellaro near

Eloro, as well as in Patti, Agrigento and Catania.

The Middle Ages*The Byzantine Domination*

During the three centuries of Byzantine domination, ancient buildings were converted into churches, with the achievement of particularly monumental results; this is the case of the temple of Athena in Syracuse, which became a Christian basilica in the 7th century and later the town's cathedral. The most typical aspects of early Christian-Byzantine architecture can be found in small-scale buildings: they are mostly small churches, not displaying monumental proportions, with a central plan, which are also called "cubae" because of their covering.

Arab-Norman Architecture

Sicily later fell under the rule of the Arabs, who left their mark in the field of art especially on the monuments built after their domination, when the Norman winners made extensive use of the labour of Arabian artists to build and embellish their palaces and churches. With every right, this architectural style is called Arab-Norman. Palermo's architecture was completely renovated: the Royal (or Normans') Palace, with its splendid Cappella Palatina (Palatine Chapel) adorned with mosaics, the churches of Martorana, San Giovanni degli Eremiti and San Cataldo, with their small red cupolas, the Favara castle, the Zisa, the Cuba and the cathedral are the main examples of this renewal, and also a sign of the exceptional wealth enjoyed by the town. The cathedrals of Monreale and Cefalù date back to the same period. In these cathedrals, the contribution of Byzantine art (with the mosaics), of the Arabian one (with the sumptuous decorations) and of Norman art (with the structure of the churches, in line with the Nordic style), is evident. During the 13th century, it was the large defensive works, whose construction had been requested by Frederick II, which established themselves above all: these include the Mariace castle in Syracuse, the Ursino castle in Catania, and Frederick's tower and the Lombardy castle in Enna.

The Gothic Style*The Chiaromontano Style*

The years of the Angevin domination, even more than those of the Aragonese one, witnessed the triumph of

baronial power in Sicily, which was expressed in some monumental buildings, mainly in the Palermo area, like Palazzo dello Steri, residence of the Chiaromonte family, and Palazzo Scialfani. The stronghold-house scheme, combining elements from the Islamic tradition with imported Gothic patterns, is clear in these buildings. Unlike the rest of Italy and Europe, where the Gothic style was associated with a growth in monastic orders, the Sicilian Gothic style prevailed as a courtly style, and was then conventionally named "Chiaromontano" after the name of the family that played an hegemonic role in that period. The castle, the cathedral and the church of Santa Caterina in Naro, the Favara castle, the abbey of Santo Spirito, the church of Santa Maria dei Greci and the cathedral in Agrigento, the Parisio palace and the Bellomo palace in Syracuse (which was subsequently altered during the Aragonese period) were all either built or renovated in this style.

The Catalan Gothic Style

The flowered Catalan Gothic style became popular with the Aragonese, and fitted gracefully with the Chiaromontano architecture: the most evident case is represented by the palaces of Taormina. The most striking elements characterising this style are displayed by the portals and depressed-arch vaults, by horizontal mouldings on the façades and by courtyards with outside steps accessing the first floor. During the second half of the 15th century, the most important architect was Matteo Carnelivari, who introduced a Renaissance-style trend in his constructions. Amongst his works are the church of Santa Maria della Catena (whose attribution has however not been universally accepted) and the Ajutamicristo and Abatellis palaces in Palermo. During the first decades of the 16th century, the Catalan style still influenced the island architecture: two monumental examples are provided by the palace of the Giudecca in Trapani and the palace known as Steripinto in Sciacca. The latter building displays an ingenious diamond ashlar façade, recalling that of the Palazzo dei Diamanti in Ferrara.

Painting

Regarding painting, for a great part of the 14th century, it was almost exclusively represented by imported

MAR TIRRENO

ISOLE FOLIE DI LIPARI

PALERMO

TRAPANI

MARSALE

MARSALE

MAR

MEDITERRANEO

Scilla

AGRIGENTO

ENNA

SALTAVERDE

CATANIA

MAR

IONIO

BRADUSA

BRADUSA

Gela

Castelluzza

ISOLE PELAGIE

0 10 20 Km

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works of art. The only exceptions were the activity of the so-called Master of the Trapani Polyptych, whose two works can be admired in the Sicily Regional Art Gallery in Palermo (Madonna del Fiore, *Incoronazione della Vergine* (Crowning of the Virgin)) and a polyptych preserved in the Pepoli Regional Museum in Trapani (portraying the Virgin Crowning Santa Caterina and Saints). Towards mid 15th century, in Palazzo Scialfani in Palermo, a big fresco portraying the *Trionfo della Morte* (The Triumph of Death) was accomplished: this draws inspiration from the courtly art of the latest Gothic season in Europe, and is currently on display in the Sicily Regional Art Gallery.

Sicilian Masters and New Languages

Antonello da Messina

Antonello da Messina (1430-1479) was the first great painting master from Sicily. The figure of this artist was absolutely atypical owing to the complexity and peculiarity of his education. In Naples, Antonello came in touch with French and above all Flemish painting, thanks to his master Colantonio; in Rome he was deeply impressed by the works of Piero della Francesca. From this experience a rigorous perspective vision, a vigorous use of colours and a great sensitivity for the accuracy of architectonic shapes resulted. Many of his paintings, which are still in Sicily, provide evidence of his greatness and originality: the *Ritratto Virile* (Virile Portrait), preserved in the Mandralisca Museum in Cefalù, whose indefinable smile represents the male equivalent of the well-known smile of the Gioconda; the *Annunziata* (Our Lady of the Annunciation), preserved in the Sicily Regional Art Gallery; the polyptych of San Gregorio, displayed in the Messina Regional Museum and the *Annunciazione* (the Annunciation) in the Syracuse Regional Gallery. After Antonello's encounter with Giovanni Bellini in Venice, new masterpieces were born, and are now preserved in different museums throughout Europe. Antonello's painting influenced a limited circle of artists, the best known among whom are Antonio De Saliba, who realised several copies of his master's works, and Antonio Giarra (painting of the Visitation in Taormina, Episodes from the Life of San Nicola in the new cathedral of Milazzo).

The Gagini, Peerless Sculptors

Regarding sculpture, the renewal of this art in the 15th century started with Domenico Gagini from Ticino and Francesco Laurana (whose well-known bust of Eleonora d' Aragona is kept in the Sicily Regional Art Gallery), both previously active in Naples. Following Gagini's settlement in Sicily, a regular school came into being, and sons and nephews took part in it. The term "gaginesco" defines a great number of sculptures realised in the 15th and 16th century by the head of the family, his son Antonello (considered the most skilled and prolific artist among the Gagini) and his nephews: these are works displaying very similar features and their attribution to one member of the family or to another is not an easy task. They all share delicate features and a composed gentleness, which betray the Tuscan origin. Works of art by the Gagini can be admired in the Sicily Regional Art Gallery in Palermo, in the mother church of Alcamo, in the church of Santa Cita and in Palermo's cathedral, as well as in the churches of Santa Maria del Monte, San Giacomo and Santa Maria del Gesù in Caltagirone, in the cathedrals of Marsala and Cefalù, in the Madonna churches and in many other holy buildings in Sicily.

Mannerism

Around mid 16th century, the Tuscan Giovanni Angelo Montorsoli introduced Mannerism in Sicilian architecture and sculpture: unfortunately, many amongst his works of art, realised in Messina, were destroyed by the 1908 earthquake. The tower of San Raineri, the imposing fountain of Orion and the fountain of Neptune represent what is left of them today. Two important Mannerist works are the spectacular Porta Nuova and Porta Felice, situated at both ends of the very long Cassaro road that perpendicularly crosses through Palermo up to the sea. The building renewal of this town paved the way for the baroque features represented by scenography and perspectives. In 1574 Camillo Camilliani arrived in Palermo, together with the fountain sculptured by his father in Tuscany and subsequently placed in Piazza Pretoria in Palermo. This artist later played a major role in Sicilian town planning and architecture. While for secular works military ar-

chitects were appointed, the architects in charge of religious works were invariably clergymen, members of great religious orders, who concluded their artistic education with a stay in Rome, where they drew inspiration for the work they were to carry out in the island. In the 16th century, the first great religious buildings were those of the Jesuits, erected during the latter half of the century, according to Roman Counter-Reformation models, in a stern and rigorous style: the church "del Gesù" in Caltagirone and the various Jesuit boarding schools scattered throughout the island are examples of this trend.

The Baroque Period

Architecture

The baroque style, characterized by a great decorative exuberance, became popular in the 17th century, and soon spread throughout Sicily. This artistic season started with the church "dell' Annunziata" in Messina, by Guarino Guarini: built in 1650, it was later destroyed by the earthquake. Various religious buildings followed; these were the work of great architects from religious orders, such as Paolo and Giacomo Amato, Angelo Italia and Tommaso Maria Napoli. Amongst the models that became popular in Sicily, is the so-called tower-façade, built on three sloping levels, the bell tower being situated on the upper one. Another common model provides for a façade with bell towers on the two sides, connected or separated from the central building. The most remarkable 17th-century buildings are the church of Palma di Montechiaro, San Francesco Saverio, Santa Teresa alla Kalsa, the church "della Pietà" and that "del Santissimo Salvatore" in Palermo. In Sicilian religious buildings of this period, architecture, sculpture, painting and marble and stucco decorations combine seamlessly.

Painting

In painting, Mannerism reached its peak with the Tuscan Filippo Paladini, who was active in Sicily during the first two decades of the century. In the churches of Enna, Caltanissetta and Caltagirone, and in the Syracuse Regional Gallery, many examples of his abundant production are preserved, with Caravaggesque elements being displayed alongside with the main

mannerist style. The presence of Caravaggio (1608-1609) and the short stay in Sicily of the Flemish painter Van Dyck (1624) influenced Sicilian artists for quite a long period. Caravaggio left in Sicily his latest, important works of art: The Burial of Santa Cecilia in Syracuse, The Adoration of the Shepherds and Lazarus' Resurrection, now preserved in the Messina Regional Museum, as well as The Nativity in Palermo (stolen some years ago from the church of San Lorenzo). The "Madonna del Rosario", painted by Van Dyck for the oratory of San Domenico, was a source of inspiration, especially for Pietro Novelli (1603-1647), the most representative figure of the Sicilian Seicento, who was the author, among other works of art, of "San Benedetto", which can be admired in the Benedictine abbey of Monreale.

Stucco Decorations

Stucco decoration, which already boasted remarkable precedents in the late 16th century, boomed in the last decades of the 17th century. The most extreme examples are those displayed in the oratories of Santa Cita, of San Lorenzo and of the Rosario in San Domenico in Palermo, whose decorative cycles were conceived by Giacomo Serpotta, the main representative of a very large family of artisan-artists. The tradition was continued by Ignazio Marabitti, who produced works for the Monreale cathedral, for the Jesuit church in Catania, for those of San Francesco d'Assisi and Santa Teresa in Palermo and for the abbey of San Martino alle Scale.

Cribs and "Mystery" Statues

The development of the wood carving tradition started in the 17th century. Syracuse and Caltagirone became remarkable centres for the production of cribs, in a style similar to the Neapolitan one, but displaying independent features. The practise of manufacturing statues made with cloth, glue and wood grew as well. These statues were used in the "mystery" groups founded during the Good Friday processions in Trapani, Erice and Caltanissetta.

