



SICILY: *FOR SICILY IS THE KEY TO EVERYTHING...*

TUESDAY 11 TO TUESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2014

NICHOLAS FRIEND and LUCY WALKER

*To have seen Italy without having seen Sicily is to not have seen Italy at all, for Sicily is the clue to everything.* 13 April 1787, Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

In 1786, Goethe abruptly abandoned his personal and literary life in Carlsbad to set out to Italy on a two-year quest for a deepened understanding of the origins of western civilisation. After travelling through Verona, Venice, Bologna, Rome and Naples, he embarked on a ship to Sicily where, for the first time, he encountered genuine Greek (as opposed to Roman) architecture. Seeing the Temple of Concord at Agrigento, one of the best-preserved Doric temples in the Western world, he was startled by its unadorned simplicity.

The largest group of Greek temples in the whole of Magna Graecia, sits 'cheek by jowl' with hauntingly beautiful 17c towns, their buildings tied together by sweeping theatrical facades like stage curtains, which though the opposite of classical, are just as impressive as the monumental Greek temples. Altogether, this geographic triangle in south-eastern Sicily, between Catania, Siracusa and Agrigento, reveals a history of Sicilian building and culture, from tombs to temples, cave-dwellings to churches, and Norman palaces to Renaissance piazze. This INSCAPE tour stimulates the mind, but does not exhaust the patience or the body, as we explore in depth the imaginative and physical attributes of an astounding presence of sacred and civil buildings within a proscribed area.

While enjoying the delicious Sicilian cuisine, whose every dish contains references to the island's extraordinary culinary heritage and the island's abundance, we contemplate Sicily's rich literary heritage: from Greek playwrights, Roman and Hebrew orators, Arab poets, to more recent novelists, playwrights and storytellers: Giovanni Verga, Leonardo Sciascia, Tomasi di Lampedusa, author of *The Leopard*. If one could choose just one place to visit where one could witness everything from the culture of Hellenic antiquity to the glories of the Middle Ages, on to the wonders of the Renaissance, and the challenges of modern existence, Sicily would be that one verdant place. Sicily does indeed provide the clue to 'everything.'

HOTEL RELAIS FEUDI DEL PISCIOTTO, please see end page.  
INSCAPE will have exclusive occupation of the entire Relais.  
We advise booking as soon as possible as only 10 rooms/suites are available.

## TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER - DEPARTURE

- 09:00 Meet at London City Airport, check in
- 10:45 Flight departs for Milan Linate Airport
- 13:45 Arrive Milan, coffee in Linate Airport, walk to second flight (luggage transferred by airline)
- 14:35 Flight departs for Catania Fontanarossa Airport
- 16:20 Arrive Catania Fontanarossa Airport, transfer to Hotel in Niscemi
- 18:15 Arrive Hotel
- 19:30 Wine tasting and private group dinner in hotel
- 21:00 Short introduction to Sicily's cultural history

## WEDNESDAY 12 NOVEMBER - AGRIGENTO

- 09:00 Short introductory talk, *'Agrigento and the story of Greek Sicily'*
- 10:00 Transfer to Agrigento
- 11:15 Arrive Agrigento, meet private guide: Valle dei Templi: Temple of Concord, Temple of Juno, Temple of Heracles, Temple of Zeus, Temple of Castor and Pollux
- 13:45 Optional lunch at Putia Bottega Siciliana
- 15:00 Museo Regionale Archeologico
- 16:00 Tea, return to Hotel
- 18:15 Arrive Hotel
- 19:15 Short pre-dinner lecture *'Mighty Siracusa'*
- 20:00 Group dinner

## THURSDAY 13 NOVEMBER - SYRACUSE

- 09:00 Transfer to Archaeological Museum, Neapolis
- 10:30 Archaeological Museum
- 12:00 Basilica di San Giovanni
- 13:00 Lunch break
- 14:00 Walk to Archaeological Park
- 14:30 Latimae, Theatre, Roman amphitheatre, return to hotel
- 19:00 Arrive Hotel
- 20:00 Group dinner

