TASTE OF SICILY
Accompanied by Professor Alex Saragoza
SEPTEMBER 11 – 19, 2021
With optional Malta extension
“Traveling with a group of very curious and knowledgeable travelers added immensely to the overall experience.”

Irina K.
TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Experience la dolce vita on this breathtaking journey through the best wine regions of the Mediterranean’s largest island, Sicily. We’ll meet with local wine-makers and learn about the unique vintages of the area, including the famous Marsala wines. Indulge in comforting Sicilian cuisine in intimate settings with no shortage of decadent wines and stunning views. Take in Sicily’s diverse landscapes from hillside Baroque towns and the rolling countryside to picturesque seaside cities and Mount Etna, Europe’s tallest active volcano. The beautiful panorama, charming towns, and divine fare of Sicily set the perfect scene for Mediterranean life and provide a feast for all your senses.

Learn from Professor Alex Saragoza and explore Sicily’s rich history of grape growing on this trip of a lifetime.

A time-honored tradition since 1969, Cal Discoveries Travel creates learning opportunities for thoughtful travelers. Join great minds on our world-class journeys.
ITINERARY

Day 1 | September 11
IN TRANSIT
Depart from your gateway city to arrive in Palermo, Italy on Day 2.

Day 2 | September 12
SICILY
Check into the Quinto Canto Hotel, where you’ll enjoy a leisurely afternoon. Meet the group for a lavish Michelin-star dinner at Bye Bye Blues Palermo. (D)

Day 3 | September 13
SICILY
This morning, take a city and market walking tour of Palermo, gaining insight into the colors and flavors of Sicilian cuisine. As you depart Palermo, enjoy your first tasting along with lunch at Firriato Baglio Soria with the Di Gaetano family, pioneers of native Sicilian grape varietals. Afterwards, a scenic drive takes you to the stunning hilltop town of Erice overlooking Trapani. Settle in at Hotel Elimo before heading to dinner in town at La Pentolaccia restaurant, a great place to try local specialties like sardines and fennel pasta. (B, L, D)

Day 4 | September 14
SICILY
After breakfast, travel across the salt flats to the Marsala region at the legendary Pellegrino. Visit the longstanding local producer of fine wines, Cantine Pellegrino, where you will get a chance to tour the winery and see the process for making Marsala wines. Continue to Donnafugata for a guided tour of the historic winery and cellars. Here, you will have lunch accompanied by wines from the property. Return to Erice, via Trapani, for a leisurely evening. (B, L, D)

Day 5 | September 15
SICILY
Check out of the hotel and journey to the Planeta family winery for a tour, tasting, and lunch. For five centuries and 17 generations, this top class winery has dedicated itself to the land and produces wine and olive oil all over Sicily. After lunch, enjoy an afternoon visit to the Valley of the Temples, the largest archaeological site in the world. Depart for the Vecchia Masseria rural hotel, an estate set in a 5,000 acre wood in the ancient and tranquil interior of the Island. An informal dinner is served at the hotel this evening. (B, L, D)

Day 6 | September 16
SICILY
Enjoy breakfast at the hotel followed by a short drive to Baglio Occhipinti winery. Here you will partake in a tasting of their organic wines, have lunch, and wander around this incredible property known for its biodiversity. In the afternoon, venture to Modica, one of southern Sicily’s UNESCO listed Baroque towns. As you walk around this beautiful town, make time for a chocolate tasting, as the area is known for “Cioccolato di Modica”—made from an ancient Aztec recipe. Return to the hotel for some light antipasto and a glass of wine before enjoying the rest of your evening. (B, L)

Day 7 | September 17
SICILY
Depart the hotel and venture to the beautiful Roman Villa del Casale on the edge of Piazza Armerina to see the stunning mosaics that have made the place a world heritage site. Then, head east to the coastal city of Catania. Take a brief walking tour of the wonderful food market filled with every kind of vegetable and seafood you can imagine (and some you may not). Enjoy

Level 3 | 🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟

What to expect: These trips feature long touring days with travel via motor coach, ship, zodiac, all-terrain vehicle, or train. Travelers are required to board transportation without assistance as well as stand and walk over uneven terrain for extended periods of time. Some tours may include optional higher-intensity activities and travel at higher altitudes with steep ascents and descents. Outings last four to six hours most days.

Suitable for: Travelers who are able to comfortably walk four to six miles, or 6,900–9,200 steps, each day.

For more information on physical requirements, please visit alumni.berkeley.edu/activityrating.
Day 8 | September 18
SICILY
Begin the day visiting the wine region at Mount Etna, home to Sicily’s most exciting wines, against a stunning volcanic backdrop. Indulge in a tour and tasting at Fattoria Romeo del Castello and observe the impact of destruction from the 1981 Etna eruption. Continue on to the lovely Murgo winery, where you will enjoy lunch accompanied by their wines. Return to Catania for some free time in the afternoon before a final dinner together. (B, L, D)

Day 9 | September 19
IN TRANSIT
After breakfast, bid farewell to your new friends, transfer to the Catania airport, and make your way back home or continue on to the optional extension to Malta. (B)

Day 9 | September 19
MALTA
This morning, head to the port of Pozzallo on the southern coast to catch an early afternoon ferry to Malta. Once in Malta, a short bus ride takes you to La Falconeria to leave your bags before venturing out into the city of Valetta. Take an introductory guided walk around the Baroque capital before arriving at Rampila for a casual yet classic meal. (B, D)

Day 10 | September 20
MALTA
After breakfast, embark on a more in-depth guided tour of the city, taking in views of the magnificent Saint John’s Cathedral and the harbor. A short bus ride takes you to the striking Ta’Betta winery. The stunning scenery sets the stage for a private lunch accompanied by Ta’Betta’s famed chardonnay and wonderful red blends. Continue to Meridiana winery for a short visit and tasting of their exceptional selection of red and white wines. As you return to Valetta, enjoy the rest of your day. (B, L)

OPTIONAL POST-TRIP EXTENSION:
MALTA

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Why Eureka?

eu·re·ka: a cry of joy or satisfaction when one finds or discovers something.

