

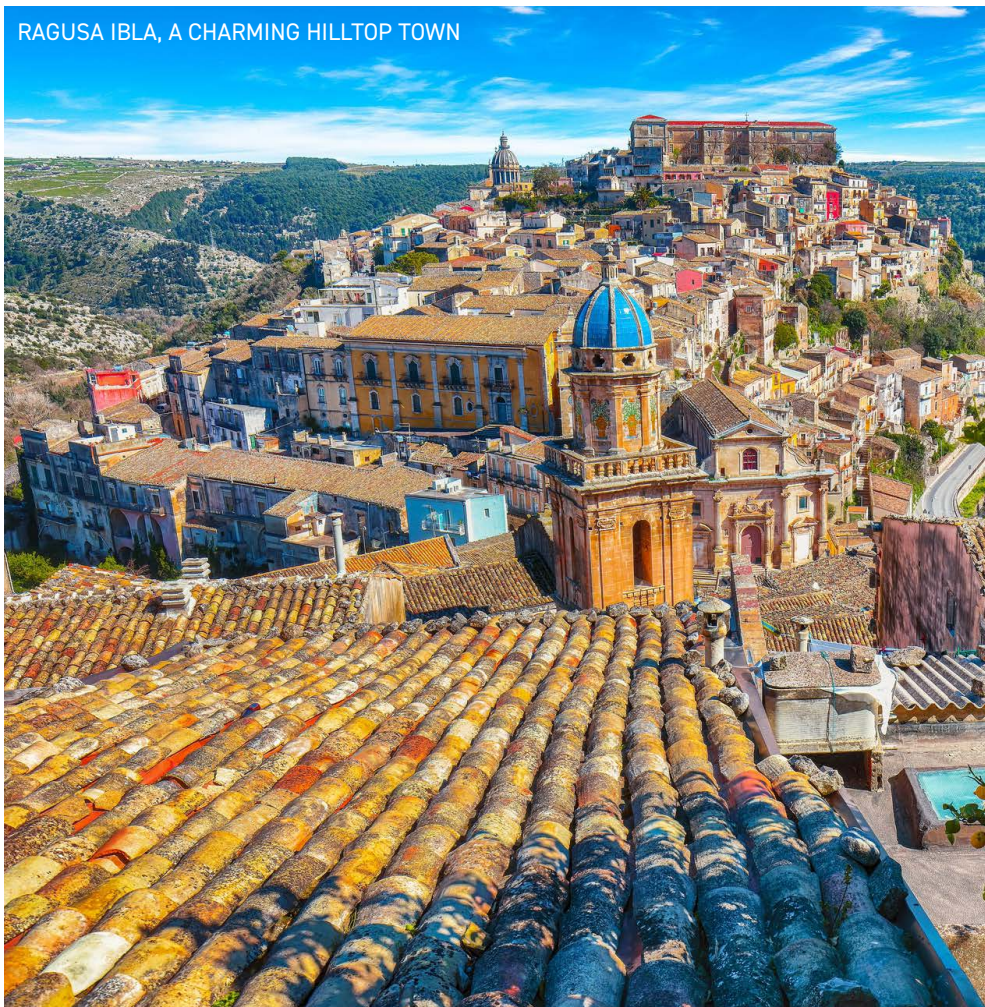


# Amore in Italy: Sicily

A Culinary Adventure in Italy  
Hosted by Amore Trattoria + Onward Travel  
April 8—16, 2024

ONWARD TRAVEL ✈️  
EST 2014

RAGUSA IBLA, A CHARMING HILLTOP TOWN



For the next Amore in Italy tour we're headed to the largest and most diverse island in the Mediterranean.

To a place where east meets west, where African and European influences mingle. Where the lemon trees are fragrant, the sun shining, the history of ancient culture is woven into daily life... Alluring Sicily awaits!

