



Aeolian Islands



Taormina with Mt. Etna

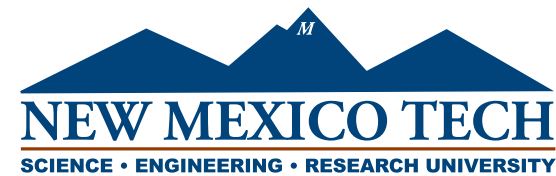
Vino e Volcanoes:

Alumni Trip to Volcanic Italy

*featuring Sicily, the Aeolian Islands,
and Sorrento with the Amalfi Coast*



Syracuse



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May 20 – 30, 2011

**For more information, contact AHI Travel at
800-451-8673 x4530 or info@ahitravel.com
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INCLUDED FEATURES

Accommodations

- **Three nights** in **Syracuse, Italy**, at the **Hotel des Etrangers et Miramare**.
- **Two nights** in **Taormina** at the **Hotel Continental**.
- **Overnight ferry** from **Messina** to **Salerno**.
- **Two nights** in **Sorrento** at the **Grand Hotel Ambasciatori**.
- **One night** in **Naples** at the **Palazzo Caracciolo**.

Transfers and Porterage

- Deluxe motor coach transfers from Syracuse to Taormina, from Taormina to Milazzo, from Salerno to Sorrento and from Sorrento to Naples, including baggage handling.

Activities and Events

- **Informative lectures** will enhance your insight into the region.
- **All excursions** as outlined in your itinerary.
- Attend a **Welcome Reception and Dinner**.
- Gather for a **Farewell Reception and Dinner**.

Meals

- Enjoy eight breakfasts, six lunches and four dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

Many Included Extras

- Consultation services of a **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Services of an experienced and knowledgeable **AHI Travel Director** throughout your trip.
- **Tipping** of all excursion guides and drivers.
- An **AHI Hospitality Desk**, staffed by local experts, located in your hotels to assist you in every way.
- Detailed destination and travel information to assist in your planning.
- Complimentary travel wallet.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

DAY ONE

Depart your gateway city for **Catania, Sicily**, aboard scheduled jet service.*

DAY TWO ~ SYRACUSE

Upon arrival, transfer* to **Syracuse** and the deluxe *Hotel des Etrangers et Miramare*, majestically located on the island of Ortigia.

This evening, gather for a *Welcome Reception and Dinner* at the hotel.

DAY THREE ~ SYRACUSE

Excursion: Syracuse. Discover Ortygia's medieval and baroque Old Town, including the elegant Piazza del Duomo. Back on the mainland, discover the exceptional Greek ruins in the Archaeological Park, including the Teatro Greco.

Local Flavor: During lunch at a local winery, sample Italian specialties and enjoy a wine tasting.

Excursion: Noto. Explore Noto, where architects combined traditional Sicilian elements with the fashionable baroque architecture to create a unique style.

DAY FOUR ~ SYRACUSE

Excursion: Roman Mosaics and Greek Temples. Depart for Piazza Armerina and the Roman Villa del Casale, a fourth-century country house. This Roman country house is embellished with more than 12,000 square feet of exquisite third- to fourth-century mosaics. During lunch, sample Italian specialties.

Excursion: Agrigento. Continue on to Agrigento's Valley of the Temples. Marvel at the sixth-century Temple of Hercules, the Temple of Concord and the unfinished Temple of Jupiter, once considered the eighth Wonder of the World.

Educational Focus: Sicily in World War II. Examine the events of Operation Husky, the World War II battle of July 10, 1943, when over 160,000 Allied troops invaded Sicily.

DAY FIVE ~ SYRACUSE/TAORMINA

Depart Syracuse this morning for Taormina via Mount Etna.

Excursion: Sicily's Fiery Geology. Examine the mercurial nature of Mount Etna, the tallest volcano in Europe, rising 10,958 feet above sea level. Begin with a ride that curves up its spectacular slopes. View the cooled and hardened lava flows from recent eruptions before riding a cable car closer to the top. Finally, board four-wheel drive vehicles for the final ascent to Mount Etna's summit.

Local Flavor: Lunch is served at a farmhouse located on the slopes of the volcano. During the visit, travelers learn about the farm's operations.

Afterwards, continue to the medieval town of Taormina, situated high atop Monte Tauro, with a commanding view of the sea and Mount Etna. Upon arrival, check in at the *Hotel Continental*.

DAY SIX ~ TAORMINA

Excursion: Taormina. Enjoy a walking tour of medieval Taormina, which blossomed in the Middle Ages and is home to 14th- and 15th-century palaces. Taormina's most-famous monument is a Greek theater, rebuilt by the Romans in about 200 A.D., and still in use today due to its near-perfect acoustics.

Independent Exploration: The afternoon is at leisure to explore Taormina or relax on the hotel's beautiful terrace with views of Mount Etna across the bay.

DAY SEVEN ~ TAORMINA/CRUISING

This morning, depart Taormina bound for Milazzo, to board a ferry for the excursion to the Aeolian Islands.

Excursion: Panarea and Stromboli. Cruising from Milazzo, the first stop is the island of Panarea, the smallest of the Aeolian Islands. There is free time in the port town of San Pietro for independent explorations and lunch on your own. Then, interested travelers can walk (approximately 45 minutes) to Punta Milazzese to see the 14th-century ruins of a Bronze Age village.



This afternoon, cruise from Panarea to the island of Stromboli. A stop in the small town of Ginostra provides time to explore at your leisure. Back at sea, the stage is set to see Stromboli volcano's nightly fireworks. During the cruise, enjoy a casual pasta dinner with local wine.

