

# Southern Italy & Sicily

featuring Taormina, Alberobello and the Amalfi Coast

Departing

October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016



## Highlights...

Palermo • Monreale • Agrigento • Valley of the Temples •  
 Giardini Naxos • Taormina • Catania • Mt. Etna Volcano •  
 Matera • Alberobello • Sorrento • Amalfi Coast • Pompeii

**12 Days • 17 Meals: 10 Breakfasts • 7 Dinners**

**\$4599 Double**

Includes: land components, air & tax from MSP, hotel & hometown transfers plus Collette guides.

### COLLETTE EXPERIENCES

- ★ Ancient Greek culture comes to life during a guided tour of Agrigento's Valley of the Temples.
- ★ Spend a day exploring the jewel of Sicily, the historic hilltop town of Taormina.
- ★ Enjoy regional wine with every included dinner.
- ★ Visit the "Sassi di Matera" and experience how people lived in their cave dwellings.
- ★ View the amazing "trulli" in Alberobello.
- ★ History comes alive during a guided visit to the ancient Roman city of Pompeii.
- ★ Experience the benefits of personal audio headsets, designed for better communication between you and your guides throughout your tour.

#### Day 1: Overnight Flight

Join us in exploring the hidden treasures of southern Italy and Sicily. Enjoy breathtaking scenery, historic cities, centuries-old hilltop villages and wonderful cuisine.

#### Day 2: Palermo, Sicily - Tour Begins

Your tour opens in Palermo, the capital of Sicily. This evening, join your fellow travelers for a welcome dinner featuring traditional Sicilian cuisine. *Today dinner will be included.*

#### Day 3: Palermo - Monreale - Palermo

A cultural tour of Palermo features the lovely squares of Quattro Canti, Piazza Pretoria and Piazza Bellini. Note the exotic mixture of Moorish, Norman and Spanish Baroque styles that make this city special. View the Palace of the Normans, La Martorana church, and the cathedral which houses the Imperial Crown of Constance of Aragon. **In the nearby town of Monreale, visit the**

**12th-century cathedral with its dazzling interior of multicolored marbles, paintings, mosaics and cloisters.** The remainder of your day is at leisure to relax or perhaps visit the city's museums and shops. *Today breakfast will be included.*

#### Day 4: Palermo - Agrigento - Giardini Naxos

Ease your way into the local culture as your Tour Manager offers up a few key phrases of the native language before traveling through the beautiful countryside with rolling hills and working farms towards the town of Agrigento. **Upon arrival, visit the stunning Valley of the Temples, one of the most important archaeological sites in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage site.** From ancient times to the present day, the Valley of the Temples' ruins, landscape and colors have inspired poets, writers and painters. Here you get an up-close view of the temples of Juno, Concordia, Hercules and Jupiter. Continue on to Giardini Naxos, the "garden of Sicily," for your three-night stay. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

#### Day 5: Giardini Naxos - Taormina - Giardini Naxos

This morning, travel to beautiful Taormina, known for its charming atmosphere, significant monuments and flowering gardens. Join a local guide for a tour introducing you to the city. You will see Corso Umberto and the bountiful public gardens and visit the Greek Amphitheater. Enjoy some free time to explore this delightful town. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

#### Day 6: Giardini Naxos - Catania - Mt. Etna - Giardini Naxos

Journey to vibrant Catania where a local guide will share its history. Visit the cathedral and view the main sites of this historic and Baroque city (UNESCO). Witness the daily spectacle of bartering for fresh fish and produce when you visit the local market. Or visit the Museo dello Sbarco (Allied Landing Museum). This fascinating museum is dedicated to the Allied landing on the southern coast of Sicily in 1943. **Later, discover the impressive Mt. Etna Volcano National Park with a local expert and take in the spectacular**

**landscapes sculpted by nature.** Return to Giardini Naxos. *Today breakfast will be included.*

**Day 7: Giardini Naxos - Matera**

Travel to Messina where you will take a short ferry ride to Villa San Giovanni on Italy's mainland. Travel through the beautiful and unspoiled region of Calabria and into the Basilicata region. This afternoon you'll visit one of the area's local wineries for a wine tasting and informative walk through the cellars and vineyards. Linger over a delicious regional dinner in the winery's own "agriturismo" restaurant. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

**Day 8: Matera - Alberobello - Matera**

Today, explore the "Sassi di Matera," an ancient town known for its cave dwellings, both modern and ancient. A local guide will help you learn the history of this site and why it has recently caught the eye of many film producers. Afterwards, stop at a local shop for a chance to sample some regional produce. Enjoy some free time in Matera to browse the shops or taste the local cuisine before heading to the mystical town of Alberobello. **See some of the most unusually built homes (UNESCO), known as "trulli," that have cone-shaped roofs.** Surprisingly, no mortar is used to hold the stones together. Return to your hotel for dinner. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

