

# **NIAF** presents **Exploring Sicily from West to East**

**Weekly Departures Starting February 2010**  
**9-Days starting at \$1,899 from New York, JFK**

**For Information and Reservations, Contact:**

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**Day 1 - DEPART** - Today we depart JFK on our overnight flight to Palermo [via Rome] aboard a wide bodied jet. We will be served complementary beverages, in-flight movies, dinner and breakfast aloft

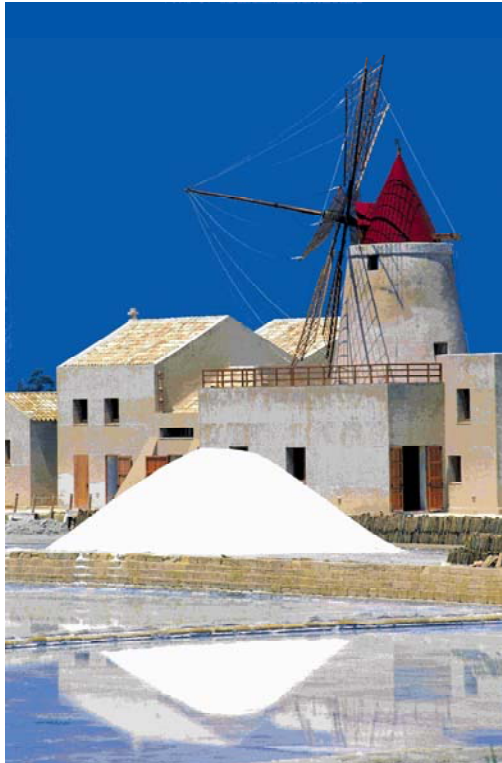
**Day 2 – PALERMO** – Today we arrive Palermo airport where we will be met by our Tour Manager and transferred to the our hotel. Rest of the day at leisure. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

**Day 3 – PALERMO/MONREALE** - This morning we will visit the Zisa Castle, the Norman Cathedral and Independence Square. After some free time we continue to Monreale where we visit its famous Cathedral and Benedictine's Kiosk built by the Normans over an ancient mosque. Return to Palermo for dinner and overnight.

**Day 4 – ERICE/MARSALA** - This morning will make our way to the 13<sup>th</sup> century city of Erice with its medieval Norman Castle, and mother church. Continue to Marsala. Here we will visit the Salt Pans and enjoy a light lunch inside of a wind mill. Return to Palermo for dinner and overnight.

**Day 5 - CATANIA/GIARDINI NAXOS** – Morning departure for Catania which was built in 729 BC with the name “Katane,” which means “grater” in Sicilian. It was conquered by the Romans in 263 BC. The Roman influence can still be felt, as some architectural ruins of the Augustan period still remain. After the Byzantine domination there was the Arabic and then the Norman supremacy, which brought many changes and innovations to the town, the building of the Cathedral, and the many monasteries. With the Aragonese, Catania had a period of economic recovery and cultural revolution; in fact, it was during this period that the first university of the island was born. The following Spanish domination and the earthquake in 1693 plunged the land into a serious economic crisis. This period was then followed by an important rebuilding campaign that continued after the unity of Italy. The XIX century saw a flourishing period of cultural splendor for Catania, involving expansion and growth in worldly, literary, musical, and theatrical expressions. We will visit Catania's most significant monuments: the Elephant Fountain, the Cathedral (XI century), and the beautiful baroque city centre. After some leisure time for shopping we continue to our hotel in Giardini Naxos for dinner and overnight.

