



# EXPERIENCE THE EXTRAORDINARY SICILY

A Luxury Tour for Lovers of Italian Food, Wine and Culture

**October 27<sup>th</sup> – October 31<sup>st</sup> 2025**

— Hosted by Philip Goodband MW —

**US \$4,995** *per person*

This is a luxury food, wine and cultural tour to the greatest sites and wineries of Sicily. You will explore world renowned historic sites, the remarkable variety of this island's vinous heritage, and the classics of Mount Etna.

Hosted by Philip Goodband, Master of Wine, this fun-filled, educational itinerary will bring you privileged access to some of the region's most prized estates. We take a maximum of 20 wine lovers as guests.

## COME AND DISCOVER

**MEDITERRANEAN LIFESTYLE IN VIBRANT CATANIA** with welcome reception guided visit and dinner at one of Catania's best restaurants.

**ANCIENT ARCHITECTURAL SPLENDOURS IN HISTORIC SIRACUSA - ORTIGIA** with a wine paired lunch at **Cantine Pupillo** and special visit to **Cantine Gulino**.

**MAGNIFICENCE OF TAORMINA** with a private lunch en-route at the historic **Barone di Villagrande** winery, the UNESCO listed **Teatro Antico di Taormina** in the shadow of **Mount Etna**, and a **fine wine dinner** at a spectacular state of the art winery.

**THE VOLCANIC ETNA WINE ROAD** with remarkable tastings and visits to meet important figures in the wine renaissance at **I Vigneri**, tasting and private lunch with library wines at **Pietradolce**, dinners with wine pairings at **Palmento Costanzo** and the top rated **12 Fontane restaurant**.

**PRIVATE VISITS INCLUDING TO AN ORGANIC FARM** and the source fine Sicilian Amaro where the owners welcome us to join their daily activities as we experience the warmth of true Sicilian hospitality.

**FIRST CLASS TREATMENT** at our personally selected hotels in the heart of Catania, **Palazzo Sangiorgio** and close to the North Etna vineyards at **Il Picciolo Etna Golf Resort & Spa**.

**UNIQUE WINES, ORGANIC LOCAL PRODUCE AND REPUTEDLY THE WORLD'S BEST GELATO!**  
All these and more await your visit.



**FINE VINTAGE**  
BY JAMES CLUER MW

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## YOUR HOSTS

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### PHILIP GOODBAND MW

You will be hosted by Philip Goodband MW, who served as wine adviser to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother for over a decade. A true wine professional with a deep knowledge and love for Italy, its people and its wines. This love dates back to the days when he worked at top wine estates in Tuscany and Piemonte. He represented Antinori and subsequently visited many of the country's famous wine regions including Sicily where he created a new branded wine range. A UK resident and former Chairman of the Institute of Masters of Wine, his work and travels for major wine companies and his consultancy work has taken him around the globe resulting in a unique blend of knowledge and experience, which he happily shares in a very relaxed, enjoyable and engaging style.

[www.philipgoodband.com](http://www.philipgoodband.com).

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## PRICE

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**US \$4,995 (including non-refundable deposit of US\$250)**

The cost is per person, based on double occupancy at the hotels. This price includes all accommodation, visits and tastings at wineries, all meals unless during the free time, all wine at meals, local transport, and taxes. Flights and travel arrangements to/from Sicily, items of a personal nature, and travel insurance are not included. We recommend that you contact your travel agent to arrange travel insurance.

If you are travelling by yourself there will be a single supplement of US \$500.

The payment schedule per person is:

At Time of Booking: \$250 non-refundable booking administration fee

120 days before start: Remaining deposits (plus single supplement if applicable)



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## ITINERARY | DAY 1

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### MONDAY, OCTOBER 27<sup>TH</sup> - WELCOME TO CATANIA

Meet with Philip and our local partner at **2.00 PM for a sparkling reception** in the courtyard of the Hotel and Spa Palazzo Sangiorgio in Catania. This hotel is an oasis of urban elegance in a quiet square in the heart of an ancient city.

