

GLOBUS[®]



JOURNEYS WITH HEART PRESENTS

SICILIAN ESCAPE

Benvenuti

14 Days, September 20 – October 3, 2023

Hosted by Acclaimed Chef, Restaurateur & Author John Bishop

A Small Group Fund Raising Tour to Benefit the Potluck Café Society

Taormina, Sicily





JOURNEYS WITH HEART PRESENTS: SICILIAN ESCAPE

TREKKED BY MORE THAN HALF OF HUMANKIND'S ANCIENT WORLD, modern day Sicily still offers off-the-beaten-path discoveries that reveal an undiscovered side of Italy. The Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans, French, Germans, Spanish, Italians, and even the British have left an impression on this gorgeous island, and it shows in its diverse architecture, unique culture, and multinational cuisine. As you trace the sparkling coast from the flamboyant capital city of Palermo to the ultra-chic Taormina Riviera, you can expect stunning archaeological treasures, ancient works of art, and a warm welcome at every turn, and a cool gelato on every corner. Traditional granita, cannoli, Marsala wine, and a tasting at Dolceria Bonajuto, Sicily's oldest chocolate factory, only sweeten the experience on this Sicilian Escape.

Detailed itinerary: 14 days | September 20 – October 3, 2023

September 19, 2023: Depart Canada

September 20, 2023 | Day 1: Arrive in Palermo, Italy—Taormina Riviera

• Welcome to Italy! • Individual, private transfer to Taormina • Balance of the day is at leisure • Meet your Tour Director at dinner held at your hotel this evening • **Hotel:** Hellenia Yachtine (3 nights) • **Meals:** D

Day 2: Taormina Riviera

• Stop at a Citrus Farm and pick fresh produce from the farm's working gardens which will be used in a cooking class featuring traditional Sicilian recipes paired with local wine • In the afternoon, an exciting excursion to Mount Etna, the largest active volcano in Europe. • **Meals:** B,L

Day 3: Taormina Riviera. Mt. Etna Wine Tour

• Visit and indulge in local wineries and vineyards at Mt. Etna including lunch amongst the vines.* • Taste of Sicily Dinner this evening. According to an ancient philosopher, Sicilians eat like they're going to die, and build like they're going to live forever! Discover the tastes, aromas, and delectable nuances behind authentic Sicilian

cuisine at a magnificent traditional dinner with drinks, beautiful surroundings, and spectacular views. • **Meals:** B,L,D

Day 4: Taormina Riviera—Savoca—Catania—Syracuse

• Start your day off with a traditional Sicilian breakfast of granita and brioche at Bar Vitelli. • Then, on to the traditional village of Savoca. See the Church of Santa Lucia, made famous as a location for Michael Corleone's wedding in the movie The Godfather. • In Catania, see St. Agata Cathedral and spend some time on Piazza del Duomo and Via Etnea. • Visit the fish market of Catania: an authentic insight to the wonderfully, colorful Italian way of life. You'll be surprised with the huge offer of fresh fish and with the oddities the sea provides. It is the biggest and most well-known fish market throughout Sicily. • Later, arrive in Syracuse, birthplace of the mathematician Archimedes. Enter the Archaeological Site for a guided visit of the 5th century BC sparkling-white Greek Theater, the Garden of Paradise, the Ear of Dionysus, the Altar of Hieron II, the Roman Amphitheater, and the Cordmakers' Cave. • Tonight, an included dinner in the enchanting Ortigia district begins with a cruise. • **Hotel:** Mercure Prometeo (2 nights) • **Meals:** B,D

