

NORTHEASTERN SICILY AND THE AEOLIAN ISLANDS

**Henry and Carol Robertson- Tour Escorts
Lise Apatoff – Tour Guide**

M a y 5 to 14, 2 0 1 4

One legend has the island of Sicily resting on three legs, another that the Greek god of wind, Aeolus, gave his name to the enchanting archipelago of the Aeolian Islands. The myths mingle with the true history of thousands of years: we'll hear of obsidian workers, emperors, princes, pirates and kings. Sicily has been dominated by the Romans, the Greeks, the Byzantines, the Arabs, the Normans, the Spanish and the French. Traces of these cultures are evident in the unique architecture, dialects and foods we encounter as we eat, drink and explore Palermo, Lipari, the Madonie Mountains, Lipari, Stromboli, Mt. Etna and Taormina!

DEPART THE USA ON SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2014

Monday May 5: Arrive Palermo airport

After checking into our elegant once-a-family-home *Palermo* hotel we'll have our trip briefing and enjoy a welcome dinner in the hotels roof top restaurant.

Overnight Palermo: Central Palace Hotel – www.centralepalacehotel.com

D

Tuesday May 6: City Tour, Monreale

We'll visit some of the highlights of Palermo on a guided walking tour with our local guide this morning, including a walk through the colorful, bustling food market. We'll then drive south to *Portella della Ginestra* for lunch, and hear the story of the *Libera Terra* cooperative, a brave group which has worked hard to restore value, honor, economical viability and create jobs by producing organic food, wine and oil on land confiscated from the mafia. Afterwards we'll head north to the slopes of *Mt. Caputo* to view the lavish golden mosaics of the magnificent 12th century Byzantine church of *Monreale*. Tonight we have a special treat: a private showing of the centuries old tradition of large handmade marionettes, or "*pupi*". This historic art form uses gorgeous artisan puppets, some dressed in armor, that tell popular tales of knights and crusades, love and betrayal. Dinner will be in a local cous-cous restaurant around the corner.

Overnight Palermo : Central Palace Hotel

B, L, D

Wednesday, May 7: Cefalu'/ Castelbuono/Cooking Lesson

As we transfer east this morning we'll stop in the picturesque resort town of Cefalu'. Founded by the Greeks, it sits between a curved sandy beach and a massive fortified peak crowned with a 12th c. Cathedral. We'll stop for coffee and a view of the Tyrrhenian Sea before driving south. The landscape changes as we wind up into the lush green and flowering hills of the Madonie Mountains. We'll stop in the small and genuine town of Castelbuono to visit the "good castle" the town is named for and have lunch before driving on to our agriturismo, where we will assist in cooking our dinner with products from their farm.

Overnight: Castelbuono, Agriturismo Bergi – www.agriturismobergi.com
(B, L cooking lesson for D)

Thursday, May 8: Milazzo/ transfer Lipari

This morning we head back to the coast, then east to the dock in *Milazzo* where we'll catch the hydrofoil to *Lipari*, our home for the next two nights. We'll stop for an *aperitivo* as we stroll to the other side of the island to our family run hotel right in the center of town. Then a small bus will take us on a drive around the perimeter of the island. We'll stop for views: to peer over the pumice quarries, gaze at the islands dotting the sea view, marvel at the vegetation, look up at the fortress, climb down to the Roman baths of *San Calogero*, have a seafood lunch and a traditional cookie making demonstration and tasting, and soak in the colors and scents of this unique island. Dinner tonight in a local trattoria.

Overnight Lipari: Hotel Villa Meligunis – www.villameligunis.it
B, L, D

Friday May 9: Volcanic sparks on Stromboli

How beautiful is the Mediterranean Sea, cleaner and bluer here than in most of Italy. This morning our local guide will walk us to the fortress on top of the hill to illustrate the fascinating history of the Aeolian Islands during our visit to Lipari's remarkable and renowned archeological museum. The rest of the morning is yours to explore the streets or shops and to try one of the local cafés or restaurants for lunch. Early afternoon we have a boat excursion to *Stromboli*, the easternmost island and best known of the archipelago, due to the films and books that star this live volcano thrusting out of the sea. Its black sand beaches make it unique to the area. We dock for a brief visit to the island of *Panarea* before continuing to Stromboli. There will be time to explore a bit before our fish dinner in a small restaurant. At sunset we'll board the boat again and go round to anchor on the back side of the island to view the "*sciara*", or fireworks, from the constantly erupting volcano of Stromboli, before returning to our hotel.

Overnight: Lipari – Hotel Villa Meligunis
B, D

Saturday May 10: Return to mainland/Mt. Etna

Farewell to our sea legs as we cross back to Milazzo, and head south towards Europe's largest volcano, majestic *Mount Etna*, which rises high and powerful above the surrounding mountain range. Its plume of smoke reminds us that it is very much alive! We are staying in a historic hotel on Etna's northeastern slope. The dark grey color of the town of *Linguaglossa* is due to the lava stone used in building. The wines produced here are famous due to the volcanic soil, which is very fertile, and gives a special flavor to the grapes. This evening we'll have a cantina visit and wine tasting with our dinner in a lovely villa nearby.