**Meet at:**

Hotel Palazzo Sangiorgio

Piazza Vittorio Pappalardo 1

95100 Catania

Tel: +39 09516952100

[www.palazzosangiorgiocatania.it](http://www.palazzosangiorgiocatania.it)

### GUIDED TOUR OF CATANIA'S HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

This afternoon we will be joined by a local specialist guide who will take us along the Via Etnea where ancient history meets modernity with stylish local stores before we are introduced to some of the many architectural examples of the many Sicilian occupations, marvel at the Piazza Duomo's Baroque buildings, the Basilica di Sant'Agata Cathedral itself, and hear about Catania's unique place among Italy's many and varied cityscapes. There will be a little free time this afternoon to further explore as you wish before returning to complete check in procedures if needed and relax before our evening together.

### DEPART FOR DINNER

This evening we will stroll for a few minutes through the ancient atmospheric streets of this ancient city, arriving at one of Catania's top-rated restaurants where our welcome dinner awaits us. To conclude our first day wines will be chosen to discover varied and exciting tastes reflecting the different regions and terroirs of the sunniest island in Europe.

### RETURN TO HOTEL



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## ITINERARY | DAY 2

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### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28<sup>TH</sup> - SIRACUSA AND ORTIGIA

We try to never leave too early allowing for a relaxed breakfast.

#### 9.30 am Depart hotel

#### VISIT AND TOUR OF ORTIGIA

Our luxury bus will take us on a scenic one hour drive to the port of Siracusa (Syracuse) from where we will stretch our legs as we are guided to its historic centre, the island of Ortigia. The charming island with its stone buildings on the Ionian coast is known for the myth of Arethusa, its castle, Palazzos and the beautiful Duomo, situated on one of Italy's largest piazzas. We will see varied architectural styles and a Temple dedicated to Apollo. One could wander for hours through its picturesque squares and streets soaking up the atmosphere but our next port of call awaits us.

#### VISIT AND LUNCH AT AZIENDA AGRICOLA PUPILLO

The remarkable family-owned Pupillo estate is located not far from the city, near the original Greek settlement. Caressed by the sea breezes and irrigated by the Val d'Anapo pure natural springs its limestone and volcanic soils produce a high quality and distinctive range of wines. These wines are very specific to the Siracusa denomination so offer a unique insight and which we will have the opportunity to taste and enjoy with lunch at the estate. [www.cantinepupillo.it](http://www.cantinepupillo.it)

#### VISIT AND TASTING "in the footsteps of the Greeks" AT CANTINE GULINO

Before leaving the Syracuse area we travel a short distance South to the small town of Fanusa where Cantine Gulino is situated on a peninsula exposed to the marine influences of the Mediterranean. Founded in 1793 this is one of the oldest continuously producing wine estates in Sicily where the family have through several generations grown indigenous grape varieties such as the Royal Calavrisi, Noble Moscato di Siracusa and Albanello Siracusano, producing expressive wines for us to taste. On conclusion of this visit we will return to the hotel in Catania arriving around 6pm. [www.cantinegulino.it](http://www.cantinegulino.it)

#### EVENING FREE

Tonight is free to relax at the hotel or revisit the city and its restaurants.



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## ITINERARY | DAY 3

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### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29<sup>TH</sup> - THE MAGIFICENCE OF TAORMINA

After yesterday's exertions there is ample time for a lazy breakfast before checking out.

**10:15 am – Depart for Taormina.**

### TOUR, TASTING AND LUNCH AT THE HISTORIC BARONE DI VILLAGRANDE ESTATE

Our bus takes us North toward the Etna DOC region at Milo and the Eastern slopes of Mount Etna. We arrive for a visit to an estate written into the lore of Etna wines for it was here in the eighteenth century that the Bishop of Catania gave the Asmundo family the task of taming the harsh landscape of Etna. It was here too that the first DOC Etna was written by Professor Carlo Nicolosi Asmundo. A private tour and lunch at the estate is accompanied by a selection of Barone di Villagrande wines before rejoining the bus for our visit to the picturesque and fashionable resort city of Taormina. [www.villagrande.it](http://www.villagrande.it)

### TOURING TAORMINA

Taormina is perhaps the most dramatic and beautiful hilltop town on the coast of Sicily. It sits near the coast with stunning views of both the shimmering sea and Mount Etna. Taormina is most famous for its UNESCO listed ridge topping Greco-Roman Theatre which is still in use today and which has featured in many films. You will be taken on a private tour of the theatre before having a little free time to explore on your own. The views from the theatre and many other locations in this beautiful city offer countless photographic opportunities!

**Our bus will depart from Taormina at 5pm** for the 50-minute drive to our hotel near the village of Castiglione di Sicilia situated between the sea and the mountain.

