EXPERIENCE EXTRAORDINARY SICILY

A Luxury Tour for Lovers of Italian Food, Wine and Culture

October 11-15, 2027

— Hosted by Robin Kick MW

US $5,995 *per person*

This is a luxury wine, food and cultural tour to the greatest sites and wineries of north east Sicily. You will explore world renowned historic sites, the remarkable variety of this island's vinous heritage, and the classics of Mount Etna.

Hosted by Robin Kick, Master of Wine, this fun-filled, educational itinerary will bring you privileged access to some of the region's most prized estates. We take a maximum of 20 wine lovers as guests.

COME AND DISCOVER

This is a sample itinerary. The final itinerary should be almost identical once the last wineries confirm.

THE MEDITERRANEAN LIFESTYLE AT ITS FINEST – breathtaking landscapes, unforgettable meals, vibrant, volcanic wines and the warmth of true Sicilian hospitality.

THE MAGNIFICENCE OF TAORMINA, the jewel of Sicily, with its **UNESCO-listed Teatro Antico di Taormina** dramatically set in the shadow of Mount Etna. Enjoy a **"Grand Tour"-style lunch** at the exclusive **Timeo**, followed by time to wander the elegant Corso Umberto.

THE ETNA WINE ROUTE with remarkable tastings and visits to century-old volcanic terraces among the lava flows, and private visits and lunches at such estates as historic **Benanti Viticoltori**, biodiversity-rich **Terra Costantino** with its underground eco-cellar, iconic **Pietradolce**, and **Palmento Costanzo** with its 18th century lava-stone cellar.

EXPERIENCE GLORIOUS SICILIAN FOOD & FLAVOURS through memorable meals, an exceptional dinner at **12 Fontane**, exquisite olive oils, artisanal Sicilian amaro crafted from local blood oranges.

LUXURY ACCOMODATION at our personally selected 5-star hotels — the **Grand Hotel San Pietro** in Taormina and **Villa Neri Etna Resort and Spa**, set within the Etna Natural Park.

UNIQUE WINES, FINE DINING, ORGANIC PRODUCE AND EXPERIENCES TO REMEMBER!

ALL THESE AND MORE AWAIT YOUR VISIT.

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YOUR HOST

Robin Kick MW

Originally from the Chicago area, Robin now calls Switzerland home, where she works as a freelance wine educator, tour guide, journalist, wine judge, and buying consultant.

Her passion for wine inspired her to pursue studies in Burgundy and at the Université du Vin in the Rhône Valley. A fortunate twist of fate brought her to Christie's in Beverly Hills, where she spent four years as a wine auction specialist. London followed in 2004, where she later became the wine buyer for an award-winning merchant, specializing in French and Italian wines.

In 2014, Robin became a Master of Wine after years of study, travel, and hands-on experience, successfully completing both the examination and a dissertation on the wines of the Côte d'Or.

Robin's other professional affiliations include the Confrérie des Chevaliers du Tastevin and the Ordre des Coteaux de Champagne. She is also certified in Chianti Classico wines by the Consorzio Vino e Olio Chianti Classico and is an accredited Sherry Educator.

Known for her infectious enthusiasm and engaging style, Robin loves sharing the stories, wines, food, history, and culture of the world's great wine regions, making every experience as enjoyable as it is educational!

PRICE

US $5,995 (including non-refundable deposit of US$250)

The cost is per person, based on double occupancy at the hotels. This price includes all accommodation, visits and tastings at wineries, all meals unless during the free time, all wine at meals, local transport, and taxes. Flights and travel arrangements to/from Sicily, items of a personal nature, and travel insurance are not included. We recommend that you contact your travel agent to arrange travel insurance.

If you are travelling by yourself there will be a single supplement of US$600.

The payment schedule per person is:

At time of booking: $250 non-refundable booking administration fee

120 days before start: Remaining deposits (plus single supplement, if applicable)

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ITINERARY | DAY 1

MONDAY, OCTOBER 11TH - WELCOME TO TAORMINA

Meet with Robin at 11:00 am for a sparkling reception and introduction followed by lunch with selected wines from around Sicily, the largest island in the Mediterranean. The Grand Hotel San Pietro is an oasis of urban elegance suspended between sea and sky in a spectactular location of this ancient city.