The Reconstruction in Eastern Sicily

The imposing reconstruction work involving the towns of eastern Sicily, destroyed by the 1693 earthquake,

largely boosted the spreading of the baroque style in its most spectacular versions. Catania, Ragusa, Modica, Noto, Palazzolo Acreide and Scicli are unmistakable examples of an experiment that placed Sicily in an active position in the context of the European town-planning culture. As many as 500 churches and 250 monasteries were built in the damaged towns. During the first stage, the reconstruction of eastern Sicily, conceived and coordinated by the duke of Camuzza, was directed by the Dutch Carlos de Gruttenbergh, a military engineer on the service of the king of Spain; later, the executive designing activity and the realisation of the individual buildings were entrusted to architects such as Giovan Battista Vaccarini and Angelo Italia.

The Baroque Style in Catania

In Catania, the Roman-style baroque trend became popular mainly thanks to the works of Giovan Battista Vaccarini (1702-1767), who re-arranged Piazza del Duomo, by introducing the Senatorial Palace and the Elephant fountain, and designed the churches of Sant'Agata and San Giuliano, as well as the Benedictine monastery, thus completing the work that had been started by Antonino Amato and Francesco Battaglia. This last artist, together with Stefano Ittar, also realised the imposing church of San Nicolò all'Arena, with an impressive unfinished façade.

Rosario Gagliardi

Rosario Gagliardi is a key representative of this period. He is the author of several churches in Noto (Santissimo Crocifisso, Santa Chiara and San Domenico), in Ragusa Ibla (San Giorgio and San Giuseppe) and in Modica (San Giorgio). These churches, which are situated atop staircases to provide a scenic effect, often display curved façades, adorned with free columns and culminating with the belfry.

Villas in Bagheria

Since the beginning of the 18th century, in the hinterland of Palermo several residential villas were built for the aristocracy, drawing inspiration from the Vesuvian villas of the so-called "miglio d'oro" (golden mile) near Ercolano. Villa Palagonia stands out amongst the best known. Built for the prince Gravina di Tommaso Maria Napoli, it is richly decorated and adorned with sculptures of monsters and other baroque vaga-

ries. The same architect also designed the most sumptuous villa of Bagheria, Villa Valguarnera, with its two façades decorated with sculptures by Marabitti.

The Last Centuries

Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century

In the late 18th century, Nicolò Palma built Villa Giulia in Palermo, the first public park in town, which highly impressed Goethe. During the same years, Venanzio Marvuglia (1729-1814), who had a Roman education, but was chiefly active in Palermo, imposed neoclassical rules in architecture. Among his works are: the enlargement of the abbey of San Martino alle Scale, Villa Belmonte all'Acquasanta, the pavilions of the Botanical Garden, the "English-style" plan of the Favorita royal garden and the Chinese Palazzina, first example of eclecticism in Sicily.

Basile

Sicilian Ottocento is marked by the personality of Giovanni Battista Filippo Basile (1825-91), author of villas, gardens and theatres in Palermo and other Sicilian towns. In Caltagirone, Basile designed the Public Gardens, one of the most beautiful examples of public parks in Italy. Here, he was able to skilfully integrate local pottery elements, for instance by using them to cover banisters, small pavilions and the small amphitheatre. Furthermore, Basile rearranged the Garibaldi Garden and Piazza Marina in Palermo, he designed the garden of Viale della Libertà, he built the Teatro Massimo (more or less at the same time as the Politeama theatre was being designed by Giuseppe Damiani Almeyda) and arranged the National Exhibition of Palermo in 1891. The Palermo activity of Ernesto Basile (1857-1932), son of Giovanni Battista, is associated with the successful activities of the new Palermo entrepreneurs of the late 19th century, particularly the Florios. Many residences were built in these days on the eastern outskirts of the town, which soon became authentic status symbols for the local middle class. An Art Nouveau itinerary in Palermo should at least include the small Florio villa in Olivuzza, Palazzo Utveggio, Casa Basile in Via Siracusa and above all the splendid hall of Villa Ignea, which was converted in 1899 into a grand hotel designed for luxury international tourism.

Renato Guttuso

Renato Guttuso (1912-1987) has been the great Sicilian painter of the 20th century. He lived in Milan and Rome, where he adhered to the realist themes, afoul of the official art promoted by the fascist regime. Sicily has been the privileged subject represented in his works (Case alla Kalsa, Pesca del pesce spada, Vucciria, Notte di Gibellina).

Recent Production

An interesting reconstruction experiment is the one realised in the Gibellina area, completely destroyed by the Belice earthquake of 1968. The new town centre, built according to ultramodern criteria and sometimes criticised because of its anonymous appearance, is adorned with works by contemporary artists, such as Arnaldo Pomodoro, Pietro Consagra, Alessandro Mendini, Mimmo Rotella and Fausto Meloni. The ruins of the

former Gibellina destroyed by the earthquake have been partially covered by Alberto Burri's "Cremo"; this work has somehow frozen in time the image of the disaster. Another controversial artistic initiative has been realised along the river Tusa, not far from Cefalù: a series of imposing sculptures, by well-known Italian and foreign artists, has been placed "en plein air" to embellish the landscape. Amongst the reclamation works, the restoration of Palazzo Abatellis, seat of the Sicily Regional Art Gallery, by Carlo Scarpa, is remarkable. Giuseppe Samonà (1898-1983), the only great Sicilian protagonist of contemporary architecture, regarded the French architect Le Corbusier as his constant cultural reference, and entirely adhered to functionalism. Noteworthy are the former palazzo del Littorio, the INAIL and INPS buildings in Messina and the Sciacca theatre, his last work.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

VALLE DEI TEMPI AGRIGENTO

For information: tel. no.: +39 092220454

The visit to the Agrigento Valle dei Templi represents the first, fascinating itinerary offered by this area. It is situated entirely outside the built-up area, in a setting displaying extraordinary harmony between nature and ancient monuments. The majestic remains of the ancient Greek colony of Akragas lie here. The Doric temples, built in the 5th century B.C. in sandy tufa, shine in their warm amber hues, which at dusk become particularly bright. In winter and spring, the contrast between the colour of the stones and the green of the fields makes the vision of the Valle an absolutely blissful experience. The church of San Biagio, the rock shrine of Demeter, the Temple of Juno, the Temple of Concordia, the Villa Aurea, the Temple of Hercules, Terone's tomb, the shrine of Demeter and Kore, the Twin Brothers Temple, the Temple of Olympian Jove, the church of San Nicola, the Regional Archaeological Museum, the Hellenistic-Roman district, the Giacattello Hypogeum and the Atenea Rock are amongst the most important monuments.

MEGARA HYBLAEA AUGUSTA (SR)

For information: tel. no.: +39 0931521269

Megara Hyblaea lies on a stretch of coast that is part of the Augusta Gulf, exactly inside the harbour and industrial area, 10 km west of the town. Megara Hyblaea was one of the first towns founded in Sicily by Greek settlers, and its period of greatest splendour dates back to the 6th century B.C. Subsequently wiped out by Syracuse, which used it for defence purposes, it was eventually destroyed by the Romans during the 3rd century B.C. The excavations conducted on the tableland have brought to light the original core of the ancient town. It has been possible to identify the remains of the town walls, with the large towered gate dating back to the 3rd century, the agora, some Hellenistic constructions housing shops and colonnaded courtyards, the Archaic-age stoa, an Hellenistic shrine, a Doric temple dating back to the 4th century B.C. and the Hellenistic baths and gymnasium. Various planimetric maps of the archaeological site are displayed in the antiquarium together with the digging tools. The figurative art of Megara Hyblaea is re-

markable, and its vestiges are mostly preserved in the Syracuse Museum. One of these is the sculptural group of the Mother Goddess breast-feeding two twins, which is one of the most spectacular evidences of local creativity. The sculpture was accidentally found during the excavation works for the construction of an industrial plant, and was thus saved from destruction. Some architectonic elements with embossed ornaments represented by interlacing palmettes and lotus flowers, and the local pottery, adorned with colourful animal and human figures are also original.

ZONA ARCHEOLOGICA DI LENTINI-LENTINI (SR)

For information: tel. no.: +39 095902311

The archaeological site is situated to the south of the modern town, in the San Mauro valley and on the two rises surrounding it, which are called San Mauro and Metapiccola respectively. Both hills display traces of the settlements preceding the Greek appearance: in particular, the remains of rectangular-plan huts similar to those found on the Palatino Hill in Rome have been unearthed on the Metapiccola hill. The Greeks filled the stream running down to the valley and started the construction of strong walls, which included at first the San Mauro hill and later the Metapiccola hill too. The ends of the valley were closed by means of fortified gates. The southern gate in particular, which was the most exposed, was protected by a pincer system extending forwards for several metres. The city walls, built between the 7th and the 6th centuries, were repeatedly reconstructed, up to the 3rd century B.C. Inside the city walls, the central square was situated in the middle of the valley; traces of dwellings have been found in several points; sacred areas with remains of temples have been identified on both rises, and a number of multi colour pieces of pottery come from them. An interesting necropolis made up of three different beddings, with variously shaped tombs, has been explored beyond the city walls.

MORGANTINA-AIDONE (EN)

For information: tel. no.: +39 093586717

The Greek monuments of Morgantina display a close connection with the Roman ones: the city walls, a

fortress, some sacella, the agora, the macellum and the theatre can be recognized. But, above all, it is worthwhile mentioning a residential district with elegant dwellings, with houses provided with courtyards, embellished by mosaics and paintings, situated on an orthogonal road network sloping down towards the agora. The agora (a wide public square and meeting place) is built on two levels. A trapezoidal staircase, whose steps were also used as seats, leads from the lower to the upper level. This is the most characteristic aspect of Morgantina, both for its unusual shape and for its central position overlooking a wide panorama. The macellum, or market place, is a wide square-shaped space, displaying traces of the shop partition walls; its boundary is marked on two sides, by a colonnade (stoa) and by the Roman gymnasium, furnished with toilets and changing rooms. Furnaces for the production of pottery can also be recognized.

MOZIA

MARSALA (TP)

For information: tel. no.: +39 0923712598

The ancient Phoenician-Punic town of Mozia, founded in the 8th century B.C., is situated on the islet of San Pantaleo, in the middle of the Stagnone, a shallow stretch of sea less than one metre deep. Owing to its position in the middle of the wide lagoon basin, the town was easy to defend and offered excellent access. In other words, it proved an ideal seat for the Phoenicians and later for the Carthaginians (or Punic) people, coming from the Middle East coasts or from Northern Africa. The town, which was a chief Sicilian base for Carthaginian operations against Greek colonies, was besieged and conquered by Demetrius of Syracuse in the year 397 B.C. The city walls and gates, the Tophet, the necropolis, the house of the mosaics, the cothon (the shipyard), the sculptures, the reliefs and the Villa Whitaker Museum are all a must for visitors.

VILLA ROMANA DEL CASALE

PIAZZA ARMERINA (EN)

For information: tel. no.: +39 0935681854

The picturesque remains of this Roman villa, which is renowned worldwide owing to its splendid floor mosaics, stand immersed in greenery, at 6 km from Piazza Armerina. Scholars have put forward various hypotheses about its dating (which still fluctuate between the late 3rd century and the middle of

the 4th century A.D.) and the identification of its owner (possibly a soldier close to the Imperial court). In 1161, following a landslide caused by a flood, the villa was buried, and it only resurfaced at the beginning of the 20th century, during excavation works that are still underway. In addition to the mosaics, the thermal area and the large peristyle are also of great interest.

