

EASTER IN SICILY *with Rosa* 2021

A SPECIAL 15-DAY TOUR - 26 MARCH/09 APRIL 2021

CATANIA – BRONTE – MT ETNA – CALTAGIRONE – PIAZZA ARMERINA – AGRIGENTO – MARSALA – PACECO
FONTANASALSA – TRAPANI – MONREALE – PALERMO – PIANA DEGLI ALBANESE – PRIZZI – CASTELBUONO
SYRACUSE – MODICA – NOTO – SICILY – VITTORIA – RAGUSA



Sicily at Easter during Holy Week is a magical place to be and its one of the best times to visit. With the cold months of winter at its back, temperatures are on the rise and spring flowers erupt with abundance all over, as the island becomes a shimmering green. Each town and village revives ancient and picturesque traditions. Some, such as Trapani's 'Misteri di Trapani' are spectacular processions featuring religious symbols, and others like Prizzi's 'Ballo dei Diavoli' depict the dramatic struggle between good and evil. Unsurprisingly, food also plays a significant role in Easter festivities and who better than Rosa & Colin, with their passion for everything Sicilian, to escort this exclusive tour and reveal the gastronomic delights which await you while you enjoy the festivals!

TOUR FEATURES, INCLUSIONS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- This carefully-crafted special itinerary provides for a comprehensive but leisurely-paced programme of sightseeing, daily excursions, scenic drives and privately guided tours, highlighted by attendance at three of the most famous Sicilian Easter festivals...the Procession of the Mysteries of Trapani (Misteri di Trapani), the Arbëreshë Procession in Piana degli Albanesi and the Dance of the Devils (Ballo dei Diavoli) in Prizzi
- Fully escorted by Rosa and Colin, with additional services in Sicily from a professional Tour Manager and additional expert commentary by local guides during tours and visits while in Piazza Armerina (Villa del Casale), Agrigento (Valley of the Temples), Monreale, Palermo and Syracuse
- A limit on tour numbers to a maximum of 18 guests ensures a greater level of comfort and individual attention
- Start each day with a delicious buffet breakfast (B)
- On 6 special days savour pre-arranged highlight lunches, two particularly special ones being a long lunch at the exclusive Tenuta Manca di Geracello near Piazza Armerina and a 'Cooking Class' lunch with Rosa at her favourite restaurant in Modica (L)
- 8 evening meals are provided, with wine, including a welcome dinner in Catania, a very special farewell dinner in Ragusa and a dinner in each of Rosa's favourite restaurants in the Caltagirone Area (2), Marsala, Trapani, Palermo, and Syracuse (D)
- Experience the delightful tastes of the Sicilian Easter Festivals with dishes like Torta Pasqualina (Easter Pie) and Agnello Agrassato (Lamb Stew) or Mpanata (Lamb Pie). Enjoy the famous Easter treats such as Cuddura (hard boiled eggs nestling on animal or basket shaped pastries, traditionally made by the Nonnas and gifted to their grandchildren) and Colomba Pasquale (Panattone-style Easter bread baked in the shape of a dove). Try the iconic Easter gift, Agnelli Pasquali (Spring lambs fashioned from marzipan and filled with pistachio paste)
- Stay in quality accommodation, in boutique-style, premium city hotels or intimate family-run establishments with a special highlight of a 2-night stay at an 'Agriturismo' property in the Caltagirone area
- Travel in comfort and style in deluxe air-conditioned vehicles throughout, with private group transfers on arrival and departure
- And, you won't have to tip on this tour. The Easter in Sicily with Rosa tour has a unique 'No Tipping' policy which means we take care of hotel portage, hotel and restaurant service charges (for meals included in the programme) plus taxes and gratuities, including gratuities for local guides and the end-of-tour gratuities traditionally given to the Tour Manager and Driver

**HOW TO
BOOK**

Contact **Rosa** via email at rosassiliankitchen@gmail.com - or phone **Colin** on 0428 177915 OR, **Paul** at EuroVista Holidays. Phone 1800 943 603 or Email: paul@eurovista.travel

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 01 - Fri 26 March Arrival Catania (3 nights)



