

TAUCK

WORLD DISCOVERY



Sicily: Culture through the Ages

A custom trip planner prepared for Larry Pagano

By Linda Pagano with Travel Advantage



Welcome Larry Pagano to Tauck's Sicily Trip Planner!

Europe is a place of inspiration. It has inspired great art, magnificent architecture, gourmet food, and fine wines. Make 2015 the year to find your own inspiration as you explore with Tauck – and with just about every travel expense included in one up-front price there are no hidden costs, no surprises, and no options sold on your trip. Traveling with Tauck is peace of mind travel at its best.

Personalized service, quality experience and inclusive value are hallmarks of Tauck's Europe trips – celebrating 20+ years of experiential travel along the *Yellow Roads of Europe*, those smaller back roads where the pace of life is slower and you immerse in the genuine emotion, the camaraderie, the little things that connect you to day-to-day European life.

We've spent years meticulously researching and defining every day to provide you with memorable cultural connections, locally guided in-depth sightseeing, a taste of regional cuisines, and outstanding accommodations in the heart of the cities or countryside. Local experts have opened their hearts to us, warmly inviting us to learn more about the fabulous architecture, compelling scenery, local traditions, and rich history.

Travel with our Tauck Directors, who provide warm, caring, thoughtful service throughout your trip, taking care of every detail so you connect with people and places, centuries-old traditions, and daily life. You'll return home refreshed, ready to do it all again!

In your Trip Planner, you'll find just about everything you need to know to make your decision to travel with Tauck. You'll find a day-to-day itinerary, destination information, hotel details, practical tips, useful advice to prepare for your trip, and more – Tauck's expertise is right at your fingertips.

I encourage you to make your reservation soon to be sure to get the departure date you want – space is filling quickly! Call Linda Pagano with Travel Advantage at 856 235 3666.

Grazie – that's Italian for thank you – and I hope you join us in Italy in 2015!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan".

Daniel W. Mahar, CEO

YOUR PERSONALIZED QUOTE

Sicily: Culture through the Ages

Over the centuries, the island of Sicily was colonized by the Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Muslims, Normans and assorted others before becoming part of Spain, then the Bourbon Kingdom, and finally part of Italy. Discover the cultural footprints all these conquerors left behind on Tauck's comprehensive Sicily tour. Vestiges of the ancient Greeks and Romans entice in Agrigento and Taormina... the presence of the Normans lingers in Palermo and Monreale... a distinctive style of Sicilian architecture began in the Baroque Valley centuries ago and flourishes today... Byzantine and Arab art mingle with Italian influences... the culture peculiar to the Mafia is revealed in Corleone. Watch the crafting of Majolica pottery... taste impressive wines from grapes grown in volcanic soil... sample traditional chocolate... and have dinner with a Sicilian principessa in her 14th-century palazzo, all for a taste of the authentic Sicily. There's something old and new around every bend on this memorable Sicily tour.



QUOTE: LARRY PAGANO'S TRIP, DEPARTING ON 9/11/2015

Room 1 - Double

Tour Cost:	\$5,490 USD per person
Guest Protection Plan:	\$350 USD per person

Due Dates

Deposit Due Date:	January 30th, 2015
Balance Due Date:	July 13th, 2015

Totals

Deposit Total:	\$1,900 USD
Booking Total:	\$11,680 USD

Note: Above quote was compiled based on the information available to us at the time you ordered this Trip Planner. It is not an offer to sell you the tour at the quoted price. Although not expected, prices in this quote may be subject to change due to unexpected significant external factors not forecasted at the time of quote; availability, tour details and other components may also be subject to change. Your quote does not include airfare to and from the tour start and end locations. Tauck's terms and conditions apply upon booking and depositing.

