

Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd.
95 Dalhousie Street, Brantford, Ontario. N3T 2J1
Tel: 519-753-2695 / 519-756-4900 Fax: 519-753-6376
E-mail: tours@pauwelstravel.com Website: www.pauwelstravel.com
TICO registration #:1257995

Food Focus: Sicily Southeast
Wednesday, September 13 - Saturday, September 23, 2017



The iconic symbol of Sicily – photo by Lori Chisholm

Join tour host Lori Chisholm for a foodie exploration of her favourite region of Sicily, Italy. You'll experience private tours, market visits, a cooking class, tastings of various Sicilian specialties, lovely wines and aperitives, and, of course, architectural and historical highlights. Limited to 13 participants.

Tour cost: \$4,235 per person sharing twin accommodation
(taxes and surcharges \$590 *included*)
(If paying by cash or cheque, deduct \$160 from the tour cost = \$4,075)
Single supplement: \$395

PROPOSED ITINERARY:

Itinerary specifics subject to change.

Day 1 - Wednesday, September 13: Toronto - Catania (D)

Evening flight via Alitalia from Toronto to Rome. Dinner and breakfast will be served on board.

Day 2 - Thursday, September 14: Catania (D)

Morning arrival in Rome with a brief layover before boarding our connecting flight to Catania, Sicily. Transfer by taxi to our centrally-located 4* hotel, (<http://royal.catania.hotels-sicily.net/en/>) with its lovely bar and breakfast terrace. This will be our home for 4 nights. After a brief opportunity to freshen up and unpack, we'll gather for an aperitivo in the hotel bar before heading to a local trattoria for our welcome dinner.

Day 3 - Friday, September 15: Catania (B, L)

After a leisurely breakfast, we are off on a guided walking tour of the historic centre of Catania with its Roman amphitheatre under excavation, university, Opera, lovely Duomo and famous elephant fountain. Along the way, we will have our first experience of Sicilian street food from arancini to cannoli. After the tour, we are free for the rest of the day. You can stroll Via Etnea or spend some extra time in the renowned Catania fish market, perhaps visit the Museum of the 1943 Landings. I can give you some restaurant suggestions for dinner.

Day 4 - Saturday, September 16: Viagrande (B, L)

After breakfast, we will depart mid-morning for our private wine tour and tasting lunch at one of the oldest and most respected wineries in Sicily. Our sommelier, Valentina, will take us out to the vineyards with a view of Etna in one direction and the Ionian Sea in the other. There we'll have a chance to try the family's sparkling wine with, perhaps, some crostini, then head back to the historic winery buildings for a tour followed by a lunch of local products paired with Etnean wines. Upon return to Catania, we'll have the evening free.

Day 5 - Sunday, September 17: Taormina (B)

The morning is free. After lunch, we're off to cliff-hanging Taormina for the afternoon. Taormina sits just north of Catania overlooking the Ionian Sea. The views to Mount Etna are stunning. We'll have a private walking tour of this world-famous, quite posh resort town including the ancient Greek amphitheatre which is still used for open-air concerts today. We'll give you a chance to indulge in an aperitivo and enjoy the views of Mount Etna before we head back to Catania.



Mount Etna from the amphitheatre in Taormina – photo by Lori Chisholm

Day 6 - Monday, September 18: Ortigia (Siracusa) (B, L)

After breakfast and check-out, we'll be on our way for the short transfer to Ortigia. First, we'll stop at an olive oil estate which produces organic extra virgin olive oil with a Protected Designation of Origin. We'll learn about olive oil production and traditions, then we'll be treated to a tasting and typical Sicilian lunch prepared by the family using local products. On we go to Ortigia, my favourite spot in Sicily and our home for the next 5 nights. Here, we'll be staying in a former convent, the 4* Domus Mariae Benessere (www.domusmariaebenessere.com). Perfectly located minutes from the market, this elegant hotel has a lovely breakfast room, a sun terrace and a spa. This afternoon, my friend Valeria will take us on a private walking tour of Ortigia with many stops that most tourists never get to see. Her knowledge of this town is incomparable; you will be charmed by her passion! I will have lots of suggestions for dinner tonight.