On arrival at Catania Airport, we'll be met and transferred to our hotel. This evening we'll join Rosa, Colin and our Tour Manager for a welcome dinner at one of Rosa's favourite restaurants, the delightful Ristorante Antica Marina,

located in a characteristic quarter of Catania near the Piazza Duomo and the Wall of Carlo V in the historic heart of the city. (D)

Day 02 - Sat 27 March

Catania – Excursion to Bronte & Castiglione di Sicilia

The pistachios of Bronte, known as 'green gold', are world famous. This morning we'll drive on the slopes of Mt Etna to visit Bronte town and a producer of pistachio products. We'll spend time learning about the growing of the nuts and tasting some of the many products which are made



from them. Next we'll have a comprehensive introduction to the wines of Sicily. First we'll visit the Planeta Sciaranuova

vineyards where we'll taste wines from five different regions of Sicily. The passopisciaro wine of Etna, a recently revived wine made from an ancient local grape variety grown on the slopes of Mt. Etna, a wine from Menfi, a wine from Noto, a wine from Capo Milazzo and a wine from Vittoria. This will be followed by a lunch of traditional Sicilian cuisine, each course paired with a Planeta wine, before a short drive brings us to the Planeta Feudo di Mezzo winery in Castiglione di Sicilia where we'll learn more of the process of wine-making, visit their barrique and take a walk through a vineyard of 120 year-old vines. We'll return to Catania in the late afternoon for a relaxing evening in our hotel. (BL)



Day 03 - Sun 28 March

Catania – Excursion to Mt Etna

Mount Etna is the highest active volcano in Europe and a definite must for all visitors to Sicily. This morning our circuitous drive takes us through many villages typically built almost entirely of lava. The landscape is constantly changing as we ascend the mountain. At 1,900 metres the scenic situation is dominated by black lava and it's here we'll stop at Rifugio Sapienza to view the now dormant Crateri Silvestri. If the weather and volcanic activity allows it's possible to take a cable-car and an off-road vehicle



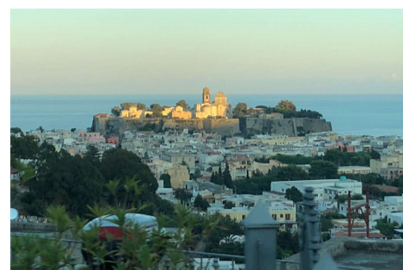
(accompanied by experienced mountain guides) up to 2,800 metres. As we won't know the conditions until we're on the

mountain this option is not included in the tour price but can be purchased on the day. We'll descend from the mountain in the afternoon and this evening perhaps take a light meal in our hotel or stroll into the surrounding neighbourhood to discover a nearby trattoria for dinner. (B)

Day 04 - Mon 29 March

Catania – Caltagirone Area (2 nights)

Catania is also known as the 'Black Pearl of the Mediterranean Sea' because of its baroque palaces



predominately constructed from the black lava stone of the area. Our stay here wouldn't be complete without including a visit to the very famous,

very colourful and bustling fish market. Monday is a great time to be there so this morning the market is first on our agenda before we further explore this cosmopolitan city. This afternoon we'll drive west to the city of Caltagirone, one of the liveliest baroque towns in central Sicily and known throughout Italy as 'The City of Sicilian Ceramics'. The main landmark of the city is the 142-step monumental



Staircase of Santa Maria del Monte, built from 1608 in the old part of the town. Each step is decorated with different hand-decorated ceramics, using styles and figures derived from the millennial tradition of pottery making. We'll visit a ceramics factory before continuing our journey to our special

agriturismo accommodation, near the town of Piazza Armerina, where this evening we'll enjoy a dinner of local specialities in their restaurant. (BD)

Day 05 - Tue 30 March

Caltagirone Area – Excursion to Villa Romana del Casale & Tenuta Manca di Geracello

Today our first stop is at the renowned Villa Romana del Casale, a short drive from Piazza Armerina. This splendid Roman villa owes its fame to its magnificent mosaic floors, thought to be the work of North African artists, which are rather striking due to the variety of colours used and the



incredibly interesting subjects depicted. Lunch today is a very special event when we'll visit the exclusive Tenuta Manca di Geracello, a private 'estate' owned by a descendent of the Sicilian Grimaldi family, where we'll enjoy a sumptuous local meal accompanied by their excellent wine! We'll also have an

opportunity to sample the first-class olive oil produced on the estate. After lunch we'll return to our agriturismo accommodation with an opportunity to relax before enjoying a light dinner to top off a memorable day. (BLD)