ITINERARY

Sicily: Culture through the Ages

TAUCK VALUE INCLUDES

- **TAUCK EXCLUSIVE** – Dine with a principessa at her palazzo in Palermo, built in the 14th century
- Guided excursion to hilltop Monreale and its Arab-inspired cathedral and Benedictine cloister depicting Sicily's Norman history
- Drive along Tauck's backroads, the *Yellow Roads*, for an insider look at the history of the Mafia at the Centro di Documentazione sulle Mafie e Movimento Antimafia (CIDMA) in Corleone, followed by a wine tasting and Sicilian lunch at a family-owned winery
- Visit to Palermo's grand Teatro Massimo Vittorio Emanuele, the largest opera house in Italy
- Visits to the Sicilian Baroque UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Noto and Ragusa Ibla
- An informative visit with local craftsmen in the coastal town of Sciacca to see firsthand how colorful Majolica ceramics are made
- A tour, lunch and tasting at the Murgo Winery
- A lesson in the art of chocolate in Modica, with chocolate-making traditions that have remained unchanged for centuries
- Airport transfers upon arrival and departure
- 20 meals (9 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 6 dinners); service charges, gratuities to local guides, admission fees, taxes and portage

Day 1 - Benvenuti a Palermo

Tauck's Sicily tour begins at 5:00 PM at the Grand Hotel Wagner. A transfer from the Palermo Airport to Grand Hotel Wagner, located in the city's historic medieval heart, is included. After a welcome reception at your hotel, set out on an overview of Palermo on which you'll see vestiges of the Normans – such as the Palazzo Reale, the palace of the Norman kings – as well as 16th-century Renaissance masterpieces including the Porto Nuova, a triumphal arch constructed in 1535, and the famed Fontana Pretoria; when you see it, you may be able to guess why the faithful who attended the churches that line the piazza it occupies were a bit taken aback by it. Then get a real feel for the good life – and your first true taste of Sicilian culture and cuisine – this evening when you are welcomed as a guest of La Principessa di Raffadali at her 14th-century home, Palazzo Raffadali, for a welcome dinner and tour of her palazzo... it's an exclusive experience for Tauck's guests only (with proper attire required, including jackets for the men – no jeans or shorts)!

Meals: D

Lodging: Grand Hotel Wagner

Day 2 - Sicily's Norman heritage in Monreale, the Teatro Massimo and more in Palermo

Head out of Palermo for an excursion to Monreale, perched high above Sicily's Conca d'Oro (Golden Basin). One of the architectural wonders of the medieval world, the Norman Cathedral of Monreale is the last, and thought by some the most beautiful, Norman church built in Sicily. "Splendid" doesn't do justice to the riches it contains and which you'll see on your visit – such as the mosaics throughout, which gleam with about 2,200 kilos of gold, or the Benedictine cloister courtyard featuring over 220 ornately carved columns. Return to Palermo and join your local guide for a walking tour through Mercado di Capo, one of the city's four major street markets with Arabic origins, then enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. After some free time in Palermo this afternoon, join us for a guided tour of the grand Teatro Massimo Vittorio Emanuele on the Piazza Verdi. Opened in 1897 after more than two decades under construction, it is Italy's largest opera house, and the third-largest in Europe; the final scenes of *The Godfather, Part III* were shot here. Enjoy dinner on your own in Palermo tonight.

Meals: B, L

Lodging: Grand Hotel Wagner

ITINERARY

Day 3 - The anti-Mafia movement, a wine tasting and more in Corleone

Today your Sicily tour takes you along the *Yellow Roads* past grape orchards and groves of olives and prickly pears to the town of Corleone, a name made famous by *The Godfather* and its tale of organized crime in Sicily and the U.S. As the town has been home to some pretty notorious Mafia types, both real and fictional, it seems fitting that it is now the home of The International Centre of Documentation Regarding Mafia and Anti-Mafia Movement (CIDMA), a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting study of the Mafia, researching legal ways to undermine the Mob's efforts, and raising public awareness. A visit to CIDMA reveals much about these crime families and their various enterprises. A more benign and friendly family business, the Principe di Corleone winery is the site of a tasting of locally produced reds and whites, followed by a typical Sicilian lunch. Continue this afternoon to your spa resort in Sciacca, where you'll enjoy dinner à la carte at your choice of the resort's restaurants.