**Day 6 – TAORMINA/SAVOCA** - Taormina, known in the ancient times as Tauromenion. The town lies in an elevated position of amazing, almost unique beauty, affording



magnificent views of the sea and clear sky with miles of a curving coastline and picturesque mountain scenery, while the majestic pyramid of Mt. Etna on the other side constitutes a scene of indescribable beauty. Upon arrival, we will visit the most impressive monument of the city: the Greco-Roman Theatre. Continue to Savoca. Here you will be able to walk in the footsteps of Michael Corleone's. This is the town in Sicily where part of the Godfather movie was filmed. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight

**Day 7 – RAGUSA** - Ragusa is really two separate towns, both of whom were combined to form one municipality in 1926. Lower Ragusa, known as Ragusa Ibla, or simply “Ibla,” is the ancient part of the city, rebuilt after suffering heavy damage due to the infamous 1693 earthquake that devastated south-eastern Sicily. Upper Ragusa, or Ragusa Superiore, is the main part of the new city, which was built on the ridge across from Ibla after the earthquake. Due to the

fact that upper Ragusa was built in the early 1700s, most of its churches and main buildings were thus constructed in the Baroque and New-Classical styles. Most of the city's history deals with the old city of Ibla. Populated by the indigenous Siculi in ancient times, the town was called “Hybla Heraea,” from which the name Ibla was derived. Ibla's best-known church is the Basilica of St. George, whose entrance is reached by climbing a spacious set of elegantly decorated curving stairs. The majestic dome of the church towers above the town and dominates the Piazza del Duomo and its neat rows of palm trees beneath it. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

**Day 8 – ETNA** - Mt. Etna is Sicily's tallest peak and one of Europe's most famous active volcanoes. The most violent eruption to take place in the XX century was in 1910, which led to twenty-three additional craters being formed. In 1928, a lava flow destroyed the village of Mascali. Other eruptions have followed, the most recent being in 1981, 1983, 1985, 1991-92, 2001, 2002, 2004, and 2005. Upon arrival we will visit the area 2.000 meters (6.000 ft) above sea level, where the Crateri Silvestri are located. A chance to go up to the main crater on 4x4 or free time to enjoy the mountain. Lunch at a nearby agriturismo. Afternoon free. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

**Day 9 – HOME** - We will transfer to the Catania airport to board our flight to New York JFK [via Rome] where we arrive with memories of a lifetime.

## Reservation Form – NIAF Exploring Sicily from West to East

Mail to: Marianna Pisano, Unitours Inc., 3010 Westchester Ave. – Purchase, NY 10577

Please reserve \_\_\_ seats on this Sicily Tour

Enclosed please find deposit of \$300 per person, make checks payable to Italy Travel,

**PLEASE ENCLOSE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT**

Name(s) (as appears on passport) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

My Roommate: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I prefer a single room - \$300 supplement and limited in number.

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Day \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_

Charge my deposit to \_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_ Amex

\_\_\_\_\_ Card #

\_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**DEPOSITS AND CANCELLATIONS:** A deposit of \$300 per person is required to secure reservations, which sum will be applied to the price of the tour. Reservations made within 60 days of departure must include full payment. Balance is to be paid in full no later than 60 days before departure of tour. Return checks must be replaced in the form of a certified check or money order and must include a \$50 return check fee. Cancellations made from time of reservation up to 60 days prior to departure -- \$100 per person processing charge plus any air penalties. Cancellations made 59 to 8 days prior will incur additional penalties. NO REFUND for cancellation made within 7days of travel. All cancellation and refund claims must be in writing to Italy Travel.

### **COST FROM NEW YORK (JFK)\***

(Price per person, based on double occupancy)

\$1,899          \$2,099          \$2,299

Feb./March/Nov.    April/May          June

Sept./Oct.

U.S. and Italian airport taxes, security fees and airline fuel surcharge **ARE NOT INCLUDED.** (Currently and subject to change until airline tickets have been issued \$375 per person)

### **RESERVATION FORM**

Choose one the following departures.

(If tour selected is full, another departure will be offered.)

13-Feb-10	06-March-10	13-March-10	20-March-10
27-March-10	03-April-10	10-April-10	17-April-10
24-April-10	01-May-10	08-May-10	15-May-10
22-May-10	29-May-10	05-June-10	12-June-10
19-June-10	26-June-10	04-Sep-10	11-Sep-10
18-Sep-10	25-Sep-10	02-Oct-10	09-Oct-10
16-Oct-10	23-Oct-10	30-Oct-10	13-Nov-10