Join Chef Jenna Arcidiacono and Onward Travel to explore Sicily's fascinating cuisine, culture, and scenery. The first five nights will be based in Syracuse's ancient quarter: Ortygia. Syracuse was the largest city in the ancient world, and these days Ortygia is full of atmosphere and timeless beauty. Then, three nights will be spent at an agriturismo in the Etna Regional Park. A wonderful base for exploring Taormina and Mount Etna.

Sicily has been a source of inspiration for millennia – from Homer, to the Greek legends, to The Godfather, and now it's your turn. Be part of Amore's travel and food loving community and join us to experience The Island in the Sun.

IMAGINE YOURSELF...

Cooking (and eating!)  
Sicilian specialties.

Exploring picture-perfect  
Baroque hilltop towns.

Peering over the edge of  
a volcanic crater.

## Welcome to Italy

DAY 1: MONDAY APRIL 8

- Arrive in an enchanting holiday getaway town unlike any other
- Toast your travel group at a delicious dinner overlooking the sea

Benvenuto! Travelers will be collected from the Catania airport and transferred to Syracuse depending on arrival time. Take some R&R this afternoon for a siesta or stroll around charming Ortygia. We'll gather at Hotel Gutowski to share some wine and soak in the views together. Gaze at the sea and get to know your fellow travelers. Tonight we'll have a festive welcome dinner at a cozy, family-owned restaurant that preserves local recipes and traditions.

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Meals Dinner

## Culture & Cuisine of Siracusa

DAY 2: TUESDAY APRIL 9

- Learn culinary tricks & local specialties at a hands-on cooking class
- Admire Ortygia from the water

Enjoy a leisurely morning and a delicious breakfast. Mid morning we'll meet an executive chef to tour the daily market, then return to his restaurant to prepare lunch. Get an introduction to the products of Sicily at the sensory-pleasing market, then roll up your sleeves as we prepare a delicious multi-course meal. Wine and a fabulous lunch await.

Ortygia is a small island just off mainland Siracusa that was colonized by Corinthians in 734 BC. This afternoon, we'll see it from the water on an hour-long boat tour. Entertaining and scenic... it is so fun to see the island from a boat.

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Meals Breakfast, Lunch



## Wine, Nature & Charm

DAY 3: WEDNESDAY APRIL 10

- Stroll picture-perfect Noto, gelato in hand
- Visit a winery and enjoy lunch perfectly paired with their own lauded wines

Today we're in pursuit of the best of Southeast Sicily. Our first stop: Noto. Noto is a picture-perfect Baroque town with an elegantly manicured main street, Corso Vittorio Emanuele. Did you know ice cream is rumored to have been invented in Sicily? And it was absolutely perfected in Noto. So we'll (almost) ruin our appetites with a morning ice cream – pistachio, mulberry, amaro, or almond, perhaps? – and then head south to drink in the landscape.

Our next stop is Buonivini Planeta winery. The past couple decades have seen a new generation of Sicilian wine producers, with more than 20 DOC and DOP territories and many vintages that are considered some of Italy's finest wines. Planeta has five wineries in Sicily, with Buonivini being their eco-friendly winery. Iconic Sicilian grape Nero d'Avola is grown here, as are Moscato Bianco grapes, so we'll have an opportunity to try some classic Sicilian wines along with a tasty lunch.

En route back to Ortygia, we'll stop at the beautiful Riserva Naturale Oasi Faunistica di Vendicari to stretch our legs along the wild coastline. Keep your eye out for birds and view an abandoned tuna processing plant (common along Sicily's west coast). Once we arrive back at Hotel Gutowski, we'll have a little time to regroup before a casual dinner.

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Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Light Dinner



## Savoring Siracusa

DAY 4: THURSDAY APRIL 11

- Experience ancient history through Greek and Roman ruins
- Take some free time to explore Ortygia at your own pace

Spend the morning as you please, Onward will certainly provide some suggestions. After lunch, we'll visit nearby Parco Archeologico della Neapolis. Considered one of the most compelling archeological sites in Sicily, Parco Archeologico has a 5th-century Greek theater carved out of rock and a Roman amphitheater originally used for gladiatorial combats and horse races. A knowledgeable guide will interpret the site for us.