Day 5: Syracuse

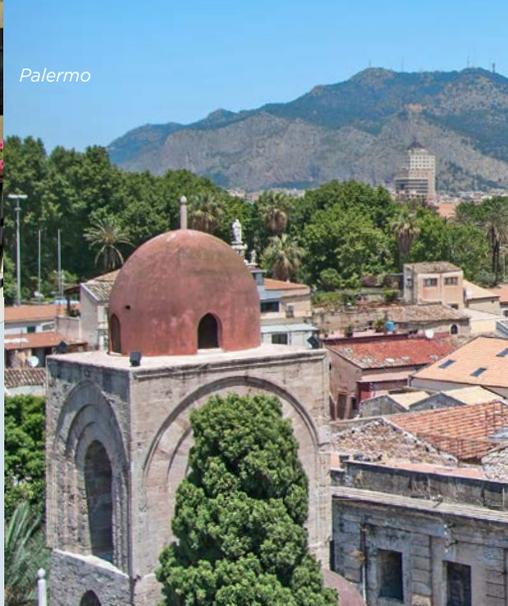
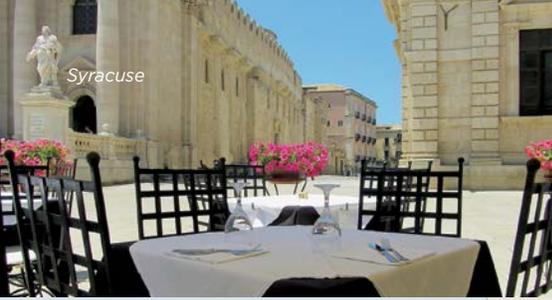
• After breakfast visit the Archimedes and Leonardo Museum. • Wander the Ortygia Markets experiencing some of the best of Sicilian life with your Tour Director as your guide. In addition to the usual fresh produce, this one stands out with stalls like the decadent build-your-own-box of fancy Italian cookies, or the sandwich-maker who has been making sandwiches — while entertaining crowds of people — for decades. Or the oyster stand where they'll shuck an oyster right in front of you...then serve it up raw with a side of sparkling wine. • Group lunch at a Sicilian eatery. • Balance of the day is at leisure • **Meals:** B,L

Day 6: Syracuse—Noto—Ragusa

• Arrive in the baroque town of Noto, renowned for its beautiful historic center that was almost entirely rebuilt in the early 18th century following the 1693 earthquake. • Meet your Local Guide for a walk along Corso Vittorio Emanuele to admire the magnificent architecture, and visit San Nicolò Cathedral. • Next, enjoy a Wine Tour at Planeta Winery. • In Ragusa, indulge in a 3 course meal this evening at a local restaurant. • **Hotel:** Mediterraneo Palace (3 nights) • **Meals:** B,D

Day 7: Ragusa, excursion to Modica

• Ragusa, known for its remarkable cheeses, here you'll learn about the local cheese of the



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region from a master cheese maker. • Next visit a charming herb farm to explore the many varieties herbs and flowers. • Guided sightseeing features a walk through Ragusa's oldest district, the Ibla, a UNESCO World Heritage Site with its beautiful palaces and churches. Walk through the Giardini Iblei, the pleasant public gardens laid out in the 19th century and then, visit the iconic baroque St. George Cathedral. • Time on your own to further explore or maybe relax at an outdoor café! • In the late afternoon, travel to nearby Modica with its steeply stacked medieval center and spectacular baroque churches. Wander along Corso Umberto I and stop at the famous Dolceria Bonajuto, Sicily's oldest chocolate factory, for a tasting. • End the day with a special dinner at a local restaurant. • **Meals:** B,D

Day 8: Ragusa

• After breakfast this morning your Tour Director will be on hand to help you with independent touring ideas. • **Meals:** B

Day 9: Ragusa—Caltagirone—Piazza Armerina—Agrigento

• En route to Piazza Armerina stop in Caltagirone to discover the imposing Staircase of Santa Maria Del Monte, covered with different tiles in a beautiful pattern. • In Piazza Armerina enjoy a guided visit of the Villa Romana Del Casale, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Admire the largest and most complex collection of Roman mosaics in the world, including the famous "Bikini Girls," discovered in 1960. • Dinner this evening at a local which will showcase local specialties. • **Hotel:** Grand Hotel Mose (1 night) • **Meals:** B,D

Day 10: Agrigento—Sciacca—Marsala

• Today, your Local Guide will take you for a spectacular walk through the magnificent Valley of the Temples. Even travelers who have visited

