Enogastronomic tour in Italy
Enogastronomic Vacations & Cooking Tours in Italy

An experience that delights your senses
Via art and nature, discover Italy’s great variety of sumptuous gastronomy and wonderful wines:
- Tailor-made Tours,
- “Precious Tours” across Italy

Secluded gems of wonder and delight
Along the “off-beaten track” our tours will explore non-touristy sites while enjoying the local:
- wine, vinegar and olive oil;
- pasta and bread,
- cheese;
- ham and sausage;
- chocolate, cookies and cakes

Enjoying the harvest holidays
An invitation to experience harvest and to discover the secrets of wine making and traditional products:
- various celebrations for the grape harvest;
- olive and apple picking;
- cheese-making instruction

Cooking classes
Learn the secrets of Italian cuisine from some of Italy’s top chefs:
- classes for gastronomy enthusiasts,
- course for professionals,
- cooking lessons and taste training for children

Various happenings
A journey among art, culture and gastronomy to understand why Italy is world known as “il Bel Paese”:
- food and wine festivals,
- music events,
- art exhibitions,
- crafts shows and village fairs

“and more...”
- Holidays on a farm,
- Mediterranean cruises,
- Sports,
- Beauty spas,
- Junior camps to learn the Italian language and culture,
- Tours focusing on the Italian ecosystem
VENETO – FRIULI - TRENTINO

1st day: Arrival at B&B/ farm holiday/ hotel near Venice.

2nd day: Visit of Venice and overnight at B&B/ farm holiday/ hotel near Venice.

3rd day: Visit of Treviso. Advised restaurants in Treviso are l'Osteria ai Filodrammatici or la Trattoria da Muscoli. Departure from Treviso to Prata di Pordenone. Along the way to Prata di Pordenone wine tasting in a cellar (wine tasting included). Overnight in B&B/ farm holiday/ hotel near Pordenone.

4th day: Visit to Cividale del Friuli. After visiting Cividale del Friuli you will stop in an ancient Medieval cellar for a visit and you will have a brunch there brunch (brunch included). In the afternoon, visit of San Daniele del Friuli and cured ham tasting in a ham factory in San Daniele (cured ham tasting included). Overnight in at B&B/ farm holiday/ hotel near Pordenone.

5th day: Departure to Comano Terme. Along the way to Comano you can visit different villages such as Conegliano, Rua di Feletto, Refrontolo, Pieve di Soligo, Solighetto, Valdobbiadene, Vidor, Moriago della Battaglia, Collalto e Susegana. This area is very renowned for wines. Then you will arrive in Maser where you can visit the castle and you can have a wine and cheese tasting with Alta Marca typical products in this area (wine and cheese tasting included). Then you can visit Asolo and Bassano del Grappa. In Bassano del Grappa you can taste Nardini’s grappa. In the evening arrival in Comano Terme and overnight in B&B/ farm holiday/ hotel near Comano Terme.

6th day: Visit of Riva Del Garda on the Garda Lake. For lunch visit in a cheese factory for a cheese tasting (cheese tasting included). In the afternoon, you can have spa in Terme di Comano. Overnight stay in B&B/ farm holiday/ hotel near Comano Terme.

7th day: Breakfast and departure.
ENOGASTRONOMIC TOUR OF SICILY

1st day: Overnight stay in B&B/ farm holiday/ hotel near Palermo where you are surrounded by the beauty of the Sicilian countryside.

2nd day: Visit of the farm in near Palermo which is renowned for typical sicilian cheese (visit of the farm and cheese tasting included). In the afternoon, you can visit the surrounding area. For example, you can discover the Sicani Mountains Natural Reserve, a particularly interesting nature site and town inhabited as early as the eighth century BC by the Sicani (an ancient Sicilian people). You can also visit Grotte della Grufa Alia. Grotte della Grufa are in the south east of the county of Palermo and their name derives from Arab term for room. They are divided on two floors (the floor plan will help you understand them better), all carved in the hard red sandstone, an example of heroic work. This "absurdity" of labor leads to the belief that this was something extremely religious. Overnight stay in B&B/ farm holiday/ hotel near Palermo.

3rd day: Departure to Cefalù (visit of the city). In the afternoon, arrival to Messina. Overnight stay in B&B/ farm holiday/ hotel near Messina.

4th day: Breakfast and day off: we advised an excursion to by boat to Eolie Islands, a volcanic archipelago in the Tyrrhenian Sea north of Sicily, named after the demigod of the winds Aeolus. Overnight stay in B&B/ farm holiday/ hotel near.

5th day: Departure to Taormina. Visit of Taormina which is most popular summer destination, a chic resort town beloved of holidaying high-rollers and visiting celebs. And while it is unashamedly touristy and has a main street lined with high-end designer shops, the town remains an achingly beautiful spot with gorgeous medieval churches, a stunning Greek theatre and sweeping views over the Gulf of Naxos and Mt Etna. In the afternoon, visit of a wine cellar under the Etna where you will visit the wine cellar and you will have a tasting of Sicilian products, salami, local cheese, olives (included). In the evening, arrival in B&B/ farm holiday/ hotel near Catania.

6th day: Departure to Agrigento. During this trip in the heart of Sicily you can visit Caltanissetta. The city offers sites of both historical and naturalistic interest as well as a much appreciated cuisine where especially renowned is the sweet almond torrone. The city's roots are sowed deep in history, showcasing archaeological finds and splendid castles scattered all over its territory. Its history has undergone numerous transitions between the Greek, Roman, Norman, Swabian, Anjou, Aragonese and Castilian rules – all having left their imprint. After visiting Caltanissetta, you will stop in in a masseria (a masseria is a fortified farm house or country house on a country estate found in the south of Italy) where you will visit the farm and you will have a wine tasting with traditional gastronomical products. In the evening, arrival in B&B/ farm holiday/ hotel near Agrigento.

7th day: Breakfast and visit of Agrigento. In the afternoon, visit of Valle dei Templi, one of southern Europe's most compelling archaeological sites. The highlight is the stunning Tempio della Concordia, one of the best-preserved Greek temples in existence and one of a series built on a ridge to act as beacons for homecoming sailors. Overnight in B&B/ farm holiday/ hotel near Catania.

8th day: Breakfast and departure.
PIEMONTE AND EMILIA GASTRONOMIC TOUR

1st day: Arrival at B&B/ farm holiday/ hotel near Asti.

2nd day: Asti is, after Turin's, the main city of Piedmont and it has a rich artistic and architectural heritage. The city in particular has the largest architectural heritage. There are numerous towers, fortified houses, churches. It is known worldwide for its wines, notably Asti Spumante every year, in September, it hosts one of the most important wine competitions in Italy, called the Douja d’Or. In Asti you will have a wine tasting in the city centre. Don’t miss the Barbera d’Asti and the sparkling Moscato BB in B&B/ farm holiday/ hotel near Asti.