SEGESTA

CALATAFINI (TP)

For information: tel. no.: +39 0924950033

This is an archaeological site of extraordinary interest, owing to the beauty of the area and to the good state of preservation of the monuments. Segesta was situated on the offshoots of Mount Barbaro, overlooking the Castellammare Gulf, and was an important Elymian centre. The Elymians were a mysterious population of pre-Greek Sicily, whose origins display an Anatolian constituent. According to Virgil and to ancient historians, the Elymians even had a Trojan origin. The century-old fight against Selinunte, which ended with the destruction of the latter, marked the history of the town. Having joined forces with Carthage, Segesta was in turn destroyed by Syracuse. It flourished again during the Roman period, but was eventually razed to the ground by the Vandals. Two imposing monuments are still preserved: the 3rd-century B.C. theatre and the 5th-century B.C. Doric temple.

SELINUNTE

CASTELVETRANO (TP)

For information: tel. no.: +39 092446277

Selinunte, founded by the Greek colony of Megara Iblea in the second half of the 7th century B.C., was named after the river Selinon, which is now called Modione. Selinunte was in constant conflict with Segesta, the chief town of the Elymian populations entrenched in the hinterland. Around 570 B.C. Selinunte was already powerful and flourishing, as prove by the foundation of the sub-colony of Eraclea Minna. Clenched between the Phoenician-Punic colonies and the Greek ones, Selinunte ended up within the Syracuse orbit. The umpteenth fight against Segesta, in those days allied to the Carthaginians, led to the destruction of the town in 409 B.C. Soon after, Selinunte was repopulated and fell under the Punic rule. After the first Punic War, the town was abandoned, and never raised again. The

total collapse of the buildings was caused by an earthquake, which occurred during the Early Middle Ages. The excavations in the area, which today is an Archaeological Park, started at the beginning of the 19th century. The metopes from the Selinunte temples, which represent its most precious artistic treasure, are preserved in the Regional Archaeological Museum of Palermo.

PARCO ARCHEOLOGICO DELLA NEAPOLIS

(The Neapolis Archaeological Park)

SIRACUSA

For information: tel. no.: +39 093166206

This is the most representative part of the ancient Greek town. It can be reached by means of Paolo Orsi Avenue, which is bordered by the remains of some dwellings dating back to the Hellenistic and Roman period. The area comprises a group of imposing public buildings and some of the best known latomias (stone quarries). The Greek theatre in this archaeological site is one of the most imposing in the whole ancient Greek world, with its 140 m diameter. It dates back to the 5th century B.C., but its present appearance is the result of restoration works carried out during the 3rd century B.C., and of subsequent restructuring work dating back to the Roman domination period. The Iero II altar is the largest one dating back to the Greek period, and is still preserved today. It had been erected in the 3rd century B.C. for sacrifices probably dedicated to Zeus the Liberator.

TINDARI

PATTI (ME)

For information: tel. no.: +39 094121301

The excavations of the ancient Tyndaris, founded by Syracuse in the 4th century B.C., are situated on a rise which is nearly 300 m high, overlooking the Gulf of Patti, which stretches from Capo Calavà to Capo Milazzo. The unusual Olivieri lagoon, which inspired Salvatore Quasimodo, lies next to the headland. The ancient town was later transformed by the Romans, who built public edifices in this area. Following the Arab occupation, the town was destroyed and eventually abandoned. Remarkably long stretches of the town walls still exist and they represent one of the longest well-preserved boundary walls in Sicily. The Greek theatre dates back to the late 4th century.

Museums

ACIREALE (CT)

Zealotes Picture Gallery

Via Marchese di San Giuliano, 17

Tel. no.: +39 0957634516

Founded in 1851, this art gallery preserves paintings by local and non-local artists, as well as drawings and engravings. Among the many sculptures, stand out that of Julius Caesar (1 century B.C.), the Aci and Galatea group by Rosario Anastasi (1846) and Garibaldi's Head by Michele The Spina (1891). Also of interest are the carriage of the Aci Senate and the Vatican Palanquin, both dating back to the 18th century.

ADRANO (CT)

Archaeological Museum

Piazza Umberto I (Norman Castle)

Tel. no.: +39 0957692660

Located in the Norman Castle, this museum preserves prehistoric relics, from the archaic and classical Greek ages, chiefly from Adranon and from the area surrounding the modern town.

AGRIGENTO

Regional Archaeological Museum

Contrada San Nicola

Tel. no.: +39 0922401565

This is housed in the 14th century-convent of San Nicola, and the materials on display, dating back to the prehistoric, archaic and classical Greek ages, are divided into two sections, one dedicated to Agrigento and one to Caltanissetta. The area on which the museum stands has recently been identified as the upper agora location of the ancient town and the most ancient nucleus of finds comes from the Municipal Museum; other materials have been received from the archaeo-

logical museums of Siracusa and Palermo, but the greatest part of the collections is the result of the excavations campaigns conducted in the late '70s by the Agrigento Monuments and Fine Arts Office.

Municipal Museum

Via Santo Spirito, 2

Tel. no.: +39 0922401450

This museum preserves medieval sculptural works and paintings dating back to a period ranging from the 14th to the 18th century, especially by the Sicilian school. The Sinatra collection displays paintings dating back to the late 19th century, to the 20th century and to the contemporary age.

Luigi Pirandello's House Museum

Contrada Caos

Tel. no.: +39 0922511826

The house in which Luigi Pirandello was born in 1867 and spent his childhood and youth is visited by many researchers or literature lovers and preserves items, photographs and memorabilia belonging to the Agrigento dramatist.

AIDONE (EN)

Regional Archaeological Museum

Largo Torres Trappia

Tel. no.: +39 093587307

The former capuchin monastery and the adjoining church of San Francesco were renovated and converted into the Regional Archaeological Museum.

The museum displays prehistoric, protohistoric and Greek materials, coming from the broad surrounding area, especially from the Cittadella district, and those from Serra Orlando, where the Morgantina settlement was located.

BAGHERIA (PA)

Modern Art Gallery

Via Consolare, 9 (Vila Cattolica)

Tel. no.: +39 091905438

This museum occupies the eighteenth-century premises of Vila Cattolica; it preserves works by Renato Guttuso from Bagheria and by other contemporary artists who have contributed, through donations to this growing public collection. In addition to paintings by Guttuso, the art gallery hosts works by Carlo Levi, Ernesto Treccani and Mario Schifano.

BRONTE (CT)

Local Ancient Civilization Museum

Contrada Cantarali (Lombardo Farm)

Tel. no.: +39 095691635

A historical farm hosting the ethnographic museum devoted to the ancient local civilization starting from the Early Middle Ages. Among the most interesting pieces is a paper mill from the Arab period, dating back to the 11th century.

CALTAGIRONE (CT)

Regional Ceramics Museum

Via Roma (Public Gardens)

Tel. no.: +39 093321680

The Villa, situated inside the large Public Gardens that surround it, is a 19th-century building designed by Giovanni Battista Basile and made more valuable by the beautiful terracotta ornaments by Bongiovanni and Vaccaro. Noteworthy are the terracotta decorations depicting Sicilian life and costume scenes by Giacomo Bongiovanni and Giuseppe Vaccaro (18th-19th century), some valuable Greek vases, specimens of medieval pottery, tiles decorated by bird figures, in classical colours such as green, yellow

and blue, and vases in the shape of a human head.

L. Sturzo Municipal Museum

Via Roma, 10

Tel. no.: +39 093331590

The museum occupies the eighteenth-century premises of the Bourbon prison and was founded by don Luigi Sturzo. It displays relics from the period ranging from the 7th to the 3rd century B.C., paintings dating back to the period ranging from the 16th to the 19th century and majolica.

CALTANISSETTA

Archaeological Museum

Via Colajanni, 3

Tel. no.: +39 093425936

The Archaeological Museum is a section of the Municipal Museum and preserves historical materials from various ages, ranging from prehistory to the archaic Greek age, which came to light following the excavations conducted in Capodarsio, Gibi-Habil and Sabucina. From this last town comes a precious and unusual representation of a little temple in terracotta dating back to the 6th century B.C.

Folk Customs and Local Traditions Museum

Via N. Colajanni

Tel. no.: +39 093421013

The church of San Pio X hosts the so-called Vire or Misteri (Mysteries): 16 late-19-century statuary groups in papier-mâché, representing a life-size reproduction of the Passion.

Peasant Civilization Museum

Viale Regina Margherita, 29

Tel. no.: +39 093421165

The history of the Caltanissetta culture, collected throughout the diocese, displays paintings by 17th-18th cen-

tury artists, silver vases, religious ornaments and books.

Mineralogical Museum

Viale della Regione, 78 (Mineral Institute)

Tel. no.: +39 0934591280

Hosted by the Mineral Institute, the Mineralogical Museum preserves a rich collection of minerals found in the surroundings of the town and in other areas on the sulphur tableland. One section of the museum is devoted to the machines used in the past to extract and refine sulphur.

CAPO D'ORLANDO (ME)

Villa Piccolo Park Museum

Strada statale 113, km 109

Tel. no.: +39 0941957029

In the property which once belonged to the poet Lucio Piccolo, you can admire collections of ancient pottery items and other works of art.

CASTELBUONO (PA)

Archaeological and Nature Museum

Via Roma

Tel. no.: +39 0921676596

CASTELVETRANO (TP)

Municipal Museum

Via Garibaldi, 50

Tel. no.: +39 0924904932

The Municipal Museum preserves archaeological finds coming from Sellunite (especially pottery and bronzes), with a small section devoted to pictorial and sculptural works, especially by local artists, among which a Virgin Mary and Child ascribed to Francesco Laurana.

CATANIA

Municipal Museum

Piazza Federico di Svevia (Ursino Castle) - Tel. no.: +39 095345830

In the halls of the Ursino Castle the

collection of the Municipal Museum are organized and preserved; these also include archaeological finds, paintings, armours, weapons and materials relating to the history of the town, collections coming from the Benedictines, from Palazzo Biscari and from the Baron Zappalà-Asmundo.

Giovanni Verga's House Museum

Via Sant'Anna, 8

Tel. no.: +39 0957150596

Giovanni Verga spent in this apartment his childhood, as well as long periods of his life; here original furniture and fittings are preserved, as well as over 2600 books belonging to the writer and some reproductions of his manuscripts.

Bellini Museum

Piazza San Francesco d'Assisi, 3

Tel. no.: +39 0957150535

On Piazza San Francesco d'Assisi is the side entrance to Palazzo Gravina, through which you can access the Museo Belliniano, where the apartment of the Bellini family is situated, and documents relating to the Catania musician are kept, as well as musical instruments, scores and a musical culture library.

CEFALU' (PA)

Mandralisca Museum

Via Mandralisca, 13

Tel. no.: +39 0921421547

The Museo Mandralisca was founded in the 19th century by Enrico Pirano, Baron of Mandralisca, a keen collector of shells, archaeological finds and coins. Standing out, owing to its unusual decoration, is a bell-shaped oriel coming from Lipari, on which the scene of a trading of bunny is depicted. The most famous work in the museum is

the Portrait of Stranger by Antonello da Messina, which inspired Vincenzo Consolo's work "The smile of an unknown sailor man".

