Sicily Culinary Journey

Duration: 7 days, 6 nights
Start: Siracusa
Finish: Siracusa
Price From: $6,995 pp (based on 4 people, double occupancy)

Request your date for exact pricing.

Designed by Christina Cain

From her love of biking to her infectious energy to her travel experience world-wide, Christina Cain was practically made to be a B&R Trip Planner and Guide. After living in Italy for more than 10 years and becoming an internationally certified sommelier, she shares our passion for both the country and its wine. With guiding experience across Italy, Slovenia, Greece, Myanmar, Croatia and Vietnam, Christina now calls the Canary Islands home.

This is one of our Private Ready-to-Book trips.

Think of B&R’s Ready-to-Book collection of carefully crafted itineraries as prêt-à-porter from your favourite designer. These trips showcase the essential highlights of each destination, and because they are set to go, booking your private trip couldn’t be easier.

Please note that your final itinerary may vary slightly from this one as we continuously research and develop each trip. Inclement weather—though we’d like to think there won’t be any—may also necessitate minor alterations. All pricing in U.S. dollars.
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Island of (Almond) Milk and Honey

Sicily has extended a welcoming hand to visitors throughout the ages. It is a cultural crossroads where Greeks and Romans, Phoenicians and Arabs, French and Spanish civilizations have all left their mark—artistically, architecturally and gastronomically—over the centuries. Our journey focuses on the southern side of the island, visiting the Baroque towns of Siracusa, Noto and Modica. During our explorations, we’ll be rewarded with an exclusive gourmet experience and immersion in local gastronomy. Experience pure indulgence for the senses: admire the island’s rich culture, savour fresh seafood, handmade pasta, arancini, caponata and plan to wash it all down with some delightful Sicilian wines.

Siracusa

Day 1

Upon your arrival in Siracusa, the original Syracuse, meet up with your B&R guides for an aperitivi (cocktail) and learn about the upcoming week’s adventures.

Siracusa and the Noto Almond

Day 2

After breakfast steps from the sea, we’ll meet our city guide for a splendid private guided tour of Siracusa. For nearly two centuries Syracuse was the most powerful city in the known world. The little island of Ortigia, its old town which today is linked to the mainland and modern city by two causeways, formed the heart of Syracuse for 2,700 years. Stroll out for a walking tour of its Baroque historical centre. For lunch, enjoy a hands-on Sicilian sandwich demonstration at Borderi, a salumiere located in Ortygia’s old market. We’ll then drive to the modern town to visit the ancient Neapolis Archeological Park, home to many Greek traces, before journeying out into the countryside. There, a wonderfully sweet stop introduces us to the famous Noto almond. Our friend, Concetto, will show us his almond orchards, set in one of Sicily’s most beautiful agricultural landscapes, where we’ll learn all about the Slow Food Presidium. The exceptional Noto almond, grown only in this area, is particularly sought after by confectioners. We have a wonderful exploration of the Sicilian almond in store: we’ll watch almond milk extraction and savour treats such as almonds cookies and other delicacies related to this delicious fruit. Back to Siracusa, relax at the hotel before we stroll to dinner together in a typical local trattoria in Ortigia.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity: 1.5 hours urban walking in the morning, strolling around the almond orchard in the afternoon.
Prima Donna and Wines from Another Planet(a)

Day 3

This morning, choose between sleeping in and wandering Siracusa on your own (perhaps in search of the best cappuccino or gelato?) or join us for a journey into the Iblei Mountains to walk in the Cava Grande del Cassibile. At over 700 m (2,300 ft) altitude, the Great Nature Reserve of Cavagrande del Cassibile hides treasures as diverse as wild vegetation, natural caves, Paleolithic tombs, waterfalls and little lakes. After an invigorating walk inside the main canyon of this marvelous national park, return to Ortigia, which you can explore further as you enjoy lunch on your own. This afternoon, you’ll head south, where you’ll meet a local guide and enjoy a walking tour of the charming town of Noto, the “Prima Donna” of Sicilian Baroque. As the afternoon light turns golden, you’ll head to the Planeta family’s 51-hectare Buonivini wine estate. Among Sicily’s most renowned winemakers, the Planeta family grows their Nero d’Avola and Moscato Bianco grapes here, used to make Santa Cecilia DOC and Passito di Noto DOC wines. you’ll stroll through the vineyards and visit its “Invisible Wine Cellar” before taking part in a memorable wine tasting and apericena, a classic Italian evening of refreshments and hors d’oeuvres (the nibbles are so plentiful, it is a meal in itself!).

