



Rensselaer  
Alumni Association

MAY 15-23, 2026

with optional  
Palermo Post-Tour

# FLAVORS OF SICILY

Orbridge

Dear RPI Alumni 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 [rpi.orbridge.com](http://rpi.orbridge.com) or call (866) 639-0079.

Sincerely,



Don Burgio '89  
Rensselaer Alumni Association (RAA) President



# Flavors of Sicily | Itinerary Highlights (subject to change)

Day 1 EN ROUTE FROM U.S.

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

Day 3 **TAORMINA (B,D)** Set out for a full day touring Taormina. This idyllic town perched high above the Ionian Sea is a gem of ancient theaters, charming streets, popular beaches and breathtaking views. With your local guide stop at the Greek amphitheatre (one of Sicily's most picturesque and well-preserved) for spectacular photography opportunities before time to stroll the pedestrian-only Corso Umberto. Return to the villa with time to freshen up before dinner.

Day 4 **PIAZZA ARMERINA (B,L,D)** Your Sicilian adventure continues with a visit to Piazza Armerina for a guided tour of Villa Romana del Casale, an archaeological masterpiece and 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 take advantage of time to unwind among the property's luxurious amenities before dinner.

Day 5 **CATANIA | VIAGRANDE (B,L,D)** The heart of Catania beats in its outdoor street markets where vivid colors, aromatic scents and lively conversations create a sensory symphony that encapsulates the essence of Sicilian life. Meander through the stalls where locals and visitors alike converge to discover an array of tantalizing treats. While perusing the myriad of goods engage with passionate vendors who are eager to share stories behind their products and the traditions that have been passed down through generations. This market is an authentic experience with an atmosphere that reveals Sicily's vibrant soul and its celebration of life. 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. Notably, Benanti has vineyards positioned on four different slopes of Mount Etna and produces wines using only 100% native grapes. Return to the villa for a delicious dinner.

Day 6 **SIRACUSA | ORTIGIA (B,D)** Journey to the historic cities of Siracusa and Ortigia where ancient ruins and Baroque architecture coexist harmoniously. Siracusa, a 2,700-year-old fortified seaport founded by Greek Corinthians and Teneans, rivaled Athens in size and importance during the Athenian Empire. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, it features many structures dating back to the 5th century B.C. At the storied island of Ortigia tour the ancient ruins, the "Ear of Dionysius" (a famous stone quarry), and its markets overflowing with local seafood, dairy, meat and produce.

Day 7 **MOUNT ETNA (B,L,D)** Guests who would like to spend a leisurely morning at the villa can choose to relax after breakfast. For those seeking more active exploration join others to ascend Mount Etna, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Europe's highest and most active volcano. It has four craters at its 11,000-foot summit and more than 300 vents on the flanks. Hiking up to 9,580 feet, take in the panoramic views, marvel at its enormity and observe the destruction of previous eruptions and lava flows. This afternoon gather together for a wine tasting and delectable lunch at Donnafugata, a family-founded winery determined to create only authentic, sustainably produced varietals.

Day 8 **TAORMINA (B,L,D)** Immerse yourself in Sicilian culinary traditions with a hands-on cooking class at Villa Britannia. Learn the secrets of pasta and dessert making from a celebrated chef who selects only locally grown, hand-picked ingredients to make mouth-watering dishes, which might include: marinated prawns, caponata, pasta alla Norma, seafood risotto, zuppa di pesce, veal rolls, chicken alla cacciatore and desserts such as Sicilian cassata, tiramisu and crespelle. Following class celebrate this memorable week with a farewell luncheon and wine pairing on the restaurant's terrace overlooking the sea and Taormina.

Day 9 **GIARRE | CATANIA | DEPART FOR U.S. (B)**  
After breakfast guests departing during the suggested times take a complimentary transfer to the airport for flights home.

(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 portage
- Gratuities to Orbridge Travel Director, local guides, drivers and wait staff for included meals
- Airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times

**Activity Level:** We expect that guests can enjoy two hours or more of walking, are sure-footed on cobbled surfaces, and can walk up and down stairs without assistance. Historic city centers are usually more accessible by foot than vehicle. Due to the structure of some buildings, facilities for those with mobility issues may be limited.



**Orbridge**

## Orbridge Standard of Excellence

Orbridge understands travel today can be complicated. From cabin or room selection to airport transfers, dietary requests, or pre- or post-tour details—we are dedicated to making your journey seamless and special from the moment you leave home.

Our curated destinations—featuring outstanding properties and ships, meticulously crafted itineraries, and knowledgeable guides, travel directors and expedition leaders—offer life-changing experiences you'll never forget.

