



**THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE FOUNDATION PRESENTS**  
**Treasures of Sicily**  
**OCTOBER 27 – NOVEMBER 9, 2021**



Photo credit: Donna Schein

Join us exploring the breathtaking treasures of Sicily's archaeological sites, historic cities, landscapes, gardens, and towns. Throughout our journey, meet some of the noble families of Sicily in their grand palazzos. Sicily's unique history defines its culture and civilization, which are reflected in today's distinctive attitudes and cultural bonds. In Palermo, savor the flavors of its Saracen past surrounded by Norman inspired mosaics. Our classical journey starts in Selinute by the sea, explore the Temple of Apollo, a monument of Sicily's Greek past. Travel back in time to Catania and Siracusa; experience the grandeur and beauty of one of the oldest and largest palaces, and dine with Princess' Maria Carla Borghese daughter-in-law, Virginia Borghese at the princess' villa. Tour the streets of Taormina, high above the Ionian Sea, and walk through the Greco-Roman theatre in the shadow of Mt. Aetna. Observe the culturally defining experience that is Sicilian art and sculpture, all the while enjoying modern authentic Sicilian life.

Charles Birnbaum

President, CEO, & Founder of The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF)

## ITINERARY

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27 – USA

Depart USA for Palermo, Italy.

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28 – PALERMO

Upon arrival in Palermo check into the Grand Hotel Wagner, named after the famous German composer Richard Wagner who lived in the namesake street with his family between 1881 and 1882. The hotel exudes an aura from another era, where crafted wrought iron goes splendidly together with the warmth of the timber and with the precious golden decorations. The interior of the hotel is ornately decorated with old paintings, carpets, rare marbles, columns, hand-made windows and a rare antique fireplace.



Enjoy the day at leisure.

This evening a special welcome dinner is planned at Palazzo Raffadali. Built in 1468 on what was the southern wall of the Punic-Roman walls, in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries it was largely demolished and rebuilt by the Raffadali family, to which the building had passed ownership. The style is Catalan, with 15<sup>th</sup> century ashlar and a large portal dating back to the seventeenth century, through which one accesses an atrium with an 18<sup>th</sup> century staircase. Princess Stefania Raffadali is our hostess this evening.

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29 – PALERMO – MONREALE - PALERMO



We will start with a visit to the Capital with one of its oldest and most popular sites, Palazzo Reale. We shall visit the chapel, the Royal Apartments (as long as the Senate does not call an emergency session) and garden designed by Dr. Manlio Speciale, Curator of the Botanical Gardens.

A short 10 minutes' walk will bring us to the church of San Giovanni degli Eremiti, founded by Roger II in 1142. Although little is left of the church's interior, the five red cupolas and the elegant cloisters set in verdant gardens elegantly combine hard and soft landscaping.

Next, meet the coach and transfer to Villa Tasca for lunch and a visit to the gardens, one of the city's best-preserved historic gardens, with a wide range of monumental exotic trees. Follies indicative of the then Count Tasca's values and aspirations, as well as a grotto and waterfall, enhance the fantasies of the landscape.



We will then continue on to the town of Monreale overlooking the *Conca d'Oro*, Palermo's valley, where we will see the famous Duomo and the magnificent Benedictine Cloisters before returning to the hotel where the rest of the evening and dinner is at your leisure.

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30 – PALERMO



Today we begin at the Palermo Botanical Garden, which opened in 1795 around a set of neo-Classical buildings, where can be viewed a collection of citruses, impressive varieties of ficus and other varieties from the Mediterranean and from the Southern Hemisphere, including an avenue of silk floss trees (*Ceiba speciosa*, formerly *Chorisia speciosa*). the adjacent Villa Giulia, Palermo's first public park and one of the earliest public open spaces in Europe, with its inception dating from 1777 and called after the wife of the then Viceroy of Sicily.

Next visit the Palazzina Cinese, the pleasure pavilion designed for the Bourbon King and Queen during their forced exile from Naples at the time of the French occupation at the very end of the 18<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. It contains colorful and beautifully executed frescoes in Chinese style and is situated just outside the Park of the Favorita, the hunting park of the Bourbons laid out in 1799 for the pleasure of King Ferdinand IV and his courtiers. A parterre de broderie, using hedges planted with *Duranta erecta*, known as the French garden, can be best appreciated from the windows of the little palace.