Day 06 - Wed 31 March

Caltagirone Area – Agrigento – Marsala (1 night)

This morning's drive brings us to the southern coast of Sicily and the town of Agrigento with its marvellous Valley of the Temples, undoubtedly one of the Island's most famous historical attractions. In this splendid archaeological park we'll admire the collection of ancient Greek temples including the beauty of the Temple of Concordia, among the best preserved of the temples, the Temple of Juno, built just prior to the Temple of Concordia and badly damaged by an earthquake during the middle ages, and the Temple of Castor and Pollux, a Doric temple built around the 5th century A.D. An afternoon drive up the western coast of Sicily brings us to Marsala, the town which gives its name to the well-known fortified wine, and our overnight accommodation at our luxury wine resort, where we'll also enjoy tonight's dinner in their Ristorante La Calandra. (BD)



Day 07 - Thu 01 April

Marsala – Trapani (2 nights)



Our day begins with a 'pick-me-up' when we visit the Cantine Pellegrino for a guided tour along with a tasting of their celebrated Marsala wine! Then we'll drive along the 'salt road' to view the area's famous salt pans and visit the Salt

Museum to taste the local product before dropping into the Cooperativa Agricola Rosso Nubia for a snack and to learn about the red garlic of Nubia. We'll stop for lunch in Fontanasalsa, at an old mill where olive oil is pressed, before continuing to Trapani, an ancient Phoenician trading port and a very important town during the Middle Ages.



This evening we'll enjoy dinner at the Ristorante Serisso 47, a local restaurant firmly established in the city's top 20. (BLD)

Day 08 - Fri 02 April

Trapani – 'Processione dei Misteri di Trapani'

Today is Good Friday and we'll spend the whole day in the city during the Procession of the Mysteries of Trapani, a day-long passion procession featuring twenty floats of lifelike wood, canvas and glue sculptures with silver, gold and coral decorations. The statues are mounted on wooden structures called 'vare' and are carried through the elegant and refined streets of the city on the shoulders of the 'massari' who perform the traditional 'annacata', a peculiar movement, encouraged by the rhythms of the local bands, which cause the statues to sway. The sculptures



depict individual scenes of the events of the Passion, a passion play at the centre, and the culmination of, the Holy Week in Trapani. The festival was first staged before the Easter of 1612 and has therefore been happening continuously, every Good Friday, for more than 400 years. It's also

the longest running religious event in Sicily and in Italy...it starts at 2:00 pm and parades through the city streets non-stop through the night for at least 16 hours, but occasionally it will extend beyond 24 hours, giving us plenty of time absorb the atmosphere of this moving celebration, one of the most ancient religious traditions in Europe! (B)

Day 09 - Sat 03 April

Trapani – Monreale – Palermo (2 nights)

On leaving Trapani this morning we'll drive to Monreale, the Norman 'Mons Regalis', which is situated at the foot of



Monte Caputo, a short distance from the centre of Palermo. The majestic dome of its Cathedral was built in the 12th century by the Norman King, William II and is 6,340 square meters of polychrome and gold mosaics. This gives rise to its local name of the golden bible, referring to the mosaics telling the

stories of the Old and New Testament. We'll also visit the Benedictine cloister, which completes one of the most magnificent testimonies to the Norman conquest of Sicily. After completing our morning sightseeing in Monreale a short journey will bring us to one of Palermo's markets where Rosa will be delighted to introduce us to Sicilian street-food...just around lunch-time! We'll have time to purchase our choice of street-food and eat with the locals before we join our local guide for a city tour where a special highlight is a visit to the Palatine Chapel inside the



Royal Palace, rich in mosaics and Byzantine decorations. Next is the Cathedral of Palermo, a sumptuous example of Norman

architecture, where we'll visit the Imperial and Royal tombs. We'll also see the 16th century Pretoria Fountain which, after its unveiling, so outraged the locals that it was forever known as the Fontana della Vergogna, or the 'Fountain of Shame'. This evening we'll dine in the Quattro Mani, another of Rosa's favourite restaurants close to our hotel. (BD)