Meals: B, L, D

Lodging: Verdura Golf & Spa Resort

Day 4 - Majolica ceramics and more on a day in Sciacca

Today your Sicily tour continues with a morning and early afternoon free to enjoy the amenities of your Rocco Forte Hotel, the Verdura Golf & Spa Resort (some at additional cost) – including a 60-meter infinity swimming pool, golf on three Kyle Phillips courses, six clay tennis courts, running trails and world-class spa treatments from The Verdura Spa. Late afternoon in Sciacca, take a look at a centuries-old craft successfully making it in the modern world while still using traditional techniques... and closely guarded secrets passed down through the generations. Watch as local artisans create the exquisite, hand-decorated Majolica pottery known and loved the world over. After some free time in town, join us for dinner at a restaurant right on Sciacca's harbor.

Meals: B, D

Lodging: Verdura Golf & Spa Resort

Day 5 - The Valley of Temples in Agrigento and Baroque Ragusa Ibla

The Valley of the Temples at Agrigento must have been the favorite neighborhood of the gods if the number of temples there is any indication. Explore temples honoring deities the likes of Zeus, Hercules, Concord, Pollux and Castor in this amazing archaeological site with a local guide; see the Tomb of Theron, reputed to be the Greek tyrant of Agrigento, and the Porta Aurea. After lunch featuring views of the temples, your Sicily tour continues on to Ragusa Ibla, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the lower part of the ancient hill town of Ragusa. Situated on a limestone hill and separated from the upper town by a deep ravine, Ragusa Ibla is rich in Baroque architecture, much of it built after an earthquake destroyed a large portion of the town in 1693. With your local guide, see Piazza Odierna, with St. George's Gate and its adjacent gardens, and the Church of San Giusepe; and visit the 18th-century Baroque Duomo di San Giorgio, sporting massive ornate columns and a Neo-Classical dome completed in 1820. Enjoy dinner à la carte at your resort in Ragusa this evening.

Meals: B, L, D

Lodging: Poggio del Sole Resort

Day 6 - Modica chocolate-making and Noto in the Baroque Valley

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the area of Sicily known as the Baroque Valley suffered a cataclysmic earthquake in 1693 that destroyed local villages including Modica and Noto. Not wanting to tempt fate, the residents decided to move the towns to a safer location and rebuilt them in a style that came to be known as Sicilian Baroque, marked by a unique flamboyance and use of elaborate decorative embellishments. This style contributes much to Sicily's architectural character and soul, as you'll discover on visits to both Modica and Noto today. Making chocolate with a recipe and technique that early Spanish explorers learned from the Aztecs is a cultural treasure in Modica; visit a chocolate shop founded in 1880 to see how it's still done in the traditional way. After entering the Sicilian Baroque town of Noto through the Porto Reale, see the Basilica di San Salvatore and the Duomo San Niccolo along the Corso Vittorio Emmanuele on a guided tour. This afternoon, your Sicily tour continues to Siracusa for a two-night stay.

Meals: B, D

Lodging: Des Etrangers Hotel & SPA

ITINERARY

Day 7 - Ancient Siracusa, then and now

Join Tauck's local expert for a visit to the Neapolis Archaeological Park to discover some of the treasures the ancient Greeks – and then the Romans – left behind in Siracusa. Explore the 16,000-seat Greek theatre, one of the largest of its kind in the world and still in use today; and the 3rd-century Roman amphitheatre, once used for the same sort of “entertainment” featured at Rome’s Colosseum. At the Orecchio di Dioniso, or Ear of Dionysius, listen carefully to see if you can hear what the tyrant emperor heard as he took advantage of the cave’s excellent acoustics to eavesdrop on prisoners. Enjoy lunch at the Palazzo of Barone Pietro di Beneventano, a Baroque townhouse, with a tasting of his family’s wines. Enjoy dinner on your own tonight in Siracusa.

