

EXPLORERS
ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 10-18, 2025

with optional
Palermo Post-Tour

FLAVORS OF SICILY

Orbridge



EXPLORERS
ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Dear EXPLORERS and Friends,

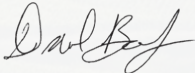
Join us on a captivating, 9-day journey through the heart of Sicily to discover the vibrant island's historical and cultural treasures. Explore renowned archaeological and UNESCO World Heritage sites, indulge in delicious cuisine and wine, and partake in hands-on cooking classes with celebrated chefs who share recipes and culinary techniques passed down through generations.

After enriching days of touring, retire to Don Arcangelo all'Olmo, a luxurious villa privately reserved only for guests in your small group. This haven of tranquility exudes an atmosphere of timeless elegance, featuring modern amenities and spectacular views of Mount Etna.

This immersive experience promises to engage all of your senses and leave you with memories to last a lifetime.

Space is limited. With significant savings of more than \$1,000 per couple, we anticipate this tour will fill quickly. To reserve, visit uillinois.orbridge.com, call (866) 639-0079 or return the attached reservation form.

Sincerely,



David Bambrey

President

University of Illinois Alumni Association

<https://uiaa.org/explorers/>

Itinerary and Highlights *(subject to change)*

Day 1: EN ROUTE FROM U.S.

Day 2: **ARRIVE IN CATANIA, SICILY | GIARRE** Upon arrival an Orbridge representative will be waiting to assist with your transfer to the property. Take time to unpack and settle in before meeting fellow travel companions for a welcome reception and dinner.

Overnight: Don Arcangelo all'Olmo (R,D)

Day 3: **TAORMINA** After waking to stunning views of Mount Etna gather for breakfast, then set out for a full day touring Taormina. With your local guide, stop at the Greek amphitheatre for spectacular photography opportunities before leisure time to stroll the pedestrian-only Corso Umberto and its lively shops and restaurants. Return to the villa with time to freshen up before dinner.

Overnight: Don Arcangelo all'Olmo (B,D)

Day 4: **PIAZZA ARMERINA** Enjoy a guided tour of Villa Romana del Casale, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Wandering through the opulent rooms, you'll capture a glimpse into the lifestyle of a wealthy Sicilian family from centuries past. Back at the villa unwind among the property's luxurious amenities before dinner.

Overnight: Don Arcangelo all'Olmo (B,L,D)

Day 5: **CATANIA | VIAGRANDE** Experience Catania's colorful and lively outdoor market. After lunch take the short drive to Benanti, an award-winning winery, for a unique cooking lesson followed by a vineyard tour and wine tasting. Dinner is at the villa this evening.

Overnight: Don Arcangelo all'Olmo (B,L,D)

Day 6: **SIRACUSA | ORTIGIA** After breakfast journey to the historic cities of Siracusa and Ortigia. Tour the ancient ruins and stop by an outdoor market.

Overnight: Don Arcangelo all'Olmo (B,D)

Day 7: **MOUNT ETNA** Guests who would like a leisurely morning at the property can choose to relax after breakfast. For those seeking more active exploration, join others to ascend Mount Etna, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This afternoon gather together for a wine tasting and delectable lunch at Donnafugata, a family-founded winery.

Overnight: Don Arcangelo all'Olmo (B,L,D)

Day 8: **TAORMINA** Immerse yourself in Sicilian culinary traditions with a hands-on cooking class at Villa Britannia followed by a farewell luncheon.

Overnight: Don Arcangelo all'Olmo (B,L,D)

Day 9: **GIARRE | CATANIA | DEPART FOR U.S.** After breakfast transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)



Siracusa



Mt. Etna

(B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner, R = Reception)



What's Included

- 7 nights at Don Arcangelo all'Olmo (or similar)
- 7 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 7 dinners served with wine plus a special welcome reception
- Full services of an Orbridge Travel Director and expert local guides
- All lessons, private tours and tastings and unique small-group excursions noted in the 9-day itinerary
- In-depth guided exploration of Sicily's main attractions—Taormina, Mount Etna, Villa Romana del Casale, Siracusa and Ortigia
- Private motor coach transportation
- Luggage portering
- Gratuities to Orbridge Travel Director, local guides, drivers, porters and wait staff for included meals
- Airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times



Activity Level: Guests should be able to enjoy two hours or more of walking, be sure-footed on cobbled surfaces, and walk up and down hillsides and stairs without assistance. Historic city centers are usually more accessible by foot than vehicle. Due to the structure of some buildings, facilities for the disabled may be limited.

