

# American Celebration of Music in Sicily and Italy

Tour #2 (7 nights/9 days)

## Day 1

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Depart via scheduled air service to Palermo, Sicily

## Day 2

**Palermo**

**(D)**

Arrive in Palermo

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach

Enjoy a panoramic tour of Palermo, followed by late afternoon hotel check-in

Welcome Dinner included, and overnight

*Palermo, the vibrant capital of Sicily, is a city that captivates the senses with its rich history, eclectic architecture, bustling markets, delicious cuisine. Nestled on the northern coast of the island, Palermo invites visitors to explore its streets and plazas, revealing a tapestry woven with influences from various civilizations*

## Day 3

**Palermo**

**(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy a half day guided sightseeing tour of Palermo. Palermo is the capital of the Italian island of Sicily. The 12th-century Palermo Cathedral houses royal tombs, while the huge neoclassical Teatro Massimo is known for opera performances. Also in the center are the Palazzo dei Normanni, a royal palace started in the 9th century, and the Cappella Palatina, with Byzantine mosaics

***Performance at S. Maria dello Spasimo in Palermo as part of the American Celebration of Music in Sicily\****

Dinner included, and overnight

## Day 4

**Segesta / Monreale / Palermo**

**(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning visit to Segesta, which stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of ancient civilizations. Visit the Archeological park, a masterpiece of Greek architecture that seems to defy the passage of time. Set against a backdrop of serene rolling hills and olive groves, the temple's sturdy columns and weathered stone tell the story of a bygone era. Wandering through the archaeological park, visitors can discover remnants of ancient walls, streets, and structures that whisper stories of daily life in Segesta

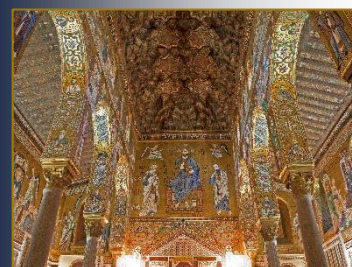
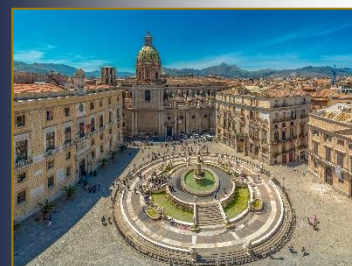
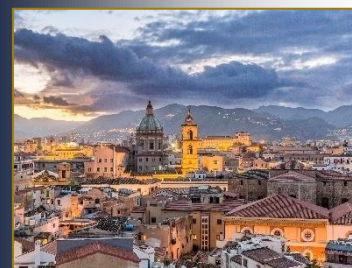
Lunch, on own

Afternoon excursion to Monreale with an orientation tour of the town. Located on the slope of Monte Caputo, and overlooking the very fertile valley called "La Conca d'oro," a production area of orange, olive and almond trees. The produce is exported in large quantities

***Performance at the Cathedral di S. Maria Nuova in Palermo as part of the American Celebration of Music in Sicily\****

Return to Palermo

Dinner included, and overnight



**Music Celebrations International**

*Concert Tours With Integrity*

**Day 5****Trapani / Selinunte / Palermo (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

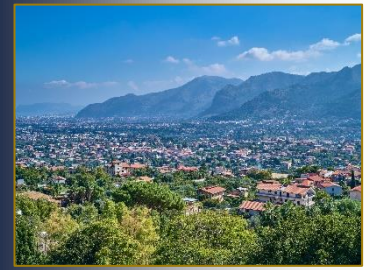
Excursion to Trapani, nestled between the rolling hills of Sicily and the azure waters of the Tyrrhenian Sea. Enjoy a guided walking tour of the city. See the historic city center, with its narrow winding streets and pastel-colored buildings, it is a testament to Trapani's rich cultural heritage. Dominating the skyline is the Torre di Ligny, an ancient watchtower that once guarded the coast against invaders. Today, the tower houses a maritime museum. Trapani's spiritual heritage is also reflected in its churches, such as the Chiesa del Purgatorio and the Santuario dell'Annunziata