**Day 9: Matera - Salerno - Sorrento Peninsula**

Today, travel towards Campania and the Bay of Naples, one of the most breathtaking areas of Italy. Make a stop in Salerno to explore the historical

city center at leisure. Take a moment to gaze at its impressive cathedral, considered to be the most beautiful medieval church in Italy. Arrive at the Sorrento Peninsula in the late afternoon. Sit back and take in the views of this magical place. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

**Day 10: Sorrento - Amalfi Coast Drive - Minori - Sorrento Peninsula**

Take time to explore the lovely seaside resort town of Sorrento on your own. Then, begin your adventure exploring the breathtaking Amalfi Coast. Make a special stop in the charming town of Amalfi where you will have time to explore. Then it's off to Minori where you will have the opportunity to sample some of the local specialties at a family-owned limoncello factory. You'll also enjoy a typical Italian afternoon break at a local café and pastry shop. Your evening is at leisure. *Today breakfast will be included.*

**Day 11: Sorrento Peninsula - Pompeii - Rome**

Drive along the Bay of Naples and experience the excavated ruins of Pompeii at the foothills of Mount Vesuvius. Soak in the history of the preserved original buildings of a typical Roman town 2,000 years ago. A local guide will provide an in-depth view of this remarkable archaeological site. Later, travel to Rome where you will spend your last evening. Celebrate the end of your journey with a farewell dinner at a popular local restaurant. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

**Day 12: Rome - Tour Ends**

Your tour ends today. *Today breakfast will be included.*

*Experience It!*

**The Valley of the Temples**

Travel to the Valley of the Temples, in Agrigento, Sicily, where you'll see some of the best preserved ruins of ancient Greece. Among the countryside full of blooming almond trees are wonderful ruins of the temples that, in the course of time, kept intact their architectural magnificence. Seven major temples are found in this valley. The temples have a Doric style, with six majestic columns on the front side, except for the Temple of Olympian Zeus. The most impressive is the Temple of Concordia, built in 440 B.C. It is nearly perfectly preserved and has continued to be used over time. At night the illuminated temple is a sight to behold. Come see why the Greeks chose this site on a cliff a few miles from the ocean. Experience the beautiful ocean view and the soft, cool breezes.

**YOUR ITINERARY AT A GLANCE**

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Day 1     | Overnight Flight                            |
| Day 2, 3  | Grand Hotel Federico II                     |
| Day 4 - 6 | Hellenia Yachting Hotel                     |
| Day 7, 8  | Hilton Garden Inn Matera                    |
| Day 9, 10 | Towers Hotel, Sorrento Coast or Cetus Hotel |
| Day 11    | Donna Laura Palace Hotel                    |

On some dates alternate hotels may be used.

### Please Note:

Economy air rate and schedule are applicable for groups of 10 or more traveling on the same flights and dates.

## IMPORTANT RESERVATION INFORMATION

### IDENTIFICATION

Passports are required for this tour at your expense. Certain countries require a minimum of 6 months passport validity from date of return home. You are strongly urged to contact the appropriate consulate for details. Visit [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) for the U.S. State Department for the latest details about passports and visa requirements. **IMPORTANT:** We recommend that our clients traveling abroad take a photocopy of their passport and applicable visas. It should be packed separately from your actual passport and visa. We also recommend leaving a copy at home with your emergency contact.

**\*Airfare:** For your convenience, we offer airfare for purchase with all vacation packages. If you purchase an air inclusive program, your airfare will be quoted inclusive of all fuel, taxes and fees. Your rates are subject to change until paid in full. Seats are limited and may not be available on every flight or departure date.