3rd day: Departure from the hotel to Parma.
On the way, visit to a Parmesan cheese factory where parmesan is produced as nine centuries ago with essential and genuine ingredients: high quality milk, natural rennet and salt, and with the old methods, the art and skill of the master cheese. Arrival in Parma, already important as a center of Romanesque art. In the Middle Ages, Parma was a ducal capital from the years 1550-1859 an historical era that marked its streets and buildings, and that is still in the elegance of its many shops and boutique. You can visit the Art gallery, the Teatro Regio, Parco Ducal and birthplaces of Arturo Toscanini and Giuseppe Verdi. Overnight in B&B/ farm holiday/ hotel near Bologna.

4th day: In the morning departure to Modena.
Modena is known for Balsamic vinegar production and as the home town of famous Italian tenor Luciano Pavorotti and Enzo Ferrarj whose childhood home was recently made into a museum. The city offers a lot for the traveler. Its medieval center is a delight to walk around and the 12th century duomo, or cathedral, is one of Italy's best Romanesque churches. The cathedral, its Gothic bell tower called Torre della Ghirlandina and Piazza Grande the main square where these monuments are found make up a UNESCO World Heritage site. You'll also find very good food in Modena. Overnight in B&B/ farm holiday/ hotel near Bologna.

5th day: In the morning walking tour of Bologna in the area of the central market, few ancient streets with shops special food, stands and delis.
In the afternoon, visit Bologna which houses the oldest university in the world, for centuries the second capital of the Papal States after Rome and famous for its excellent food, Bologna is today a fascinating and unique city that still preserves treasures from its glorious past such as: the Town Hall the Palazzo del Podestà and the amazing Basilica of Santo Petronio of one of the largest churches in the world, the Neptune Fountain and Palazzo Re Enzo. Then you will visit the Palace dell’Archiginnasiad, first permanent establishment of the University of Bologna, the oldest in the Western world and the Two Towers, the symbol of this city along with Neptune. As you walk through the old town you will discover the arcades, a unique urban landscape: arcades of Bologna offer 40 kilometers of covered walkways to enjoy. Walking towards Bologna is like stepping into the past and enjoy the present at the same time, and its culinary traditions are second to none. Tasting of typical products in cheese factory near Bologna. Here you can taste different kinds of cheese such as parmesan, squaquerone, pecorino and you can also taste mortadella, salami and ham with tigella (tigella is a small round bread typical of the Emilia Romagna).
We recommend a visit to **Dozza Imolese** is a small urban center with a beautiful Sforza fortress and many murals on the walls of the houses. Overnight in B&B/ farm holiday/ hotel near **Ravenna**.

**6th Day:** Departure for the visit of one of the most beautiful villages in Italy: **Brisighella**.
The territory from Bologna to Ravenna is the land of "cappelletti", "passatelli", "flat bread", beautiful fresh vegetables, fruits and herbs. This land is very careful not to neglect their own traditions, nor his food, so they can save their own culinary identity that is central to the culture of a people. Afternoon visit of Faenza, the land of ceramic. Overnight in B&B/ farm holiday/ hotel near Brisighella.

**7th Day:** In the morning, visit of **Brisighella** (the Fortress, The Sanctuary, the Clock Tower) and stop on a farm of olive oil in the countryside where you can enjoy the extra virgin "Brisighello" the first PDO extra virgin olive oil in Italy and tasting typical products ("flatbread", meats, cheeses, Cappelletti). In the afternoon excursion to Ravenna, for a tour of this jewel of art in Italy, famous for its **Byzantine mosaics** in the city are eight UNESCO monuments, seven of which are decorated with mosaics and this art is still passed down and taught in the schools and shops of artisans-artists. This tradition, which is unique, is still alive at the international level, thanks to the creators, artists and restorers. You can visit the Basilica of St. Apollinare in Classe and Mausoleum of Theodoric the Church of San Vitale. Overnight in B&B/ farm holiday/ hotel near Brisighella.

**8th Day:** Departure for the return.
TOUR PIEDMONT LIGURIA AND TUSCANY

1st day: Arrival in hotel 4* in Acqui Terme, visit of Acquiterme and relax at the spa.

2nd day: In the morning departure to the historic center of Neive, considered as one of the most beautiful old towns of Italy. In the late morning, arrival in Asti and wine tasting. In Asti you will have a wine tasting in Enoteca Boero (wine tasting included). This small, unassuming enoteca (wine bar) lines up the glasses morning and afternoon administered with expert evaluations from the owner. Don't miss the Barbera d'Asti and the sparkling Moscato. Free visit of Asti in the afternoon. In the evening, return to the hotel 4* in Acquiterme.

3rd day: In the morning departure to Genova. We will devote the day to Genoa. It is quite impossible to trace the numerous tones characterizing this city, a city that owes its fortune to an inseparable blend of its geographical location, propensity toward the sea, its merchants’ vocations, and its interactions with oriental civilizations. The city is a natural productive area that opens up to the sea and well protected from the mountains behind. Not even the deep transformation of this last century has erased Genoa’s charm. The Porto Vecchio, the old dock, and the galleries of Palazzo Bianco and Palazzo Rosso, as well as the ancient and splendid duomo of San Lorenzo, make this important Mediterranean seaport a fascinating visit. With its tangle of narrow streets bursting with traffic, its wonderful aquarium and many other attractions, this ancient cultural crossroads has much to offer to the curious traveller. In the evening arrival in hotel 3* in Cavi di Lavagna. Overnight stay.

4th day: After breakfast we visit one of the most beloved and known sites on the Italian coast, Le Cinque Terre, referring to five uniquely located villages; from east towards west: the beautiful Riomaggiore linked to Manarola by the famous via dell’Amore or Lovers’ Lane, Corniglia at the very edge of a cliff; the noble Vernazza with an urban structure that reveals its antique magnificence, and Monterosso the village loved by the Italian poet Eugenio Montale, Nobel prize 1975. These five villages were once reachable only by the sea. Even today this district is not equipped with roads for cars, but valleys and small harbors, splendid churches and narrow paths, terraces and picturesque villages only can be enjoyed either by a pleasant walk. Overnight stay at hotel 3* Cavi di Lavagna.

5th day: In the morning departure to Portovenere e and visit of the village. This characteristic and famous holiday destination in Liguria is the perfect example of the combination of nature and architecture: From its seaside promenade framing the marina to the infinite range of colours of its narrow houses, steep stairways and narrow alleys, and the Bocche promontory where the church of San Pietro stands out (from the Early Christian Period and renovated in Gothic style). Wine tasting to Cooperativa Agricola 5 Terre. In the afternoon, you are ready to start our journey through Versilia, a fascinating territory along the coast, with long beaches, luxuriant pine woods and the Apuane Alps at the back, rich in marble quarries that were already in use when Michelangelo lived and worked at his beautiful sculptures. In the evening arrival in hotel 3* in Pistoia.