Day 10 - Sun 04 April

Palermo – Excursion to Piana Degli Albanesi & Prizzi

Piana degli Albanesi is home to the Arbëreshë people, who are ethnically and linguistically of Albanian origin and it's here, without a doubt, that one of the most colourful and joyful spectacles in Sicily takes place on Easter Sunday...and this morning we'll be here to witness the event. After mass the main street in the town is awash with colour when girls and young men parade along the street in traditional costumes, accompanied by children playing the accordion in an atmosphere of joy and happiness. After the culmination of the parade at the Cathedral of San Demetrio, when white doves are released from their cages, we'll travel south to the town of Prizzi to join in the



celebration of the Dance of the Devils. Death, dressed in yellow robes and carrying a crossbow, along with the Devils, dressed in red overalls and all of them with ferocious metal masks wander the streets of the town in search of souls to be taken to hell.

Death and the Devils toil all day playing with people and capturing souls who are locked up in a local house until they can secure their freedom by paying an 'abolo', a small sum of money. Later in the afternoon the finale arrives with the meeting of the statues of the Virgin Mary and the

Resurrected Christ in the main square of Prizzi, brought about by the arrival of the Angels who triumph over the forces of evil, which is then represented by the Virgin Mary losing her black cape and showing herself with a light blue dress symbolising the conquest of good over evil. At the end of the celebration of this joyful occasion we'll return to our hotel in Palermo where we can perhaps explore the surrounding area to find a trattoria or ristorante for an evening meal. (B)

Day 11 - Mon 05 April

Palermo – Castelbuono – Syracuse (3 nights)

Later this afternoon we'll enter into the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Val di Noto situated in the south-eastern corner of the island. However, before we drive diagonally across the island to do so, we'll stop for lunch in the picturesque small town of Castelbuono in the Madonie Mountains, close to Sicily's north coast. After a memorable lunch at the Ristorante Nangalarruni we'll also have an opportunity to visit the Pasticceria Fiasconara to sample the sweet pastries of the region made from manna harvested locally. We'll arrive in Syracuse early this evening. (BL)



Day 12 - Tue 06 April

Syracuse – Sightseeing

Syracuse was the most important Greek city of antiquity which flourished on the coast of Sicily, a formidable seafaring power which was nearly the equal of Athens. Our local guide will join us this morning for a tour of Ortigia Island, the heart of the ancient city where time seems to be caught between the mediaeval and baroque eras. We'll admire the architectural splendour of its ancient mediaeval streets, baroque structures and classic churches before we



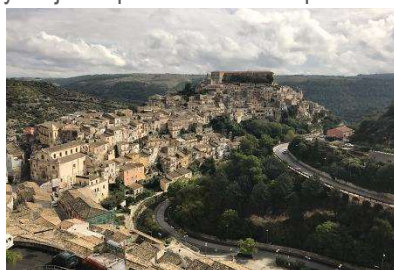
continue to the archaeological park with its remarkable Greek and Roman ruins. Now part of a World Heritage Site the park contains the

Greek Theatre, one of the biggest in the Greek world, the Latomias, big stone quarries with the famous 'Ear of Dionysius' and the Roman Amphitheatre, created at the time of Augustus. Later this afternoon there'll be time to relax before we return to Ortigia for this evening's dinner in one of Rosa's cosiest eateries, the Osteria La Gazza Ladra in Ortigia, an endearing restaurant known for its 'home-style' cooking! (BD)