Following the Stromboli cruise, cruise back to Milazzo and transfer to Messina. The ferry departs late this evening and cruises overnight to Salerno.

DAY EIGHT ~ SORRENTO

Enjoy the seaside view of the Amalfi Coast as the ferry cruises to the port of Salerno, arriving mid-morning.

Excursion: Amalfi, Positano and Ravello. Travel along the Amalfi Coast, a UNESCO World Heritage site, to Positano, known as the most vertical town in Italy. Afterwards, cruise to the town of Amalfi, which provides a unique view of the coastline. A guided walk of Amalfi includes a visit of its piazza and Duomo di Sant'Andrea. Lunch will be served in a local restaurant before proceeding to the charming town of Ravello. A visit of the exquisite Villa Rufolo, rounds out a perfect day along the Amalfi Coast.

This evening, arrive in Sorrento and check in at the *Grand Hotel Ambasciatori*. Enjoy a delicious dinner at the hotel.

DAY NINE ~ SORRENTO

Excursion: Pompeii, Herculaneum & Vesuvius. The massive eruption of Vesuvius in 79 A.D., buried Herculaneum in mud and Pompeii in cinders and ash. Begin the day's explorations in the excavated city of Pompeii. Traverse its ancient Roman streets and examine the ruins preserved by the eruption. After lunch, continue to Herculaneum. A highlight of the day is a drive and short hike on Vesuvius leading to a vantage point to overlook the crater at 3,900 feet. (A moderate level of fitness is required to complete the climb.)

Local Flavor: Sample Italian specialties at a local restaurant during the excursion.

DAY TEN ~ SORRENTO/NAPLES

Depart Sorrento for a day of sightseeing, ending with an overnight at the *Palazzo Caracciolo*, located in the heart of historic Naples.

Excursion: Phlegraean Fields and Naples Museum. The Phlegraean Fields, also known as Campi Flegrei, is a large eight-mile wide caldera that consists of over 150 pools of boiling mud. During a visit of the area, stop in Pozzuoli to view the Solfatara crater, a dormant volcano.

Continue to Naples and its famous National Archaeological Museum, which houses a collection of Roman-era artifacts that are considered to be the best in the world.

Tonight, gather for a *Farewell Reception and Dinner* at the hotel.

DAY ELEVEN ~ NAPLES

After breakfast, transfer to the Naples airport for the return flight to your gateway city.*

* Provided for Air Program participants.

NOTE: Itinerary schedule may change due to local conditions. Many excursions in this program involve an element of walking.

ACCOMMODATIONS

HOTEL DES ETRANGERS ET MIRAMARE, Syracuse

The seaside *Hotel des Etrangers et Miramare* sits on the historic island of Ortygia. This first-class hotel uses a combination of antique and contemporary decoration to create a unique atmosphere of sophisticated luxury and traditional charm. Each guest room features every comfort, including air conditioning, cable television, minibar, hair dryer, direct-dial telephone and Internet access. Admire sweeping views from its rooftop terrace.

HOTEL CONTINENTAL, Taormina

The family-owned *Hotel Continental* is centrally located close to Taormina's famed shopping street. Each guest room features a wealth of amenities to ensure an enjoyable stay, including air conditioning, hair dryers, telephone and television. Enjoy an exceptional panoramic view over the bay and Mount Etna from the hotel's spacious sun terrace. An ever-attentive and friendly staff is managed in a family tradition of service and hospitality.

Ferry from Messina to Salerno

Enjoy accommodations on board in individual cabins equipped with a private toilet and sink, linen service, climate control and porthole or window. Lounge at the restaurant, bar or salon and watch as the ferry travels past incredible sites.

GRAND HOTEL AMBASCIATORI, Sorrento

The elegant *Grand Hotel Ambasciatori* is set on a cliff overlooking the sea and surrounded by gardens. Enjoy the hotel's lovely gardens and venture out from its centrally located. Its guest rooms are air conditioned and have a television, minibar, telephone and hairdryer, along with many other first-class amenities for your comfort.

PALAZZO CARACCIOLO, Naples

Located in the heart of Naples' historic district, the *Palazzo Caracciolo* is a welcome retreat from the bustle of the city. Relax poolside or sample local specialties at the hotel's restaurant. Each guest room offers a hair dryer, telephone, climate control, minibar and television.

Terrace at Hotel Continental



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I/we authorize you to make my/our reservations as follows:

Land Program

- I/we will make my/our own air arrangements and transfers.
 Please call me/us to discuss my/our air options.
 I prefer single accommodations at an additional \$465 (limited availability).
 I request assistance in securing a roommate but will accept a single, if one is available at this time, and pay the single supplement. Should a roommate be found, I understand the supplement will no longer apply.

Land and Air Program

- I/we reserve the Land Program and request the roundtrip Air Program to Catania, Sicily, with a return from Naples, Italy, to depart from:

Departure City _____

- Please send me information on upgrading my flights.

*Please note: Air prices will be sent to you with your Reservation Confirmation and air schedule sent at 90 days before departure. International flight arrangements can be canceled with **no obligation up to 75 days before departure.***

Reservations are subject to availability and processed on a first come, first served basis. Reservations to be paid in full by March 6, 2011 (75 days prior to departure). Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by personal check, MasterCard or Visa. Make checks payable to AHI International.

Enclosed is a deposit of _____ (\$600 per person required) to reserve _____ place(s).

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