6th day: In the morning visit to the lovely town of Lucca, which is surrounded by large walls, will welcome us with its beautiful architectural structures such as its medieval Cathedral, which houses the grave of Ilaria del Carretto, and the Piazza Anfiteatro, built as a Roman amphitheatre. These are only two of the thousands of good reasons for visiting this sophisticated city, rich and secluded. In the afternoon, visit of Pisa is most famous for its Leaning Tower. Many visitors arrive into this university town and visit the Piazza dei Miracoli, or Square of Miracles, where the tower, the cathedral and baptistery form the city’s main attraction.
Around the square's perimeter you'll also find the Camposanto, Opera del Duomo museum and Museum of the Sinopie which we also highly recommend visiting. A few blocks away, the Piazza dei Cavalieri once was the heart of power in the city and later the headquarters of the Knights of St. Stephen. Today, it is a center of culture and learning as the famous Scuola Normale di Pisa has its base in the Palazzo della Carovana that faces onto the piazza. In the afternoon, wine tasting. Overnight stay in hotel 3* in Pistoia

7th day: Departure from the hotel. In the morning, you will visit Bologna and enjoy its proverbial liveliness. This city is known as "la dotta" (the learned) since in 1088 it became seat of the oldest University in Europe; but it is also called "la rossa" (the red) on account of its red roofs and reddish porticoes and also because it is a traditional stronghold for left wing politics. Bolognesi are very fond of food and the city is world known for its rich cuisine and that is why the other nickname is "la grassa" (the fat lady). Bologna immediately fascinates with its many students and crowded porticoes. Symbols of the city are: Piazza Maggiore (the main square) with Palazzo del Podestà (Government Palace) and the unfinished basilica of San Petronio where the Emperor Charles V was crowned, the Archiginnasio which for centuries served as the University seat, and above all the two XII Century towers that stand out in the throbbing heart of the city.
Luxury Tours: Trentino Alto Adige, Veneto and Friuli

Fancy sparkles ..... Montasio cheese and San Daniele ham

Trentino is a little region in the North of Italy difficult to be found on a map, but a fantastic place to discover: mountains, lakes, old small villages, ancient castles, vineyards and apple orchards. Here one can taste simple old dishes that sometimes mix with a German tradition, and sip beautiful wines from local vineyards overlooking breathtaking views.

The art cities in Veneto are beautiful, to end up with Venice: the romantic city on the Adriatic sea where in old times spices and goods used to arrive from the East into Europe.

To travel through Friuli Venezia Giulia, to go from the Alps to sweet hilly landscapes and then down to beautiful beaches; and also across two different past cultures, the Venetian one in the Western area and the Austrian in the North-East. But all in all its cuisine shows a stronger influence from the Habsburg Empire. One of the imported characteristics is the indiscriminate use of sugar, cheese, butter, fruit, jams and mustards in all dishes, in main courses as well as in dessert. Local dishes are always matched with great wines that come from an ancient tradition dating back to 700 B.C., thanks to the area favourable soil and climate.

Day 1: Trento
Arrival in Milano by plain and departure to Trento and check in at the hotel in the centre of Trento. Overnight stay. HOTEL IN TRENTO
Free time for dinner.

Day 2: Trento, from the Council to Ferrari Spumante
BB in hotel – meeting with local guide –
Our tour starts off in Adige Valley with a visit to the regional capital Trento, crossed by the River Adige and encircled by the mountains. In old times this city became famous for the Catholic Council held in the 16th century as a response to the Protestant Reformation. Beautiful historic frescoed buildings and elegant shops stand around the notable Romanesque-Gothic cathedral devoted to San Vigilio and its lovely square with the impressive Neptune fountain. A true pearl is Buonconsiglio Castle (entrance included), an imposing complex whose construction began in 1200 and continued through the next five centuries. In this splendid fortress an outstanding masterpiece: the frescos in Torre dell’ Aquila (the Eagle Tower), among the most valuable ever realized in such Gothic-International style. Time to lunch (not included) – HOTEL IN TRENTO

In the afternoon we will visit Ferrari Wine Cellars (or similar), world renowned for their spumantes, beautiful sparkling wines never lacking at any of the most trendy international meetings. (Happy ours included) Dinner to the restaurant to Locanda Margon before returning to the hotel for an overnight stay.

Day 3: Rovereto contemporary art
BB in hotel- In the morning we advise to visit will visit ( facultative € 11.00) the Museum of Modern Art and stroll about the picturesque historic centre, before travelling south. Rovereto: the second centre in Trentino for importance and size. During these last few years it has been the venue of some international artistic conferences, being this town the seat of Mart, the Museum of Modern Art, and also where the painter Fortunato Depero, a leading figure of the futurist movement, and the philosopher Antonio Rosmini were born. Overnight in Hotel at Trento – (not dinner included)

Day 4: Valpolicella vineyards and the Arena in Verona
After breakfast we will visit Valpolicella, one of the best Italian wine-growing areas: Amarone and Recioto are only some of the delights slumbering in barrels. Sunny hills, Venetian villas and appreciated wine cellars disclose their secrets of art and taste. An interesting wine tasting, matched with local products as cheese and guided by wine experts.

In the afternoon Verona will enchant us with an architectural design that conveys the city’s identity extending from the Roman epoch to modern times. Main sites are the imposing Arena, one of the world’s most popular venues for opera, the beautiful squares, the fourteenth-century Castelvecchio, and the amazing tombs of the Scaligeri and visit Juliet’s tomb. In the afternoon departure to Venice –

Parking car in Tronchetto and meet & greet and transfer with private boat to hotel. Overnight stay. (144 km) – HOTEL IN VENEZIA
Day 5: **Venice, floating on water**

BB in hotel. Meeting with local guide with regular tour (with other clients) in San Marco at 9 am.

The Serenissima and its islands deserve a visit of an entire day. The sparkling Piazza San Marco with its splendid basilica, the Ponte di Rialto (Rialto Bridge), the narrow lanes (calli) and the tiny squares (campielli) are fragments of a fairy-tale city gently leaning upon the tidal waters of the Adriatic. The lunch is facultative and will be based mainly on fish cooked the Venice way. In the afternoon (on request) excursions to Murano with ferry and visit a glass workshop (facultative). We then return to the hotel for an overnight stay. **HOTEL IN VENEZIA**

Day 6: **Montasio cheese and San Daniele cured ham**

After BB transfer from hotel to Parking Tronchetto. Departure to Friuli Region. Stop To Aquileia and Grado (free visit) in the morning and arrival in Gorizia in the afternoon – Free visit (from 4€ to 9€) to Goriza Castle - and overnight in Spessa village. Dinner and overnight in one Historical Residence (178 km) – **IN GORIZIA**

Day 7: **In the land of the Lombards**

After breakfast meeting with the chef in the castle and 3 hours cooking school with lunch included. In the afternoon will continue to Cividale Del Friuli, one of the most remarkable centres of the whole region. Meeting with the tour leader.