Day 13 - Wed 07 April

Syracuse – Excursion to Modica (Cooking Class) & Noto

Our first stop this morning is in Modica where we'll visit the local market to gather the ingredients for Rosa's cooking class at the Osteria dei Saporì Perduti, one of her favourite lunch-time restaurants in the Val di Noto! Under Rosa's expert tutelage we'll enjoy the lunch we've prepared and afterwards, because we can, we'll visit the legendary Antica Dolceria Bonajuto, the oldest chocolate factory in Sicily, to taste chocolate which is still made by using the old Aztec method. Next, a mid-afternoon drive brings us to the beautiful town of Noto. This baroque jewel was created after the earthquake of 1693 when the reconstruction built many majestic palaces using the soft local limestone which, over time, loses its glaring whiteness and develops a magnificent golden or rosy hue. The town is famous for its ice-cream and there'll be time to visit the Caffè Sicilia and Dolceria Corrado Costanzo to try a 'granita' before we return to Syracuse. After visiting Ortigia for dinner the previous day it's certain that by this time we'll all agree ...that Ortigia is particularly wonderful at night! So, this evening we'll enjoy more of its ambience as we stroll among its narrow streets to find a local trattoria or ristorante for our evening meal. (BL)



Day 14 - Thu 08 April

Syracuse – Scicli – Vittoria – Ragusa (1 night)

Our day begins with a drive to the lovely Baroque town of Scicli. Many of us will be familiar with the Montalbano TV series which is filmed in Ragusa, Noto, Modica and Scicli.

In Scicli we'll discover that the 'police station' in the fictional town of 'Vigata', where Inspector Montalbano plies his trade, is actually the town hall of Scicli in the beautifully preserved baroque street of Via Mormino Penna. And the regional police HQ in the fictional town of 'Montelusa' is located just a few steps down the road from the town hall, in

Palazzo Iacono. After exploring Scicli we'll venture into the Vittoria region, a renowned wine-producing area of Sicily, where we'll visit the well-known COS Winery to taste their local product accompanied by a light lunch. We'll then drive

to the spectacular town of Ragusa where we'll visit its Ibla (Old Town) with its imposing Piazza Duomo and Cathedral dedicated to Saint John the Baptist. This evening we remain in Ragusa's Ibla and it's here that Rosa has reserved the best for last...tonight we'll enjoy a very special farewell to Sicily dinner at the exclusive

Michelin-starred Ristorante Duomo! Salut! (BLD)

Day 15 - Fri 09 April

Depart Ragusa via Catania

Our tour ends after breakfast with a morning transfer to Catania Airport for onward journeys. (B)

Note: The above itinerary is subject to change necessitated by any change in Community regulations as well as changes by Government and/or local operators along with natural circumstances beyond our control.

EASTER IN SICILY *with Rosa* 2021 - PRICES

15 DAYS FOR LESS THAN AU\$658 PER DAY

Prices are twin-share per person in AU\$

Code: ROSA Begins: FRI (Catania) Ends: FRI (Catania)

<u>Tour</u>	<u>Begins</u>	<u>Ends</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Sgl Supp</u>
05	Mar 26	Apr 09	\$9865	\$1475

DEPOSIT REQUIRED \$2250 per person. This deposit is payable within 7 days of receiving our confirmation invoice. It is also non-refundable if the booking is cancelled by the client.

EXTRA ACCOMMODATION Prices Per Person Per Night in AU\$

Hotel Romano House – Catania **Twin \$123.00** **Single \$210.00**

FLIGHTS Airfares are not included in the tour price as there are many and varied options available in the market place. You should aim to be at the tour hotel in Catania (*Romano House*) by 16:00hrs (4.00 pm) on the afternoon of 26 March 2021. We can recommend flights to and from Catania (ex-Australia or New Zealand) so if you would like us to assist with finding you the best possible flight times and prices to suit your needs please advise Paul at EuroVista Holidays when booking your tour.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS - EASTER IN SICILY *with Rosa* 2021

Due to factors associated with international travel it is unrealistic to expect prices to remain stable - particularly when they are dependent on foreign currency exchange rates. Prices for this tour are based on costs and exchange rates as at 30 June 2020. Should these costs or exchange rates alter or additional fuel surcharges, taxes and other charges or levies imposed by any government or its agencies, be added, a surcharge may be made on the price of your tour at the time of final payment.

Deposits and Payments

Due to the nature of this tour and all of the group arrangements that need to be pre-booked, a \$2250.00 non-refundable deposit will be required at the time of booking. Final payment is due on or before 26 January 2021.

Late Bookings

Payment in full is required at time of booking for reservations made on or after 26 January 2021. If a reservation cannot be confirmed, all funds will be refunded.