### CHECK-IN AT IL PICCIOLO ETNA GOLF RESORT AND SPA

Our home for the next 2 nights is Il Picciolo Etna Golf Resort and Spa. This renovated Sicilian farmhouse, set between three national parks, offers classic elegance and contemporary comforts in an area of outstanding natural beauty, serenity, vineyards, and olives. [www.ilpiccioloetnagolfresort.com/en-GB](http://www.ilpiccioloetnagolfresort.com/en-GB)

This evening we depart for a very special wine tasting dinner at **Palmento Costanzo** just a few minutes away by bus. Here, at a recently restored ancient lava stone vineyard wine room, the Costanzo family have created a masterpiece of design and biodiversity. Our visit will explore the story of the "Muntagna" as we enjoy dinner accompanied by a wine selection including those from centennial vineyards actually situated in the Etna National Park. [www.palmentocostanzo.it](http://www.palmentocostanzo.it)



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## ITINERARY | DAY 4

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### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30<sup>TH</sup> - WINERIES OF THE NORTH ETNA WINE ROAD

After an introduction to the local culture and wines last evening our focus today is on the unique terroir and wineries of Etna's North Road.

**10.00 am – Depart hotel**

#### VISIT AND TASTING AT I VIGNERI

**I Vigneri**, the native Etna winegrowers are all men and women who originally hail from Mt. Etna. They have over the years built a comradeship and knowledge second to none with the goal to make what they call “Human Wines” based on totally sustainable principles. Leading the group is a remarkable man, Salvo Foti whose story, commitment to and participation in its wines reaches deep into many now famous wine companies of the region. We are privileged to have the chance to learn about his philosophy and indeed to taste wines from native varieties at the “Palmento” winery. [www.ivigneri.it](http://www.ivigneri.it)

#### PRIVATE VISIT AND LUNCH AT PIETRADOLCE

Our bus now takes us to Solicchiata, a hamlet on the northern slopes of Mount Etna where Pietradolce is located. The ultra modern winery and re-modeled vineyard terraces make for a fascinating comparison with the ancient Palmentos but underneath the more modern exterior lies a very similar and deep attachment to the sense of place in this very special environment. Their range of eight wine styles are all clearly “Etna DOC.” It is said that for other winemakers when not drinking their own production this the “go-to” winery! High praise indeed! With lunch we are very much looking forward to tasting some rare Pietradolce library wines. [www.pietradolce.com](http://www.pietradolce.com)

#### RETURN TO THE HOTEL

**Freshen up and ready to leave for our farewell dinner at 12 Fontane restaurant in Lingulossa**

We are in for another treat as our last dinner together is at this highly rated restaurant which also produces small quantities of their own wine just to accompany their very creative natural gourmet dishes. [www.12fontane.com](http://www.12fontane.com)



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## ITINERARY | DAY 5

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### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31<sup>ST</sup> – MANDORLE, AMARO & GELATO

Breakfast at leisure

**10.30 am – Check-out of hotel and depart**

#### PRIVATE VISIT TO PRODUCERS OF LOCAL SPECIALTIES

We have arrived at our final day together after four days of “*la dolce vita*” but there is still much more to enjoy, as we are welcomed into a generational family property by Laura and Sonia to experience the activities at their Belpasso farm. Wine, food, and an aperitivo are integral parts of Italian daily life. Today our lunch-time appointment is to the source of *Amara*, one of the very best Sicilian aperitivos. As a fitting finale we will live the experience, discovering this ancient world of tradition immersed in the Sicilian countryside.

After lunch we really do have to head back into Catania and say our *arrivederci* at the conclusion of our tour but YES there is still time for a deliciously refreshing world class Gelato at Historic **Pasticceria e Gelateria Condorelli** in Belpasso village .

**4:00 pm – Guest drop-off at the airport and then on to the UNA Palace Hotel on Via Etnea in Catania.**

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**Price: \$4,995 US including tax per person based on double occupancy.**

**There is a \$500 US per person single supplement.**

**Space is limited to 20.**

This is a luxurious trip, hosted by local and international wine experts, visiting the great estates with a small group of about 20 like-minded fun-loving people. It's suited to all wine lovers. It's a bucket list trip. If you have any questions, please email us at [info@finevintagetld.com](mailto:info@finevintagetld.com).



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