After Celts and Romans, this town became the capital of the first Lombard Dukedom. The artistic heritage testifies its historical importance: the Celtic Hypogeum, the Oratory of Santa Maria in Valle, the Cathedral and the Venetian Superintendent’s Palace, by Andrea Palladio. (Local guide on request)

We advise to taste the gubana cake, made of puff pastry filled with almonds, candied fruit and chocolate. In the evening we will reach our hotel for an overnight stay.

Or if you prefer instead of visit Cividale you can enjoy a tour of a Prosciuttificio of San Daniele ham, one of the best outcome in the Italian food industry. Return to Castle Hotel and dinner free. **HOTEL IN GORIZIA**

Day 8: **Departure**

After breakfast, we travel back to Milano airport. (339 km)
PIEMONTE and LOMBARDIA
Art and sweet treasures, the taste of which remains with us as we reach the financial heart of the country

The region of Piedmont offers endless options for recreation, tourism, culinary delights and wine tasting. Whether walking along the scenic lanes of Lake Maggiore, skiing, admiring the artistic works of the region, or sampling the delightful meats, truffles and wines, visitors feel this land is the outcome of a deep affection to tradition but also to innovation.

The attractions of Lombardy are different: still in a historic environment, it is also the centre of any new upcoming activities, representing modern Italy all over the world. Milan is the national financial centre and Milan’s international airports are the national most extended, counting the largest number of connections with the rest of the world. But Lombardy is also Lake Como, Bergamo Old Upper Town, the Franciacorta Wine Region and brilliant green rice fields that remind us of the famous “Risotto alla Milanese”.

Day 1: Turin
Arrival in Milano Airport – and departure to Turin and check in at the hotel for an overnight stay. HOTEL IN TORINO

Day 2: The chocolate’s capital
After breakfast we visit Turin, the ancient capital of the House of Savoia and primary center of the Italian car industry. This important city crossed by the Po, the main Italian river, is endowed with a mysterious and multicultural charm. Birthplace of cinema, radio and television in Italy and seat of some excellent museums, like its world-renowned Egyptian Museums now being rediscovered as a tourist destination for its culture and beautiful architecture but also for its culinary art. So we will be seeing the Cathedral, where the Holy Shroud is preserved, the 19th-century massive Mole Antonelliana, with its Cinema Museum, and we will also discover the secrets of the refined sweets and chocolate skillfully created only in its local factories. A day filled with culture, shopping, tradition, innovation, elegance, enigmas and outstanding flavors that blend together making memorable the visit to one of the most beautiful Italian cities. Departure to our hotel for and an overnight stay. HOTEL A CORTEMILA – Welcome drink and 1 grand gourmet dinner in Corvetemila

Day 3: The Langhe and Barolo Wine
After breakfast the day is devoted to the great wines of the Langhe. Meet with an expert on wines and a chef. We cook our lunch and match food with wonderful wines. In the afternoon we travel across a landscape of hills with a vocation for farming and producing high quality wines and where Barolo, a king among the Italian wines, was first produced. Castello di Grinzane Cavour holds the Enological Museum and a Regional Enoteca. Overnight at CORTEMELIA

Day 4: Lake Maggiore and cheese tasting
The itinerary brings us to Stresa, the most prestigious resort on Lake Maggiore. Stresa is also the starting point for the boat (facultative excursion: not included) that will take us to the Borromee Islands. The grand baroque style of Isola Bella palace culminates in the setting of the gardens for which the Island became so famous. Then we walk on the winding and narrow lanes of the captivating Isola dei Pescatori, and eventually we come to the major Isola Madre, covered to a large extent by exotic plants and flowers where white peacocks, parrots and pheasants fly in freedom. Time Lunch free and time for leisure in Arona and in the afternoon we stop at a nearby cheese factory for a visit. A guided tour of Piedmont’s best dairy products will provide us with a unique opportunity to enjoy the savory world of cheese in the evening we arrive to the hotel for an overnight stay. (199 km) – HOTEL A STRESA

Day 5: Milan: much more than just fashion
Milan is an undisputed capital of fashion and the country financial heart, but the city also has extraordinary art: the Duomo Da Vinci’s “Last Supper” the church of Santa Maria delle Grazie, and the basilica of Sant’Ambrogio are some of its principal treasures. Moreover, there are museums and art galleries. It is very pleasant to immerse ourselves in this glamorous city, walking from the Galleria, an ornate shopping arcade, and San Babila up to the gleaming shop windows of Montenapoleone and via della Spiga. Check in at the hotel and dinner (not included) at a local restaurant for some delicious Milanese cuisine. (89 km) – HOTEL A MILANO

Day 6: Monza and Bergamo
After breakfast we leave for Brianza the hilly region north of Milan and a summer resort with numerous 18th century villas. At our arrival in Monza we visit the gardens of Villa Reale, designed by Piermarini, and the outside of this royal residence ordered by Queen Maria Teresa of Austria and now part of the Park of Monza, one of the largest public park in Europe, a great part of which is occupied by the international Formula 1 motor racing track. In order to reach Franciacorta we will drive through Bergamo, an elegant centre with its two souls. The upper town, ancient città alta, has medieval and Renaissance buildings and small narrow roads that connect to the lower part, città Bassa, more open and modern. We could lose ourselves among the lanes of the old centre, while admiring the architecture of the Duomo square. If you like you can stop for lunch at one of the fine restaurants in town for a dish of casonsei, cylindrical-shaped pasta filled with pork, bread, eggs and cheese, and some good red wine from Valcalepio. We will have some leisure time before driving to our hotel. (152 km) – HOTEL IN BERGAMO
Day 7: **Franciacorta, wine’s sparkles and a lot more**

Franciacorta, an area first cultivated and made commercially active by the Benedictine monks during the Middle Ages, is a morainic farmland where vineyards have been grown for centuries, and nowadays its sparkling wines are among the most excellent Italian ones. After breakfast visit of one Wine Cellar in Franciacorta Area.

Franciacorta is not only wine, but also history and art, spa and leisure parks, handicrafts and excellent cooking.

The Monastery of San Pietro in Lamosa is located in Provaglio and overlooks the **Torbiere** peat bog which is now a wonderful wildlife reserve. The banks of Iseo Lake are not far from here. Its calm and deep waters are contained in a small basin of glacial origins. **Iseo** is the main centre of the area with a nice ancient quarter. After visiting its beautiful Parish of Sant’Andrea, there will be time for a relaxing walk along lanes, squares and streets that open up to the lakefront. A very typical dish is here represented by polenta (corn-meal) and **tinca** (a lake fish).

In the evening we check in at the hotel and an overnight stay. (130 km) - **HOTEL IN MILANO**.

Day 8: **Departure**

After breakfast, we travel back to Milano Airport.
EMILIA and SOUTHERN TUSCANY
To savour the Italian region for gourmet cuisine and the gentle atmosphere in the cradle of red wine:
Tagliatelle and brunello

Bologna is the capital city of what is considered the gourmand Italian region. It is a must for anyone travelling to discover healthy genuine food, which will arrive to a place people, prefers homemade specialties: tagliatelle and tortellini, but also beautiful ham and Lambrusco wine. To emphasize the fascination of this city are its arts and its lively University environment.