Continue on to lunch at the kind invitation of Duke and Duchess Gioacchino Lanza Tomasi. Palazzo Lanza Tomasi, built on the remains of the 16C city walls during the second half of the 1600's, faces the waterfront of Palermo. The principal charm of the palace rests in its position and the interior play of light. The furnishings, representative of the great patrician homes of Palermo, present a collection of the very best Sicilian cabinetwork.



Return to the hotel where the rest of the afternoon and evening are at your leisure.

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31 – PALERMO – BAGHERIA – PALERMO

Today we will see Bagheria the preferred location for the summer residences of the aristocracy after the Prince of Butera, formerly viceroy of Sicily, had built his residence there in 1658. Villas, like the fortified Villa San Marco with bastions and a drawbridge, soon followed, and a flurry of villa construction took place in the second and third decade of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Two of the most striking, Villa Valguarnera and Villa Palagonia, were designed by Tommaso Maria Napoli and date from 1712 and 1715 respectively. Bagheria developed as a well-planned town after a descendant of the original Prince of Butera redesigned his estate so as to increase his rental revenue. It was a favorite stopping point on the grand tour: Patrick Brydone, Goethe, John Soane, Schinkel and others stayed here. Unregulated development in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries has not been kind to its Baroque and Neoclassical heritage.

We shall first visit Villa Palagonia with its unusual glazed ballroom, mirrored and painted, and the numerous external wall sculptures, depicting human and bestial figures in varying poses.

Lunch is with the owners of Villa San Marco, where our hostess, Baronessa Daniela Camerata Scovazzo, will guide us around her garden and arrange lunch for us, either in the courtyard garden surrounding the austere fortified building or in its ground floor room, which leads from the base of the double staircase. It contrasts with the sumptuous Neoclassical layout of Villa



Valguarnera, where we shall be escorted by its owner, Princess Vittoria Alliata di Villafranca. She successfully struggled with the mafia to reclaim her property after they illegally settled in it while the will of her aunt was being contested. The garden is part of the alchemical scheme of the whole layout and includes a steep climb to the summit from where there is a good view of Bagheria. At the end of our visit we shall be offered refreshment before returning to the hotel.

This evening dinner at your leisure.

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1 – PALERMO – SELINUNTE – AGRIGENTO

Depart Palermo for Agrigento. Our first stop is at the Selinunte archeological park with its numerous Greek temple ruins perched on a plateau overlooking an expanse of the Mediterranean. The city was one of the most superb colonies of ancient Greece. Founded in the 7<sup>C</sup> BC, Selinunte became the rich and prosperous rival of Segesta, so the Carthaginians sent an army to destroy the city. We shall see its 5<sup>C</sup> BC Doric temple, acropolis, the Hippodamæan planned city, and 4<sup>C</sup> BC fortifications, followed by lunch nearby overlooking the sea.

Continuing to Agrigento, we will check into the Villa Athena hotel which is set within the Valley of the Temples and originally was an opulent 18<sup>th</sup> century private residence.

Enjoy dinner at the hotel this evening.

## **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2 – AGRIGENTO**

This morning visit the Valley of the Temples and the archaeological museum. The most impressive and renowned vestiges, the city's wonderful temples, lie on the "Hill of the Temples" on the south side, overlooking the sea. We will end at the hotel for lunch.



After lunch drive to the Giardino della Kolymbethra, a peaceful and shady grove of citrus and other fruit trees, olive trees, palms, almond trees, as well as many other plants.

Return to the hotel and enjoy the rest of the afternoon at leisure.

Enjoy dinner at Kokalos housed in an old farmhouse and inserted perfectly in the picturesque and beautifully Valley of the Temples.

## **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3 - AGRIGENTO - CALTAGIRONE - CATANIA**

This morning depart from the hotel and travel through the countryside to reach and visit the Villa Imperiale next to Piazza Armerina. This Villa in the world's most important Roman building complex dating back from the late 3C and the beginning of the 4C AD, which houses the most beautiful Roman mosaic floor.

Lunch at a local restaurant in Piazza Armerina.

Next stop will be in Caltagirone, the city renowned for its ceramics. The area's high-quality clay has supported production for more than 1000 years and still today the industry is an important money-spinner. The town's earliest settlers worked with terracotta, but it was the polychromatic colors, particularly the yellows and blues that have distinguished the local ceramics ever since.

Depart Caltagirone and continue to Catania. Check in at the Una Palace Hotel located in the heart of the city's historical quarter. Designed in a style that combines the Baroque and the modern to reflect elegance and simplicity.

This evening enjoy dinner at the hotel.