Insider, Interpreter, Epicure, Host

Your Orbridge Travel Director will infuse your journey with an epicure's appreciation of food and wine, a local's knowledge and pride of place, and a travel aficionado's ability to gather the beauty of all senses to your discoveries in Sicily.



Orbridge



Don Arcangelo all'Olmo

Accommodations *(subject to change)*

Don Arcangelo all'Olmo, lovingly known as L'Olmo, is a Think Exquisite villa from the award-winning villa company, *The Thinking Traveller* and sits serenely between Mount Etna and the Ionian Sea. Once a farm building on a wine-producing estate, the property was painstakingly restored to create the grand villa that exists today.

Guests will experience authentic Sicilian hospitality with true personal attention as the villa is exclusive for our small group.

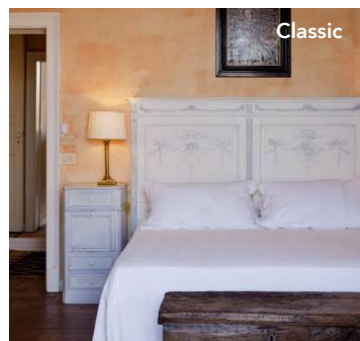
Classic Double: Impeccably designed for comfort, these rooms are located in Casa all'Olmo—a superbly restored farm house next to the main building.

Deluxe Double: Spacious and bright, these classically appointed rooms are in Casale, the main building.

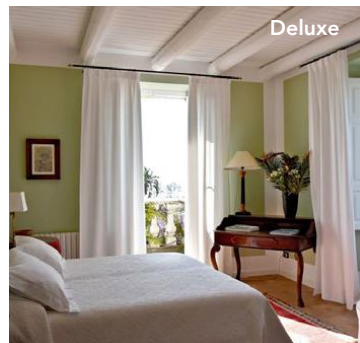
All rooms include air conditioning, iPod docking station and en suite bathroom.

Property Amenities: Fine dining that features locally sourced ingredients, complimentary Wi-Fi, large sitting area with open fireplace, televisions in the living area of the main house and in the Casa all'Olmo, outdoor pool and Jacuzzi, colorful gardens and fitness room.

NOTE: this property does not have an elevator.



Classic



Deluxe



Lobby

Optional Post-Tour Palermo

Enjoy Sicily's fascinating and bustling capital, Palermo. The city, which is over 2,700 years old, is rich in history, culture, art, music and gourmet cuisine.



Day 9: DEPART TAORMINA | CEFALÙ | ARRIVE PALERMO
After departing Taormina delight in a splendid lunch followed by guided sightseeing in Cefalù, famous for its cozy beaches, picturesque harbor and Duomo (cathedral) built in 1131 by Roger II. The town is also known for its various Greek ruins and delightful streets lined with colorful shops. Enter the imposing Arab-Norman Cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage Sites. It's characterized by the impressive mosaic of Christ Pantocrator. This evening enjoy dinner at leisure and time to relax at the property.
Overnight: Grand Hotel Piazza Borsa (L)

Day 10: PALERMO Following breakfast join the local guide for a walking tour of the city center. Famous for its citrus groves, beautiful ancient churches, outdoor markets and narrow medieval streets, this delightful city combines well-preserved historical sites, friendly locals and delicious cuisine to provide a memorable experience. Next learn about a movement for the promotion of a virtuous and Mafia-free economy. Discover how this association was born and how it is changing life in Sicily from the bottom up. Set out on a special "No Mafia Tour" through the alleys of the historic center encountering the places in the fight against the Mafia. This afternoon enter the amazing Royal Palace of Palermo, the Norman Palace. On the second floor is the well-known Cappella Palatina, the royal chapel of the Norman kings dedicated to Saint Peter and Paul. The evening is at leisure.
Overnight: Grand Hotel Piazza Borsa (B,L)