The Chianti area can be the right counterbalance to the high-spirited cities and beaches of Emilia Romagna. We arrive into an oasis of silence and peace, surrounded by a landscape of softened colours, small ancient villages, old lonely farmhouses, silent woods and olive groves.

Day 1: Bologna
Arrival in Rome and departure to Bologna capital city of this region. Check in at the hotel at BOLOGNA or an overnight stay.

Day 2: “La Dotta” (The Learned City) and “La Grassa” (The Fat City)
We will spend the morning visiting Bologna and enjoy its proverbial liveliness. This city is known as “la dotta” (the learned) since in 1088 it became seat of the oldest University in Europe; but it is also called “la rossa” (the red) on account of its red roofs and reddish porticoes and also because it is a traditional stronghold for left wing politics. Bolognesi are very fond of food and the city is world known for its rich cuisine and that is why the other nickname is “la grassa” (the fat lady). Bologna immediately fascinates with its many students and crowded porticoes. Symbols of the city are: Piazza Maggiore (the main square) with Palazzo del Podestà (Government Palace) and the unfinished basilica of San Petronio where the Emperor Charles V was crowned, the Archiginnasio which for centuries served as the University seat, and above all the two XII Century towers that stand out in the throbbing heart of the city.

HD Tour Local Guide -
In the afternoon “pasta fresca” cooking class Our “sfoglia” chef will teach us how to make wonderful pasta with a rolling pin. To end up the day: dinner to taste what we have cooked and to experience special food-wine schemes with our wine expert. Back to the hotel IN BOLOGNA for an overnight stay.

Day 3: Ravenna: mosaics and some relax by the sea
After breakfast we will travel to Ravenna and visit with the local guide HD the splendid city of the multicoloured and beautiful Byzantine mosaics: saints, emperors and biblical figures represented in small mosaic tesserae declared by UNESCO “Heritage of Humanity” altogether with eight monumental buildings, such as Basilica di San Vitale, the Mausoleum of Galla Placidia, and the churches of Sant’ Apollinare Nuovo and Sant’ Apollinare in Classe, this last one located in the ancient late-Roman harbor area, all of them really unique masterpieces (entrance tickets included)

Not to forget that also the tomb of Dante, the grand Italian poet, is in Ravenna. In the afternoon we reach the Adriatic coast with its sandy beaches and refreshing pinewoods for some relaxation. Check in at the hotel at FAENZA, free time for dinner and an overnight stay.

(152 km)

Day 4: from Faenza to Brisighella: ceramics and oil
After breakfast we will travel towards Faenza Renaissance centre and synonymous of art in ceramics. The Museo Internazionale delle Ceramiche (International Ceramics Museum) collects and arranges a great number of Italians and foreign items which are considered outstanding examples of art, technique and tradition. Before lunch we walk along lovely streets and wander about the ceramic workshops. In the afternoon we travel to Brisighella and visit a famous oil mill which produces the excellent local extra-virgin olive oil, the first one D.O.P. extra virgin oil in Italy and lunch based on typical product (“piadina”, cold cuts, local cheese, Cappelletti)

Then through the green hub of Mugello, which has a century-long lasting connection with Florence testified by the many Medecine residences, we reach the hotel. Check in and an overnight stay in FAENZA (134 km)

Day 5: Florence, cradle of the Renaissance
After breakfast we will visit the splendid Florence HD TOUR GUIDE capital of the Italian Renaissance, one of the cities favoured by haute couture gurus and a set stop for who wish to experience some of the greatest expressions of the Italian genius. Walking along the lively downtown streets, one become lost in admiration for the Duomo (Cathedral) with its famous Brunelleschi dome, the baptistery of San Giovanni, the Bell Tower of Giotto, the Ponte Vecchio over Arno River, the church of Santa Croce, the splendid Palazzo Vecchio, Santa Maria Novella, the imposing Palazzo Pitti, the Uffizi Art Galleries (ENTRACE INCLUDED) a succession of marvels of the Western world arts. In the afternoon, we will take some free time for shopping, before going back the hotel and an overnight stay in FLORENCE
Day 6: the Siena Chianti

Chianti is more than just a famous wine renowned throughout the world. It is an ancient farmland nowadays attempting to survive. Landscapes where nature and art blend into a world full of charm; dozens of religious buildings remind of the roads followed by pilgrims in old times, villages reflect ancient history. Chianti has got its own identity making a small fascinating world by itself. Northwest of Siena, high on a hill, stands the fortified mass of Brolio Castle, which captivates not just because of its impressiveness and its insolent stand over the hills, but also because it was here where the new Chianti was born out of frantic researches by Baron Ricasoli, the so-called Baron of iron, owner of the castle itself. Its visit perfectly matches with a guided tour through the near modern wineries, with their attractive architectural design. In the afternoon we will continue on Castello di Volpaia near Radda. Here the entire medieval village has turned into a wine and oil production centre, as well as a tourist resort. The visit is extremely interesting as along the village's narrow lanes history mixes with the fermentation techniques used to produce wine or the pressing methods for oil: an intoxicating blend of arts and flavours. After the visit, we move on to Radda in Chianti, a graceful village with many artistic attractions and monuments in a gorgeous position, to stroll along the elegant downtown area. At the end of the visit, we check in at the hotel and an overnight stay in Chianti Area (77 km).

Day 7: Siena, a jump into the middle Ages and through a Gothic daydream.

After breakfast we leave for Siena (HD tour with local guide) city of the Palio, rich in architectural jewels. We take a guided tour of the city: Piazza del Campo, opening like a seashell in the heart of the mediaeval city, the high Torre del Mangia, and the magnificent Duomo with its splendid decorated floor. The museum complex of Santa Maria della Scala is waiting to be discovered as we walk through pure harmony of streets and palaces that resound with mediaeval stories. We will visit the Enoteca Italiana. In the afternoon we will travel south through a perfect picture landscape: the “Crete senesi” area with its hills of eroded flanks, elegant rows of cypresses, scattered farmhouses, villages and lonely churches. This is one of the most photographed places in Tuscany. We reach Montalcino where Brunello, perhaps the greatest Italian red wine is produced and after crossing downtown at the foot of the Rocca, we visit the winery to discover new matchless flavours. In the evening we reach Bagno Vignoni a tiny spa resort located around a big “piazza d’acqua” (thermal spring). Here we can relax in a warm pool and enjoy the wellness treatments offered by local facilities. Overnight stay. (84 km) IN SIENA COUNTRY

Day 8: Departure

After breakfast, we travel back to Rome. (220 km)
**LIGURIA and NORTHERN TUSCANY**  
Scented home-made pesto and romantic lanes in a real sophisticated environment...  
...caciucco and medieval fortified houses

It is fascinating to visit the historic places of the ancient maritime republic of Genoa, before heading for the Cinque Terre. The name of Portofino is so well known all over the world to make even stronger the emotion to walk along the ways so many famous personalities have walked before; and then cliffs, beaches and pine woods, Mediterranean scrub, inlets and small ancient sea villages will be the landscape as far as Lucca and its wine & oil road.