CENTURIPPE (EN)

Archaeological Museum

Via Santissimo Crocifisso, 1

Tel. no.: +39 093573079

This museum preserves finds from the Centuripe excavations. Among these stand out: a loricate torso with a Medusa head, a marble head by Antonino Pio and a number of little statues portraying dancers, satyrs, Cupid and Aphrodite.

ENNA

Alessi Museum

Piazza Duomo (Vicariate)

Tel. no.: +39 0935503165

The Alessi Museum is housed by the vicariate adjoining the cathedral. It preserves a treasure from the church, including jewellery (among which is the spectacular 17th-century crown of the Madonna), archaeological material (noteworthy are the coins and also the pottery from the Greek-Roman ages), painted tablets from the Byzantine age and paintings from the 16th and 17th century.

Archaeological Museum

Piazza Mazzini (Palazzo Vitrano)

Tel. no.: +39 0935528100

This museum preserves relics from the prehistoric, classical and medieval ages, coming from the surrounding area.

ERICE (TP)

A. Cordio Municipal Museum

Piazza Umberto I, 1 (Town Hall)

Tel. no.: +39 0923669172

The A. Cordio Municipal Museum preserves prehistoric, Punic and Greek archaeological finds, among which stands out a beautiful little Aphrodite head dating back to the 5th-6th century

B.C. In the entrance hall is a noteworthy Annunciation in marble by Antonello Gagliardi. The museum also preserves a rich collection of coins and a few pictorial works dating back to a period starting from the 17th century.

Agro-Forestal Museum

Contrada San Matteo

Tel. no.: +39 0923669532

This museum displays the most typical specimens of local flora and fauna.

GELA (CL)

Archaeological Museum

Corso Vittorio Emanuele, 1

Tel. no.: +39 0933912628

The Archaeological Museum stands in the area where the ancient acropolis was situated, where the Timoleontes quarter has recently been discovered (4th century B.C.), with shops, dwellings and a section of walls. Here are the Navarra and Nocera private collections, acquired in the 1950s, as well as finds from the excavations carried out in the same years. Among the classical and Hellenistic age vases stand out an Attic pelike with red figures, depicting a scene of Theseus killing the Minotaur (470 B.C.), a Sicilian vase with red figures, depicting a theatrical farce scene (late 4th century B.C.) and an Attic askos with red figures (500 B.C.), found inside and archaic Greek ship discovered in the late 1980s.

GIARDINI-NAXOS (ME)

Archaeological Museum

Langomare Schiò

Tel. no.: +39 094251001

This museum stands on Cape Schiò, from which a beautiful view can be enjoyed; the museum preserves material relating to the dwellings built in the area throughout the various historical ages,

from prehistory to the Byzantine age. Among the most precious finds are vases from the colony's earliest period and archaic terracotta items used to decorate temples. Small votive statues from the Aphrodite temple can also be admired here.

GIBELLINA (TP)

Contemporary Art

Municipal Museum

Viale Segesta, 7

Tel. no.: +39 092467428

LENTINI (SR)

Archaeological Museum

Via del Museo, 1

Tel. no.: +39 0957832962

In this small Archaeological Museum, you can admire relics from the prehistoric and Greek ages, coming from the ancient Lentini and the surrounding areas (noteworthy are the materials relating to huts carved out of the rock, on the Metapiccola hill, dating back to the 10th-9th century B.C.). Among the most beautiful items from the Greek-Hellenistic age are some craters depicting comedy scenes and mythological representations. This museum, which is currently undergoing restoration works, only hosts temporary exhibitions.

LICATA (AG)

Municipal Museum

Via Dante (Badly)

Tel. no.: +39 0922772602

In the museum, prehistoric and Greek materials are preserved, including several small statues and masks in terracotta coming from the archaic shrine in the Casalicchio district.

LIPARI (ME)

Aeolian Archaeological Museum

Via del Castello, 2

Tel. no.: +39 0909880174

The Aeolian Archaeological Museum occupies the premises of the buildings standing near the cathedral. The first section relates to the Lipari excavations conducted in the castle and in the Diana district, and is hosted by the former bishop's palace, built in the 17th century and standing on the right-hand side of the cathedral. In the building standing to the north of the cathedral is the classical archaeological section, and, on the ground floor, the marine archaeology section. In the halls numbered from 16 to 20 are the reconstructions of necropolises dating back to various ages, whereas in hall 25 a section of the Greek necropolis has been reconstructed. The Volcanological section illustrates the geological history of the Aeolian Islands and displays samples of different lava formations and of the various minerals found here.

MARINAPOLI (CL)

Regional Archaeological Museum

Piazza Garibaldi, 1

Tel. no.: +39 0934674357

This museum preserves vestiges from the ancient civilizations that settled in the area. From the necropolis dating back to the 6th century B.C., a number of specimens of locally manufactured pottery have been found.

MARSALA (TP)

Archaeological Museum

Langomare Boleo (Baglio Anselmi)

Tel. no.: +39 0923952535

The Archaeological Museum occupies the premises of Baglio Anselmi, an old wine factory on the seaside promenade. It preserves prehistoric relics brought to light in the Marsala area, objects and works of art coming from Mozia and materials from the necropolises

of Punic and Roman Lilibeo. The most spectacular piece is a Punic ship, 35 m long, pulled out of the Stagnone waters twenty years ago. The relic is a major historical vestige from the famous Aegades Islands battle between Romans and Carthaginians.

MAZARA DEL VALLO (TP)

Municipal Museum

Piazza Plebiscito, 2 (Jesus' Boarding School) - Tel. no.: +39 0923649593

The Municipal Museum has been arranged on the ground floor of the 17th century Jesus' Boarding School, which stands next to the church of Sant'Ignazio.

It preserves archaeological finds from the Roman age, which were found in this area as well as some attractive Medieval sculptures from the 12th century, which reveal an Arab taste and style.

MESSINA

Peloritani Popular Culture

and Music Museum

Villaggio Gesso

Tel. no.: +39 09053045

This museum, which is unique of its kind, was opened in 1990 and displays over 150 musical instruments, which illustrate the world of popular Sicilian music and sounds.

Regional Museum

Viale della Libertà, 465

Tel. no.: +39 090361292

This museum displays mosaics, sculptures and Byzantine paintings from the Norman age, a 14th century triptych by the Siena school, 18th century panels in ornato representing the Legend of the Sacred Letter and 15th century polyptychs from the Catalan age.

There also are several sculptural works, among which the 14th century Madon-

na degli Storti, by Goro di Gregorio, and a marble bas-relief by Domenico Gagini. On the first floor are inlaid pieces of furniture and majolica, dating back to a period ranging from the 15th to the 16th century.

MILITELLO IN VAL DI CATANIA (CT)

San Nicolò Museum

Via Umberto I, 67

Tel. no.: +39 095811251

This museum preserves furnishings and several works of art coming from the mother church and from other churches in town and in the surroundings. Particularly rich are the religious ornaments and various artefacts in silk and damask. In addition, the visitor can admire silver items, reliquaries, holy-water stoups, sculptures in wood, wax, marble, calcareous stone, bells and paintings.

MODICA (RG)

Municipal Museum

Via Mercè (Palazzo dei Mercatanti)

Tel. no.: +39 0932945081

The ethnographic section of Hyblean Museum of Popular Arts and Traditions is one of the most interesting Italian collections of settings, tools and equipment relating to the everyday life of people, craftsmen and peasants. Especially charming are the artisan workshops in which, subject to appointment, the everyday activity of artisans is revived, so that visitors can relive these old crafts. The reconstruction of the farm with its various rooms is also very effective.

MONTEALE (PA)

Santa Maria la Nuova

Municipal Library

Piazza Guglielmo II, 2

Tel. no.: +39 0916564505

Approximately thirty thousand volumes are preserved here; these once belonged

to the Benedictine order and were transferred to the State in 1866. The visitor should not miss the illuminated manuscripts, the iconostasis and the Aline editions.

MOZIA (TP)

Whitaker Museum
Via Alagna (Vila Whitaker)
Tel. no.: +39 0923712598

The museum, which preserves a great number of relics from the island, occupies the premises of Villa Whitaker, which was the residence of Joseph Whitaker, one of the Englishmen that had devoted themselves to the production of wine in Sicily as from the 19th century. A passionate researcher, he was one of the first to take an interest in the Mozia archaeological heritage. Towards mid 20th century, Sabatino Moscati continued the excavations and studied the relics, together with Vincenzo Tusa. Besides the statue of the cherub, the museum preserves the Tophet stela, ritual masks, bath vessels in vitreous paste, necklaces and vases.

NICOLSI (CT)

Etna Volcanological Museum
Via delle Querce, 7
Tel. no.: +39 0957914696

This museum preserves a collection of fossils and minerals coming from Mount Etna.

PALAZZOLO ACREIDE (SR)

Antonino Uccello's House Museum
Via Machiavelli
Tel. no.: +39 0931881489

The ethnologist Antonino Uccello, who died in 1979, left a major collection of pieces of furniture, as well as objects and tools used in the past in Sicilian everyday life. His House Museum is made up of an entrance hall, a stable, two storerooms, a barn, an oil mill, a room for domestic activities, the actual dwelling, a porch, a courtyard

and two reservoirs.

PALERMO

Sicily Regional Art Gallery
Via Alloro, 4 (Palazzo Abatellis)
Tel. no.: +39 0916230011

After its restoration, Palazzo Abatellis has become the seat of the Sicily Regional Art Gallery, preserving the greatest collection of paintings and sculptures in the region. The richest period is the one between the 14th and 16th century. Among the chief artists are Antonello and Domenico Gagini, Francesco Laurana, Antonello da Messina and Jacopo Palma il Giovane.

Regional Archaeological Museum

Piazza Olivera
Tel. no.: +39 0916116805

The Regional Archaeological Museum occupies the premises of the former Philippine monastery, built in the 17th century. It is one of the most important Italian archaeological collections; among the items on display, stand out the Selinunte finds.

Toy Museum

Via Bandiera, 99
Tel. no.: +39 091580008

The dolls and toys displayed here date back to a period ranging from the 18th century to 1959 and were collected as from the 1970s by the antique dealer and restorer Pietro Pirano.

Dioesani Museum

Via Bonello, 2
(Archbishop's Palace)
Tel. no.: +39 0916077111

This museum displays reliefs and sculptures coming from the cathedral or from suppressed or destroyed churches. Among the most interesting halls are the ones devoted to the Gagini and to the Monreale painter Pietro Novelli. In the Triptych hall is displayed a piece by Antonio Verastano (Tabella dei Contrati di San Nicola).

Pizzì Ethnographic Museum

Viale Duca degli Abruzzi, 1
Tel. no.: +39 0917404893

Founded in 1909 by Giuseppe Pizzì, this museum was later enriched by his successors. The items displayed document the life, traditions and customs of the Sicilian people, handicraft activities, pottery, musical instruments and puppets shows.

International Puppet Museum

Via Butera, 1 - Tel. no.: +39 091328000

The International Puppet Museum displays Sicilian puppets, marionettes and hand puppets from Northern Italy, Indian, Greek, Turkish and Bali shadows; altogether, an incredibly rich collection amounting to over two thousand pieces.

Palazzo Mirò Museum

Via Merlo, 2 - Tel. no.: +39 0916164751

The Zisa Museum
Piazza Zisa - Tel. no.: +39 0916520269

The Zisa, a 12th century building, dates back to the period of Norman rule in Sicily. In the halls, some significant artefacts in an Islamic artistic style are displayed: these come from towns situated on the Mediterranean basin.