Meet at:

The Grand Hotel San Pietro

Via Pirandello 50

98039 Taormina

Tel: +39 072163071

VISIT TO THE HISTORIC BARONE DI VILLAGRANDE WINE ESTATE

This afternoon we will depart in our luxury coach to the village of Milo situated on the eastern slopes of Mount Etna. We arrive at the Barone di Villagrande estate, written into the lore of Etna wines as it was here in the eighteenth century that the Bishop of Catania charged the Asmundo family with the task of taming the wild landscape of Etna. It was here too that the first regulations for Etna DOC were written by Professor Carlo Nicolosi Asmundo. A visit to the original cellar will be followed by a tasting of their wines before returning to our hotel to complete check-ins, if required.

WELCOME DINNER AT OUR HOTEL

To conclude our first day, dinner will be in the Giardino degli Ulivi Restaurant in the hotel. The chefs use fresh local ingredients to reflect the colors, flavors and aromas of Sicilian cuisine and each course will be paired with wines chosen to highlight the exciting tastes of the different regions and terroirs of the sunniest island in Europe.

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ITINERARY | DAY 2

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12TH – THE SOUTHEASTERN SLOPES OF THE "MUNTAGNA"

We try to never leave too early allowing for a relaxed breakfast.

10.00 am Depart hotel

VISIT TO THE MINERAL-RICH VINEYARDS OF VIAGRANDE

Our luxury bus will take us on a scenic one-hour drive above the shimmering Ionian Sea where a dramatic mix of ancient volcanic terrain and lush vegetation grows among ancient collapsed and eroded lava fields. The fertile soils support citrus and olive groves and, of course, vineyards. Each slope of the volcano has its own history. It was just a few miles north of here that here in the Bove Valley that the first DOC wine denomination of Sicily was born.

VISIT AND LUNCH AT TENUTA MONTE SERRA - BENANTI VITICOLTORI

The remarkable family-owned BENANTI estate is located between Catania and Taormina. Caressed by the sea breezes, its sandy volcanic soils are some of the oldest in the area still farmed by the Benanti family, whose pioneering work established them in the forefront of Etna wine production. These contrade wines are very specific to their various vineyard locations and offer a unique insight, which we will have the opportunity to share and enjoy over a private lunch at the estate. Benanti Estate

VISIT AND TASTING AT TERRA COSTANTINO

A short ride from Benanti takes us to the boutique estate of Terra Costantino. This was the very first organic winery on Etna. The building itself is a remarkable example of bio-architecture, built into the hillside designed in harmony with its natural surroundings. A range of expressive contrade wines will be made available for us to taste, enabling a fascinating comparison of approach between the two wineries we visit.

RETURN TO TAORMINA

Following our visits and exploration of the south eastern slopes of Mount Etna, we descend towards the coast, enjoying panoramic views over the landscape and the port of Riposto from where wines of the ancients were shipped many centuries ago. We should arrive at the hotel around 6pm.

EVENING FREE

Tonight is free to relax at the hotel or revisit the city and its many celebrated local and international restaurants.

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ITINERARY | DAY 3

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13TH – THE MAGIFICENCE OF TAORMINA

The program of the previous 2 days prompts many reflections at the breakfast table before it's time to check out.

09:30 Porters to collect luggage from the lobby

10:15 am – Depart by bus for the short transfer to Porta Messina at the northern end of the town.

TOURING TAORMINA

Taormina is, as will have now discovered, the most dramatic and beautiful hilltop town on the coast of Sicily. It is a chance to enjoy "The White Lotus" lifestyle with stunning views of the shimmering sea and Mount Etna. Taormina is most famous for its UNESCO-listed, Greco-Roman theatre, spectacularly perched on the hillside and still in use today. It has also provided a dramatic setting for numerous feature films. You will enjoy a private tour of the theatre before embarking on a "Grand Tour" experience, including a wine-paired lunch at the Otto Geleng Restaurant of exclusive Belmond Hotel Timeo. After lunch many of our guests linger on the iconic terrace at the restaurant, but a little free time is available for last minute shopping. Around almost every corner, the views offer countless photographic opportunities!

