Strategically situated between Europe and Africa, the island of Sicily is a cultural crossroads paved by legendary Mediterranean civilizations. Its breathtaking natural beauty is embellished by man-made creations seemingly untouched by time. Sun-bleached Greek temples stand in peaceful valleys and Roman ruins house spectacular mosaics. Ancient theaters, still valued for their prime acoustics, stand majestically in the midst of lively towns. Cathedrals built in a multitude of styles stand as silent testament to the diversity that has created the Sicily of today. Discover the many treasures of this melting pot of the ancient world.

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

- Your exclusive **Small-Group experience** is limited to 28 travelers to maximize your travel experience.
- **Hotel accommodations** in three locations allow you to discover the whole of Sicily.
  - Visit five **UNESCO World Heritage sites**: the Arab-Norman Palermo and the Cathedral Churches of Monreale, the Archaeological Area of Agrigento, the Late Baroque Towns of the Val di Noto, Villa Romana del Casale and Syracuse.
  - Explore former centers of the Elymian civilization: **Segesta** and **Erice**.
  - Tour a **family-run olive farm**, and sample the olive oil produced here.
  - Discover a lesser-known region of Sicily while staying in **Caltagirone** and during an excursion to **Modica** and **Ragusa**.
  - Savor a regional specialty, pizza, after an **exclusive cooking demonstration**.

**INCLUDED FEATURES**

**Accommodations**
- **Three nights** in Palermo, Sicily, at the first-class **Grand Hotel Et Des Palmes**.
- **Two nights** in Caltagirone at the **Colle San Mauro**, an agritourism hotel.
- **Three nights** in Syracuse at the deluxe **Des Étrangers Hotel & Spa**.

**Transportation**
- All deluxe motor coach transfers in the Land Program itinerary and baggage handling on these transfers are included.

**Activities and Events**
- **Informative educational programs** presented by local experts will enhance your insight into the region.
- **All excursions** as outlined in your program itinerary.
- **Personal VOX listening device** to hear every word from your expert English-speaking guides.
- Attend a **Welcome Reception and Dinner**.
- Gather for a **Farewell Reception and Dinner**.

**Extensive Meal Program**
- Enjoy eight breakfasts, four lunches and four dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Sample **authentic regional specialties** during select meals at featured local restaurants.
- Take advantage of leisure time to try the local cuisine independently.

**MANY INCLUDED EXTRAS**
- Consultation services of a dedicated **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Services of an experienced **Travel Director** throughout your stay.
- **Tipping** of excursion guides and drivers.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist in planning.
- Complimentary travel wallet.
DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1 ~ IN TRANSIT
Depart for Palermo, Italy.†
† Provided for AHI FlexAir participants.

DAY 2 ~ PALERMO
Upon arrival, transfer† to the Grand Hotel et Des Palmes.
Tonight, attend a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

DAY 3 ~ PALERMO/MONREALE
Educational Focus: Sicily, a Country Within a Country.
Excursion: Palermo & Monreale.
Visit Palermo’s Cathedral, and see the Palatine Chapel in the Norman Palace and the domes of St. John of the Hermits. Tour the market to see the bounty of the land and sea. In Monreale, visit Santa Maria la Nuova to admire its incredible mosaics.
Local Flavor: Lunch is at a Sicilian restaurant.

DAY 4 ~ SEGESTA/ERICE
Excursion: Segesta. Segesta occupies one of the most scenic locales in Sicily. See the unfinished Doric temple and a theater carved into the rock of Mount Barbaro.
Local Flavor: Meet the People.
Lunch is at a family-owned olive farm. Enjoy a tour led by a member of the family and a tasting of the olive oil.
Excursion: Erice. Erice is one of Sicily’s few cities that likely was founded by the Elymians, an indigenous group believed to be descendants of Trojan refugees. See the duomo and two medieval castles.
Educational Focus: The Mafia, Past and Present.

DAY 5 ~ AGRIGENTO/ CALTAGIRONE
Excursion: Agrigento. Visit Agrigento’s Valley of the Temples. See the Temple of Hercules, the Temple of Concord and the Temple of Jupiter.
Local Flavor: Savor regional dishes during lunch in Agrigento.
Continue to Caltagirone and check in to the Colle San Mauro.
Local Flavor: After a drive around the property, which has fruit orchards and vineyards, sit down for a delicious dinner prepared with locally grown and produced food and wine.

DAY 6 ~ CALTAGIRONE/
MODICA/RAGUSA
Excursion: Inner Sicily. Witness Sicily’s quiet countryside, dotted with fields of citrus and fig trees and myriad other flora en route to Modica, home to impressive cathedrals and known for its chocolate. Later, stroll through Ragusa’s old square and gardens.

DAY 7 ~ PIAZZA ARMERINA/ SYRACUSE
Excursion and Educational Focus: Roman Mosaics. Visit Piazza Armerina and marvel at Villa Romana del Casale, a fourth-century residence that boasts thousands of mosaics.
Check in to the Des Étrangers Hotel & Spa.
Excursion: Syracuse. The city is on the storied island of Ortygia. Explore Syracuse’s medieval and baroque Old Town. Also, discover the ancient Greek and Roman ruins in the Neapolis Archaeological Park.

DAY 8 ~ TAORMINA
Excursion: Taormina. Explore the city of Taormina, situated high atop Monte Tauro. Taormina has an excellent view of the sea and Mount Etna. See the ancient Greek theater that is still in use today.
Cultural Event and Local Flavor: Watch a pizza-making demonstration, then enjoy a pizza lunch.
Independent Exploration: Enjoy time at leisure in Taormina.

DAY 9 ~ SYRACUSE
Independent Exploration: Spend the day at leisure. Tonight, attend a Farewell Reception and Dinner.

DAY 10 ~ IN TRANSIT
Transfer to the airport for the return flight to your gateway city.†
† NOTE: The information presented is preliminary. Itineraries, included features and schedules are subject to change. Many excursions in this program involve an element of walking.

ENHANCE YOUR EXPERIENCE
Available at an additional cost
Catania. On Day 9, visit the historic city of Catania. See the Roman ruins and baroque churches, and visit a market. Delve into Sicily’s World War II history and Operation Husky with a visit to the Allied landing beaches.

ACCOMMODATIONS

GRAND HOTEL ET DES PALMES
Palermo

Admire the elegance of this art nouveau hotel in the center of Palermo, located within walking distance to museums and shopping and near the Mediterranean Sea. Sample regional cuisine in the restaurant, or enjoy a nightcap in the piano bar. After a day of exploring, return to your spacious, well-appointed guest room, finished in warm hues. Wi-Fi is complimentary.

COLLE SAN MAURO
Caltagirone

Set in a valley beneath Caltagirone, Colle San Mauro, a countryhouse repurposed as a hotel, allows you to immerse yourself in Sicily’s quieter southeast corner as you stroll across the verdant property, dotted with vineyards, fruit trees and gardens, or relax in the outdoor pool. Wi-Fi is complimentary.

DES ÉTRANGERS HOTEL & SPA
Syracuse

The Des Étrangers Hotel & Spa sits on the historic island of Ortygia and overlooks the sea. It is in the heart of the city, just steps from well-known landmarks, restaurants, shops and more. Amenities include a fitness center and a spa. Meet for drinks at one of the hotel’s bars after a day of exploring the city, or enjoy expertly prepared Mediterranean cuisine in one of the hotel’s restaurants. Wi-Fi is complimentary.