PATTI (ME)

Tindari Antiquarium
Via Omero - Frazione di Tindari
Tel. no.: +39 0941369023

RAGUSA

Hyblaean Archaeological Museum
Via Nabelelli (Palazzo Mediterraneo)
Tel. no.: +39 0932622963

Through relics from excavations conducted in the Ragusa province, the museum illustrates the archaeology and history of the area from the Neolithic age to late antiquity.

Camarina Regional Museum

Scoglietti - Santa Croce
Tel. no.: +39 0932826004

On the remains of the Athena di Camarina

temple stands a rural building, which hosts the museum. Displayed here are relics coming from the excavations of the ancient colony, founded by the Siracusa Greeks in 508 B.C. and collections resulting from underwater explorations.

RAMACCA (CT)

Municipal Museum
Via Marconi, 2 - Tel. no.: +39 096653151

Housed by the Town Hall, this museum illustrates the history of the area from the prehistoric age to the Greek-Roman ages.

RANDAZZO (CT)

Ornithological and Natural Science Museum
Piazza del Municipio, 1
Tel. no.: +39 0959210028

Here you can admire over 2500 specimens from the Pisto ornithological collection, naturalistic finds and zoological collections.

SALEMI (TP)

Municipal Museum and Collection of Relics of the Risorgimento
Piazza I. Lampiasi, 4
Tel. no.: +39 0924982248

This museum preserves documents relating to Salemi's participation in the 1848 revolution events and to the 1860 Garibaldi's Thousand.

SANT'AGATA DI MILITELLO (ME)

The Nebrodi Ethno-Anthropological Museum
Via Cosenza - Tel. no.: +39 0941701000

The museum is divided into three sections: the first one is devoted to agricultural and pastoral activities, the second one to furnishings and costumes and the third one to the typical traditions of the Nebrodi area.

SIRACUSA

Paolo Orsi Regional Archaeological Museum
Viale Teocrito, 65
Tel. no.: +39 0931464022

Named after the great researcher who car-

ried out excavations in Sicily between the late 19th century and the 1930s, the Paolo Orsi Regional Archaeological Museum is located in the park of Villa Landolina. This modern museum is arranged on two floors and covers a total surface of 9000 m², owing to its size, and to the number and importance of the items displayed, it is the chief museum in Sicily and one of the greatest museums in the world. Preceded by a geological section, sector A is devoted to prehistory, whereas sector B preserves relics from Greek colonies and Sector C displays relics relating to the sub-colonies of Siracusa and to the Hellenised indigenous centres of Eastern Sicily.

Regional Art Gallery
Via Capodiceci, 14 (Palazzo Bellomo)
Tel. no.: +39 093169511

The ground floor hosts a number of sculptures produced in Sicily between the Early Christian age and the early 16th century. Among these stand out the Madonna del Cardillo, by Domenico Gagini, and Giovanni Cardinas' torso by Antonello Gagini. This museum also preserves the Virgin Mary with Child excribed to Francesco Laurana. The picture gallery, on the first floor, displays major works dating back to the period ranging from the 14th to the 17th century, among which the Annunciation by Antonello da Messina and the Burial of St. Lucy by Caravaggio.

TERMINI IMERESE (PA)

Municipal Museum
Via del Museo Chico
Tel. no.: +39 0918128279

This museum displays several archaeological finds from the area, dating back to a period ranging from the prehistoric to the Roman age. Among these are the beautiful Ierone heads from Imera, a significant epigraphic collection, pictorial works from the 12th to the 17th century and a collection

of coins.

TERRASINI (PA)

Municipal Museum
Lungomare Pisola
Tel. no.: +39 0918683327

The Municipal Museum is divided into three sections: a naturalistic section, an archaeological section (with relics found in the stretch of sea in front of the town and coming from Imperial Roman ships which were wrecked in the area) and an ethno-anthropological section (displaying a noteworthy collection of Sicilian carts coming from various parts of Sicily).

TRAPANI

Count Agostino Pepoli

Regional Art Museum
Via Conte Agostino Pepoli, 200
Tel. no.: +39 0923531023

In the two halls on the ground floor, sculptural works from various ages are displayed; among these is a noteworthy statue of St. James sculpted by Antonello Gagini in 1522, and a holy-water stoup from the late 15th century. On the first floor are pictorial works from the 14th - 17th century. The museum also displays numerous and singular local handicraft works dating back to the 16th-18th century, among which are splendid items in coral, ivory and alabaster, as well as enamels. The archaeological section displays relics for the Erice, Segesta, Moza and Selinunte areas, dating back to prehistory up to classical antiquity.

Prehistory Museum and Sea Museum

Via Torre di Ligny (Torre di Ligny)
Tel. no.: +39 092322300

The Prehistory Museum preserves, among numerous relics, fragment of tools, amphora and animal remains, whereas the Sea Museum, which was opened in 1997, displays crockery and glassware as well as anchors from the Roman and Phoenician ages found along the Trapani coast.

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURE

In Sicily, there are many protected areas, but only three of them have been officially acknowledged as regional parks so far: the Etna, the Madonie and the Nebrodi areas. These three large parks, as well as the whole range of minor nature reserves protecting areas of special beauty or environmental rarity, offer splendid opportunities for excursions among the vegetation to discover woods, streams, wildlife and well preserved small towns. Amongst

• **Etna Nature Park**

For information: tel. no.: +39 095821111
tel. no.: +39 095914738

The Etna park (38,085 ha) protects a broad volcanic region of exceptional interest not only because of the presence of the volcano, but also because of the great variety of plants which grow here. In an absolutely amazing progression, as the height increases, the Mediterranean scrub of the lower altitude areas is replaced by a whole range of alpine plants (birches, black pines, beeches and chestnut trees). The park also houses rare plants, such as the Etna broom and the astragalus, as well as many birds of prey. Mount Etna is the largest active volcano in Europe. It is situated on the east of the island, between the courses of the rivers Alcantara and Simeto, and its mass dominates the entire province of Catania. It is also an important resort for winter sports equipped with ski lift facilities. The volcanic cone, which during the year is covered with snow for several months, gently slopes, changing in colour from brown-purple to green, towards the Ionian Sea. The presence of Mount Etna affects the entire northeast area of Sicily, which is shaped by the volcano, as this influences its cultivation, building materials and colour of the soil. In these last years, the number of nature trails has remarkably increased, and these are especially crowded during the spring, as they have allowed the rediscovery of the several attractive aspects which make this unbelievable nature oasis an exclusive environment. The Etna crater, strikingly vast, is made up of three minor cones displaying impressive rifts and chasms. The top of the crater can be reached along two tracks, known as Et-

na Sud and Etna Nord. Anyhow, it is advisable for excursions to take place at sunset, owing to the breathtaking, fascinating view offered by the volcanic complex at this time of the day.

• **Nebrodi Regional Park**

For information: tel. no.: +39 094179291
tel. no.: +39 0941793904

The Nebrodi Regional Park (85,587 ha), rich in oak, turkey oak and beech forests, and in high altitude pastures, includes clayey-sandy highland (Mount Soro, 1850 m.) situated to the north of the island, between the Peloritani and Madonie Mountains. Its name derives from the Greek word "nebris", which means "roe deer", and provides evidence as to the ancient fauna richness of this area. Today the area hosts horses from the sanfratellana breed and, amongst the endemic plants, the *genista aristata* species, with its yellow flowers.

• **Madonie Regional Park**

For information: tel. no.: +39 0921684011

The Madonie Park, a vast nature reserve covering a surface of approximately 40,000 ha, extends over a broad area of the Palermo province and has the appearance of a four-sided highland. Its borders are the Tyrrhenian Sea to the north, the valley of River Pollina to the east, the valley of the upper Imera to the west and the chalky-sulphur tableland to the south. It is characterized by high calcareous massifs, scored with deep gorges. On the northern versant, mountains drop sheer to the sea in a spectacular way, whereas on the southern versant they slope gently, joining the in-

ner tableland. The Madonie, which are among the most ancient mountains of the island, are part of the extreme offshoots of the Sicilian Apennines and it is here that the highest peaks of the island can be found, apart from Mount Etna of course. Pizzo Carbonara (1979 m) and Pizzo Antenna Grande (1977 m) are the highest peaks of the chain. The central core of the Park, dominated by Pizzo Carbonara, is a karstic tableland scattered with dolines, called "quarare", which are up to 25 metres deep. This is the area where the visitor is most likely to find beech groves, one of the most valuable aspects of the Madonie area. Holly is widespread in the beech and turkey oak underwood, and in some areas, in particular in the Bosco di Piano Pomo near Castelbuono, it reaches exceptional heights

(up to 20 m). The intermediate area, at an altitude ranging between 1200 and 1500 metres, you will mostly find a mixed wood, with oaks, turkey oaks, sessile oaks, and wych elms. Here, grow the surviving twenty specimens of a very rare endemism: the Nebrodi fir, located in the Vallone Madonna degli Angeli, near Polizzi Generosa. Owing to its karstic nature, the central Madonie massif lacks a superficial water network, whereas underground waters abound. The other areas are rich in torrents, streams and rivers, which flow towards the coast or towards the valleys of the two main rivers, Pollina and Imera.

The ravines of the River Pollina, which recall the better known ones of the River Alcantara, are particularly attractive.

SEA RESERVES

Sea reserves represent one of the prides of the environmental policy in Sicily. The Ustica Island has been the first in Italy: thanks to the richness of its seabed, it is known as the most popular scuba divers' resort. Other sea reserves, already officially acknowledged or in the process of being acknowledged, are the Aegades Islands, the Ciclopi Islands near Aci Trez-

za, the Pelagie Islands, Pantelleria, the Nature Reserve of Capo Passero with the island bearing the same name, the Stagnone of Marsala (2012 ha), a coastal lagoon with active saltworks and islands (among which the Mozia Island, an important Phoenician archaeological site, is particularly interesting) and the entire complex of the Aeolian Islands.

USTICA

For information: tel. no.: +39 0918449631

The island, which has the shape of a turtle, lies 52 km north of Capo Gallo and is connected to Palermo by a regular service of water-buses and hydrofoils. Its structure recalls that of the Aeolian Islands: indeed, it is the part awash of an under-sea volcano. It is crossed by a mountainous ridge that reaches the highest altitude with Mount Guardia dei Turchi (240 m). The wild aspect it displays is conveyed to it by the dark petrified lava that partially covers it, hence the name it is known by: "Black Pearl of the Mediterranean Sea". Thanks to its clear waters abounding in fish and

to the attractive seabed, it is an exclusive resort for diving enthusiasts. The island is a sea nature reserve and hosts the first marine park of the region. The town slopes down on the side of the tuffaceous Falconara hill with its picturesque houses, some of which are decorated by mural paintings, accomplished by well-known contemporary artists. In the island, a prehistoric village and some Phoenician necropolises have been unearthed. The tower of Santa Maria has been converted into a museum of underwater archaeology to preserve the numerous items found during the search of old wrecks and of the remains of Ostrogoths, a submerged town a mile away from the island.

The island was inhabited by the Phoenicians and later by the Romans, who called it *Ustica* (from "ustum", burnt), owing to its black cliffs. For a long time it was an undisputed Saracen possession, up to the 18th century, when it was occupied by the Bourbons, who repopulated it with families coming from the Aeolian Islands. For several decades, it was used as a place of internment for common and political prisoners.