Meals: B, L

Lodging: Des Etrangers Hotel & SPA

Day 8 - Fiery Mt. Etna, a winery tour and Taormina on the sea

Thought to be the home of Vulcan, the god of fire, by the ancient Greeks, Mt. Etna – one of the world's most active volcanoes – dominates the scenery in the northeast corner of Sicily, and during its frequent eruptions it can put on quite a show. See it this morning on Tauck’s Sicily tour after an early start from Siracusa to try to beat the clouds that sometimes mask the mountain. Take a tour, taste the prestigious wines from grapes grown in the volcanic soil and enjoy lunch featuring the authentic flavors of Sicily at the Murgo Winery. Continue on to a two-night stay in seaside Taormina, for another view of Mt. Etna. Your Tauck Director can provide suggestions for dinner on your own this evening in Taormina.

Meals: B, L

Lodging: San Domenico Palace Hotel



Day 9 - Taormina, a “Patch of Paradise” and the Teatro Greco

It was J. W. Goethe who described lovely Taormina as a “patch of paradise,” and the Sicels, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Saracens, Arabs, Normans and Spaniards who chose to live here over the centuries obviously agreed with him – and each left their own stamp on its landscapes and its culture. From its cliff-top perch, the town looks down over two sparkling bays and out at views of the ever-present Mt. Etna as well, making it hard to imagine a more perfect spot. Starting in the town's historic center, a walk through Taormina with a local guide reveals relics of its Greek and Roman past, and includes a stroll along the Corso Umberto; end at the spectacular Teatro Greco, originally built by the Greeks about 3 BC and later remodeled by the Romans. Spend the rest of the day as you please, and enjoy lunch on your own. This evening, please join us for our farewell reception and dinner on the terrace of your hotel (weather permitting), where sweeping views of the sea and Mt. Etna are a fitting tribute to Tauck's compelling Sicily tour.

Meals: B, D

Lodging: San Domenico Palace Hotel

Day 10 - Homeward bound

Fly home anytime. **Tauck’s memorable Sicily tour ends in Taormina** with an included transfer from the San Domenico Palace Hotel to Catania Airport to begin your journey home. Please allow three hours for flight check-in.

Meals: B

ACCOMMODATIONS

Sicily: Culture through the Ages

Grand Hotel Wagner

Night 1, 2 - Palermo, Sicily



Built at the beginning of the 20th century as Palermitan palace, the Grand Hotel Wagner takes its name from composer Richard Wagner, who once lived on its city-center street near the Teatro Massimo, Palermo and Museo Archeologico Regionale. Neo-classical in style, the hotel exudes a gracious aura of another era when attention to every detail and craftsmanship were highly prized. Guest rooms artfully combine elegant décor, comfort and efficiency with every amenity that today's sophisticated travelers expect. The "Fitness & Wellness" area is the place to rev up or relax, as you please. An aperitif or a nightcap on the fourth-floor terrace is a lovely way to begin or end an evening in Palermo.

Verdura Golf & Spa Resort

Night 3, 4 - Sciacca, Sicily



Condé Nast Traveler chose the Verdura Golf & Spa Resort on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea for inclusion in its 2010 Hot List. All guest rooms feature private terraces, sea views and Olga Polizzi-designed décor combining modern luxury and authentic Sicilian motifs. Leisure facilities abound with two 18-hole golf courses, six tennis courts, a 60-meter infinity swimming pool, running trails meandering through lemon and olive groves and a fully equipped gym. The Verdura Spa adds four thalassotherapy pools along with an extensive menu of treatments. The La Zagara restaurant entices with authentic Sicilian specialties while the beachside Amare restaurant specializes in fresh-caught seafood. If you're in the mood for something sweet, the Gelateria offers ice cream and sorbet.

