

**Join World Cultural Tours For a Trip To..**

# **Sorrento & Sicily**

*Including visits to Pompeii, Capri, Naples, Amalfi, Syracuse, Piazza Armerina, Agrigento, Giardini Naxos and Acitrezza*

**March 2003**

**Day 1: Depart USA**

*Overnight transatlantic flight. Meals and snacks served on board.*

**Day 2: Arrival Naples**

*Upon arrival at Naples airport we will be greeted by our local guide and transferred to our hotel in Sorrento, the famous resort town of orange and lemon groves. Following check-in, the afternoon will be at our leisure for rest and relaxation. This evening we will enjoy a welcome dinner at the hotel.*

**(D) Acampora Hotels**

**Day 3: Sorrento – Pompeii – Sorrento**

*This morning we will depart Sorrento for Pompeii and take pleasure in a guided tour of this ancient Roman resort. Pompeii was buried in 79 AD beneath ashes spewed by the still active volcano of Mount Vesuvius. We will walk the ancient streets to the Temples of Apollo and Jupiter, the Stabian Baths, Villa of the Mysteries, and much more, as our guide describes the town, decorative features of its buildings and daily life, including amusing graffiti, of this once prosperous Roman colony. This afternoon we will return to our hotel in Sorrento.*

**(B) Acampora Hotels**

**Day 4: Sorrento – Capri /Choir Performance - Sorrento**

*After breakfast we will board the hydrofoil for an excursion to the legendary and exotic Isle of Capri. Upon arrival at Marina Grande (Capri Port) we will visit the fabled Blue Grotto by motorboat. If weather does not permit, we can experience a scenic funicular ride while ascending to the village of Capri, which is built around world-famous Piazzetta. You have most of the day to enjoy the exquisite shops and the natural sights of the Isle. Later this afternoon we will perform at one of Capri's local churches before returning to Sorrento for the evening.*

**(B) Acampora Hotels**

**Day 5: Sorrento - Naples – Sorrento/Choir Performance**

*Following breakfast at the hotel, we will depart by motor coach for an excursion to Naples. Our guided tour will include a morning visit to the heart of old Naples, the most engaging part of the city, with ancient streets and numerous churches. Morning visits will include the 13<sup>th</sup> century church of Santa Chiara, with its charming cloister garden decorated with 18<sup>th</sup> century ceramic tiles, and the Duomo, cathedral church of Naples with its beautiful chapel of San Gennaro, patron saint of the city. After lunch, we will visit the National Archaeological Museum to view the Farnese Collection, one of the richest museums in the world housing Greco-Roman antiquities and objects from Pompeii and Herculaneum. We will return to Sorrento with time for dinner prior to an evening concert performance.*

**(B) Acampora Hotels**

#### **Day 6: Sorrento - Amalfi Drive - Sorrento**

Following breakfast at the hotel, we will depart by motor coach for a full day trip to Amalfi Drive. Here, we can admire spectacular views of the charming coastal villages of Praiano, Positano, Amalfi, Maiori and Minori. Later this afternoon we will return to Sorrento. Tonight's festivities include dinner with Tarantella show at a local restaurant.  
**(B, D) Acampora Hotels**

#### **Day 7: Sorrento – Taormina - Giardini Naxos**

After breakfast we will depart Sorrento en route to Sicily. Upon arrival in Taormina, we will enjoy a guided tour, visiting visit the Greek Amphitheater with its spectacular view of the Mediterranean Sea. We will walk down to the exotic villa and the local cathedral and spend the remainder of the day exploring interesting back streets and the craft shops of Taormina. This afternoon we will travel to Giardini Naxos, located at the foot of the cliff, with trendy beaches and seaside cafes. Following check-in we will enjoy dinner at the hotel this evening.  
**(B, D) Ramada Hotel or similar**

#### **Day 8: Giardini Naxos – Syracuse – Taormina/Choir Performance**

Driving along the coast this morning, past Catania, we'll drive through the orange land. Thousands of orange and tangerine trees will be on both sides of the road, with almost nothing else in sight. We will be in Syracuse in :90 minutes where a guided tour will lead through the archaeological park. This was the capital of Magna Grecia, the Great Greece, the land where the Greek's chose to refound their country, a place that soon became the center of the Ancient World's art and sciences, more important and powerful than Athens itself. At the end of the tour, enjoy a walk visiting Ortigia, the medieval settlement that for centuries was a stronghold against the Arab pirates attacking Christian communities in Europe. Tonight's performance will be in a local church in Taormina.  
**(B) Ramada Hotel or similar**

#### **Day 9: Giardini Naxos - Piazza Armerina - Agrigento**

After a drive through Sicilian inland regions, we will reach Piazza Armerina, a typical village of the interior, not a special place if it wasn't for the most beautiful remains of Roman Art. Sicily was the largest and almost exclusive granary of the Roman Empire. It was essential for the central power to keep the island and the grain production well under control. The officials sent down to rule over these lands were consequently treated royally. In Piazza Armerina, we will visit the Villa Romana del casale, once the residence of the Emperor's envoy. This is a gorgeous, if not the only, example of the sophisticated Roman mosaic art. The vast floors of the house are decorated in bright colors with tens of scenes of local life dating back to the first century AD. It's as if we were looking at an album of pictures of the ancient world. You will be amazed to see how many aspects of modern life existed and were pretty sophisticated 2,000 years ago. We continue on to Agrigento. Here, we'll visit the Valley of Greek Temples; the best preserved ones outside mainland Greece. At sunset, with the blue sea behind the ruins, the scenery is superb. We will check-in to our hotel for the evening.  
**(B) Hotel Kaos or similar**

#### **Day 10: Agrigento - Acitrezza – Giardini Naxos**

Today we will depart Agrigento en route Acitrezza, the most typical fishing village in the area. Only minutes from the fashionable high-class resorts, we are immersed in the most traditional local life. We'll see, up close, the lampara fishing boats, those rowing boats with a powerful gas lamp that the locals use for family fishing at night. Now we will understand those thousands of small lights that we have seen shining every night over the calm seawaters from Taormina. We will return to Taormina and check-in our hotel prior to a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.  
**(B, D) Ramada Hotel or similar**

#### **DAY 11: Taormina - USA**

A final breakfast precedes the transfer to Catania Airport for our flight home.✈  
**(B) ✈**