We wanted to give you plenty of free time for exploring Siracusa. Tonight is free for dinner on your own, perhaps we'll all convene for a nightcap!

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Meals Breakfast

## Baroque Hill Town Beauty

DAY 5: FRIDAY APRIL 12

- Explore two gorgeous hill towns
- Taste some of Italy's best chocolate and cheese

In 1693 a devastating earthquake all but ruined many of the hill towns in Southeast Sicily. You've already experienced rebuilt Noto, but today we'll experience two more stunning towns: Modica and Ragusa. When these towns were rebuilt, they were rebuilt in meticulous Baroque style, so the piazzas are picturesque and the town centers are full of detail, drama, and grandeur.

We'll start in Ragusa Ibla. We'll get a view of the rooftops and the beautiful blue dome of Santa-Maria dell'Otria. Stroll the public gardens at Giardini Iblei and enjoy the stunning piazzas in this beautiful rebuilt old town. Then, we'll have a classy lunch. After a lovely lunch, we'll relax on the short transfer to Modica.

Modica was once a very powerful town in Sicily. It remains a beautiful and interesting destination. We'll visit Dolceria Bonajuto, Sicily's oldest chocolate factory, for a tour of their kitchen and a chocolate tasting. The chocolate is a legacy of Spanish rule, but it remains some of the best in Italy. Then, take some time to shop and stroll... maybe stop by Casa del Formaggio to taste local cheeses such as Ragusano, a cow's milk cheese and fresh ricotta. As the sun gets lower, it's time to head back to Hotel Gutowski. We'll have dinner at the hotel's creative restaurant tonight, Gutkowskino.

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Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OnwardTravel.co Based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and the Hudson Valley, New York

## A Market, Arancini, A Volcano

DAY 6: SATURDAY APRIL 13

- Visit Catania's exhilarating and iconic fish market: La Pescheria.
- Arrive at the forested estate you'll call home for three nights

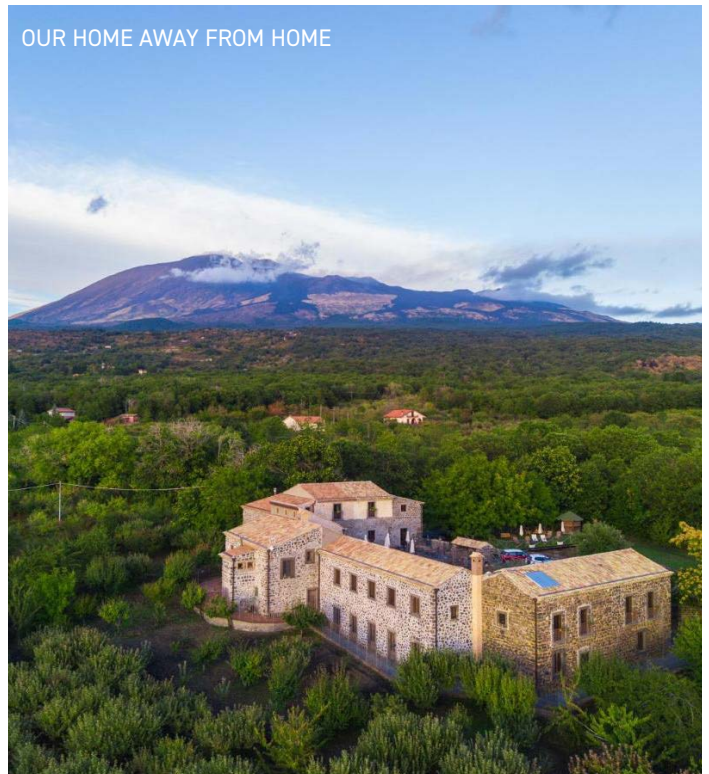
At last, it's time to leave Ortygia and Siracusa, but lots of wonderful adventure remains! Mid-morning we'll head to Catania, a shabby-chic city that is home to the thriving and legendary La Pescheria fish market. We'll visit the street markets and admire the fishmongers' haul. Lunch today will be Sicilian street food such as arancini (filled rice balls) and pane con panelle e crocche (chickpea fritters and potato croquettes in a bread roll). The beautiful baroque mainstreet, Via Crociferi, deserves a stroll, too.

