

## SICILY / MALTA

May 5 – 19, 2022

**HIGHLIGHTS: Palermo & Ballaro Market's, medieval palace, Valley of the Temples, Taormina, Mount Etna, Malta**

We start our trip in Palermo, the capitol city of Sicily. We will visit Ballaro Market's tasting our way through local produce, olives and spices. A Countess will guide us through her family's medieval palace, then joining us for an aperitif and hors d'oeuvres. You will have the opportunity to visit Monreale Cathedral and the Byzantine mosaics. We now head to Trapani, on the coast of Sicily. We will visit the Isle of Mozia once a great trading port for the Phoenician, Greek and Roman civilizations. We continue to Marsala where we will taste it's renowned wine. On our way to Agrigento, we will visit Gibellina, a humble countryside village where we visit an olive grove and have the opportunity to try some unique olive oil during lunch. In Agrigento we will wander through the Valley of the Temples with a guide, at dusk. As we head to Taormina, we stop at Piazza Armerina where a local guide will take us to explore the ancient Villa Romana del Casale and take in the impressive mosaics. Now we journey along the Ionian Coast to the beautiful town of Taormina. This evening enjoy Sicilian food at dinner, surrounded by local musicians. Today we have a tour of the Taormina and visit the city's Duomo, public gardens, and the well-preserved Greek Theater, where we have an unparalleled view of the ocean. You will have plenty of time to wonder the streets of Taormina and grab a bite to eat at a sidewalk café. Today we take an off-road adventure to Mount Etna, Europe's largest active volcano. We now head for the ancient hill top city of Ragusa. A guide will take us through its Baroque neighborhood, winding lanes and cobblestone streets. The next day is yours to relax and take in the countryside, shop and maybe enjoy a meal at a café. On this day we hop a ferry and head to the island paradise of Malta, one of the smallest countries in the world. We will explore three fortified cities of medieval heritage where the Knights of Malta battled. The next day will be ours to explore Malta's colorful harbor or relax on the beach. Today we have a guided walking tour of the fortified city of Valletta. We will take in the picturesque Barrakka Gardens that overlook the harbor. You will have the opportunity to visit the private home of a modern-day Knight of Malta. Tonight we have our farewell

The cost of this incredible 15 day tour is 5,399.00, double occupancy, after 250.00 'early booking' discount. Tour includes hotel, air, air taxes, noted excursions, transfers and our roundtrip flight out of SFO, and transportation from San Jose to SFO and return. Also included are 22 meals, 13 breakfast & 7 dinners.

This is one of Collettes 'Exploration' tours, small group tour, which can host a maximum of 24 people. Tour brochure available upon request, hard copy or via e mail.

If you are interested in this tour or have any questions, contact me at [bobloves2travel@yahoo.com](mailto:bobloves2travel@yahoo.com) or at 408-835-3393.