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
Activity: An optional 4km (2.5 mi.) morning walk with one good uphill stretch. Afternoon town walk in Noto.

Anapo Valley Truffles and Modican Chocolate

Day 4

Bid arrivederci to Siracusa and journey deep into the hinterland en route to the stunning Mòdica area. Our active gastronomic day starts in Palazzolo Acreide. Set out on a truly out-of-the-ordinary culinary journey, hunting for Sicilian truffles (yes, they exist!) with Salvo, one of the area’s best cavatore (truffle hunters) and Chef Andrea. After our exploration of the beautiful Baulì Woods, part of the
Anapo Valley, we’ll join Chef Andrea at his restaurant for a marvelous lunch, featuring Sicilian truffles of course! After lunch, we’ll drive to our hotel in Mòdica, the beautiful Palazzo Failla, where you can make yourself at home. Part of the UNESCO World Heritage Baroque valley, Mòdica is a lively, genuine little town. After freshening up, we’re joined by a local guide for a walking tour of town, equally renowned for its Baroque architecture and its chocolate! During the visit you’ll stop by Simone’s Chocolate Lab, home of a pastry chef that moved from Northern Italy to Mòdica because of his love for chocolate, for an exclusive chocolate talk and tasting. Relax at the hotel before dinner where we will enjoy the typical cucina modicana at Locanda del Colonnello. Davide the chef will prepare all sorts of delicacies and create a natural pairing between the local wine and cuisine.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner  
**Activity:** Approximately 1.5 hours of truffle-hunting in the woods and about 1 hour of urban walking.

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**Baroque Aromas and Ricotta**

**Day 5**

After a restful night in our very own Baroque palace, follow your fancy this morning. Either join your guide for an invigorating walk in the countryside, or relax with a cappuccino. Later this morning, our private coach will sweep us down the valley near Scicli, where you’ll visit a working farm, meet a cow or two and see how fresh, hot ricotta is made. Then, it’s a short drive to a very special gastronomic experience: the unique and unforgettable Gli Aromi. You’ll follow a multisensory path through dozens of spices, ornamental plants and medicinal herbs chosen for their singularity. Pineapple sage, stevia, lemon thyme, orange geranium and bergamot mint are just some of the varieties that you can see, smell, touch and, in some cases, taste, discovering new and unexpected flavours—a journey your senses will never forget. Over the years, this family-run farm has become a reference point for chefs, the gourmet-minded and lovers of good food throughout Italy for the 150 species they grow and distribute. After looking for the raw materials, be ready for a hands-on cooking class, leading up to a scrumptious lunch! This afternoon, you’ll be driven back up the valley into Mòdica to relax or explore the town on your own. Tonight, choose to enjoy dinner wherever you’d like. There are many options in town ranging from casual to elegant dining and your guides will be happy to help you choose or make recommendations. For the starry-eyed, you might opt for the 20-minute taxi ride to Ragusa where two-Michelin-starred Duomo and Locanda Don Serafino, or the one-starred La Fenice, will tempt your palate.

**Meals:** Breakfast and Lunch  
**Activity:** Optional morning hike of 1.5 hours.
HOTEL | The Palazzo Failla, The Failla Mansion, Modica

This property offers guests an unforgettable time in a place where the old traditions fit in well with modern comforts. Over the years the hotel has maintained the characteristic of a noble Sicilian building. With majolicas (local hand-made ceramics), wrought iron, frescoed vaults and antique furniture, Palazzo Failla provides a welcoming and kind atmosphere in an elegant setting. With just 10 rooms, its intimate scale and exquisitely attuned staff make guests feel pampered and at ease. A double junior suite has been included in this itinerary.

The Shadow of Mount Etna

Day 6

This morning we say *arrivederci* to the Baroque valleys and *Buongiorno* to the beautiful volcano, Mount Etna. You’ll arrive at the pulsing city of Catania at the mountain’s southwestern foot, where your local guide and personal chef Rossella will escort us through Catania’s narrow streets and beautiful monuments. As you wind your way to the town’s historic fish market, one of Sicily’s most attractive, you’ll learn how to pick the freshest fish for today’s hands-on cooking lesson. Chef Rossella will then welcome you into her kitchen and teach you how to prepare your fish, before you enjoy a wonderful feast of the food you have just helped cook. After savouring every last morsel, you’ll hop aboard your coach. After a short drive, you’ll soon make yourself at home at the memorable Donna Carmela boutique hotel. Relax in your room, have a nap or join your guide for a stroll through the exotic plants and *macchia* of this coastal region. In the late afternoon, we’re in for a treat! First, the hotel will introduce us to their very own olive oil and share a bit about the olive varieties and how they are pressed. Then, even sweeter, a Sicilian honey producer will join us for a tasting of this typically Etnan product, its flavours stunningly varied with the seasons’ blooms. For dinner, Donna Carmela’s chef will delight you with a gourmet feast. Weather permitting; we’ll toast our week’s adventures *al fresco* on their splendid terrace gazing up at Mount Etna.