Early afternoon we're off to the region of the legendary Mt. Etna. We'll spend the next few nights near the volcano, in the middle of a 30 acre chestnut tree forest at a restored stone agricultural estate from the 1800's, with 10 rooms exclusively for our group. The grounds are begging you to enjoy a peaceful stroll, if the weather is warm enough you can dip in the pool, and in the evenings we'll be uncorking local wines in the drawing room. Welcome home!

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Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### OUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME



## Majestic Mount Etna

DAY 7: SUNDAY APRIL 14

- Ascend Mount Etna to see a volcanic crater
- Taste world-famous wine and honey from Mount Etna's slopes

Wake up to peace and quiet and volcano views... plus a nice breakfast spread. Now it's off to finally experience that volcano we've been staring at. Mount Etna is famous not just because it dominates the landscape of eastern Sicily, but also for the nectar of its lush slopes: wine and honey. We'll ascend Mount Etna, by bus, to get up close and personal with a crater. Folklore and legend surround the volcano and it is now a national park full of otherworldly vistas.

After an exciting morning, we'll visit a family run apiary with pollinator-friendly gardens. Taste a variety of honeys and buy some locally produced edible products if you'd like. Then, it's off to a gourmet wine lunch and wine tasting. We'll taste wines with our lunch and learn about the Etna DOC, Sicily's first DOC. Today we'll drive all the way around the base of the volcano and that sends us right through Bronte...famous for pistachio production so we'll make a pit stop at a pistachio farm! Eventually we'll return to our homebase for a cozy dinner together.

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Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## Taormina & A Farewell Feast

DAY 8: MONDAY APRIL 15

- Explore absolutely beautiful Taormina at your own pace
- Cook a farewell feast with Chef Jenna

This morning our destination is Taormina, a seaside resort town popular since the 19th century. The town is spectacularly perched on the side of a mountain, with beautiful views of Mount Etna and class and sophistication for days. A local guide will show us around, then you have free time for wandering and lunch. Take time to explore the medieval streets, especially pedestrian friendly Corso Umberto, lined with shops. Then we will have a guided visit to the Greek theater to see this 3rd century BC amphitheater plus the excellent views from the site.

This evening we'll convene at the agriturismo's restaurant to prepare a farewell dinner together. It's so fun to cook together, especially with Chef Jenna in the kitchen! We'll savor our dinner tonight, toasting our time together (with Sicilian vino) and sharing stories and plenty of laughs along with a delicious meal of our own creation.

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Meals Breakfast, Dinner

## Arrivederci!

DAY 9: TUESDAY APRIL 16

Thank you for sharing this special week in Sicily! Transfers are available this morning for flights departing from Catania.

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Meals Breakfast



SICILIAN CANNOLI!

Trip Essentials

BEGINS	Siracusa, Italy on Monday, April 8, 2024 Airport transfer provided from Catania Airport to Siracusa
ENDS	Catania, Italy on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 (no activities scheduled 4/16) Transfer provided from Mt. Etna Agriturismo to Catania Airport
SUITABILITY & MOBILITY	<b><u>This tour includes walking for 15-30 minutes at a time, plus stairs and cobblestones.</u></b> Travelers may always opt out of activities they deem too physically challenging but refunds will not be provided. The modern towns of the Amalfi Coast have grown from ancient settlements built into the cliffs, so please be prepared for uneven terrain.
TOUR DATES & PRICE	April 8–16, 2024 Double Occupancy \$4200 per traveler Single Supplement \$450 additional  Contact Onward if you are interested in a room upgrade.  <i>Note that air travel is not included and a current passport is required for travel to Italy. You are welcome to pay by credit card, please add a 3% surcharge.</i>
LODGING	<b>Hotel Gutowski</b>   5 Nights   A fresh and stylish hotel on the Ortigia waterfront with tile floors, lots of light, and a calming aesthetic. Enjoy the terrace with sea views.  <b>Mt. Etna Agriturismo Villa</b>   3 Nights   Carefully restored 19th-century villa, former agricultural estate, in the middle of a chestnut forest with a pool and a restaurant.

