

Sicilian Splendors: A Journey Through Baroque, Norman, and Arab Architecture with Roundtable's Francis Morrone

May 20–27, 2024

"To have seen Italy without having seen Sicily, is not to have seen Italy at all, because Sicily is the clue to everything." – Goethe



Palermo's Piazza San Domenico

Roundtable and the Art Center have joined forces to bring you this exclusive tour. Travel with architectural historian **Francis Morrone** and 92NY's Director of Continuing Education **Melanie Macchio** to **discover the crossroads of the Mediterranean**, a land conquered by empires of **Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, and Normans**, yet distinctly an island unto itself.

Francis Morrone was named by *Travel and Leisure Magazine* as one of the thirteen best tour guides in the world. One of Roundtable's most popular instructors, he is the author of more than a dozen books including architectural guidebooks to New York City and Philadelphia and is co-author (with Henry Hope Reed) of *The New York Public Library: The Architecture and Decoration of the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building*. His book, film and design reviews appear in many publications, and he is the recipient of the Arthur Ross Award in History from the Institute of Classical Architecture and Art, the Landmarks Lion Award of the Historic Districts Council, and New York University's Excellence in Teaching Award.

Sicily's strategic location in western trade routes and rich agricultural lands placed it on the world stage for thousands of years. Its sometimes tumultuous, often mysterious, and always fascinating history has made it home to one of the broadest ranges of architectural styles to be found anywhere in the region: ancient temples and amphitheatres, Renaissance palaces, Baroque cathedrals, and a palimpsest of Norman-Arab-Byzantine influenced designs — all set within breathtaking natural views. Join Francis Morrone for curated walking tours that take a deep dive into some of Sicily's most well-known landmarks and picturesque towns and discover it for yourself.



The town of Noto, famous for its Baroque architecture

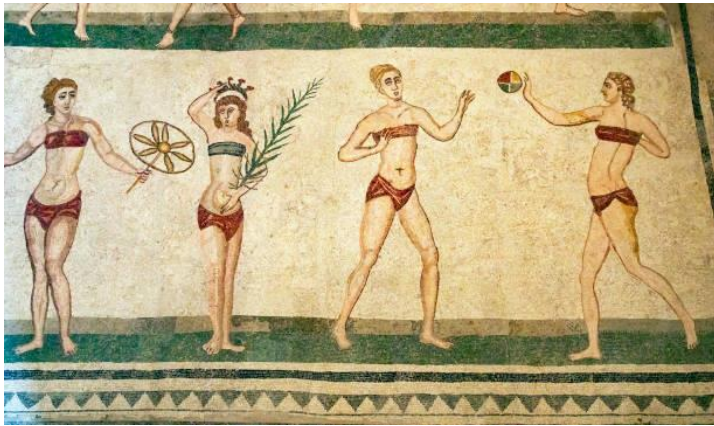
92NY Art Travel: Sicilian Splendors: A Journey Through Baroque, Norman, and Arab Architecture

We will begin our tour in the island town of Ortigia, the historic seat of Syracuse, and surrounding ancient ruins. Expert guides will introduce sites in the area and explore the architectural highlights, including both Catholic and Jewish inspired spaces as well as the noteworthy Aretusa Fountain. In Noto, we'll experience the grand collection of Baroque architecture with Francis before spending our evening at the Greek Theater for a performance of Sophocles' *Aias*.

From here, we'll venture into the countryside for a guided visit to Villa del Casale at Piazza Armerina, the supreme example of a luxury Roman villa with mosaics deemed by UNESCO exceptional not only for their artistic quality, but also their extent.



Glittering Byzantine mosaics in Monreale



Mosaics at the Roman villa in Piazza Armerina

In bustling Palermo, we'll experience curated tours of its astounding collection of art and architecture, including a walking tour of the old town with Francis and visits to the further afield Cathedral of Monreale and its Cloister, Palazzo Reale, and Cappella Palatina.

We'll experience the culinary delights of Sicily. In addition to daily breakfasts and other locally authentic meals, we will discover the rich street food and wine culture with a local guide and we'll celebrate the end of our tour by dining with a noble family in their Spanish-style palazzo. Your tour includes seven nights at four and five star hotels, airport transfers, and leisure time to explore these

fascinating cities and their tempting shops and restaurants on your own.

We are thrilled to collaborate with our friends at La RosaWorks to bring you this exclusive experience. Tour lead and Sicily travel expert Karen LaRosa, along with local experts, will provide you with an understanding of the fascinating, complex history of Sicily and the people that have made it so enchanting.