AEGADES ISLANDS

For information: tel. no.: +39 0923922121

The Aegades archipelago, made up by the islands of Favignana, Levanzo and Marettimo and by the Marone and Formica rocks, is not far from the Trapani coast. Thanks to the blue waters, the fascinating coasts made more valuable by the presence of rises, small bays and caves inhabited ever since prehistory, the Aegades Islands have become a very popular seaside resort. The Favignana tunny-fishing nets, which are among the few surviving ones in Sicily, are of great interest. It is easy to reach the islands from Trapani, by boat and hydrofoil.

CICLOPI ISLANDS

For information: tel. no.: +39 0957117322

The Cyclopi Islands are picturesque rocks not far from the coast. They were created by the action of heated basalt on the clayey seabed. A peculiarity of Aci, the largest among these islets, is the presence in the rock of erosive potholes, similar

to those dug by the glaciers in the alpine and sub-alpine areas. To the south of the islet the stacks, also known as Cyclops' rocks, stand out. According to legend, they were thrown by Polyphemus against Ulysses for having blinded him. The largest stack is 70 metres high. The small archipelago is now a sea nature reserve. A water-bus regularly goes round the islets and along the coast starting from the Aci Trezza port.

AEOLIAN OR LIPARI ISLANDS

For information: tel. no.: +39 0909852028 - 0909811190

The seven Aeolian Islands (Lipari, Vulcano, Salina, Panarea, Filicudi, Alicudi and Stromboli) situated off the northern coast of Sicily, represent an exceptional nature complex, owing to their wild beauty, their clear waters, the excellent climate and the volcanic phenomena that can be viewed from here. In fact, these islands have a volcanic origin, and are characterized by extinct craters, with the exception of Stromboli, where various craters are active, and Vulcano, at the moment in a fumarolic activity phase. The mountainous and indented morphology of the islands is not only due to the eruptive activity, but also to sea erosion, which has shaped the coastline. The fire coming from the earth combines with that of the sun, which is made tolerable by winds and breezes. After all, in ancient times, the Aeolian archipelago was believed to be the seat of Aetna and Vulcan, the gods of wind and fire.

MINOR PROTECTED AREAS

- **Biviere di Gela Carbonara**

Surface: 332 ha

Features: Humid coastal zone, separated from the sea by high sand dunes, very rich in migratory birds.

- **Bosco della Ficuzza, Rocca Busambra e Gorgo del Drago**

Surface: 2978 ha

Features: Solid oak wood dominated by the calcareous wall of Rocca Busambra (1613

m. a.s.l.).

Distinctive features: Gorgo del Drago, a stream surfacing from a deep gorge, d.

- **Cava Grande del Cassibile**

Surface: 2696 ha

Features: A gorge where the river Cassibile flows, with Mediterranean scrub.

Distinctive features: Thousands of cave tombs (11th-9th centuries B.C.) dug into the steep walls of the very deep canyons; giant plane-trees.

- **Flume Ciane e Saline di Siracusa**

Surface: 316 ha

Features: Humid coastal zone with disused saltworks.

Distinctive features: Papyrus paper.

- **Monte Pellegrino**

Surface: 1021 ha

Features: Rocky headland overlooking Palermo, with Mediterranean scrub.

Distinctive features: 1134 caves of geological and prehistoric interest; presence of peregrine falcons.

- **Monti di Palazzo Adriano e Valle del Sosio**

Surface: 5862 ha

Features: Calcareous mountains south of Corleone, crossed by the river Sosio, which flows through a woody canyon.

Distinctive features: Presence of several birds of prey.

- **Pantani di Vendicari**

Surface: 1512 ha

Features: Humid coastal zone south of Syracuse, very rich in birds and halophilic vegetation, privileged lookout post for the observation of resident and visitant birds.

Distinctive features: juniper coccolone.

- **Riserva naturale delle Macalube di Aragona**

Surface: 1600 ha

Features: Small mud volcanoes erupting natural gas alternating with greyish mud.

- **Riserva Naturale dello Zingaro**

Surface: 1600 ha

Features: Rocky coastal area, with Mediterranean scrub, situated on the northwest end of the island.

Distinctive features: Dwarf palm trees, *Limonium Todaroanum*; Bonelli's eagles.

- **Saline di Trapani e Paceco**

Surface: 970 ha

Features: Humid coastal zone with active saltworks.

Distinctive features: Migratory birds such as gannets and puffins.

- **Vallone di Pantalica**

Surface: 3712 ha

Features: Canyon dug by the river Anapo. Presence of the peregrine falcons.

Distinctive features: Rock necropolis (13th-8th century B.C.).

THERMAL BATHS

Spas represent a further tourist attraction and it is often possible to combine a period of therapy with an extremely enjoyable holiday immersed in the Sicilian environment and culture. The chief watering places, some of which have been known since

ancient times, where various conditions can be treated and various therapies can be administered are located in Acitrezza, Ali Terme, Castoreale Terme, Sciacca, Termini Imerese, Castellammare del Golfo and Vulcano.

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www.termes-actireale.com

Open: all year

Water type: hypothermal sulphur, salso-bromine-iodic waters. Once you reach the end of Corso Vittorio Emanuele, the so-called Via delle Terme leads to the Santa Venera Spa, situated towards the southern border of the town. Established during the last decades of the 19th century, with features recalling the neoclassical style, this spa is supplied by a spring located at a significant distance from the town centre, in a spot where the Greek and subsequently the Roman thermal baths used to be.

ALI TERME (ME)**TERME DI ALI TERME**

Via Roma, 21

Tel. no.: +39 no.: +39 0942 701063 - 0942 715031

Open: from May to October

Water type: sulphur, saline-bromine-iodic-carbon waters.

CASTROREALE TERME (ME)**TERME DI CASTROREALE**

Viale delle Terme, 85 - Tel. no.: +39 no.: +39 090 9781078

Open: all year

Water type: bicarbonate-alkaline waters.

Castroreale Terme is a major thermal resort situated on the Puntì Gulf, in the municipality of Terme Vigliatore, at about 14 km from Castroreale, between Capo Tindari and Mount Milazzo. The waters of the two mineral springs are suitable for the treatment of liver, gastrointestinal and skin disorders.

SCIACCA (AG)**TERME DI SCIACCA**

Via Agatocle, 2 - Tel. no.: +39 0925 961111 - 800881079

www.termesciacca.it

Water type: bicarbonate-alkaline and chloride-sodium and ferruginous waters. The spa represents the chief attraction of this charming town, with its new Art-Nouveau style building, and is supplied by the thermal waters of the Sciacca basin nearby. A pleasant walk adorned by palm-trees separates the building from the cliff falling sheer to the sea.

TERMINI IMERESE (PA)**TERME DI TERMINI IMERESE**

Piazza Terme, 2 - Tel. no.: +39 091 8113557

With its large hotel designed by Giuseppe Damiani Ameyda, the spa complex is situated at the end of a steep downhill road, under the gardens of Villa Agaglia. The spa is supplied by the saline-bromine-iodic waters of two springs that exceed 40 °C in temperature. These are used to treat rheumatic and hyperuricemic conditions.

CASTELLAMMARE DEL GOLFO (TP)**TERME SEGESTANE**

Contrada Ponte Bagni, 1 - Tel. no.: +39 0924 530057

Open: from June to October

Water type: hyperthermal saline-sulphur waters. The hyperthermal waters (45 °C) of Terme Segestane, which belong to the saline-sulphur type, are particularly suitable to treat gynaecologic and rheumatic conditions.

VULCANO (ME)**TERME DI VULCANO**

Via dei Villini - Tel. no.: +39 090 9852338

Open: all year

Between Vulcanello and the actual island is some kind of isthmus, made up of sand and lava, on whose sides the bays of Porto Levante and Porto Ponente, two key seaside resorts, stretch out. Between the harbour and Vulcanello you will find one of the greatest attractions in Vulcano: a large hot mud basin, which is deemed to be therapeutic for rheumatism and skin conditions.

SPORT AND LEISURE**HORSE RIDING**

Many holiday farms offer tourists the opportunity to practise horse riding.

GOLF

The only Sicilian 18-hole golf course is located in the Castiglione di Sicilia area on the slopes of Mount Etna, in the Catania province.

Il Picciolo Golf Club, contrada Rovitello - Tel. no.: +39 0942 986252.

DIVING

One of the great sporting specialities that can be enjoyed in Sicily is diving and scuba diving, especially in the waters surrounding the so-called "minor islands". Ustica, with its marine reserve, is an extremely popular tourist resort.

Club Nautico Vulcano Baia Azzurra - Vulcano (ME) - Tel. no.: +39 090 9852221 Centro Nautico - Filicudi (ME) - Tel. no.: +39 090 9889984 Centro Immersioni Lo Verde - Lampedusa (AG) - Tel. no.: +39 0922 970181 Centro Nautico Eoliano - Lipari (ME) - Tel. no.: +39 090 9812437 Alia Marea - Ustica (PA) - Tel. no.: +39 091 8449109 - Scubaland - Ustica (PA) - Tel. no.: +39 091 8449216

SKIING

Mount Etna offers the opportunity to venture on winter sports: ski-lift facilities and tracks involving various degrees of difficulty can be found in the Linguaglossa and Nicolosi ski stations, with a total amount of 27 km downhill tracks, 3 cross-country skiing circular

routes and an alpine and nordic skiing school

CAI Regione Sicilia - Tel. no.: +39 091 322689 - Guide dell'Etna - Tel. no.: +39 095 7915997

TREKKING

On the Madonie massive, on the Nebrodi Mountains and on Mount Etna, trekking is becoming increasingly popular, even though, at the moment, there are very few paths provided with adequate road signs.

Parco dell'Etna

Tel. no.: +39 095914588

Parco regionale dei monti Nebrodi - Tel. no.: +39 0921 333211

Ente parco delle Madonie

Tel. no.: +39 0921 684011

SAILING

Several sailing clubs exist along the Sicilian coasts, and they all belong to the Italian Sailing Federation.

KITING AND WINDSURFING

Wind conditions are favourable for these sports throughout the year.

CYCLE TOURING

Thanks to the mild climate enjoyed during the winter, it is possible to practise cycling throughout the year. You can find accommodation in tourist facilities (hotels and holiday farms) which are specially designed for all the keen cyclists, both on road and off road, who wish to enjoy their favourite sport together with a pleasant stay in Sicily.

