Beautiful Sicily…..



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Day 1 | Map of the area



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Sicily is a land of extremes and contrasts, a magnification of all things Italian.
It is also an island of enormous intensity, a concentrated distillation of history, architecture and gastronomic delights, where incandescent volcanoes light up the night skies, mountain ranges jostle for supremacy, and where the sea has sculpted a coastline of stunning variety and beauty.
With its wonderful climate, Sicily is eminently visitable all the year round and each season has its own distinctive charm.
There is always something to do, whether it be lounging on golden beaches, hiking in the mountains, visiting ancient archaeological sites, skiing on Mount Etna or shopping in Palermo's fashionable boutiques.
The island is a vast open-air museum, a testament to nearly every Mediterranean civilization of the past.
Sicily is the largest island in the Mediterranean, and the largest region in Italy. It's packed with things to see and places to go, so you shouldn't expect to "do" it all in one go.

Flights: There are three main airports in Sicily.
Palermo and ***Catania*** are served by flag-carrier and low-cost airlines, while ***Trapani*** specialises in low-cost European flights.
Palermo Falcone e Borsellino, also known as Punta Raisi, is located 19 miles west of the city centre. EasyJet flies there from London Gatwick, Ryanair from London Stansted and Dublin. Catania Fontanarossa airport is just three miles from downtown Catania and served by British Airways from London Gatwick all year round, plus EasyJet from April to October departing from London Gatwick, London Luton and Manchester.

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CS Events | Useful hints – cont.

Far from the crowds and the usual archaeological sights and main cities, Sicily still reserves a number of hidden treasures. Smaller towns offering exceptional panoramic views and some of the most beautiful baroque architecture in the world. This is what we have based our itineraries upon, one per each part of Sicily:

Part 1 – *Landing in Catania and then moving south towards Ragusa, an alternative itinerary to the usual Taormina area one.*

Part 2 – *This itinerary will take you instead to Palermo, showing the beauties of the western part.*



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CS Events | Beautiful Sicily….. Part 1

Sample 4 day incentive program

Day 1 - Arrival at Catania airport.
The base for the stay will be the ***Donnafugata Golf Resort****, enchanting property in the Ragusa area.*
Experience the fantastic fragrances and tastes of Sicily on the way to the hotel.
Enjoy the hotel cuisine for dinner

Day 2 – Admire the Late Baroque towns in the Noto Valley, relive some of the locations of the «Inspector Montalbano», enjoy the wonderful Sicilian wines.

Day 3 – Tandem skydiving from 4000 mt – a real breathtaking experience or the Alcantara Valley
Dine in the Camemi Castle

Day 4 – Departure



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Day 1 | Fragrances and tastes of Sicily…



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Day 1 | Donnafugata Resort



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Day 2 | Late Baroque towns in the Noto Valley

Situated in southeastern Sicily, the Noto Valley – with its eight gorgeous **late-Baroque cities** – is one of the Italian UNESCO World Heritage Sites. These cities already existed during the Medieval Age, but were rebuilt (in part or entirely) after the catastrophic earthquake of 1693. They constitute the culmination of one of the last periods of **Baroque's flourish in Europe**.



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Day 2 | The «Inspector Montalbano» locations

The BBC series *Inspector Montalbano* is full of stunning Sicilian locations and it is mostly filmed in the south-eastern swathe of Sicily which is renowned for its architecturally-appealing Baroque towns including Scicli, Ragusa, Noto and Modica.



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Day 2 | The Chocolate (and wine ☺) Way!

Modica reached the height of its splendour in the Aragon Dynasty (14th to 18th centuries) and you can feel a little of the Spanish influence everywhere, The Spanish had brought with them customs and secrets, acquired fresh from the adventures of the conquistadors. Perhaps most important was a recipe. It was unique. It originated from distant Mexico, and from a fabled people. Who were they? What was the recipe? They were, the Aztecs, and the recipe was for chocolate.Even now, this recipe remains unchanged in traditional Modica and Mexican homes alike.



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Day 3 | Tandem skydiving – Breathtaking!!!

Enjoy your skydiving experience in Sicily: **tandem parachuting**, an extreme sport experience for non professional skydivers! Tandem parachuting is the best way to experience the thrill of a free fall for more than 4000 m (15000 feet) with a qualified and experienced instructor



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Day 3 | The Alcantara Valley

Situated below the slopes of the Etna, the Alcantara river canyon was formed by the erosional process of the Alcantara river on lava flows dating from an eruption in prehistoric times. Guided walks are organized and visitors can wade along the river bed (rubber boots can be hired) or follow marked trails through the impressive natural scenery. The unique natural environment can also be admired from the top, which can be reached on foot or by lift.





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Day 3 | Sicilian farewell dinner at Camemi Castle

A fifteenth-century fort, which was a sumptuous summer residence of the Viceroy between 1412-1830, Castello Camemi is now a charming location nestled in the hills of Val di Noto, in the heart of eastern Sicily. After a long and careful restoration, recovering the original materials and period furnishings, crossing the entrance of the castle is like to take a journey into the past,



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CS Events | Beautiful Sicily….. Part 2

Sample 4 day incentive program

Day 1 - Arrival at Palermo airport.
The base for the stay will be the ***Palazzo Brunacci****, once a royal residence and now a small boutique hotel in the centre of Palermo's old town.*
Get your first feeling of Palermo enjoying the «Capital Treats!»

