



Taormina Film Fest in Sicily

TaorminaFilmFest

Friday, June 11 – Saturday, June 19, 2010

Join Stephen Farber on another unique Reel Travel film festival tour, as we travel to Sicily and attend the prestigious Taormina Film Fest. The festival selects some of the award-winning films from other major festivals (Sundance, Berlin, Cannes) that have not yet been released in the U.S., along with a vivid sampling of fare from all over the world and including a couple of Hollywood blockbusters. Highlights are the open-air evening screenings, held in the 2300-year-old Greek-Roman amphitheater, which provides a spectacular viewing experience under the stars. Daytime Master Classes with top actors and directors add to this festival's caché.

Last year the festival expanded to other cities in Sicily, including Siracusa, where we will spend 2 days taking in additional movies.

Your one-of-a-kind package includes:

- **6 nights at Hotel Isabella**, a charming 32-room hotel in the center of Taormina on the Corso Umberto, the main shopping street. Close to the Greek-Roman amphitheater.
- **2 nights at Hotel Roma**, a 45-room hotel in Siracusa, in the center of Ortigia Island across from the Duomo.
- **Breakfast buffet daily**
- **3 Lunches and 4 Dinners**
- **Tickets to Festival screenings and seminars, including evening screenings in the Greek-Roman amphitheater**
- **Private meetings** with filmmakers and other international luminaries
- **Post-screening discussions** led by Stephen Farber
- Full day private **Tour of Mt. Etna** with English-speaking guide
- Half day private **Tour of Siracusa and Archeological Park**
- **Transfers** from Catania Airport to Taormina, Taormina to Siracusa, Siracusa to Catania Airport (private transfers with set departure times)

Important: Departure from the U.S. is Thursday, June 10; land package begins on Friday, June 11

Land package: \$2875* per person, double occupancy (+\$370 single supplement)

*****Special savings for payment by check: \$2790* pp double / single supplement + \$360*****

Hurry! Bonus Early Booking Discount! Save \$100 per person if registered by March 25

Airfare is not included, but can be arranged by Let's Travel!, as well as additional nights and individual pre-/post-tour extensions.

LIMITED TO 20 PARTICIPANTS

DEPOSIT: \$300 per person required to reserve your space (fully refundable before May 5, less \$50 administrative fee)

BALANCE DUE: May 5, 2010 (* amount may be adjusted subject to currency fluctuation and VAT)

For more information, contact:

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CST# 2003872-10

PLUS SICILY EXTENDED June 19-24

Why travel all the way to Sicily and not see more of this fascinating part of Italy? We all know something about Sicily from movies like *The Godfather*, *Divorce Italian Style*, and *The Leopard*, and often have a stereotyped view of a poor country run by the Mafia. Not so!

The largest island in the Mediterranean, Sicily is a land of beauty, mystery, and world-class monuments. The Greeks, the Romans, the Muslims, the Normans, and the Spaniards all passed through here and left their marks.

Join Stephen on a 6 day/5 night extension covering the south and west of Sicily.



ABOUT THIS FESTIVAL

This long-running festival, started in 1955, has chosen to remain a boutique showcase for a limited number of highly-selected films, many of which are international or world premieres. The recent expansion to include other cities in Sicily will further enhance its international appeal. Special guests in the past have included Ingrid Bergman, Sophia Loren, Federico Fellini, Audrey Hepburn, Marlene Dietrich, Cary Grant, and Elizabeth Taylor. More recent guests have included Tom Cruise, Antonio Banderas, and 2009 honoree Catherine Deneuve.

In addition to the outdoor evening screenings, there are also daytime screenings and daily seminars and master classes with major international actors and filmmakers. For more information, see: www.taorminafilmfest.it

SPECIAL FOR YOU

Film critic Stephen Farber, a regular contributor to The Hollywood Reporter and The Daily Beast, will be your guide in this filmgoing adventure. He works in Los Angeles, where he is the host and moderator of “Reel Talk”, an innovative series featuring some of the most provocative new films, along with lively discussions afterwards with top filmmakers and film stars. www.stephenfarber.com

Members of Stephen Farber’s tours enjoy private meetings with filmmakers and actors. At last fall’s New York Film Festival, we enjoyed an exclusive meeting with Lee Daniels, the director of *Precious*, a top festival prize-winner, and Oscar nominee for best picture. On our 2008 summer trip to the San Sebastian International Film Festival, our group had a special beachside lunch with the filmmaking team from the award-winning *Frozen River*—writer-director Courtney Hunt and the film’s two stars, Melissa Leo and Misty Upham.