**Overnight: Linguaglossa – Shalai Resort – www.shalai.it
B, L, D**

Sunday, May 11: Mt. Etna/Bronte

We'll drive over centuries of volcanic action with views of dramatic lava fields and craters that are a testimony to Mt. Etna's explosive past as we circle to the western slope to the town of *Bronte*, land of pistachio trees. The rich soil and microclimate make this area the main supplier for pistachio nuts in Italy. Ever tried pistachio pesto? Pistachio cookies? Pistachio gelato? We'll visit a local producer of these tasty green nuts before driving on to the picturesque town of *Randazzo* for lunch. Later, we'll have a bit of free time before a refined dinner in our lovely hotel.

**Overnight: Linguaglossa – Shalai Resort
B, L, D**

Monday May 12 Transfer to Taormina

Taormina is one of Sicily's prettiest towns, perched above the Mediterranean with stunning views of Mt. Etna and the sea below. We'll check into our hotel and enjoy a light lunch before meeting our local guide for history walk through the town. Our tour will include a visit to the Greek/Roman theater. You'll be on your own for dinner tonight, to try one of the many restaurants in this thriving town.

**Overnight Taormina: Hotel Belvedere – www.belvedere.it
B, L**

Tuesday, May 13: Taormina

Today you are free to wake with leisure, and have the day to spend as you choose. It could be hiking up to the tiny town of *Castelmola*, where the views are heavenly. Or taking the cable car down to the beach to swim. Some may want to explore the many, many shops, others may want to explore the many, many churches...we're happy to make suggestions. We'll meet again in the early evening for an *aperitivo* (and our final exam) in the garden of our hotel, and then walk to a wonderful local restaurant for our farewell dinner.

**Overnight Taormina: Hotel Belvedere
B, D**

Wednesday, May 14: Departure from Catania

This morning we transfer to Catania for flights home...*Arrivederci*, till our next adventure...

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

NORTHEASTERN SICILY AND THE AEOLIAN ISLANDS

TOUR: **\$4125.00.00 PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY**
(Cash discount price is \$3975.00)
Single occupancy tour rate: \$4570.00
(Cash discount price is \$4400.00)

The above prices are based on the exchange rate as of December 2013. If the exchange rate increases, the increase will be reflected in the final payment.

INCLUDED IN THE TOUR COST:

Henry and Carol Robertson will personally escort the tour. Lise Apatoff, tour guide, will guide and accompany the group throughout the tour.

- *9 nights lodging in boutique hotels or inns with private facilities including taxes and fees.
- *Group arrival and departure transfers.
- *Sightseeing as per the itinerary via private motor coach with English speaking guide throughout the tour.
- *Hydrofoil transportation to the islands of Lipari and Stromboli
- *Meals – Breakfast daily, 6 lunches, 8 dinners, wine and food tastings while on tour.
- *Cooking class and demonstration class with instruction as indicated in the itinerary.
- *Admissions to museums and galleries, church and monastery donations.
- *All tips to hotel and restaurant staff and motor coach driver gratuity.

NOT INCLUDED: Round trip airfare, meals other than those indicated in the itinerary, trip cancellation insurance, alcohol and beverages other than mentioned, hotel accommodations at an airport hotel before or after the tour, airport portorage, items of a personal nature. Gratuity to tour guide, Lise Apatoff.

Pre or Post tour or hotel arrangements will be assessed a service fee based on request.

Please Note: If you arrive or depart after the group arrivals or departures we will make arrangements for your transportation at your own expense.

LIMITS OF LIABILITY:

Dalianes World Wide Travel Service, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurants and other services from various independent suppliers who are not affiliated with Dalianes World Wide Travel Service, Inc. in any way. Dalianes World Wide Travel Service, Inc. has no right to control their operations and **CANNOT THEREFORE BE LIABLE FOR ANY PERSONAL INJURY PROPERTY DAMAGE OR OTHER LOSS** which may occur due to (1) wrongful, negligent or arbitrary acts or omissions on the part of a supplier, its employees and others not under the direct control of Dalianes World Wide Travel Service, Inc. or (2) defects or failures of any aircraft, vessel, automotive vehicle or other equipment or instrumentality under the control of such a supplier.

Dalianes World Wide Travel Service, Inc. reserves the right to cancel any itinerary or any part of it to make such alternations in the itinerary as it deems necessary or desirable, to refuse to accept or retain as a member of any tour any person at any time, and to pass on to tour members any expenditure occasioned by delays or events beyond its control.

**Northeastern Sicily and the Aeolian Islands
May 5 – 14, 2013**

RESERVATIONS: A \$500.00 per person deposit is required with your reservation. Final payment will be due on or before April 1, 2014

CANCELLATION/REFUND POLICY

Because this is a private tour, I/we understand that **all funds including the deposit are non-refundable**. Cancellation Insurance is available to protect your funds in the event of covered reasons. Cancellation insurance is highly recommended.

TOUR PARTICIPANT NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

PLEASE INCLUDE A PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR PASSPORT WITH DEPOSIT

Accept trip protection insurance. Please call or email for a premium quote. The premium should be included with your deposit.

Decline Travel Protection Insurance

I/We have read and agree to the terms and conditions of the tour as printed here and in the accompanying printed information.

Signature _____ **Signature** _____

Please return this form along with your deposit and photocopy of your passport. Please make checks payable to Dalianes Travel Service and mail to:

Dalianes Travel 522 F Street, Eureka CA 95501

Attention: Carol Robertson

707 445 9527 (home # of Henry and Carol) email: info@dalianes.com