Day 2 – Spend the day exploring Palermo and its traditions or reach Monreale to admire the beauty of this marvellous city

Day 3 – Enjoy a luxury cruise to Aspra or Mondello or alternatively, get the most of the Sicilian cooking traditions in the «Leopard's kitchen»

Day 4 – Departure



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Day 1 | Capital treats

In Palermo, slowly munch your way through a bagful of crocchette and panelle and then relax as you work up an appetite for a dinner to-die-for at Osteria Vespers, the restaurant in Palermo's historic Palazzo Gangi. After your meal, have fun getting lost in the labyrinth-like Kalsa, one of the oldest districts of the city, built during the city's Arab era, before heading to Piazza Pretoria to see the Greek-Byzantine Chiesa della Martorana and the fountain of shame - a group of nudes which has been ruffling feathers ever since it was first unveiled in 1751.





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Day 1 | Capital treats



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Day 2 | Explore Palermo: Capuchin Catacombs

The Catacombe dei cappuccini consists of 8000 mummies placed here from 17C to 19C, which have been impressively well preserved due to the very dry air. Originally the catacombs were intended as a burial place for friars, but with the time prominent people also came to be buried there. The last burials date from the 1920s. A two-year-old little girl was also buried here, the only one that was not mummified, but embalmsed using a special procedure, with left here virtually intact, as if she were asleep.



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Day 2 | Explore Palermo: The Botanical Garden

Palermo's Botanic Garden has been the pride and joy of the Sicilian capital ever since 1787 when the then viceroy, seconding the request of a pool of eminent academics, commissioned a group of "Italian and French architects to create a magnificent garden in the heart of the city. The result, a neoclassical masterpiece"' complete with Gymnasium, Tiepidarium and Caldarium, can still be seen to this very day.The oldest part of the garden has recently been painstakingly restored, giving today's visitors, like those of centuries past, the chance to stroll along ancient avenues, lined with plants originating from all four corners of the globe. Palermo's botanical gardens are now over 200 years old, and their 10 hectares are home to a staggering 12.000 plants





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Day 2 | Monreale

Dominating the Conca d'Oro (Golden Basin) of Palermo, Monreale developed around the famous Benedictine abbey founded in the 12C by the Norman King William II.
is one of the greatest extant examples of Norman architecture in the world. Its oven vaults and walls are adorned with its wonderful 12C and 13C mosaics. Besides, the Duomo, the Ascent to the terraces and Chiostro are also worth a detour



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Day 3 | Enchanting Sicilian Coast

The coastline of Palermo is lined with small beaches and the water is sprinkled with colors of blue and green. The seafloor is made is lined with seaweed but this creates the ideal environment for many small fish and other sea creatures that are interesting to see. Snorkeling is a popular activity at many of the Palermo beaches but you may find that simply taking a walk down the beach at sunset is your favorite pass time. The sunset casts a vibrant orange glow over the city of Palermo which is most beautifully viewed from the coastal areas.
There are several beaches in Sicily that are in or very near Palermo including Mondello, Aspra, Cefalu, San Vito Lo Capo, Isola delle Femmine, and Arenella which can be enjoyed by sipping a delicious cocktail on board of a luxury boat





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Day 3 | In the Leopard’s kitchen

Culinary and cultural experiences in Sicily

Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa, renowned author of The Leopard, spent his last years in Palazzo Lanza Tomasi, a splendid mid-18th century palace overlooking the sea from Palermo's old defensive walls.

Now it is possible to enter this magnificent home to spend a day shopping, cooking and dining (or just a private visit and aperitif) with the current owner, the Duchess of Palma, Lampedusa's daughter-in-law

A Day Cooking with the Duchess is also a fascinating journey through Sicilian culture and food.

The Duchess of Palma will take you early in the morning to a colourful local market to buy the freshest ingredients of the season, and share some hidden treasures of Palermo, one of the most intriguing cities of the Mediterranean.

In the spacious and welcoming kitchen of the palazzo, you'll be able to create a whole Sicilian menu under the Duchess' guidance.

After lunch in the elegant dining room, a tour of the lush terrace and the beautifully restored palazzo will conclude this magnificent experience.





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Day 4 | Get some Edible souvenirs before …….

Those wishing to go home with more than the memory of the colors and flavors of the region tucked into their suitcase, should purchase a box or two of **"Martorana" marzipan fruits**.
*This delicacy was invented by **Benedictine nuns** who lived in the convent founded in **1193** by the noble lady Elisa Martorana. In their benefactor's honor, the nuns modeled marzipan in to the forms of Sicily's most famous fruits.*
The success of these preparations was such that the confectioner's corporation aspired to claim the absolute monopoly, which they managed to do in 1575, the same year in which the nuns were officially forbidden to make Fruits of Martorana, because this was an activity which distracted them from their prayers.



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Day 4 | ……departure



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