## **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4 - CATANIA - LENTINI – VILLASMUNDO -CATANIA**

This morning drive to Lentini. Visit Giardino Borghese for a private tour of the gardens with Virginia Borghese, the Princess Borghese's daughter-in-law, followed by lunch on the terrace.

Continue to Villasmundo to visit Giardino San Giuliano. Surrounded by extensive citrus orchards, the late 15th century fortified farmhouse has a giardinetto divided into four distinct areas. The traditional Arabic irrigation channels, called saie, are still in use. The head gardener, Rachel Lamb, will give us a tour through the gardens.

Return to the hotel to enjoy the rest of the evening and dinner at leisure.

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5 - CATANIA - SIRACUSA – ORTIGIA -CATANIA



Depart Catania for Siracusa. Our visit include the Greek theatre, whose cave is one of the largest ever built by the ancient Greek; Orecchio di Dionisio, or the Ear of Dionysios, a limestone cave carved out of the Temenite Hill; and the Latomie del Paradiso, the largest of ancient stone quarries, which were worked from the sixth century BC onwards and eventually dug more than 20 metres down into the limestone. We then will continue the visit to the nearby archaeological museum, which preserves one of the most important collections of ancient Greek and Roman Sicily.

Lunch will be in a local trattoria.

In the early afternoon we will explore the isle of Ortigia, the historical center of Siracusa. We will visit the magnificent Duomo. It was erected in the 17th century over the remains of the temple of Athena. The Doric columns along the facade once supported the ancient structure and now contrast the Baroque architecture. Steps lead to the main portal flanked by the looming statues of Apostles Peter and Paul.

Return to the hotel.

This evening a short walk to a local trattoria for dinner.

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6 - CATANIA - GIARRE – CATANIA

Today begins at the University in Catania's Botanical Garden. The garden was founded in 1858 by the Benedictine monk Francesco Tornabene and includes the General garden with many exotic plants and the Sicilian garden for the cultivation of wild species from Sicily.

Next, visit the private garden of Lady Valeria, founder of the Catania Garden Club, who will host us for lunch. The garden is approx. 2 hectares one of which is full of orange and olive crops, the rest is an informal ornamental garden with a good collection bulbs and Mediterranean plants some of which are very rare.



This afternoon drive to Giarre, a town located between Taormina and the base of Mount Etna, where nature finds its maximum expression thanks to its particular microclimate. Built on the territory of the ancient Greek city of Kallipoli, buried by the volcanic eruptions of Etna, the current Giarre was born in the 16th century with the name that derives from the Arabic and literally means “terracotta container”.



Continue to the Piante Faro nursery and Radicepura Gardens. The nursery Piante Faro is one of the biggest in Europe; 400 hectares where they produce Mediterranean plants in pots and on the ground. The family owners of the nursery founded radicepura which is a botanical park where the stakes plants of the nursery take place. As a hub in horticulture and garden design world they organize events and a biennial festival. There’s a huge section dedicated to it: 10 garden spaces designed and created by talented young designers from around the world and 5 gardens designed by James Basson, Andy Sturgeon, Antonio Parazzi, Michel Péna, Francois Abélanet.

Return to the hotel in Catania and enjoy the enjoy at leisure.

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7 - CATANIA – ETNA - VALVERDE – TAORMINA

Depart Catania for Taormina.

This morning we depart the hotel and travel to Etna for a visit to the Crateri Silvestri of Mount Etna. Created by the volcanic eruption of 1892, these inactive volcanic cones on the mountain’s south-east side. Enjoy the fantastic panorama views over Catania and the main summit of the volcano.



Continue to the small village of Valverde for lunch before a visit to Giulia’s garden which is owned by Lady Giuli, the secretary of Etna Garden Club of Catania. The garden began taking shape in the nineties with the help of the unforgettable Sicilian landscapist Ettore Paternò dl Toscano. Today you can see Cycas, Iris, Aloe, Euphorbia, Lantana on the walls and among the trees you will find bitter oranges and tangerines.



Depart the garden and continue to Taormina, to Villa Schuler Hotel overlooking the bay of Naxos and the majestic Mount Etna in the distance. Converted from a Sicilian mansion into a hotel in 1905, historic Villa Schuler is most probably the oldest owner run hotel in Sicily. Extensively refurbished in recent years emphasizing its original elegance, charm and atmosphere.

This evening dinner at leisure.

## **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8 – TAORMINA**

This morning we will visit the Greek-Roman theatre in Taormina and continue by foot through the little town to see the Gothic and Baroque palaces including a visit to the Norman Cathedral. Lunch and afternoon at your leisure.