Cancellation by Passenger

Cancellations for tours and additional services must be received in writing and the following fees (indicated as a percentage of the total price) will apply if the cancellation is received in our office within these designated time periods:

1. Up to and including 25 January 2021 – Non-refundable Deposit
2. Between 26 January and 15 February 2021 – 60%
3. Between 16 February and 08 March 2021 – 75%
4. Between 09 March and 18 March 2021 – 90%
5. Between 19 March and 25 March 2021 – 100%

We strongly recommend Travel Insurance to cover cancellation charges. There is no refund for unused services or land arrangements if they are missed.

Cancellation by EuroVista Holidays (Operator of the 'Sicily with Rosa' tour on behalf of Rosa & Colin Mitchell)

EuroVista Holidays will operate this tour once the minimum number of 12 paying passengers is attained. EuroVista Holidays reserves the right to cancel this tour should it not attain the minimum number of paying passengers. EuroVista Holidays also reserves the right to cancel this tour in accordance with operating requirements or circumstances beyond its control. Should this occur EuroVista Holidays will treat this contract as at an end, refund all monies including your deposit, and will then be under no further liability. EuroVista Holidays Ltd is not responsible for the costs of other travel arrangements affected due to the cancellation of this tour.

Included in the Tour Price

All coach/rail travel, airport/hotel/airport transfers, accommodation, sightseeing, admissions, taxes and all gratuities for services provided by EuroVista, portage of one bag per person at hotels providing this service (except at airports, railway stations sea-ports), services of Tour Escorts, Tour Managers, Drivers, and meals (as indicated in the itinerary).

Not Included in the Tour Price

Airport taxes, airfares, lunches and dinners (except where specified), drinks, laundry, passport and visa fees, excess baggage and all items of a personal nature are not included in the tour price.

Smoking

In the interests of other passenger's comfort there is no smoking on any of the tour vehicles.

Refunds and Amendment Fees

No refunds will be made on services that are voluntarily un-availed (including, but not limited to, missed meals and sightseeing). The Company also regrets that no refunds will be made for withdrawal from a tour (due to illness or any other reason) after the tour has commenced.

Passports/Visas

Australian & New Zealand passport holders do not require visas to visit Italy. A signed national passport is required.

Single Rooms

A limited number of single rooms are available on request at time of booking. The single supplement must be paid with final payment. Please note: EuroVista Holidays contracts double rooms for single use. However, where this is not possible we will provide standard single rooms. The prices of these are already reflected in the listed single supplement prices. Standard single rooms are usually smaller and often only have one single bed.

Luggage Limits and Portage

Portage at hotels (where available) is limited to one piece of luggage per person (see exceptions above). Airline luggage restrictions apply to the air travel which may be incorporated in this touring holiday.

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance for this tour is not included in your tour price. We strongly recommend that you purchase adequate comprehensive insurance which includes coverage for medical expenses, loss/theft of luggage from hotel rooms or any form of transportation, land content and airfare charges that may occur due to cancellation, loss of deposit or strikes.

Important Information on Exclusion of Liability

1. EuroVista Holidays Ltd tours include the services of operators, such as hoteliers, airlines, cruise companies and other operators, who are not agents, servants or employees of EuroVista Holidays Ltd (herein after referred to as the 'Company'). We cannot and do not take responsibility for the conduct of these operators, their servants and agents or for any ramifications of that conduct. Our tours may include activities such as climbing, exploring, swimming and snorkelling. The passenger accepts that these activities involve varying degrees of risk.

2. By booking a tour, the passenger acknowledges and agrees that the Company and the other operator companies, will take all reasonable steps to provide an enjoyable experience, it accepts no responsibility for any loss of enjoyment by passengers due to circumstances beyond its control. The Company further accepts no responsibility for any death, injury, illness, damage, detention, delay (including mechanical breakdown) or any other loss/theft beyond its reasonable control and provides no warranties in addition to those set out under the Trade Practices Act 1974, and nothing herein restricts the passenger from exercising his or her rights and remedies pursuant to law.

Contact Rosa by email at rosassiciliankitchen@gmail.com - or phone Colin on 0428 177915

or contact Paul at EuroVista Holidays.

Phone 1800 943 603, Email: paul@eurovista.travel

Space is limited so please book early to ensure you're coming with us!