## FRIDAY 14 NOVEMBER - AIDONE, MORGANTINA, PIAZZA ARMERINA

- 0830 Transfer to Aidone
- 10:00 Arrive Aidone, meet private guide: Morgantina Archaeological Park (this site involves uneven paths and some uphill walking)
- 12:00 Aidone Museo Archeologico for Morgantina Silver and the Goddess of Morgantina
- 1300 Lunch break in Aidone
- 1430 Casale Roman Villa
- 1530 Architectural walk Norman Piazza Armerina
- 1700 Arrive Caltagirone, Piazza del Municipio Scalazza for 17c ceramic tile staircase
- 1800 Refreshments, return to Hotel
- 20:00 Group dinner

## SATURDAY 15 NOVEMBER - SYRACUSE

- 09:00 Transfer to Syracuse via Pantalica Necropolis
- 12:30 Lunch break in Syracuse
- 14:00 Ortygia, including Temple of Apollo and Altar of Hieron II
- 16:00 Santa Lucia al Sepolcro for Caravaggio, return to hotel
- 19:00 Pre-dinner lecture '*Val di Noto: a total work of art*'
- 20:00 Group dinner

## SUNDAY 16 NOVEMBER - VAL DI NOTO

- 09:30 Transfer to Val di Noto province
- 10:30 Noto's old town
- 11:30 New Noto's Piazza del Municipio
- 13:00 Lunch break in Noto
- 14:30 Leave for Ispica
- 15:00 Arrive Ispica Old Town catacombs, ruined churches and caves
- 16:00 Ispica New Town Santa Maria Maggiore and church of Annunziata; Palazzo Bruno del Belmonte, Palazzo Antonino Bruno
- 17:00 Return to hotel
- 20:00 Group dinner

## MONDAY 17 NOVEMBER - VAL DI NOTO

- 09:30 Transfer to Ragusa
- 10:30 Arrive Ragusa Ibla (Old Town), Churches of San Giorgio and Santa Maria delle Scale
- 11:30 Ragusa Cathedral
- 13:00 Lunch break in Ragusa
- 14:30 Transfer to Comiso
- 15:00 Comiso: Santa Maria delle Stelle, Aragonese castle
- 17:00 Return to Hotel
- 19:00 Short introduction to the composer, Vincenzo Bellini
- 19:30 Private group dinner in Hotel

## TUESDAY 18 NOVEMBER - DEPARTURE

- 08:30 Check out and luggage in minibus
- 09:00 Transfer to Catania Fontanarossa Airport
- 11:00 Arrive Catania Fontanarossa Airport, check in
- 12:55 Flight departs for Rome Fiumicino Airport
- 14:20 Arrive Rome, coffee and free time in Fiumicino Airport
- 17:10 Flight to London City Airport departs
- 18:50 Arrive London City Airport

**COST** £2800 members, £2865 non-members, no single room supplement, £300 deposit, includes flights London Catania-London, seven nights accommodation, all breakfasts, all dinners with wine, one wine tasting, all lectures, all entrance fees, all private minibus travel during the tour, all gratuities, VAT



## HOTEL RELAIS FEUDI DEL PISCIOOTTO

Contrada Pisciotto

Niscemi

The Relais Feudi del Pisciotto and Feudi del Pisciotto vineyard are in the very heart of Sicily, in a region the Greeks and Romans once called Enotria for its celebrated cultivation of the vine. Just a few kilometres from our destinations of Caltagirone and Piazza Armerina, an hour from the Baroque Val di Noto, and a bit further from the famous Greek theatres of Syracuse, it is ideal for this INSCAPE journey to Sicily's southeastern region. 10 rooms/suites, spacious and elegant living spaces, provide luxurious modern amenities within 18c walls. From the terrace there is a unique view of the reserve del Pisciotto, the largest cork oak forest in Sicily. The Feudi del Pisciotto produces wines with labels designed by top Italian designers from Versace to Valentino and Missoni. The Relais has a magnificent tasting room with a view of the barrels through the crystal floor.