Poggio del Sole Resort

Night 5 - Ragusa, Sicily



A delightful blend of old and new in the Val di Noto in the Iblean plateau, the heart of the Poggio del Sole Resort is a villa built in 1897. Additions added later were designed to create an architectural harmony with the original villa in a unique blend of modern and traditional. Elements of the past live in harmony with modern furniture design here. Spacious guest rooms are well endowed with welcoming amenities such as LCD satellite TV, air conditioning and minibar to facilitate a relaxing stay. Refresh with a dip in the outdoor swimming pool or take advantage of the facilities and treatments at the Fitness & Wellness Center IBISCO after a busy day. Mediterranean flavors are the focus at the Dell'Angelo restaurant housed in the old farm barn while the Hosteria prepares meat and fish specialties over charcoal or in a traditional Sicilian stone oven.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Des Etrangers Hotel & SPA

Night 6, 7 - Siracusa, Sicily



A delightful example of neo-classical Sicilian style, Des Etrangers Hotel & SPA is located on the harbor front of the island of Ortigia, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Each guest room is uniquely decorated but all offer air conditioning, in-room safe, direct-dial phone, minibar and LCD TV. The Aretusa Spa features an indoor Jacuzzi and Turkish bath as well as a wide variety of treatments and massages, and its Fitness Centre has Technogym equipment. Enjoy panoramic views of the Ortigia Gulf while you dine at the Roof Garden Restaurant or watch the boats sail by over a cocktail or a glass of wine at the Bar Roof.

San Domenico Palace Hotel

Night 8, 9 - Taormina, Sicily



The San Domenico Palace Hotel, carefully built on the site of a 15th-century monastery to retain some of its character, is set in the heart of cliff-top Taormina in the midst of a lovely garden. Attention to detail is evident in the gracious guest rooms, which offer satellite TV, air conditioning, in-room safe, a minibar and other appreciated amenities. In addition to the outdoor swimming pool with amazing views, guests can take advantage of the soothing treatments offered in the wellness centre and the fitness club facilities. The Principe Cerami Gourmet Restaurant has earned a coveted Michelin star for its creative cuisine made with the finest ingredients. Dining at Le Bougainvilliers comes with an extraordinary

sea view.

EXTEND YOUR JOURNEY

Sicily: Culture through the Ages

Many Tauck travelers prefer arriving at their destination a day before their Tauck journey begins, or often extend a stay at the end of their trip. As a service, Tauck will make hotel reservations before and after your journey. Rooms are reserved on a space-available basis, and the cost is added to your tour cost. Call Linda Pagano with Travel Advantage at 856 235 3666 to book your hotel with Tauck.

Arrive Early: Grand Hotel Wagner

Palermo, Sicily



Built at the beginning of the 20th century as Palermitan palace, the Grand Hotel Wagner takes its name from composer Richard Wagner, who once lived on its city-center street near the Teatro Massimo, Palermo and Museo Archeologico Regionale. Neo-classical in style, the hotel exudes a gracious aura of another era when attention to every detail and craftsmanship were highly prized. Guest rooms artfully combine elegant décor, comfort and efficiency with every amenity that today's sophisticated travelers expect. The "Fitness & Wellness" area is the place to rev up or relax, as you please. An aperitif or a nightcap on the fourth-floor terrace is a lovely way to begin or end an evening in Palermo.

2015 Hotel Room Rates

April 11 - October 26

Double

\$325

Single

\$265

Stay Later: San Domenico Palace Hotel

Taormina, Sicily



The San Domenico Palace Hotel, carefully built on the site of a 15th-century monastery to retain some of its character, is set in the heart of cliff-top Taormina in the midst of a lovely garden. Attention to detail is evident in the gracious guest rooms, which offer satellite TV, air conditioning, in-room safe, a minibar and other appreciated amenities. In addition to the outdoor swimming pool with amazing views, guests can take advantage of the soothing treatments offered in the wellness centre and the fitness club facilities. The Principe Cerami Gourmet Restaurant has earned a coveted Michelin star for its creative cuisine made with the finest ingredients. Dining at Le Bougainvilliers comes with an extraordinary

sea view.

2015 Hotel Room Rates

August 23 - October 4

Double

\$620

Single

\$550

Triple

\$615