**Day 1:** Camogli  
Arrival in Milano Airport. Arrival in Camogli and check in at the hotel. An overnight stay. **HOTEL CAMOGLI**

**Day 2:** The harbour and the old town of Genoa  
After breakfast, we will devote the day to Genoa. It is quite impossible to trace the numerous tones characterizing this city, a city that owes its fortune to an inseparable blend of its geographical location, propensities toward the sea, its merchants’ vocations, and its interactions with oriental civilizations. The city is a natural productive area that opens up to the sea and well protected from the mountains behind. Not even the deep transformation of this last century has erased Genoa’s charm. The Porto Vecchio, the old dock, and the galleries of Palazzo Bianco and Palazzo Rosso, as well as the ancient and splendid duomo of San Lorenzo, make this important Mediterranean seaport a fascinating visit. With its tangle of narrow streets bursting with traffic, its wonderful aquarium and many other attractions, this ancient cultural crossroads has much to offer to the curious traveller. After our guided tour, leisure time will be available to fully appreciate this town. In the evening we drive back to our hotel for an overnight stay. (139 km) **HOTEL CAMOGLI**

**Day 3:** Portofino and San Fruttuoso  
After breakfast we will travel to Santa Margherita Ligure and sail to Portofino an attractive and fashionable town previously quoted by Plinio, and used by sailors as a secure harbour along the coast. Today this protected jewel, hidden in an inlet, is considered an exclusive tourist destination. Not far from the resort town, to the west, the solitary massive structure of San Fruttuoso reflects itself into the sea. The abbey complex owes its most remote origin to the Bishop of Tarragona, who arrived here in order to insure the safety of the ashes of San Fruttuoso from the Arabs. In the 13th century, the Dorias gave new life to this picturesque and almost inaccessible township.  
In the evening, back to hotel, overnight stay. (50 km) **HOTEL A PORTOVENERE**

**Day 4:** Oil of the “Levante” (eastern) coast and Portovenere  
Our guided tour through one of the most famous oil mills of the eastern coast will allow us to meet with the flavour of this very impressive extra virgin olive oil of Sextri Levante made from local olives. Here oil contains the organoleptic qualities of fruits grown on trees scattered on small pieces of land, built in terraces across the hinterland.  
Next, we will be heading to La Spezia and sail to Portovenere where we can enjoy a walk through this ancient sea village.  
In the evening we will arrive at our hotel. Overnight stay. (257 km) **HOTEL A PORTOVENERE**

**Day 5:** Cinque Terre and Sciacchetrà wine  
After breakfast we reach one of the most beloved and known sites on the Italian coastLe Cinque Terre, referring to five uniquely located villages; from east towards west: the beautiful Riomaggiore linked to Manarola by the famous via dell’Amore Lovers’ Lane, Corniglia at the very edge of a cliff; the noble Vernazza with an urban structure that reveals its antique magnificence, and Monterosso, the village loved by the Italian poet Eugenio Montale, Nobel prize 1975. These five villages were once reachable only by the sea. Even today this district is not equipped with roads for cars, but valleys and small harbors, splendid churches and narrow paths, terraces and picturesque villages only can be enjoyed either by a pleasant walk or by train. The area is under the law as a National Park that also spreads out towards the sea. During the day there will be an opportunity to visit a wine cellar that produces Sciacchetrà wine that either sweet or dry perfectly matches with any dessert.  
In the evening we will arrive to the hotel. Overnight stay. (200km) **HOTEL A PORTOVENERE**

**Day 6:** Versilia and Lucca  
After breakfast we are ready to start our journey through Versilia, a fascinating territory along the coast, with long beaches, luxuriant pine woods and the Apuane Alps at the back, rich in marble quarries that were already in use when Michelangelo lived and worked at his beautiful sculptures.  
In the afternoon the lovely town of Lucca, which is surrounded by large walls, will welcome us with its beautiful architectural structures such as its medieval Cathedral, which houses the grave of Ilaria del Carretto, and the Piazza Anfiteatro, built as a Roman amphitheatre. These are only two of the thousands of good reasons for visiting this sophisticated city, rich and secluded.  
In the evening we will arrive to the hotel for an overnight stay. (171 km) – **HOTEL IN LUCCA**
Day 7: **local cuisine, wines and oil**
In the morning we take a **full immersion course in local cuisine**. Our lunch at the restaurant will be a double pleasure, also based on what we’ve been learning.
In the afternoon we will visit a winery of the “Strada del vino e dell’olio Lucca & Montecarlo”. Not only great wines also **scented extra virgin olive oil**. Back to the hotel for dinner and an overnight stay. (86 km) **HOTEL IN LUCCA**

Day 8: **Departure**
After breakfast, we travel back to Milano (143 km)
ABRUZZO, MOLISE & PUGLIA

Following the shepherds' old paths through ancient remains and tasty tradition

Rural landscapes are the leitmotif of the first days: pastures, old mule tracks and ancient roads, still in part visible. A beautiful nature that lives also on arts and history. Superb the variety of local dishes and products: excellent cheese, savoury meat and sweet smelling bread cooked in wood-burning ovens; wines are of an excellent quality and the delicious sweets made of almond paste are unforgettable. This journey will take us from the inland to the Apulia coast to admire the red of the soil, the green of the olive trees and the blue of the sea; here oil and wine become the flavours to taste.

Day 1: L’Aquila
Arrival at Rome Airport- Departure to Abruzzo Region and check in at the hotel in L’Aquila. An overnight stay.

Day 2: The saffron plains and noble L’Aquila
After breakfast we will visit L’Aquila. The town offers unexpected surprises: according to the tradition the 99 spout (99 cannelle) Fountain is the founding symbol of the town, due to the surrounding 99 castles that were conquered and unified by Frederick II. We will also try to make it to the elegant Basilia of Santa Maria di Collemaggio, built by Pope Celestino V, and to the Basilia of San Bernardino, where the Saint is also buried. These are only a few of the splendid sights among the beautiful buildings and splendid squares. In the afternoon we will reach the site, not far from here, of the ruins of Peltuinum located on a tableland dominating the Navelli Plain and crossed from gate to gate by the sheep track. Then we will visit the Navelli Plain famous throughout the world not only for its saffron but also for the architectural beauty of Bominaco, with the Romanesque church of Santa Maria Assunta and the extraordinary frescos of the San Pellegrino oratory.
In the evening, we will return to the hotel, overnight stay in Aquila. (65 km)

Day 3: Romanesque art and ancient wine cellars
After breakfast, we will visit the Peligna Valley. This is where the ancient Roman road enters Corfinio and is greeted by the majestic Basilica Valvense, also known as San Pelino. It is one of the most beautiful Romanesque structures in Abruzzo. We reach Vittorito that lies on a hillside. In this area we can visit one of the oldest wineries. In its simple, but unique setting we can taste various local wines: Trebbiano, Cerasuolo and Montepulciano. Montepulciano d’ Abruzzo dèdeas the local wine production.
Overnight stay in Scanno. (114 km)

Day 4: cooking and wine in L’Aquila
Nestled in the heart of Abruzzo’ Apeninne’s we will discover the small medieval village of Scanno. Preserving age long traditions and customs. Once a fortified town, from the surrounding mountain invasions dating back to the Saracen & Ottoman period. The village still carries a strong oriental influence seen in what the ladies wear as the Scannesse Costume.