Athens and Delphi are awed by the gigantic yet graceful Greek structures that miraculously survived 24 centuries of tormented history. In Sciacca, take pictures from the panoramic viewpoint before continuing to Marsala. • Visit a typical Salt Mill before enjoying dinner featuring local specialties and couscous. • **Hotel:** Best Western Stella d'Italia (2 nights) • **Meals:** B,D

Day 11: Marsala. Excursion to Motya

• A highlight of the day: a Boat Cruise to the island of Motya for a perfect view of the lagoon and visit to the museum. • After visit to Florio Winery, est.1833. The guided tour of the Florio Cellars is a journey that begins in front of the majestic giant vats, built at the end of the 19th century and still used for the refinement of marsala. It continues inside the 3 fascinating barrel chambers, 165 meters long and running beneath 104 arches, under which 1,400 small barrels and about 600 larger barrels and vats of different capacities are arrayed, as c. 5,500,000 liters of Marsala wines age in silence and stillness. After a thirty minute tour through the barrel vaults, where the ancient tuff stone floor has been restored, you reach the avant-garde tasting rooms named Donna Franca and Duca Enrico. Here visitors are welcomed by innovative spaces, where the tasting of Corvo, Duca di Salaparuta and Florio wines is transformed into a memorable experience, thanks also to the addition of a selection of delicious local gastronomic nibbles. • Group dinner tonight restaurant serving local specialties. • **Meals:** B,D

Day 12: Marsala—Erice—Palermo

• Drive to Erice and follow your Tour Director for an orientation of this hilltop town, ending at the well-known Pasticceria Maria Grammatico to try out the traditional almond biscuits and Marsala wine. • Continue on to Palermo • Begin your visit to Palermo with by immersing yourself in the Sicilian nobility during the exclusive private visits

to one of the most iconic and historical Palace in Palermo, Palazzo Federico. You will be welcomed and escorted by the resident family member! Enjoy this walk through the halls of palace, all the way to the Arab-Norman tower. The palace tells the whole history of the city of Palermo, from the Punic foundations to the Baroque and Neoclassical period. • Dinner this evening at local Italian seafood specialty restaurant. • **Hotel:** Federico II (2 nights) • **Meals:** B,D

Day 13: Palermo

• Start your guided sightseeing with a drive to Monreale for a panoramic view of the Conca d'Oro and a visit to the 12th century Norman Cathedral, famous for its 50,000 square feet of precious byzantine mosaics. • Back in Palermo, see the ornate Piazza Bellini, Capo Market, the baroque Church of Immacolata, and visit the Cathedral. • Enjoy lunch with Sicilian specialties like panelle (chickpea fritters), arancini (stuffed rice balls), and cannoli (fried pastry rolls with sweet ricotta cheese) awaits at the Antica Focacceria San Francesco restaurant. • After lunch enjoy The Hidden Gems of Palermo. Start your tour with a visit at Oratory of St. Lawrence features glorious stucco work by master rococo sculptor Giacomo Serpotta. Above the altar is a reproduction of Caravaggio's The Nativity with St Francis and St Lawrence, stolen from here in 1969 and still one of the FBI's top 10 unsolved art crimes. • A short bus ride up Monte Pellegrino takes you to the Santuario, one of the most intriguing religious constructions in Italy. • In the evening, a farewell dinner awaits at a local restaurant, an excellent way to say arrivederci, Sicilia! • **Meals:** B,L,D

October 3, 2023 | Day 14: Depart Palermo, Italy

• After breakfast this morning, individual, private transfers to the Palermo airport. • **Meals:** B

TOUR DETAILS & RATES:

14 Days, September 20 – October 3, 2023

- **\$6,489** CAD per person, based on double room occupancy, land only
- Single Supplement An Additional **\$1,339** CAD (Limited Availability)

ADDITIONAL \$300* per person
DIRECT DONATION TO THE
POTLUCK CAFÉ SOCIETY.

Tax receipt will be issued.

- **Guaranteed departure with minimum 20 guests at final payment**

What's Not Included: Airfares (unless otherwise stated), passports and applicable visa fees, charges imposed by third parties, laundry, phone calls, items of a personal nature, beverages, meals and sightseeing not detailed on the itinerary, excess baggage, travel insurance.