Our bus will depart from Porta Messina in Taormina at 3:30 pm

DESTINATION ETNA NATURAL PARK

CHECK-IN AT THE VILLA NERI RESORT AND SPA

We climb towards Etna National Park, taking in ever-changing views of the mountain's distinctive volcanic landscapes, from active and ancient craters to vineyards, which over the centuries have lent themselves to the production of fine Etna wines. Our home for the next two nights is the Villa Neri Etna Resort and Spa. This luxury Sicilian country house hotel, set within Etna Natural Park, offers refined elegance and contemporary comforts in an area of outstanding natural beauty, serenity, vineyards, and olives.
Villa Neri Etna Resort and Spa

This evening we depart for a very special wine tasting dinner at Tenuta Fessina in Rovitello, just a short drive away. Here, in a restored lava-stone wine room, nestled between two ancient lava flows, the owners have pioneered organic viticulture and renowned hospitality. Our visit will explore the story of the "Muntagna" (Sicily's affectionate name for Mount Etna) as we enjoy dinner accompanied by a lovely wine selection, including those from original ungrafted vineyards. Tenuta Fessina

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ITINERARY | DAY 4

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14TH - WINERIES OF THE NORTH ETNA WINE ROUTE

After all the excitement of Taormina and a late dinner, our schedule is easier this morning. The focus today is on the unique terroir and wineries of Etna's famed wine route.

11:00 am – Depart hotel

PRIVATE VISIT AND LUNCH AT PIETRADOLCE

Our bus now takes us to Solicchiata, a hamlet on the northern slopes of Mount Etna where Pietradolce is located. The ultra-modern winery and re-modeled vineyard terraces make for a fascinating comparison with the ancient 'palmentos' or traditional stone cellars. But underneath the more modern exterior lies a very similar and deep attachment to the sense of place in this very special environment. We visit the terraced vineyards with our host before heading back to the winery for a delicious home-prepared lunch. Their range of wine styles are all clearly "Etna DOC." It is said that for other winemakers, when not drinking their own production, this the "go-to" winery! High praise indeed! With lunch we are very much looking forward to tasting some rare Pietradolce library wines from their cellar. Pietradolce

VISIT AND TASTING AT PALMENTO COSTANZO

The most difficult decision on our tours is always when to leave! But leave we must as our next visit is to another spectacular winery just along the north slope wine road, where the original palmento cellar has been the subject of one of the most significant examples of conservative restoration on the island. Here, standing on the original treading floor, suitably refreshed and glass in hand, we will experience what it was like to make individual wines from the 'contrade' and how the techniques have been surprisingly upgraded to produce these wines today.

RETURN TO THE HOTEL

Freshen up and prepare for dinner at 12 Fontane restaurant

We are in for another treat as our last dinner together is at this highly rated restaurant within our hotel which also produces small quantities of their own wine just to accompany their very creative natural gourmet dishes. 12 Fontane restaurant

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ITINERARY | DAY 5

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15TH – VINO, OLIO EXTRA VERGINE AND AMARO

Breakfast at leisure and check out

09:45 Porters take our luggage to the bus

10.00 am – Depart from the hotel

PRIVATE VISITS TO PRODUCERS OF LOCAL SPECIALITIES

We have arrived at our final day together after four days of "la dolce vita", but there is still much more to enjoy. Wine, food, and a digestivo are integral parts of Italian daily life. Today we head to Vivera Estate, where the owner welcomes us into her home for a vertical selection of her wines PLUS a comparative tasting of organic olive oils.

Our final lunch is at Amara, a producer of one of the very best hand-made Sicilian amaros, which is entirely brewed from red IGP orange**s**, wild herbs and water from the springs of Etna.. A family-style meal, in keeping with Sicilian tradition, featuring local specialities and of course Etna wines, provides a fitting finale as we experience centuries-old traditions immersed in the Sicilian countryside.

After lunch, we really do have to head back into Catania and say our arrivedercis at the conclusion of our tour.

4:00 pm – Guest drop-off at the airport and then on to the UNA Palace Hotel on Via Etnea in central Catania.

Price: $5,995 US including tax per person based on double occupancy.

There is a $600 US per person single supplement.

Space is limited to 20.

This is a luxurious trip, hosted by local and international wine experts, visiting the great estates with a small group of about 20 like-minded, fun-loving people. It's suited to all wine lovers. It's a bucket list trip. If you have any questions, please email us at info@finevintageltd.com.