Today we spend a morning 3 hour hands on lesson lunch to follow with what you have prepared.
It’ll be great fun mixing local ingredients to create Abruzzo specialties. In the afternoon, relaxing time to enjoy the town centre or facultative afternoon guided visit of surrounding Towns, Villa Lago, Frattura, and Lago di Scanno. In the evening free time. Overnight in Scanno

Day 5: Architectural beauties and sugared almonds in Sulmona; bells and caciocavallo cheese of Molise
Breakfast at the hotel.
Sulmona is in the heart of the Peligna Valley, installed in a splendid basin at the front of the Morrone massif, looking out at a breathtaking landscape that is a natural backdrop to the extraordinary monumental historic centre, which we certainly will visit.

But Sulmona is also renowned being the birthplace of Ovid, the Latin poet and for its sugared almonds which are sold in many shops of the town centre. A visit to the Museum of the Art and Technology of Sugared Almond Production (il Museo dell’Arte e della Tecnologia confettiera Pelino), owned by a local sweet producer, reveals the secret of these festive, multi-coloured delicacies.

In the afternoon we set out for Molise with a first stop in Pietrabondante, at one of the most important Samnite ancient temple and theatre. These plateaus, scattered with small medieval villages, are ideal for the production of the renowned caciocavallo cheese.
Still visible are the signs of the ancient tratturi (narrow paths), which the shepherds used to walk on with their flocks of sheep when they moved them to the lower pastures from Abruzzo to Puglia. Agnone a beautiful city located in the county of Isernia, is world famous for its bells. Visit a dairy for a caciocavallo cheese tasting.
Check in at the hotel in AGNONE and an overnight stay. (190 km)
Day 6: **Fiordilatte-cheese of Bojano and the Gargano Promontory**

After breakfast we will arrive in **Bojano**, famous for its production of fiordilatte -cheese made from cow’s milk characterized by its fresh savoury taste. We will be visiting one of the local dairies, where products are also available for purchase. The old town is dominated by the Longobard fortress of Civita. In the early afternoon we will drive in the direction of San Severo, across the Gargano Promontory, and, following the traces of the ancient Via Sacra, (the sacred road of Longobards), we will reach **Monte Sant'Angelo**. This village, located 850 meters high on the **Gargano Promontory**, overlooks the Manfredonia Gulf in an area so rich in legends from fascinating chapters of history. The two attractions of this important suburb are the grave of Rotari, a Longobard King, and the Sanctuary of the Archangel Saint Michael, where he should have appeared. In the evening we will arrive to the hotel in **Trani** for an overnight stay. (390 km)

Day 7: **Trani and the olive oil road**

During the morning we will focus on **Trani**, pearl of the Adriatic Coast. We will visit the splendid Romanesque Cathedral that leans out towards the sea, and its historical centre with the **ghetto** the noble buildings, the churches and the streets paved with chianche. The day continues with a visit to **Bisceglie**'s multi-awarded oil mill, located along the **Strada dell'olio vergine** (the virgin olive oil road) Castel del Monte. Back to the hotel in **Trani** for an overnight stay. (16 km)

Day 8: **Departure**

After breakfast, we travel back to Rome.
LAZIO-CAMPANIA
Comparing historic pictures: from ancient evidence in an international famous modern city to a freeze-frame on the Roman Empire life-style in Pompei

Rome, the Eternal City, where history has left its marks on thousands of monuments, ruins, museums and churches so that the entire city is a gigantic open air museum in itself, has a special atmosphere, a timeless charm attracting tourists year after year.

From this magic capital city through the enchanting beauties of the Amalfi coast, a stunning landscape full of Mediterranean colours and scents, we arrive in Pompei: a picture of life-style in the ancient empire.

Day 1: Rome
Arrival and check in at the hotel. An overnight stay. Transfer by private car included.
Rome has been the cradle of one of the main civilizations; city of emperors and popes, founded by Romulus, the so called “Eternal City” inevitably attracts attention. BB in hotel in Rome.

Day 2: ancient Rome
Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer by car from hotel to Coliseum. Meeting point with our private tour guide for 3 hours (2 persons minimum). Today we will have an exciting tour among the remains of the past. This city will reveal us treasures and marvels. The Forum site of the public life in the ancient times, the magnificent Coliseum (included booking and entrance tickets) with its bloody memories, monuments marking triumphs and victories, the colossal Pantheon and the Via Appia strewn with ruins are just some of the most glittering fragments in the ancient urban texture of the city. We will make afternoon free.
In the evening, back to the hotel by our private car for an overnight stay. Hotel in Rome.

Day 3: the city of Popes and Baroque
After breakfast Transfer by car from hotel to S.Peter Square and meeting point with our guide. The day will be devoted to the visit of the beating heart of Christianity. St. Peter’s with its huge dome is an unmistakable presence on the cityscape. Tourists’ attention is magically drawn to the splendid Basilica and Michelangelo’s Pietà in the sumptuous atmosphere of the Vatican Museums (included booking and tickets) and to the beautifully painted restored Sistine Chapel, but also to the Pope’s colourful army: the “Swiss Guards”.
In the afternoon, always with guide, visit of the rich Baroque facades and interiors of the many churches fascinate us, as much as the spectacular fountains and piazzas, as we trace our steps through the places that were a set for “La dolce vita”, emblem of the Italian cinema.
Dinner in a restaurant. An overnight stay. Hotel in Rome.

Day 4: villas and sweets.
We have our breakfast at the hotel – 8 hour by car from hotel to Tivoli – All day with our tour leader. In Tivoli visit Villa Adriana, the largest villa ever built in ancient times, commanded by the Emperor Adrian in the 2nd century B.C. Its majestic size matches up to the pomp of its interior furnishings, reproducing the styles typical of the eastern provinces of the empire, often visited by Adrian. In this fascinating historic atmosphere, we take a “sweet” cooking class: about cakes.
In the evening check in at the hotel, dinner and an overnight stay. (35 km) Hotel in Tivoli.

Day 5: vineyards on the Castelli Romani hills
After breakfast, meeting with driver and tour leader - We set out for the Castelli Romani hills, an area of small ancient villages, rich in historical-artistic valuables and dedicated to wine production. We will visit the famous winery Casale Marchese in Frascati, (wine tasting included) with its popular Trebbiano, Greco and Malvasia vines. From here, we continue our itinerary among the volcanic hills to reach Nemi, the smallest and purest of the Castelli Romani villages. Nemi sits on a peak above Lake Diana, a former crater of a volcano. Here we enjoy wandering along the picturesque lanes and inside the artisans’ shops. After the tour, back to the hotel for dinner in Hotel and an overnight stay. (107 km) Hotel in Nemi.