Experience trips built with you in mind — handcrafted itineraries created by UC Berkeley travel experts.

ABOUT THE PROFESSOR

Alex M. Saragoza is a professor emeritus at UC Berkeley, where he has taught for the Department of Ethnic Studies and the American Studies Program. For several years, he has directed a course on the California wine industry from an international perspective. As a consequence, Dr. Saragoza conducted extensive research on the global competition facing California’s vintners, most importantly from Western Europe, particularly France, Spain, and Italy. He has traveled through those countries’ wine-producing regions, such as Italy’s Tuscany, Umbria, Lazio, and Sicily. He has lectured for the Cal Discoveries Travel tour of French Catalonia (Languedoc-Rousillon) as well as for wine and food tours of Northern Spain and Chile and Argentina. In 2012, he was a visiting professor at the Sorbonne in Paris, France, and has lectured at the University of Aix-en-Provence, among other universities. Professor Saragoza was the recipient of the 2017 Excellence in Teaching and Learning Award from the Osher Life-Learning Institute at UC Berkeley. He has been selected to the Distinguished Lecturer Program of the Organization of American Historians.

UC Berkeley lecturer’s participation cannot be guaranteed and is contingent on a minimum number of paying travelers.

ABOUT THE ACCOMMODATIONS

Each hotel has been thoughtfully chosen for its ambiance, location, and first-class service to give you the best travel experience possible. We will stay at Quinto Canto Hotel in Palermo, Hotel Elimo in Erice, Vecchia Masseria near Caltagirone, Habitat Boutique Hotel in Catania, and La Falconeria in Malta.

The hotels are complying with COVID-19 guidelines to protect the health and safety of our travelers and reduce risk of exposure to COVID-19.

Day 11 | September 21
MALTA

This morning, set off for the northern end of the island to visit an area known for beekeeping and incredible hives. Enjoy a honey tasting accompanied by a local producer. Then, make your way to the fairytale hilltop town of Mdina. Enjoy a light lunch in the beautiful courtyard at The Medina Restaurant. After a post-lunch stroll through the town, return to Valetta for a free afternoon before your last dinner together at the Michelin-star Noni Restaurant in Old Town Valetta. (B, L, D)

Day 12 | September 22
DEPARTURE

Enjoy breakfast with your group and recount the wonderful experiences you had in Sicily and Malta. Transfer to Malta International Airport and depart for home. (B)

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Reserve your space online at alumni.berkeley.edu/tasteofsicily or complete and return the reservation form below. Please enter the names of each traveler exactly as they appear on your passport:

1. Name [ ] Email [ ] Cal Class Year [ ] Date of Birth [ ]
2. Name [ ] Email [ ] Cal Class Year [ ] Date of Birth [ ]

Name for Name Badge 1 [ ] 2 [ ]

Address [ ] City [ ] State [ ] Zip [ ]
Primary Phone [ ] Cell Phone [ ]

I request a standard single room and will pay the $990 supplement.

Enclosed is my/our deposit of $ [ ] ($600 per person).

Make check payable to the Cal Alumni Association (CAA), or charge my deposit to:

AMEX [ ] MasterCard [ ] VISA [ ]
Card # [ ] Exp. Date [ ] Sec. Code [ ]
Signature [ ] Date [ ]

The payment of the deposit, OR any partial payment for a reservation on a program, constitutes consent by all guests covered by that payment to all provisions of the cancellation policy listed herein. Since no exceptions can be made, Cal Discoveries Travel strongly recommends the purchase of travel insurance. Please visit travelinsure.com/calalumni.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS: All cancellations must be submitted in writing to be valid. Cancellations for any reason received prior to final payment date are fully refundable. Cancellations made 90–31 days prior to departure will be subject to a cancellation fee equal to 50% of the trip price. No refunds are granted within 30 days of tour departure or for no-show or early departure from a trip already in progress.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

PRICE PER PERSON: Main trip: $4,995 per person (double occupancy), $990 single supplement; post-trip extension (Malta): $2,495 per person (double occupancy), $550 single supplement.

FINAL PAYMENT: Reservations are to be paid in full by June 13, 2021 (90 days prior to departure). Final payment may be made by personal check, MasterCard, Visa, or American Express. Checks may be made payable to Cal Alumni Association. Late payments will be subject to a $100 per person late fee and/or subject to cancellation.

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CAA MEMBERSHIP POLICY: One traveler per room, whether an alumni or friend, must be a current Cal Alumni Association member at the time of departure to participate in Cal Discoveries Travel offerings. Payment of $60 for seniors 65 years and over and $75 for others establishes a regular or affiliate membership with all other association benefits. Membership is for individuals only, and are nonrefundable and non-transferable. A traveling pair and their children under 21 years of age may travel on one membership. Please make dues payable to CAA by separate check, or, provide a Visa, MasterCard, or American Express number with expiration date for payment. You can also enroll online at alumni.berkeley.edu/join.

The Cal Alumni Association (CAA) is a self-funded non-profit organization that relies on donations to provide programs and services that support students, alumni, and the University. To make a gift, please visit alumni.berkeley.edu/give. Thank you for choosing CAA as the recipient of your generosity.

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