**Meals**: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner  
**Activity**: 1 hour morning urban walking tour; optional 1 hour afternoon walk.
HOTEL | Donna Carmela, Acireale

Nestled in a large plant nursery between the sea and the foot of Mount Etna, between Catania and Taormina, Donna Carmela is an elegant little resort. Generous hospitality, creative décor and quality materials; an attention to detail makes the 18-room Donna Carmela come alive. Its imminently tasteful contemporary aesthetic with many elegant touches (fresh roses here, bold art there, beautiful breezy views throughout) make it a one-of-a-kind experience in Sicilian hospitality. A double sea view room has been included in this itinerary.

Arrivederci!

Day 7

After breakfast, you’ll be driven to Catania’s Fontanarossa Airport, where you’ll be for mid-morning flights. Should you wish to stay and explore Taormina, the Aeolian Islands or elsewhere, your guides will be happy to help you book your own alternate travel arrangements. Arrivederci!

Meals: Breakfast
The Details

Pricing From:
2 travellers - $8,895
4 travellers - $6,995
6 travellers - $6,295
Single Supplement $800

Start:
Syracusa
Algilà Ortigia Hotel
Cocktails at 7:00

Finish:
Catania
Catania Fontanarossa Airport
10:00 am

Best time to visit: May to October

LEVEL OF ACTIVITY

Occasional
This trip is appropriate for people who enjoy a good stroll, and feel comfortable while on the move. Daily walking times vary from 1 to 3 hours, from urban strolls to forest truffle hunts, with some longer, more challenging walks optional along the way.

WHAT’S INCLUDED

- All hotel accommodation
- Welcome and final night cocktails
- All breakfasts, 4 lunches and 4 dinners, including wine
- Services of one B&R-trained local guide
- Detailed map and water bottle
- All special events and private tours
- All transportation from rendezvous to drop-off, including luggage transportation
- All gratuities for bus driver, porters, hotel service, city guides, and service at meals

WHAT’S NOT INCLUDED

- International flights
- Cancellation insurance
- Airport pick-up/travel to Syracuse
- Items of a personal nature
- One lunch and one dinner
- Optional taxis (to reach Michelin-starred restaurants) for your night on your own
- Gratuities for your guides

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The ready-to-book trips in our Private Trip Collection offer all the hallmarks B&R’s known for – great hotels, unparalleled immersion and unforgettable experiences – with the flexibility of going on your own schedule and with your own travel companions. Think of these trips as prêt-à-porter from your favourite designer: simply pick your dates, pack your bags, and go.

How it Works

1. **Get Inspired.** Go to [www.butterfield.com/tripfinder/?ftt=private](http://www.butterfield.com/tripfinder/?ftt=private) to browse our Private Trip Collection and find a flavour of adventure that suits your palate.

2. **Get in Touch.** Found a trip that’s caught your eye? Call our Private Travel Advisors at 1-800-387-1147. Just give them a few details about your group and your preferred dates, and they’ll spring into action.

3. **Have it Tailored.** Our ready-to-book Private Trips are designed to be enjoyed off-the-rack, but there is room for minor adjustments to fit the trip to your needs. Looking for something totally customized? One of our expert Private Trip Designers will take on your request and tailor-make a Bespoke trip for you from scratch.

4. **Pack your Prada.** Once the date and the price is finalized, we’ll take care of the rest, confirming hotels, finalizing events and mobilizing our expertly trained local partners. All you have to do is prepare to be transported...

5. **Bon Voyage!**

Next Steps

**READY TO BOOK?** Contact us at 1-800-387-1147 or [bespoke@butterfield.com](mailto:bespoke@butterfield.com) with any remaining questions, or consult your travel professional. Note that a $500 deposit is required in order to reserve dates. After you’ve booked, you will receive a confirmation package containing detailed information to help you prepare for your trip.