HARBOURS

TOWN	LANDING CATEGORY
Aci Castello (CT)	quay/pier
Aci Trezza (CT)	harbour/small harbour
Addaura (PA)	harbour/small harbour
Alicudi (ME) - Scalo Palomba	quay/pier
Arenella (PA)	harbour/small harbour
Augusta (SR) - Cala del Molo	wet dock
Augusta (SR) - Cantiere CO.CA.N.	quay/pier
Augusta (SR) - Darsena servizi	wet dock
Augusta (SR) - Porto Xifonio	berthing/harbourage
Augusta (SR) - Terre Vecchie	military harbour
Baia di Ognina (SR)	quay/pier
Balestrate (PA)	wet dock
Bandita (PA)	harbour/small harbour
Bonagia (TP)	quay/pier
Brucoli (SR)	canal harbour
Cala Bernardo (SR)	harbour/small harbour
Capo d'Orlando (ME)	harbour/small harbour
Castellammare del Golfo (TP)	harbour/small harbour
Catania - Cailo	wet dock
Catania - Circolo Nautico N.I.C.	quay/pier
Catania - Club Nautico	quay/pier
Catania - Di harbour Nautico Etneo	quay/pier
Catania - Mediterranea Yachting Club	quay/pier
Catania - San Giovanni Licuti	wet dock
Cefalù (PA) - Porto Nuovo	harbour/small harbour
Cefalù (PA) - Porto Vecchio	quay/pier
Donnalucata (RG)	harbour/small harbour
Favignana (TP) - Cala Principale	harbour/small harbour
Favignana (TP) - Punta Longa	quay/pier

TOWN
LANDING CATEGORY

Filicudi (ME) - Pecorini a Mare	quay/pier
Filicudi (ME) - Porto	quay/pier
Fontane Bianche (SR)	quay/pier
Fossa del Gallo (PA)	harbour/small harbour
Fumani (ME) - Marina di Portorosa	private seashore
Gela (CL)	harbour/small harbour
Giardini-Naxos (ME)	quay/pier
Isola delle Femmine (PA)	harbour/small harbour
Isolotto Formica (TP)	berthing/harbourage
Lampedusa (AG) - Cala Pisana	quay/pier
Lampedusa (AG) - Porto	harbour/small harbour
Levanzo (TP) - Cala Dogana	quay/pier
Licata (AG)	harbour/small harbour
Linosa (TP) - Cala Pozzolana di Ponente	quay/pier
Linosa (AG) - Scalo Vecchio	harbour/small harbour
Lipari (ME) - Acquacalda	quay/pier
Lipari (ME) - Canneto	quay/pier
Lipari (ME) - Marina Corta	quay/pier
Lipari (ME) - Marina Lunga	quay/pier
Lipari (ME) - Pignataro	quay/pier
Lipari (ME) - Porticello	piers
Lipari (ME) - Portinente	berthing/harbourage
Lipari (ME) - Sottomonastero	quay/pier
Marettimo (TP) - Scalo Nuovo	quay/pier
Marettimo (TP) - Scalo Vecchio	quay/pier
Marina del Nettuno (ME)	private seashore
Marina di Avola (SR)	quay/pier
Marina di Palma (AG)	quay/pier
Marina di Patti (ME)	quay/pier
Marina di Ragusa (RG)	quay/pier
Marinella di Selinunte (TP)	quay/pier

TOWN	LANDING CATEGORY
Marsala (TP)	harbour/small harbour
Marzamemi (SR) - La Balata	quay/pier
Marzamemi (SR) - Marina Sporting	quay/pier
Mazara del Vallo (TP) - A.D.I.N.A.	quay/pier
Mazara del Vallo (TP) - Porto commerciale	industrial/commercial harbour
Milazzo (ME)	harbour/small harbour
Mondello (PA)	quay/pier
Ognina (CT) - Porto Ulisse	harbour/small harbour
Palermo - Acquisanta	harbour/small harbour
Palermo - Porto commerciale	industrial/commercial harbour
Palermo - Porto industriale	industrial/commercial harbour
Palermo - Sant'Erasmo	quay/pier
Panarea (ME) - Scalo Dittella	quay/pier
Pantelleria (TP) - Cala di Levante	quay/pier
Pantelleria (TP) - Cala di Tramontana	quay/pier
Pantelleria (TP) - Campobello	berthing/harbourage
Pantelleria (TP) - Porto dietro isola	berthing/harbourage
Pantelleria (TP) - Porto Nuovo	harbour/small harbour
Pantelleria (TP) - Porto Vecchio	harbour/small harbour
Pantelleria (TP) - Scauri	harbour/small harbour
Pizzolungo (TP)	harbour/small harbour
Porticello Santa Flavia (PA)	harbour/small harbour
Porto Empedocle (AG)	harbour/small harbour
Portopalo (SR)	harbour/small harbour
Porto Palo di Menfi (AG)	harbour/small harbour
Pozzallo (RG) - Porto commerciale	industrial/commercial harbour
Pozzallo (RG) - Porto servizio	harbour/small harbour
Pozzillo (CT)	harbour/small harbour
Punta Celesi (PA)	quay/pier
Riposto (CT)	harbour/small harbour

TOWN	LANDING CATEGORY
Salina (ME) - Capo Faro	berthing/harbourage
Salina (ME) - Darsena turistica	wet dock
Salina (ME) - Punta Lingua	quay/pier
Salina (ME) - Rinella	quay/pier
Salina (ME) - Santa Marina Salina	harbour/small harbour
Salina (ME) - Scalo Galera	quay/pier
San Leone (AG)	harbour/small harbour
San Nicola l'Arena (PA)	harbour/small harbour
San Vito (TP) - Small harbour turistico	harbour/small harbour
San Vito Lo Capo (TP)	harbour/small harbour
Sant'Agata di Militello (ME)	harbour/small harbour
Santa Maria La Scala (CT)	quay/pier
Santa Tecla (CT)	quay/pier
Sciacca (AG)	harbour/small harbour
Scoglitti (RG)	harbour/small harbour
Sferracavallo (PA)	quay/pier
Siculiana Marina (AG)	harbour/small harbour
Siracusa - Porto Grande	harbour/small harbour
Siracusa - Porto Piccolo	harbour/small harbour
Stazzo (CT)	harbour/small harbour
Stromboli (ME) - Ficogrande	quay/pier
Stromboli (ME) - Scari	quay/pier
Termini Imerese (PA)	harbour/small harbour
Terrasini (PA)	harbour/small harbour
Torre Archirafi (CT)	quay/pier
Trapani	industrial/commercial harbour
Ustica (PA) - Cala Santa Maria	harbour/small harbour
Vulcano (ME) - Gelso	quay/pier
Vulcano (ME) - Porto di Levante	quay/pier
Vulcano (ME) - Porto di Ponente	quay/pier

TRADITIONAL FLAVOURS

The Sicilian cuisine is perhaps the most varied in Italy, and is certainly one of the most refined and tasty. The great geographical variety of the island, which includes mountain territories, a coastline more than a thousand kilometres long, hills and fertile plains, combined with the variety of historical dominations that followed each other in Sicily over the millenniums, results in an astonishingly rich variety of dishes. The island is generous in top-level ingredients, from fish to meat, from vegetables (now also cultivated as early produce for the international market) to fruits, particularly citrus fruits, grapes, pistachios and almonds.

The imagination of the Sicilians, starting from this particularly rich basis, has improved and has become more and more refined, up to the achievement of very high levels.

For example ice creams, although of Arabian origins, are in their modern form an undisputed speciality of the island, exported all over the world.

The preparation of foods also dates back to remote customs, and each zone of Sicily still suggests its own recipes or their variations. Even now, there often are heated discussions about the preparation of dishes, pasta or sweets, as a sign of the sentimental value attached to certain tastes and ingredients.

Furthermore, some particular

foods are prepared only on the occasion of some festivities, and continue to mark the various periods of the year just as they did in the past.

The Historical Heritage

The simplest dietary habits, namely those directly connected with agricultural produce, are due to the Greeks.

These dishes, which use excellent ingredients available throughout the year, are still now the basis of the traditional rural cuisine.

The Arabs have left an important gastronomic heritage, above all in the west part of the island. In Trapani, for example, the traditional north-African couscous is a common dish.

In the Palermo cuisine, the most elaborate and refined amongst the island's gastronomic traditions, typical elements coming from the Arabian world can be found: the use of pine kernels, raisins, almonds, sesame and sweet and sour tastes. And it is in Palermo that the tradition of cassatas and sorbets was born, with their remote Arabian origins.

Dried salted cod and stockfish, still popular in Messina and in the east of the island, come from the northern customs of the Normans. While garlic is the pre-eminent flavour for a poor cuisine, the use of browned onions, of French origins, has been accepted for the prepa-

ration of more elaborate dishes. The French and Spanish introduced the taste for sumptuous presentations and elaborate sauces. In the 19th century it had become customary for noble Sicilian families to have a French cook. That is why it is not surprising to find, among Sicilian dishes, timbales and meaty "falsimagri" wrapped in the exclusive short pastry of French origin.

The Sicilian Menu

Pasta reigns sovereign throughout the island; rice is less common and is used in different ways compared with its places of origin: in fact, it is used mostly to prepare timbales, arancini and sweets.

Starters including stuffed fritters, vegetables with sweet and sour sauce, olives and sardines are widespread.

Tuna, marlin, mascolini (similar to anchovies) and sardines are the most common fish in Sicily. Kid, game and pork (above all in the Ragusa area) are the more characteristic meats among those cooked on the island.

Still, the triumph of Sicilian gastronomy is in its confectionery, particularly ice creams and sweets made with almonds, ricotta and fruit.

The cuisine of the Aeolian Islands deserves a particular mention: it is characterized by the abundant use of local capers.

Starters

The most important starters, together with the already mentioned arancini, include olives prepared in various ways, caponate, potato croquettes (or cazzilli), pancakes of Catania filled either with ricotta or with anchovies and fennel seeds (crispèddi), impanate of Syracuse (similar to the sacciate of Catania and the pastizzu of Ragusa), which are focaccias filled either with a mixture of broccoli, sausage and fresh cheese, or with potatoes, tomato and onions; the guastedde of Palermo (small soft loaves sprinkled with sesame seeds and filled with spleen, ricotta and caciocavallo). Olives filled with capers and anchovies and preserved in oil are really delicious.

The arancini, or arancine (croquettes) are prepared with rice, meat sauce, peas and diced caciocavallo; in Palermo pine kernels and raisins are also added to the filling.

The caponata is basically a dish including various types of vegetables, lightly fried separately and then seasoned with a sweet-and-sour sauce.

The ingredients may vary from one area to another.

The usual range includes aubergines, peppers, tomatoes, olives, capers, pine kernels, raisins and almonds.

Celery, spinach, sliced pear and cinnamon can be added to these ingredients.

First Courses

Sicilian first courses stand out because of the richness of their preparation and of the sauces.

Considering the long list of ingredients, it is easy to understand that in the past a first course represented a complete meal.

The five best-known specialities are: couscous, timbale, pasta alla Norma, pasta 'cca muddica and pasta with sardines.

The couscous, of Arabian origins, is widespread in the Trapani and Marsala areas.

Its preparation is quite elaborate: the semolina is first transformed into small round lumps, which are then seasoned with oil, salt and pepper and steamed in a suitable container.

Then the semolina is amalgamated with either a rich fish soup or with stewed lamb, or also with fried aubergines, chicken and broccoli.

The number of ingredients mixed together to make up the oven-cooked timbale is almost incredible: macaroni with meat sauce, chicken livers, hard-boiled eggs, ham, small pieces of chicken, cheese, peas and a great number of herbs. The pasta alla Norma pays homage to Vincenzo Bellini, born in Catania, author of the well known opera bearing the same name. This pasta dish is seasoned with fresh basil, dried salted ricotta and above all fried aubergines. Tomato sauce is optional.

The pasta 'cca muddica (with

breadcrumbs) is a typical dish of the poor cuisine, seasoned with oil, garlic, anchovies and breadcrumbs.

The pasta with sardines is one of the best-known dishes in western Sicily: it is prepared with spaghetti or bucatini boiled in water flavoured with wild fennel seeds, and it is seasoned with a sauce made with sardines, anchovies, pine kernels, onions, raisins and wild fennel seeds.