Travel Price: The package price is quoted in Canadian dollars, per person twin share.

Deposit / Final Payment: For deposit and final payment details contact Jenny at Journeys with Heart.

Cancellation Fees: For full details of cancellation policy for this tour, contact Jenny at Journeys with Heart.

Refunds: No refund is available if cancellations occur after the trip has commenced or in respect of any sightseeing, accommodation, meals or any other services not utilized.

Passport and Visas: You must have a valid passport with 6 months validity from date of return. For Visa requirements, contact your Travel Advisor.

Hotels: The hotels listed have been booked unless 'or similar' is indicated. If this hotel is unavailable, a similar property will be used.

Porterage: for one suitcase is included in the trip price on arrival and departure from each trip hotel.

Rooming Arrangements: All pricing is based on twin share accommodation. If a single room is required, the appropriate single supplement will need to be paid. Single rooms are subject to availability.

Transfers: Your Travel Advisor can provide details of arrival and departure transfers.

Documentation: Documentation will be provided to your travel advisor approximately 2 weeks prior to departure from Canada.

Insurance: Is recommended for all guests covering all applicable dates of travel with Globus. An online Travel Declaration Form will need to be filled out by all guests prior to departure. Globus will not be held liable for any costs incurred by the guest resulting from their failure to obtain adequate travel insurance.

JOHN BISHOP

Acclaimed Chef,
Restaurateur &
Author



John Bishop has been in and around kitchens since his early teens. Born in Britain, John attended hotel school in Wales and served his apprenticeship at a private London club. After ten years as a chef in Ireland, John came to Canada in 1973 to further his culinary career.

In 1985, he launched the restaurant that would bear his name. Bishop's, located in Vancouver, was an immediate success and garnered numerous accolades over its 37 years in business. Bishop's exquisite West Side restaurant blended classic and modern flavours with a casual elegance that kept clients coming back for a truly exceptional dining experience, year after year. Now retired, Chef Bishop maintains a deep passion for regional, seasonal, and organic ingredients and a commitment to supporting local and showcasing the lush bounty of the Pacific Northwest.

FUNDRAISING JOURNEY TO BENEFIT THE POTLUCK CAFÉ SOCIETY

The mission of Potluck Café Society is to transform lives by creating jobs and providing healthy food for people living in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

An award-winning social enterprise, Potluck Café Society (a registered charity) owns and operates Potluck Café & Catering, a thriving business that employs neighborhood residents and provides up to twenty five percent of the operating revenue required to run the Society's ongoing programs.

We've been doing this work since 2001, and are proud to be both a leader and a collaborator in a movement that uses training and employment as a dignified means of helping people regain their confidence, skills, and economic independence.

ITINERARY CHANGES & TRIP

CANCELLATION: Prices are based on costs, charges, tariffs, taxes, levies and exchange rates at the time of publication. In the event that such fluctuations affect the price to be paid for services, Globus reserves the right to adjust the price as necessary at any time. Globus reserves the right to vary itineraries should circumstances dictate, as well as cancel or reschedule any trip departure in accordance with operating requirements, or circumstances beyond its control. The advertised trip requires minimum numbers to depart. Should these not be met, Globus reserves the right to alter or cancel arrangements.

BOOKING TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

These conditions incorporate the basis upon which bookings are accepted by the Travel Agent and Globus. By making a booking you are agreeing to these terms & conditions. Conditions on this page supersedes conditions stated in the Brochure however for additional terms and conditions not stated here please refer to the 'Booking Conditions and other Important Information' pages in the current Globus Europe & Britain Brochure or online at <https://www.globusjourneys.ca/terms>. These must be studied prior to making the committing to the payment of deposit as all Terms and Conditions will be considered a binding agreement upon payment. Additional terms and conditions may be applicable to group bookings and will be advised as they become known.

FOR BOOKINGS & INQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

Contact **Jenny Karmali, The Travel Group** | E: jenny@trvlconcepts.com

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