## Tour of Sicily "Sicily, The wonder Island"

1 st day: Landing at Palermo airport and meeting with our representative. Bus transfer and hotel accommodation. Welcome Cocktail, dinner and overnight.

### 2nd day: PALERMO - Monreale - Mondello - PALERMO about 70 Km

After breakfast, day excursion to the historic center of Palermo, rich of artistic and historical monuments. Visit of the Cathedral and the Catacombs. Continue to Monreale famous for its magnificent cathedral whose walls are covered with beautiful mosaics of Arab-Byzantine style representing biblical scenes from the Old and New Testament. Return to hotel for lunch. In the afternoon, visit of the church of the Martorana, the "Capo" typical Market and Mondello, an ancient fishing village become to-day a very popular seaside resort. Return to hotel, dinner and overnight.

### 3rd day: Segesta - Erice - Marsala - Agrigento 200 km

After breakfast, depart for Segesta and visit of the Doric Temple. Continue to Erice, a medieval little town located at 750 m. in height from where it dominates the western Sicily. External visit of the Norman Castle where you can admire the nineteenth century Pepoli Castle and the medieval Castle of Balius. Walking through the narrow streets of the village, where you can taste the typical biscuits of Erice. Soon after visit of the Cathedral. Continue to Marsala, crossing the charming landscape of sea salts. Lunch at a restaurant along the way. Visit of a winery and tasting the famous Marsala. Continue to Agrigento, hotel accommodation, dinner and overnight.

# 4th day: Agrigento - Piazza Armerina \* - TAORMINA or Catania area 200 km

After breakfast visit of the Valley of the Temples dating from the fifth century BC. Among them, the Concordia Temple has maintained its original structure in such a good conditions as to merit the label of "the best preserved Doric temple in Sicily". Return to hotel for lunch and departure to Piazza Armerina. Visit of the Villa Romana del Casale, where you can admire the beautiful Roman mosaic floors dating of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century a.C. Continuation for the eastern part of Sicily, and arrival in Taormina or Catania area. Hotel accommodation, dinner and overnight.

# 5th day: Siracusa - Noto - CATANIA AREA OR TAORMINE 150 Km

After breakfast, depart to Syracuse to visit the most beautiful Greek colony of Sicily. Visit of the archaeological area including the famous Latomie of the Paradise, (ancient stone carries), the Greek Theatre, the Roman Amphitheatre and the Dionysius "Ear". Visit the island of Ortigia, the small baroque old city centre of Siracusa, : here you can admire the Cathedral and the "Fontana Aretusa". Return to hotel for lunch. In the afternoon visit of Noto, one of the most beautiful cities in Sicily renowned for the harmony and unity of its Baroque style and today declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

# 6<sup>th</sup> day: ETNA - TAORMINA ABOUT 80 Km

After breakfast departure to Mount Etna, the highest active volcano in Europe. Across fascinating landscape, we will reach a height of 2000 meters, where we will enjoy a fantastic panorama of the lonic Sea. There you can visit the Silvestri craters or ascend by cable car up to 2800 m. buying a ticket on site. Return to hotel for lunch. In the afternoon departure to Taormina, the tourist resort of international renown. Free visit of the greek-roman theater. Free time for shopping. Return to hotel, dinner and overnight.

## 7<sup>th</sup> day: TAORMINA - Castelbuono - CEFALÙ 250 Km

After breakfast depart for Castelbuono, characteristic center of the Madonie, founded by the Byzantines. Free time to visit the old town and the Castle of Ventimiglia. Tasting of typical products in the main square. Lunch in a typical restaurant with wine and water included. In the afternoon visit of the historical center of Cefalù a former fishing village become famous by the imposing presence of its Arab-Norman cathedral built by the Norman King Roger II. Later, visit of the medieval wash-house built in the rock. Free time for shopping. Proceed to the hotel in the area of Palermo. Accommodation, dinner and overnight.

### 8th day

Breakfast at Hotel. Transfer to the airport and end of services.

# Our strengths:

- All tours in our circuit "The wonderful island" are included
- Typical lunch on Thursday with drinks at will (wine and mineral water)
- ½ day Local guides in Palermo, Monreale, Agrigento (Valley of the Temples) and Syracuse.

In the case where the Roman Villa was closed for restoration, the visit will be replaced with the visit of Caltagirone, the Baroque City known for its splendid ceramic production.

Note: Our Tour includes:

Full board from the dinner of the first night to the breakfast of the last morning.

One English-speaking tour leader