**Checked Baggage Charges:** Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies.

**Cancellation Charges for this tour:** After your seat reduction date has passed, a non-refundable deposit will be retained. For Cancellation between 60-16 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 30% of total price. For cancellation between 15-1 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 50% of total price. For cancellation on the day of departure and after: 100% of total price. For Ocean Cruises: For cancellation between 90-61 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 35% of total price. For cancellation between 60-31 days prior to departure: 60% of total price. 30 or fewer days prior to departure: 100% of total price. For River Cruises: including Europe, Russia, Egypt and China, 90-61 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 50% of total price. For cancellation between 60-31 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 85% of total price. For cancellation 30 or fewer days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 100% of total price. For Galapagos and Antarctica: A cancellation fee of 60% will apply for cancellation between 120-90 days prior to departure; A cancellation charge of 100% will apply for cancellation less than 90 days prior to departure. Cancellation protection is highly recommended and must be purchased at time of deposit. Air rates are subject to change until tour is paid in full. If Travel Protection Plan has not been purchased and a reservation is cancelled for any reason prior to departure - Air is 100% non-refundable once paid in full. Cancellation charges also apply to reservations made for "pre" and "post" night accommodations. Payment of a Per Person Travel Protection Plan Fee guarantees a full refund of all payments (including deposit), except the Travel Protection Plan Fee itself, made to Collette for travel arrangements in case of cancellation of your travel plans for any reason prior to the day of departure. The Travel Protection Plan Fee with Air only covers airline tickets you have purchased from Collette. Exception: If you originally purchased non-refundable airline tickets, the Travel Protection Plan does not provide a refund for the airline tickets, taxes or fees, in the event of cancellation. This air ticket is covered by Collette's travel protection plan under Part B, if you cancel your trip for covered reasons (see Part B for more details). The Travel Protection Plan Fee does not cover any single supplement charges which arise from an individual's traveling companion electing to cancel for any reason prior to departure. However, the Part B travel insurance includes a single supplement benefit of \$1,000 for certain covered reasons as detailed in Part B. In this case, the single supplement will be deducted from the refund of the person who cancels. Division of this charge between the two passengers involved is solely their responsibility. If insufficient funds are deducted from the cancelling client, the traveling client will be charged the remaining portion of the single supplement. Cancellation waiver protects you from penalties in the event you have a need to cancel your entire inclusive tour package up to the day prior to departure. Cancellation waiver does not indemnify you from penalties if you chose to cancel partial tour components or air. If you chose to partially cancel your vacation, you will be responsible for a revision fee as well as any penalties that are incurred

at the time of the cancellation. Upon cancellation of transportation or travel services where you, the customer, are not at fault and have not canceled in violation of the terms and conditions above, you will be refunded 100%. Please see your sales agent for more information, or review our brochure for details.

**Responsibilities:** Neither Collette Travel Services, Inc., its affiliated entities and its and their employees, shareholders, officers, directors, successors, agents, and assigns (collectively "Collette"), own or operate any person or entity which is to or does provide goods or services for these trips. Because Collette does not maintain control or operate the personnel, equipment, or operations of the suppliers it uses and as such Collette assumes no responsibility for and cannot be held liable for any personal injury, death, property damage or other loss accident, delay, inconvenience, or irregularity which may be occasioned by reason of (1) any wrongful, negligent, willful or unauthorized acts or omissions on the part of any of the suppliers or other employees or agents; (2) any defect in or failure of any vehicle, equipment, or instrument owned, operated or otherwise used by any of these suppliers; or (3) any wrongful, willful or negligent act of or omission on the part of any other party not under the supervision and control of Collette. Additionally, Collette waives any and all liability for losses or expenses due to sickness, lack of appropriate medical facilities or practitioners, weather, strikes, theft or other criminal acts, war, terrorism, computer problems, acts of God, or other such causes. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws of the country in which they are provided. Collette reserves the right to make changes in the published itinerary whenever, in their sole judgment, conditions warrant, or if Collette deems it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or the safety of the tour. Collette reserves the right to withdraw any tour at any time. Collette reserves the right to decline to accept any person as a member of the tour, or to require any participant to withdraw from the tour at any time, when such action is determined by the tour manager to be in the best interests of the health, safety, and general welfare of the tour group or of the individual participant. Collette does not accept liability for any carrier's cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable airline or other ticket to the tour departure city and return or otherwise. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the passenger at all times. Passengers may be photographed for the promotional purposes of Collette. Payment of the deposit to Collette constitutes acceptance of these terms and conditions. I agree that any dispute concerning, relating, or referring to this contract, the brochure or any other literature concerning my trip, or the trip itself, shall be resolved exclusively by binding arbitration according to the then existing rules of the American Arbitration Association in the State of Rhode Island. Such proceedings will be governed by and in accordance with substantive Rhode Island law. The arbitrator and not any federal, state, or local court or agency shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable. Explorations is a brand of Collette Travel Services Inc., a Rhode Island based corporation.

**Consumer Protection Plans:** Collette Travel Service holds membership in the following highly reputable industry organizations: the United States Tour Operators Association and the American Society of Travel Agents. Each association operates a consumer protection plan to cover deposits made by travelers. Full details are available from the organizations or Collette Travel Service. Collette is pleased to give this additional protection to our clients. **Our California Sellers of Travel registration number is 2006766-20. Our State of Washington Unified Business Number is 601220855. Our Nevada Sellers of Travel registration number is 2003-0279.**