We hope you'll join us for this adventure in the classics!

Melanie Macchio
Director of Continuing Education



The island of Ortigia

Tour Details

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May 20–27, 2024

Cost per Participant:

- Single Occupancy: \$9,950 per person
- Double Occupancy: \$9,250 per person

Note: If you choose the Double Occupancy option, please keep in mind that we do not provide roommate matching services. You must list the name of the person you plan to share the room with, and they must also submit their own application indicating the same roommate preference.

The fee for the trip includes the following:

- 3 nights occupancy at 4-star hotel in Ortigia
- 4 nights occupancy at 5-star hotel in Palermo
- Daily breakfast, 3 lunches, and 3 dinners
- Welcome and farewell drinks
- Private English-speaking guides and tour facilitators
- Private bus and driver for all site visits and daytrips throughout the trip
- Visits to architectural and historical sites with admission fees included
- One Greek theater experience
- One street food and wine tour
- Shuttle from Catania Fontanarossa Airport to Ortigia departing at 12 PM on May 20.
- Private transfer from Palermo hotel to Palermo Falcone e Borsellino Airport to arrive before 12 PM on May 27.

Cost of trip does not include

- Air transportation to Catania Fontanarossa Airport and from Palermo Falcone e Borsellino Airport
- Local hotel tax (€2-3 daily)
- Remaining meals
- Trip Insurance (highly recommended)
- Anything else not stated above

All tour start and end times will be announced at the beginning of the trip. Participants are responsible for arriving to the meeting locations on time. Your tour will begin and end with the included airport transfers.

Payment Schedule & Registration

A \$2500 deposit by credit card is required to reserve your place at the time of application. Deposits will be refunded in the event the trip is cancelled. The remaining balance will be debited to the card used to pay the deposit on March 1, 2024.

To register for this program, please visit 92NY.org/arttravel to complete an application and payment information. Please do not book any non-refundable transportation until the tour has been confirmed.

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Tour Activity Level

You'll be on the go each day on this tour. The group will travel to sites via private shuttle, or we'll be walking where you should expect uneven surfaces, stairs, and inclines. Participants can expect to be standing or walking for 2 – 3 hours at a time while on excursions.

92NY Terms and Conditions

92NY does not represent, nor is 92NY the agent for, any transportation carriers, hotels, caterers and other suppliers of services connected with this tour. All service providers for the trip are independent contractors whose businesses are independent of 92NY; the provision by them of services on the trip does not make them a partner of, or create a joint venture with, 92NY. 92NY is therefore not responsible or liable for any injury, damage, loss, death, accident, delay or other irregularity during the trip caused by or a result of the actions or omissions, whether negligent or otherwise, of any service provider. Additionally, 92NY is not responsible for losses or expenses due to force majeure, including, without limitation, sickness, inclement weather, acts of God, strikes, wars, or other causes beyond the control of 92NY.

The published itinerary of the trip may be changed if such change(s) are deemed necessary for the health, safety, or general welfare of the members or the trip. 92NY recommends that each participant purchase medical insurance and insurance with respect to loss or damage of luggage and/or for recoupment of the cost of transportation to and from the program in the event of any unforeseen events that require a change by the trip planners or a change of your plan to participate. Baggage and personal effects are the individual trip members' sole responsibility.

92NY reserves the right to decline participation of any person, and/or to remove any participant from the trip at any time, when such action is determined in the sole discretion of 92NY to be in the best interests of or necessary for the health, safety, or general welfare of the participants or of any individual participant. In the event of any changes of these terms or of the trip itinerary by 92NY, participant's sole compensation as damages shall be limited to the total program fee that participant paid for the trip.

Trip cancellation and baggage insurance is highly recommended. Above charges do not include cancellation charges imposed by the airlines for any connecting flights to/from your point of departure.

Health and Safety Protocols

All guests must agree to understand the following health and safety protocols while participating in this tour. These protocols may change as state and local regulations evolve. We will update you as any changes arise:

- Face coverings must be worn at all times in all situations where local regulations require the general public to do so. This includes times when you are traveling on the group transport, during demonstrations, lectures, tours, etc. Participants must also adhere to local business policies.
- All participants will be required to have received the COVID-19 vaccine fully before participation. You must have completed your last dose by May 5, 2024 and provide documentation.

Cancellation and Refund Policy:

This tour is subject to the following cancellation charges if you cancel for any reason:

If your notice is received:	You will receive:
More than 90 days before departure.....	50% of tour cost
90-60 days before departure.....	25% of tour cost
60 days or less before departure.....	No refund