Arrive early to explore Rome on your way to Sicily!

We are offering an early arrival package so you can make the most of your travels to Italy and take a chance to enjoy a stopover in the Eternal City.

The package includes:

- 2 nights accommodations at the perfectly located Hotel Smeraldo
- A welcome dinner at a charming local trattoria on April 6
- A city walking tour in the morning on April 7
- Group happy hour at the hotel's rooftop bar on April 7
- Transportation from the hotel to the airport on April 8

The price is \$625 per traveler. The additional fee for single occupancy is \$295.

Onward will advise all participants to book a ticket on the same one-way flight from Rome to Catania on April 8.

April 6–8

Trip price includes the following:

- Airport transfers and ground transportation to/from all scheduled activities.
- Five nights accommodations at Hotel Gutowski and three nights accommodations at Agriturismo.
- Most meals: daily breakfasts, five lunches, and five dinners. We have fantastic gourmet experiences, wine included, of course!
- Local guide services throughout the tour to truly understand Sicily.
- Activities, tastings, cooking classes, and tours as detailed in the itinerary.
- Pre-trip dinner at Amore Trattoria to get to know fellow travelers and post-trip reunion dinner to relive the memories. Plus an Amore hoodie!

Air Travel

The tour begins & ends in Catania, the airport code is CTA.

Travelers stopping in Rome should book a “multi-city” trip that arrives in Rome (FCO) and departs from Catania (CTA).

Contact Onward Travel if you’d like assistance booking flights.



The Onward Travel Tour Director for this trip is **Marida**

**Marida Moretti** is a native Italian, born in Como and raised in Rome. She graduated with a degree in archaeology and is passionate about art, history, travel, food and wine and different cultures.

Marida is an experienced guide and Onward has been working with her in Rome since 2021. She is as fun as she is knowledgeable and we are excited for Onward Travelers to get the chance to know her better.

## TRAVELER INFORMATION *Amore in Italy: Sicily April 8–16, 2024*

***Please take note of the following useful information, and view more at [www.onwardtravel.co/letsgo](http://www.onwardtravel.co/letsgo)***



Once Onward Travel receives your registration form, we will send you an **invoice** with instructions to pay the **deposit**.



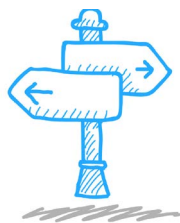
If you'd like to purchase **trip insurance**, we suggest Travelex. For more info, call them at 800-228-9792 or visit [www.travelex.com](http://www.travelex.com) and refer to location number 32-0704.



Four to six weeks before the tour **we will mail you a packet** with a packing list, traveler directory and other useful info.



Make sure you know where your **passport** is now! For travel to Italy it should be valid for six months beyond your return date.



### **Onward Travel's cancellation policy in a nutshell:**

- \$250 of your initial deposit is nonrefundable
- Cancel within 90 days and the full deposit is nonrefundable
- Cancel within 60 days and 50% of total trip fee is nonrefundable
- Cancel within 30 days and the full trip fee is nonrefundable

See the full *Terms & Conditions* at [www.onwardtravel.co/terms](http://www.onwardtravel.co/terms)

## ***Register now!***

Visit [onwardtravel.co](http://onwardtravel.co) to complete the registration form and submit payment.

Space is limited to only 14 travelers.

\$1,500 deposit due upon booking, balance due by January 1, 2024.



## **Get in Touch!**

Contact Onward Travel with questions or special requests:  
[letsgo@onwardtravel.co](mailto:letsgo@onwardtravel.co)  
845-293-2729



AT THE FISH MARKET IN CATANIA IN 2016 WITH CHEF JENNA