Our Guest Services team is staffed by well-traveled professionals who provide personalized attention, ensuring all your questions are answered and all the details of your trip are explained to you.

Our air partners can make flight arrangements for guests. In the event of flight delays and/or schedule changes, they will provide guests with personalized assistance. To book flight reservations with our air partners, contact (206) 319-5011 and select the option for your destination to discuss flight details with our air colleagues. Upon ticketing, a fee will be charged.



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.

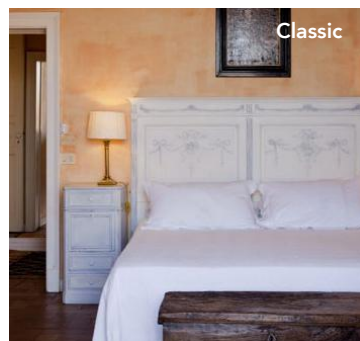
**Classic Double:** Impeccably designed for comfort, these rooms are located in Casa all'Olmo—a superbly restored farm house next to the main building.

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

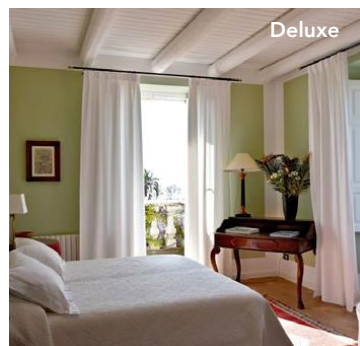
*All rooms include air conditioning, iPod docking station and en suite bathroom.*

*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.*

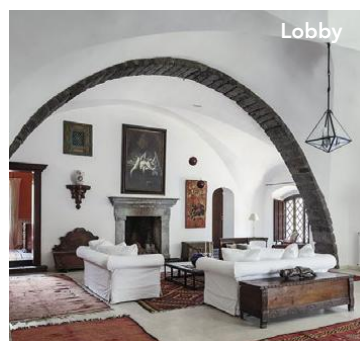
**NOTE:** *this property does not have an elevator.*



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 (L)** 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 Site. It's characterized by the impressive mosaic of Christ Pantocrator. This evening enjoy dinner at leisure and time to relax at the property.

Day  
10

**PALERMO (B,L)** 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.

Day  
11

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

## What's Included

- Group transfer to Palermo
- 2 nights at NH Collection Palermo Palazzo Sitano (or similar)
- 2 breakfasts and 2 lunches
- Guided sightseeing of Palermo and Cefalù including entrance fees
- Luggage portage
- Gratuities to local guide, driver and porters
- Airport transfers for guests departing during the suggested times





**MAY 15-23, 2026**

Palermo Post-Tour: May 23-25, 2026

**RESERVE YOUR SPACE TODAY**

Online: [rpi.orbridge.com](https://rpi.orbridge.com)

Phone: (866) 639-0079

| Category         | Standard Rate | Special Rate* |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Classic Double   | \$7,299       | \$6,795       |
| Deluxe Double    | \$8,299       | \$7,795       |
| Single (Classic) | \$9,999       | \$9,495       |

**Palermo Post-Tour**

| Category | Standard Rate | Special Rate* |
|----------|---------------|---------------|
| Double   | \$1,999       | \$1,795       |
| Single   | \$2,399       | \$2,195       |

**DEPOSIT AMOUNT PER PERSON**

**\$850 main tour • \$500 post-tour**

\*Special group rates; limited offer. All rates are per person in U.S. dollars based on double occupancy except where noted as Single. Single availability limited. Unless noted otherwise, airfare is not included.

\*\*An exclusive Early Booking Bonus, 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 room will be sent after receipt of final payment. Libraries may be purchased; call for details. Full Terms & Conditions at [terms.orbridge.com](https://terms.orbridge.com). Any payment to Orbridge, LLC constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out therein, including but not limited to the cancellation and refund terms.

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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](https://orbridge.com/going-green).





Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
110 Eighth Street  
Troy, New York 12180

# FLAVORS OF SICILY

MAY 15-23, 2026

Special Alumni Rate:

Save more than **\$1,000** per couple

**30-day refund guarantee**

## What Guests Are Saying...

We loved every second. Our guides gave great insight into what we were seeing and learning about. Each guide had their own flair and style. They made Sicily come alive for me. It was wonderful to see Sicily from many different angles, including the history, food, culture, etc. Beautiful villa and grounds! It was a magical place to stay.

~Juliet R., Cranston, RI

I would rate the Flavors of Sicily tour by Orbridge as one of the very best travel experiences that I have had in over 60 years of travel on holiday and business. The entire trip was designed and managed well. Orbridge provided a truly excellent and outstanding experience in visiting, learning about, and experiencing Sicily.

~Brian H., Medford, NJ

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