Lunch, on own

Afternoon visit to Selinunte, located on the southwestern coast of Sicily. Selinunte is an archaeological treasure trove, renowned for its well-preserved Greek temples, expansive ruins, and a serene setting overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. Visit the archaeological park in the heart of Selinunte, where the remains of several Greek temples stand as silent witnesses to the city's former glory. See the Temple of Hera, also known as Temple E. Adjacent to Temple E is the Temple of Apollo, an architectural masterpiece that showcases the precision and artistry of ancient Greek builders. Finally, visit the Temple of Zeus, one of the largest Greek temples ever constructed. The acropolis of Selinunte overlooks the sea, providing a panoramic view of the Sicilian coastline

Return to Palermo

Dinner included, and overnight

**Day 6****Cefalù / Tindari / Reggio Calabria (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to Reggio Calabria with various stops along the coast. Stop in Cefalù, one of the pearls of the coast with its wonderful Norman fortress and Duomo. Also visit Castel Tusa (a charming fisherman village), Capo D'Orlando (famous for its beach resort), and Tindari including a visit to the Greek Theatre. From there take the highway via Milazzo\* and Messina

Lunch, on own

Transfer to the ferry to Reggio Calabria

Dinner included, and overnight

*Reggio Calabria, perched at the southern tip of the Italian peninsula, is a city that boasts a rich cultural heritage, stunning coastal landscapes, and a palpable sense of history. Facing the Strait of Messina and with views of Sicily just across the water, Reggio Calabria offers a unique combination of ancient ruins, vibrant traditions, and Mediterranean charm*

**Day 7****Reggio Calabria / Cosenza / Matera (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Enjoy a guided sightseeing tour of Reggio Calabria. Visit the Piazza Italia, the main square, a vibrant hub surrounded by elegant buildings and cafes. Also see the Lungomare Falcomatà, a seaside promenade that stretches along the Strait of Messina. Visitors are offered stunning panoramic views of the Sicilian coastline and the iconic silhouette of Mount Etna in the distance. Next, encounter the Torre di Ligny. This historic watchtower, perched on a rocky outcrop, provides a glimpse into Reggio Calabria's maritime defenses. Finally, head towards the Cathedral of Reggio Calabria, a place of spiritual significance with its Norman architecture and serene interior.





Lunch, on own

Transfer to Cosenza. Nestled between the Sila and Aspromonte mountain ranges, Cosenza boasts a stunning landscape characterized by rolling hills, lush greenery. The city is divided into two parts by the Crati River, with the old town (Cosenza Vecchia) perched on a hill overlooking the modern city. The modern part of Cosenza features a blend of contemporary amenities and historic elements. Corso Mazzini, the main thoroughfare, is lined with shops, cafes, and elegant buildings, making it a lively hub for locals and visitors. The Rendano Theatre, an architectural gem, hosts various cultural events and performances

Continue to Matera

Dinner included, and overnight

*Matera, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, is a captivating marvel of ancient architecture and cultural significance. Nestled in the rugged region of Basilicata in southern Italy, Matera is renowned for its unique cave dwellings, carved into limestone cliffs, creating a mesmerizing landscape that transports visitors to a bygone era*

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## Day 8

## Matera

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Half day guided sightseeing tour of Matera. Visit the Sassi district. Travel through the narrow alleys of Sasso Caveoso and Sasso Barisano, where centuries-old cave dwellings with unique facades and stone-carved arches stand as silent witnesses to the city's enduring history. Also see the Casa Grotta di Vico Solitario, a preserved cave dwelling turned museum. Next, see the Piazza Vittorio Veneto in the Civita, Matera's more modern section. There are beautiful panoramic views of the Sassi and the Gravina Canyon. Also see the elegant Ponte di San Vito, a bridge that spans the Gravina. Finally, take a visit to the Matera Cathedral, a Romanesque and Apulian Romanesque-style church. The cathedral, dedicated to the Virgin Mary under the title of the Madonna della Bruna, showcases intricate architecture

Lunch, on own

*Performance at Cathedral of Santa Maria della Bruna e di Sant' Eustachio in as part of the American Celebration of Music in Sicily\**

Farewell Dinner included, and overnight

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## Day 9

## Depart for home

(B)

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to the Bari Airport for return flight home

*\*Subject to confirmation*

***This is a very flexible itinerary.*** Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.

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