This evening a private farewell dinner at the hotel.

## **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9 – CATANIA – USA**

Tour ends. Depart on a group transfer to the airport for your flight back home.

### **TOUR COSTS**

**LAND ARRANGEMENTS:** \$10,050.00 per person, double occupancy  
BASED ON 15 PAYING PARTICIPANTS

**SUPPLEMENT FOR SINGLE OCCUPANCY:** \$1,280.00

**CONTRIBUTION TO THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE FOUNDATION:** \$750.00 per person, tax deductible DUE BY AUGUST 13, 2021

**TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS BY:**

# **PROTRAVEL INTERNATIONAL**

**SUSAN GULLIA**

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**RESERVATION FORM**  
**THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE FOUNDATION PRESENTS TREASURES OF SICILY**  
**OCTOBER 27 – NOVEMBER 9, 2021**

Please email this form, together with the credit card information for the deposit amount of \$3000.00 per person the land arrangements at this time to:

**SUSAN GULLIA, PROTRAVEL INTERNATIONAL**  
**Phone: (646) 747-9362 - Kelly Fax: (212) 755-1376**  
**Email: [sgullia@protravelinc.com](mailto:sgullia@protravelinc.com) or [kelly.brennan@protravelinc.com](mailto:kelly.brennan@protravelinc.com)**

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CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ FAX (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

ACCOMMODATIONS: ( ) One Large Bed ( ) Two Beds ( ) Double for Single Occupancy

AIR: From \_\_\_\_\_ Outbound Date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Return Date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_  
CLASS OF SERVICE: ( ) Coach ( ) Business ( ) First (if available)

INSURANCE: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ (IF YES A QUOTE WILL BE SENT TO YOU)

Special diet requirements or allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Physical or Medical limitations \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Voluntary tax-deductible contribution to [The Cultural Landscape Foundation](#): \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Total contribution) (\$750 per person). The Cultural Landscape Foundation is an U.S. tax-exempt organization (Tax ID 52-2092229) under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Your contribution is deductible to the full extent allowed by law. **I agree to pay the contribution by August 13, 2021.**

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT FOR DEPOSIT AND/OR CONTRIBUTION:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name on credit card) (Credit card number) (Exp. date) (cvv)

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the *Terms & Conditions* of this program and agree to make final payment to Protravel International by credit card no later than **August 13, 2021**. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (required) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **TERMS & CONDITIONS**

### **For New Participants Only (after May 10, 2021)**

**Reservations & Payments:** Reservation Form must be accompanied by the nonrefundable deposit amount of **\$3,000.00 per person** (payments by credit card only.) Final payment for the 2021 tour is due no later than **August 13, 2021**. Any pre- and post-tour arrangements not finalized by **August 13, 2021**, may result in an additional service fee. **Final payments received after the due date are subject to an 18% late fee.**

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**Included:** Hotel accommodations as shown in the itinerary (the right is reserved to substitute other hotels in similar categories); breakfast daily and all other meals as indicated in the program; a complete program throughout the tour, including transportation and admission to all points of interest; English speaking guide, airport arrival group transfer based on majority of arrival times.

**Not Included:** International airfare to Italy; airport departure transfers, items of a personal nature, such as laundry, phone/fax communications; gratuities; items not on the regular menus; expenses of hotels, meals, guides, buses, cars, railroad, boats, etc., for sightseeing not included in the itinerary; insurance of any kind; any other items not specifically included.

**Trip Insurance:** Cancellation/Baggage/Medical insurance is strongly recommended (an application will be sent with your tour confirmation).

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At **Protravel**, we take many steps to thoroughly vet our hotel, airline, cruises, and other suppliers to ensure that they are taking all the necessary precautions and following the recommended guidelines from the Center for Disease Control and other governing authorities.

While we do our best to provide you with up to date information, we cannot be liable if you become sick or contract COVID-19 during travel and recommend each traveler to assess their level of risk tolerance.

We urge you to check the latest guidance from the CDC, the State Department travel advisories, as well as review the individual supplier's websites to help you confidently make decisions regarding upcoming potential travel.

**CDC:** [Consideration for Travelers - Coronavirus in the U.S.](#)

**State Department:** [Dept of State COVID-19 Traveler Resources](#))

**State Department:** [Dept of State Travel Advisories](#)

Also check your individual residency state website for quarantine and travel restrictions require by the state you reside in.

As you know, the Covid-19 situation is ever-changing, so we recommend that you please **check for travel Requirement changes and updates frequently.**