

American Celebration of Music in Italy and Sicily

Tour #3 (8 nights/10 days)

Day 1

Depart via scheduled air service to Rome, Italy

Day 2

Rome (D)

Arrive in Rome

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach for transfer into Rome. Enjoy a panoramic tour of Rome's highlights, including stops at Spanish Steps, the Pantheon, Piazza Navona, and the Trevi Fountain

Late afternoon hotel check-in

Welcome Dinner included, and overnight

Rome - Popes, Vandals, the Borgias and Napoleon, Garibaldi, Michelangelo and Mussolini and, of course, the ancient Romans themselves all have left their physical and spiritual mark on Rome, but though she keeps the glory of an ancient day about her, she remains a wellspring of creative energy; in short, she really is the Eternal City

Day 3

Rome (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Half-day guided tour of *Imperial Rome*, including entrance to the Roman Forum and Colosseum. Also view the Baths of Caracalla, and Palatine Hill

Lunch, on own

Mass Participation at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome*

Dinner included, and overnight

Day 4

Rome (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

A half-day guided tour of *Religious Rome* includes Vatican City, the home of the Pope and the center of Roman Catholicism, as well as the Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel (featuring Michelangelo's Ceiling Frescos and The Last Judgment) and St. Peter's Basilica

Lunch, on own

Performance at S. Andrea Della Valle Basilica in Rome as part of the American Celebration of Music in Italy*

Dinner included, and overnight

Day 5

Naples (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to Naples

Lunch, on own

Enjoy a half day guided sightseeing tour of Naples. See the heart of Naples at Spaccanapoli, a narrow, bustling street that cuts through the historic center. Also visit the Naples Cathedral, dedicated to San Gennaro. The Cathedral has gorgeous Gothic architecture and the Chapel of the Treasure of San Gennaro is home to priceless religious relics. Next, visit the historic district of San Gregorio Armeno, renowned for its artisan workshops



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creating intricate nativity scenes. Visit the iconic Castel dell'Ovo, the oldest standing fortification in Naples. Perched on the seafront, the castle offers panoramic views of the Gulf of Naples and the picturesque coastline. Finally, take a visit to the Royal Palace of Naples (Palazzo Reale), a grandiose royal residence adorned with opulent decorations and surrounded by the historic Piazza del Plebiscito. Nearby, the San Carlo Opera House stands as one of the most renowned theaters in Italy

Dinner included, followed by overnight ferry to Sicily

The south Italian port town of Naples, principal town of the region of Campania and of the province of Napoli, lies on the north side of the Bay of Naples, on the Tyrrhenian Sea, extending along the lower slopes of attractive hills. The old town with its narrow streets and stepped lanes and its tall balconied houses is fringed on the west and north by extensive villa suburbs. Naples possesses many historical monuments going back almost 3,000 years, particularly the treasures, to be seen in the National Museum, garnered from the cities engulfed by Mount Vesuvius

Day 6

Palermo

(B,D)

Breakfast on board ferry, and disembark in Palermo

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

Lunch, on own
Afternoon at leisure for personal shopping and sightseeing

*Performance at S. Domenico Church in Palermo as part of the American Celebration of Music in Sicily**

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 7

Segesta / Agrigento / Siracusa

(B,D)

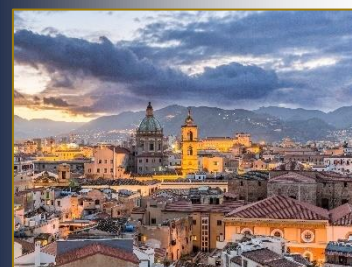
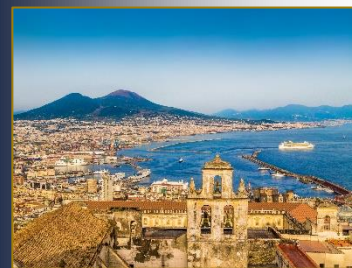
Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

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 visit to Agrigento, a hilltop city located on Sicily's Southwest shore. It is known for the ruins of the ancient city of Akragas in the Valley of Temples, a vast archaeological site with well-preserved Greek Temples. Entrance is included to the Valley of the Temples, and the Stairs of the Turks

Continue to Siracusa
Dinner included, and overnight



Siracusa, a city with a rich tapestry of history and culture, is located on the southeastern coast of Sicily. As one of the most ancient and important cities of Magna Graecia, Siracusa offers visitors a combination of archaeological wonders, medieval charm, and vibrant coastal beauty

Day 8 **Ortigia / Siracusa** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy a sightseeing visit to Ortigia, an island nestled in the heart of the Ionian Sea. Ortigia is a charming island that effortlessly transports visitors back in time. The narrow, labyrinthine streets are lined with centuries-old buildings. See the centerpiece of Ortigia, the Piazza del Duomo, a lively square surrounded by architectural wonders. The Cathedral of Syracuse is also a stunning example of Baroque architecture which dominates the square. Nearby, the Fountain of Arethusa adds a touch of mythological allure to the surroundings, as the freshwater spring is believed to be linked to Greek mythology. Ortigia's waterfront is a picturesque blend of colorful buildings, quaint cafes, and panoramic views of the crystal-clear sea

Lunch, on own

Performance at Cathedral of the Nativity of the Holy Mary in Siracusa as part of the American Celebration of Music in Sicily*

Dinner included, and overnight

Day 9 **Noto / Marzamemi / Siracusa** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning excursion to Noto. See the Piazza Municipio, where the iconic Noto Cathedral (Cattedrale di Noto) rises in all its Baroque glory. Go along Corso Vittorio Emanuele, the city's main street, lined with honey-hued buildings, elegant palaces, and charming cafes. Also visit the Church of San Domenico, another architectural gem boasting a splendid Baroque façade

Lunch, on own

Afternoon visit to Marzamemi. Visit the center of Marzamemi, at the charming Piazza Regina Margherita. This historic square is surrounded by pastel-colored buildings and adorned with outdoor cafes. Also see the Tonnara di Marzamemi, a historic tuna fishery that dates to the Arab era. The ancient structures and the picturesque harbor tell tales of Marzamemi's maritime heritage

Return to Siracusa

Farewell Dinner included, and overnight

Day 10 **Depart for home** **(B)**

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to the Catania 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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