Day 7 - Tuesday, September 19: Ortigia (B, L)

After breakfast today, we'll be meeting our private cooking instructor and Ortigia native, Fiora. She will take us through the vibrant and colourful food market (a photographer's dream!) where we will choose the ingredients for our cooking class and lunch. We'll spend several hours at Fiora's apartment overlooking the harbour preparing (and devouring!) a fabulous Sicilian lunch with wine. If you have room for dinner after this event, I can recommend some of my favourite restaurants.

Day 8 - Wednesday, September 20: Ragusa & Modica (B, L)

This morning after breakfast, we'll board our coach for Ragusa Ibla, a gorgeous Baroque city not far from Siracusa. We'll have a private guided tour so we can better absorb the cultural atmosphere of this charming town and then we'll be off to a local dairy farm set in a landscape of olive groves, carob trees and drystone walls to learn about the production of Ibleian cheeses. We'll have a cheese tasting and light lunch at the farm and then take the brief trip to Modica, famous for its chocolate prepared in the ancient Aztec tradition. Upon our return to Ortigia, the evening will be free. Join the *passagiata*, the evening people-watching stroll before dinner.

Day 9 - Thursday, September 21: Ortigia (B)

I always include one free day in my itineraries. You can arrange a day trip to Noto or Mount Etna; a boat ride around the island is a nice option; you can shop; you could book an appointment at our hotel spa; you might want to take a city bus to the Neapolis Archaeological Park. I can help!

I'll be having lunch at my favourite spot in the market. Let me know if you want to join me.

Day 10 - Friday, September 22: Ortigia (B, D)

Your final full day in Sicily is free until dinner. We'll find a spot to have an aperitivo and then dine at one of my local favourites. It will be an opportunity to share stories from the week and celebrate new friendships.

Day 11 - Saturday, September 23: Arrivederci! (B, D on board)

After breakfast, we have a private transfer to the airport in Catania. From there we fly to Rome and then, after a brief layover, home to Canada.

WELCOME HOME!

Tour cost: \$4,235 (\$3485 + \$590 + \$160)

(taxes and surcharges - \$590 - included)

(If paying the full amount by cash or cheque, deduct \$160 from the tour cost = \$4,075)

Single supplement: \$395

Itinerary specifics subject to change, as this is a proposed itinerary.

Included in the tour cost:

- ~ Economy airfare Toronto – Catania – Toronto with Alitalia
- ~ 9 nights' accommodation in centrally-located 4* hotels
- ~ All ground transfers and private coach in Sicily
- ~ 9 breakfasts
- ~ Welcome dinner Catania
- ~ Private guided walking & food tour in Catania
- ~ Private winery visit with lunch at Viagrande
- ~ Day trip to Taormina with private guided tour
- ~ Olive oil farm visit with lunch
- ~ Private guided walking tour in Ortigia
- ~ Private market tour with cooking experience and lunch in Ortigia
- ~ Day trip to Ragusa and Modica with private guided tours and lunch
- ~ Farewell dinner Ortigia
- ~ All guide and driver gratuities
- ~ Admissions to all sites during tours as per itinerary
- ~ Taxes and fuel surcharges (\$590)
- ~ 2-hour lounge pass for Toronto Pearson airport

Not included:

- ~ All expenses of a personal nature
- ~ Meals others than those listed above
- ~ Beverages with meals except as listed in the itinerary
- ~ Travel insurance – please contact the Pauwels office for rates

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Ont. Reg. #1034992

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS:

Reservations should be made as early as possible to ensure the departure of your choice. A deposit of \$750.00 is required at the time of registration. Your reservation is confirmed upon receipt of your deposit and application form. No reservations will be accepted without a signed application form.