"Maccu" is the queen of soups: a broad bean purée sometime seasoned either with sautéed onion and tomato or pumpkin.

Delicacies from the Sea

Throughout Sicily, fish either fresh (tuna, marlin, mascolini, hake and smooth dogfish) or preserved (stockfish) is cooked in various excellent ways.

Fresh tuna is prepared "al ragù" (sprinkled with garlic, field balm and salt, browned in oil and finished with white wine; a sauce made with onion, tomato, garlic and hot pepper is then added to the whole dish), oven-cooked (in layers, seasoned with oil, salt, oregano, breadcrumbs, onion slices and tomatoes), or in roulades (stuffed with breadcrumbs, parsley, garlic, egg and pecorino cheese, fried and then served in a tomato and onion sauce).

The marlin, cut in big slices, is cooked in a frying pan, together with

th tomatoes, potatoes, olives and capers. The Messina recipe is more elaborate: the timbale of marlin is prepared with a tomato sauce enriched with onions, capers, celery, olives, and covered, before being closed, with a layer of fried courgettes or artichokes.

Then, the timbale is baked in the oven. The Messina-style stockfish is prepared in the same way, starting with the fish dredged with flour and fried, finished off in a frying pan with tomatoes, raisins, capers, olives and potatoes.

Meat

As far as meat is concerned, the preparation is more important than the ingredients.

In fact, Sicily is not traditionally rich in meat, particularly beef; so the meat is limited to mutton, game, chicken and pork. Meatballs (badduzze) cooked in tomato sauce are typical.

Another exquisite speciality is the "beccafico 'nna cipudda": hollowed out onions stuffed with beccafichi (small wild birds), cooked in a covered pan.

Other refined dishes are kid "a sciuciareddu" (browned, then finished off with tomato, asparagus and fried artichokes; before serving it, the meat is covered with a thin layer of beaten eggs with cheese and parsley), rabbit, either according to "a purtuisa" recipe (sautéed onion, olives, celery and

capers, and then with the addition of aubergines, potatoes, fried peppers, vinegar and sugar) or according to "a stimpirata" recipe (previously marinated in red wine, onion, laurel and pepper and then cooked in a sweet and sour sauce). The "farsu magru" (false lean) takes its name from a big slice of lean beef, which is stuffed, rolled and stewed in tomato sauce. Hard-boiled eggs, cheese, ham, bacon fat, raisins, pine kernels, sausage and spices make up the stuffing. The province of Ragusa is known above all for its sausages, prepared with plenty of herbs and spices, and for stuffed pork roulades.

Typical Cheeses

Sicily cannot boast many kinds of cheese; the most typical are caciocavallo, pecorino (primosale, i.e. not mature, or with pepper), fresh or dried salted ricotta.

Sweets

The region offers the best sweets in the whole of Italy.

Amongst the most important are cannoli (with a creamy filling made of sweet ricotta, candied fruit and chocolate), cassata (made with sponge cake, ricotta mixed with sugar, chocolate, vanilla, candied fruit and maraschino) and Martorana fruits (fruit-shaped al-

mond paste).

The preparation of "cuccia", of Arabian derivation, is very elaborate: it is made from wheat grains that are cooked for quite a long time, only flavoured with honey; to these, creamed ricotta, candied fruit and chocolate are added later. "Giuggiulena" (a soft nougat with honey, almonds and sesame seeds), sweet couscous (durum wheat semolina flavoured with cocoa, candied fruit, sugar, pistachio and cinnamon) and "impanatiglie" of Modica (ravioli made with a sweet pastry, filled with minced meat, chocolate, almonds, walnuts, cinnamon and cloves) also have Arabian origins.

"Mostaccioli" are another kind of typical sweet: they are made with a mixture of mulled wine or must thickened over a flame with flour and honey, and then dried in suitable earthenware moulds.

The watermelon or melon "gelo" is a delicious jelly made with watermelon or melon pulp flavoured with chocolate, cinnamon and vanilla, and stiffened with starch.

Ice creams, sorbets and cassata-ice cream are other sweet specialties that were born in Sicily and from there have spread to the rest of Italy.

The sorbet also derives from Arabia: originally, the juice of citrus or other fruits was chilled by means of snow kept in suitable underground tanks.

Water ice and almond milk (obtained from ground almonds) s-

tand out among refreshers and soft drinks.

Sicilian Wines

Ancient archaeological finds, dating back to the 2nd millennium B.C., show that Sicily was one of the first Italian regions where the art of cultivating vineyards and transforming grapes into wine was practised.

For a long while, the Sicilian vineyards were crowded indiscriminately with traditional varieties of grapes, which were often used for the production of unpretentious wines.

Only in the last decade of the 20th century was there a decided reversal of the trend, thanks to the full awareness achieved by several Sicilian dealers, but also thanks to the arrival on the island of a number of international vines (above all Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah, Sangiovese, Chardonnay, Sauvignon) and to non-resident traders who stimulated a comparison with local productions and consequently the research for quality wines.

Local vines (Catarratto, Inzolia, Grillo, Grecanico, Carricante, white Minnella, Malvasia delle Lipari and Moscato among white wines; Frappato, Nero d'Avola, Perricone, Calabrese, Nerello Mascalese, Pignatello, Nerello Mantellato, Gaglioppo and Nocera among black wines) are still

cultivated, but the way grapes are grown has been improved by taking targeted measures in the various technical and cultivation stages. As regards production, currently produced wines include 18 DOC label wines (Denominazione d'Origine Controllata, Registered Designation of Origin) and 7 IGT label wines (Indicazione Geografica Tipica, Regional Geographical Indication), mostly concentrated in the Palermo, Trapani and Agrigento provinces, with designations such as Marsala, Alcamo, Monreale, Santa Margherita del Belice, Menfi, Sciacca, Contessa Entellina, Delia Nivolelli and Sambuca di Sicilia. In the centre of the island, the DOC wine Contea di Sclafani is produced, whereas the DOC wines Etna and Faro come from an area in the northeast, between Messina and Catania. The southern end of the island produces wines such as Cerasuolo di Vittoria, Etna, Moscato di Noto and Moscato di Siracusa. Lastly, the production of the islands surrounding Sicily is noteworthy: Moscato and Passito come from Pantelleria, whereas Malvasia comes from the Lipari Islands. A total surface of over 130,000 hectares in the island is vineyards, with a yearly production of more than 8 million hectolitres of wine, which means Sicily ranks among the first regions in Italy as far as wine production is concerned. However, the percentage of DOC wines is still very low.

Wines

The Marsala, Trapani and Belice areas (in the northwest of the island), the Vittoria area (in the south) and the Etna area are the main Sicilian wine producing regions. Up to thirty years ago, the island was known and appreciated above all for its Marsala, an excellent wine to be enjoyed with a dessert, as an aperitif or in-between meals. Over the last few years, a number of wine industries have started to select vines according to the Sicilian land and climate, and they make wine taking into account modern tastes and avant-garde technology. (Æ facing box).

Dessert Wines

Marsala wine owes its international reputation to an English merchant, John Woodhouse, who arrived in Sicily in the late 18th century, and applied to the locally produced wine the winemaking techniques that had already been experimented with Madera and Sherry. Following suitable decanting, ageing and additions, he was able to produce a wine displaying exceptional features, subsequently exported all over the world. Moscato and Passito di Pantelleria, as well as the wine of Noto and Malvasia delle Lipari, are also the result of a complex processing for the production of excellent sweet wines.

CRAFTS

Among typical Sicilian handicraft production fields stand out pottery (terracotta, majolica, Christmas crib figurines, whistles), carpets, lace, papyrus paper, wickerwork and Sicilian puppets and carts.

Pottery

The Sicilian pottery tradition involves the whole production of artistic artefacts as well that of objects of everyday use. The chief centre is Caltagirone, where whistles and Christmas crib figurines are also produced and where annual exhibitions devoted to old cribs are held. Pottery, which was reintroduced by Arabians, exploited the rich local clay quarries. Typical are the decorations in green and yellow, as well as those in blue against a white background. Also typical are the Saracen's head-shaped vases. Caltagirone also has a large and well-documented Ceramics Museum, which is the second most important Italian museum in this field. Another major centre is Santo Stefano di Camastra, whose chief production in the past was represented by majolica coated tiles. Minor pottery production centres are Sciacca, Collesano, Comiso and Lentini.

Carpets and Embroidery

In the small towns of the Madonie area carpets and coloured blankets (the so-called "pizzare") are manufactured; in Erice, original carpets called "frazzate" are produced by processing scraps of materials or cotton yarns: the patterns are chiefly geometrical or flowery; very valuable needlework is accomplished in Santa Caterina di Vil-

lamosa, Sortino, Vittoria and Castiglione.

Coral

Coral processing is widespread ever since the 17th century in the Trapani area. The Pepoli Regional Museum in Trapani preserves some extraordinary examples of artistic coral handicraft. Today, the items produced chiefly consist in necklaces, bracelets and ornaments.

Papyrus Paper

In Siracusa, the great production of papyrus paper enables skilled local craftsmen to produce small decorated and engraved pictures.

Sicilian Puppets and Carts

Sicilian puppets, which are a symbol of local traditions, are still manufactured by cabinet-makers, wood-carvers and tinmen, who provided them with wonderful medieval armours. The production of Sicilian carts is less fortunate, as it has not been adequately continued. The last manufacturers of painted artisan carts live in Aci Sant'Antonio.

Wrought Iron

Wrought Iron processing in Sicily has a noble tradition, which is associated with the monumental balconies of the Baroque buildings in Noto, Catania, Siracusa, Modica and Ragusa and with the windows of the Taormina palaces. Heirs to this tradition are modern artisans, who are still extremely skilled in forging iron, especially in the fittings field (Palermo, Catania, Acireale and Giarre).

Lava Stone

Lava stonework, which was already widespread in the past and involved the creation of decorations for buildings, attracts today renewed interest within the field of artistic items, ranging

from souvenirs to drinking fountains, masks and banisters.

This is a particularly lively tradition in the area surrounding Mount Etna, owing to the abundance of raw material.

EXHIBITIONS AND STREET MARKETS

PALERMO

Extempora October
Toy Street Market
2 November

CALTAGIRONE (CT)

International Terracotta Whistle Exhibition
End of April - End of June

CATANIA

Antique Market
Piazza Carlo Alberto
Every Sunday
Omnia antiquaria
February

CIMINNA (PA)

San Vito Feast and Fair
First Sunday in September

GRAVINA DI CATANIA (CT)

Arts and Crafts Exhibition
October

MONREALE (PA)

Antique Market Fair
Last weekend of each month

NICOLOSI (CT)

Arts and Crafts and Local Traditions Exhibition
15 June

PANTELLERIA (TP)

Arts and Crafts Exhibition
August

SANTO STEFANO DI CAMASTRA (ME)

Regional Ceramic Exhibition
August-September

SCLAFANI BAGNI (PA)

Sclafani Bagni Feast and Fair
Second Sunday in August

TAORMINA (ME)

Nasso antica Antique Fair
Held at Giardini Naxos
Last weekend of each month

TROINA (EN)

San Silvestro Fair
First half of September

TOURIST ORGANISATION

REGIONAL TOURIST ORGANISATION,
REGIONAL TOURISM, COMMUNICATION
AND TRANSPORT COUNCIL/DI'S OFFICE

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