Day 6: Amalfi and the coast
After breakfast we leave with car and driver speaking English for the picturesque Amalfi Coast. We stop for a short visit at the fiord of Furore. The rest of the day is spent for the beauties of this famous part of the Campania coast. Positano clinging to a steep cliff with its many shops. Amalfi the most ancient among the Italian maritime republics, is remarkable for its promenade, its beautiful Duomo, which dominates from above, its handcrafted paper shops its distilleries of sweet limoncello, produced from the juicy local lemons, and its cafes. An interesting “limoncello” tasting.
Check in at the hotel, dinner in hotel and an overnight stay. (286 km) Hotel in Maiori.
Day 7: **Pompeii, the “Ancient Metropolis” and its mysteries**

Breakfast at the hotel. With our driver and private car we visit **Pompeii** (entrance included and meeting with private guide for 2 hours) the splendid ancient site at the foot of the Vesuvius. Buried in ash and volcanic rock during a terrible eruption in the year 79 A.D., the city still offers a complete picture of life in a Roman town. Here we can admire, among others, the refined lordly residences, richly decorated with famous frescoes. We stop for lunch free at a restaurant.

In the afternoon we shall have the unique experience of travelling to **Napoli**. Free Time in Napoli and in the afternoon we travel back to the hotel for an overnight stay. (92 km) – Hotel in Napoli

Day 8: **Departure**

After breakfast, we travel back with our car and driver to Rome Airport (283 km)
A journey through the lush countryside of Sicily, between the traditional stone walls of black lava rock, among the old peasant houses, farms and the sumptuous villas of the nobles of the past.

Day 1: CATANIA
Domestic flight from Rome to Catania on request. Meeting with private car and driver - HD tour with guide -
This is a vivacious, contrasting city. Its cuisine is a vibrant as its brilliant architecture. It is easy to admire the baroque facades of its buildings, that magnificent cathedral and the other churches, reconstructed after the terrible earthquake in 1693. Typical wonderful dishes are based on eggplant, bread, ricotta cheese and citrus fruit. Overnight in Hotel in TAORMINA or around it

Day 2: Wineries on the slopes of MOUNT ETNA
Breakfast at the hotel
We leave this morning for a tour among the most renowned ETNA WINERIES. Interesting tasting sessions based on the wonderful local wines. Back to the hotel we'll have time to relax and get ready for a gourmet dinner (156 km) in TAORMINA

Day 3: The Greek SIRACUSA
After breakfast, we wonderful travel to Siracusa, first founded on the island of Ortigia. Visit with local guide. The city well greet us with its historic centre surrounded by 16th century bulwarks and the magnificence of its Neapolis archaeological park where legends seem to still ring out its ancient theatre and the ear of Dionysus. Siracusa is also a city full of Mediterranean flavours: the scent of citrons and the taste of the small juicy pachino tomatoes that mingle with oil, almonds and muscat grapes. Check in at the hotel in SIRACUSA and an overnight stay (63 km)

Day 4: Oil, baroque and chocolate ancient recipes RAGUSA
Breakfast at the hotel.
On the way to Ragusa, we reach Noto, that produces grapes, citrons, vegetables, almonds and carobs. Meeting with local guide. The devastation caused by the 1693 earthquake led to the decline of Ancient Noto, but the new town rebuilt further downstream was magnificent.
Noto today preserves the signs of an original 18th century urban design, which culminates in the fascinating Piazza del Municipio (town hall square). Palaces, churches, and streets proudly displaying their late Baroque architecture and decorations earned the UNESCO’s recognition as World Heritage city.
We travel across Rosolini. A simple construction in a palm grove holds one of the most renowned oil mills of the region. A tasting of this quite amazing fresh flavoured olive oil, with its slight scent of artichoke.
Modica. In its historical centre, houses have been built closely to one another on the slopes with carved wood and small windows, famous for its wonderful chocolate. Tasting of chocolate. Cocoa is combined with such flavours as vanilla and peperoncino (red pepper) and prepared according to ancient recipes. Check in at the hotel at RAGUSA(93 km)

Day 5: RAGUSA cheese and wines
Breakfast at the hotel.
We reach Ragusa. In its surroundings there is a special place that encloses great Sicilian flavours. We learn to cook, with our Sicilian chefs, homemade bread, “focacce” and pasta as per the best local tradition. Lunch included
Later in the afternoon, the town of Ragusa, a “double” city. The centre, more modern and radical, built around the imposing Duomo. On a hill, the ancient city of Ibla, with narrow lanes and squares embellished with marvellous facades. Of particular interest is the Cathedral of San Giorgio. On the shelves of the delicatessens’ are the square forms of ragusano cheese, in the pastry shops the biancomangiare (cake made from milk, cream, and almonds), while the dining table presents rural dishes based on pasta, ricotta cheese, meat sauce, mollica fritta, anchovies, capers, lentils, fennels, and fish from the Mediterranean Sea.
We first learn on the local cheese, how to reach such perfection in flavours following an ancient tradition. We then enjoy a taste training session among cheese and wines, guided by the experts. Walking out the tasty place, we bring with us a booklet on historic Sicilian cheeses to remind us of this experience. Overnight in RAGUSA
Day 6: Roman Villas
Breakfast at the hotel
Travel today to Palermo. In Vittoria we stop at a winery for a tasting session: Cerasuolo, Frappato, Nero d'Avola, Inzolia are the main native wines.
On the way, we also visit Piazza Armerina. Spectacular colours and shapes emerge from the mosaic floors of the Roman Villa del Casale.
Check in at the hotel in PALERMO. Overnight stay, (261 km)

Day 7: PALERMO noble and plebeian, decadent and beautiful
Meeting with local guide for HD tour
The remains of Arab and Sicilian-Norman art shine here and there, like jewels scattered all around. The cupola of Palatine Chapel, the architectural inlay of the Zisa, the Teatro Massimo. We stop for lunch at the picturesque Antica Focaccia S. Francesco, directly across the church of San Francesco da Assisi.
Among specialties a spleen sandwich “pane ca meusa”.
It all started in the ancient Jewish quarter around the end of the 15th century, when Hebrew butchers sold boiled offal to the Christians who used to eat in the street, adding bread and cheese to make it tastier. After the Hebrew left town, the “cacciuttaru” (the man who sold bread and cheese in the streets) probably took over the all business so that people could buy from him and eat this special roll mainly stuffed with spleen.
We continue on the Monreale and visit the splendid Chiostro de Benedettini (Benedictine cloister) and the majestic Norman Cathedral, truly the eighth wonder in the world for its unique mosaics.
Back to the hotel for an overnight stay in PALERMO

Day 8: Departure from Palermo to Rome by domestic flight