REFUND OF UNUSED ARRANGEMENTS:

Because the rates of Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. are based on group participation, no refund can be made for any tour accommodation or tour service or tour feature not taken. If cancellation occurs while the tour is in progress, no refund can be made for the tour portion not taken. We strongly suggest that to allow for any unexpected contingencies, you purchase the all-inclusive insurance.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Refund of deposit is made if cancellation is received in writing by Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. more than 90 days prior of the departure date of the tour less a \$500.00 non-refundable administrative fee per person. For cancellation received in writing 90 days prior or less the following cancellation charges apply:

90 days to 46 days before departure:	25% of tour cost
45 to 31 days before departure:	50% of tour cost
Within 30 days prior to departure:	100% of tour cost

RESPONSIBILITY:

Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. reserves the right without notice, to withdraw any part or all of the tour. Factors such as airline schedule changes, hotel overbookings, inclement weather, etc. may necessitate changes in the itinerary as outlined. There may also be other circumstances in which changes become necessary or advisable. Any savings realized by these changes will be passed on to the passengers, any resultant expenses shall be borne by the passenger. Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. acts only as an agent in securing hotel, transportation and other travel services and in no event shall be held responsible for the failure by any person or company to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. All hotel, transportation and other travel services are provided to tour members subject to all the terms and conditions under which they are offered to the public generally. The acceptance of the initial service to be provided under the tour shall be considered an acceptance by the tour member of those conditions. Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. also reserves the right to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour, in which case equitable refund will be made at the discretion of the tour operators.

AIR TRANSPORTATION:

Transatlantic economy flight by scheduled IATA carrier(s), based on an economy class group fare. All fares are subject to specific rules and regulations, to changes and to government approval. Deviations from the group flights are possible but subject to higher rates. Pauwels Travel will research any request for date or routing changes at the time they are requested. Should any individual rate be less than the group fare plus airline and administrative fees, the lower rate will be offered to the tour participant. Individual airfares are subject to immediate ticketing and the fare plus taxes must be paid at the time the ticket is issued by the participant requesting the change. Should the group airfare be the lowest available rate, an administrative fee of \$50.00 plus any airline charges will apply.

APPLICATION FORM

Please book ___ seat(s) on the "Food Focus: Sicily Southeast" travelling September 13 – September 23, 2017.
Enclosed is my/our deposit of _____ (\$750 per person, *plus* insurance premium if taken.)
I will be travelling "Land only" and will be securing my own airfare _____.

Deposit and insurance premium, if taken, are due with registration. You will be invoiced for an interim payment of \$1000 and then the balance approximately 45 days prior to departure.

WE REQUIRE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (INFORMATION PAGES ONLY) VALID 3 MONTHS AFTER TOUR DATE TO BE SENT IN WITH YOUR APPLICATION FORM AT TIME OF REGISTRATION.

PASSPORT NAME(S): **Please indicate the appropriate title (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Dr., Ms.)**

Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____

Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____

If applicable, give your commonly used first name as you would like it to appear on your name tag: (e.g. "Liz" for "Mary Elizabeth") _____

ADDRESS: _____

Postal Code: _____

PHONE: _____ (Email) _____

If traveling alone, is a SINGLE ROOM REQUIRED?: YES _____ NO _____

If sharing, is there a Bed preference?: twin _____ double _____

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: We find the earlier a request is made, the more success we have in filling it, so **please list any dietary requests, allergies, any special physical needs or frequent flyer numbers etc here.** We cannot ensure requests made 30 days or less prior to departure will be possible. _____

Insurance, Please call the office for premiums then record it on application and add premium to deposit.

I /we would like to purchase (please check and record your rate):

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

All-inclusive Package _____ \$ _____ Non-medical Package _____ \$ _____

Other _____ \$ _____ **OR** Decline Insurance _____

PAYMENT: Cheque payable to Pauwels Travel Visa Mastercard American Express

Amount Paid: _____

Card Number: _____ Expiry: _____ Security Code: _____

Signature: _____

"I/we agree to the terms and conditions attached to the program, have indicated our insurance choice, indicated any special requests and included payment".

Date _____ (Signature)(s) _____

Please forward this completed and signed form, copy of passport and payment to:

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