Day 11: PALERMO | DEPART FOR U.S. After breakfast guests departing during the suggested times take the complimentary transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)

What's Included

- Group transfer to Palermo
- 2 nights at Grand Hotel Piazza Borsa (or similar)
- 2 breakfasts and 2 lunches
- Guided sightseeing of Palermo and Cefalù including entrance fees
- Luggage portorage
- Gratuities to local guide, driver and porters
- Airport transfers for guests departing during the suggested times



FLAVORS OF SICILY

OCTOBER 10-18, 2025

Palermo Post-Tour: October 18-20, 2025

Reserve by Credit Card:

Online: uillinois.orbridge.com

Phone: (866) 639-0079

Fax: (206) 452-5655

Reserve by Check:

Made payable to **Orbridge, LLC**

Mail to: Orbridge, P.O. Box 1376

Poulsbo, WA 98370

The EXPLORERS program is open to alumni of the University of Illinois, their families, and friends.

GUEST INFORMATION:

Guest #1 Name (Title/Salutation): _____

Email: _____ Class Year: _____

Home Phone: _____ Alt. Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Guest #2 Name (Title/Salutation): _____

Email: _____ Class Year: _____

Home Phone: _____ Alt. Phone: _____

DEPOSIT PAYMENT:

Check ACH (Automated Clearing House) MasterCard/Visa American Express Discover

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CW: _____

Name (as printed on card): _____

Billing Address (if different from above): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

CATEGORY SELECTION & DEPOSIT:


Category Preference: 1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____

_____ guests joining program (\$850/person) +

_____ guests joining post-tour (\$500/person) = **TOTAL DEPOSIT: \$** _____

I/we have read, understand, and agree to the full Terms & Conditions at terms.orbridge.com; and I/we agree that Orbridge, LLC is authorized to charge my credit card above and/or take my/our deposit for this program.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

 Orbridge takes seriously the responsibility to minimize our global environmental impact. Each year we plant 100,000 trees in U.S. State Forests with afforestation needs as an ongoing initiative among our evolving sustainability efforts. Learn more at orbridge.com/going-green.

Category	Standard Rate	Special Rate*
Classic Double	\$6,899	\$6,395
Deluxe Double	\$7,899	\$7,395
Single (Classic)	\$9,499	\$8,995

Palermo Post-Tour		
Category	Standard Rate	Special Rate*
Double	\$1,899	\$1,695
Single	\$2,099	\$1,895

Rates are per person based on double occupancy except where noted as Single, in U.S. dollars.

*Special group rate; limited offer. Airfare not included. Single availability limited. **A complement to the educational component of this journey, Expedition Libraries are curated collections of useful resources and background reading tailored to this program. Place your deposit on or before the specified date, and one Expedition Library per household will be sent after receipt of final payment. Libraries may be purchased; please call for details.

University of Illinois Alumni Association
EXPLORERS Travel Program
Alice Campbell Alumni Center
601 S. Lincoln Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801

FLAVORS OF SICILY

OCTOBER 10-18, 2025

Special Alumni Rate:

Save more than **\$1,000** per couple
30-day refund guarantee

FREE EXPEDITION LIBRARY
AN EXCLUSIVE EARLY
RESERVATION BONUS

Reserve by

December 27, 2024**

What Guests Are Saying...

You can always count on U of I EXPLORERS trips for interesting sites, quality tours, and fun companions!

~UIAA EXPLORERS Traveler

I always enjoy being with fellow alumni and making new friends when visiting a new location.

~UIAA EXPLORERS Traveler

Orbridge is an amazing company, I really appreciate and enjoy their approach to the details and comfort of our trip.

~UIAA EXPLORERS Traveler

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