Expect more of these intimate encounters in Sicily in 2010 !

TAORMINA and SIRACUSA

Taormina, a small town dating from the 4th century, is Sicily’s most famous resort area. Located on the east coast of Sicily, Taormina is set on the edge of a cliff overlooking the sea. This has been a popular tourism destination since the 19th century due to its mild climate, gorgeous scenery, and beautiful beaches, first attracting European high society and later followed by a host of celebrities. Mt. Etna looms in the background, its snow-covered summit in contrast with the blue of the sea, and often displays a plume of smoke



Siracusa (Syracuse), also on the east coast, was one of the most important cities of the ancient world of Magna Graecia (Greater Greece), a formidable competitor of Athens. We will be staying on the island of Ortygia, filled with attractive crafts shops and boutiques in addition to its Duomo (Cathedral), ancient ruins, and Medieval streets.

***** FILM FEST “POST” TOUR *****

We will travel around Sicily by private small bus, with a separate English-speaking tour escort, and get expert local guides for each individual destination.

- Day 1 Depart Siracusa. Private guided tour of Piazza Armerina (Roman villa). Arrive Agrigento
 - Day 2 Private guided tour of Valley of the Temples
 - Day 3 Depart Agrigento and visit Selinute, enroute to Marsala
 - Day 4 Wine tasting. Visit Island of MOTHIA. Visit medieval town of Erice
 - Day 5 Depart Marsala. Private guided tour of Temple of Segesta. Private guided tour of Monreale (Cathedral)
 - Day 6 Morning private guided tour of Palermo. Transfer to Palermo Airport for return flight
- Post-tour includes all transportation, guides, escort, entrance fees, wonderful accommodations, and most meals.

All this and more, for \$2395 per person (+\$235 single supplement)
Full description follows on the next page



TaorminaFilmFest

Taormina Film Fest *in Sicily*

“POST TOUR”

Saturday, June 19 – Thursday, June 24, 2010

Continue your Sicilian adventure with Stephen Farber, as we leave the films behind and embark on discovering more of this fascinating island.

Saturday, June 19 (Day 1) Siracusa/Piazza Armerina/Agrigento



Leave Siracusa for Agrigento stopping en route to Piazza Armerina in the woodlands in the center of Sicily. Here we visit the Villa del Casale, a 4th century Roman villa renowned for its unique mosaics covering almost the entire floor. These stunning mosaics portray scenes from mythological and domestic scenes of Roman life in great detail.

Early evening arrival at Agrigento and check in for 2 nights at HOTEL DELLA VALLE (4 stars) www.hoteldellavalle.ag.it

(Breakfast and lunch)

Sunday, June 20 (Day 2) Agrigento

A day in the Valley of the Temples! Admire the grandeur of the Concordia Temple, Temple of Juno, and Temple of Zeus – the largest, best preserved and most complete Greek temples in the world. The valley and its remarkable temples are one of the most famous sites in Sicily’s UNESCO World Heritage patrimony. We will also visit the impressive Archaeological Museum.

Afternoon at leisure to relax at the beautiful hotel pool, or take an optional tour to Butera to visit a typical Cantina “Feudo Principe di Butera” and enjoy wine tasting and light snack. Dinner will be at a charming restaurant in Agrigento.

(Breakfast and Dinner)



Monday, June 21 (Day 3) Agrigento/Selinute/Marsala

Leave Agrigento for Marsala, a port town on the Western coast of Sicily. Once an outpost of the Phoenician Empire, Marsala is home to important remains dating back to 397 BC.

En route we will stop for lunch and a visit at the vast archaeological site of Selinunte, founded in 7th century BC, a supreme example of Phoenician and Greek culture.

We proceed to the HOTEL CARMINE in Marsala where we spend 2 nights in this charming historical hotel, converted from a 17th century convent. www.hotelcarmine.it

(Breakfast and Lunch)

Tuesday, June 22

(Day 4) Marsala/Mozia/Erice/Marsala



We drive to the harbour and cross by boat to the small island of Mozia, in its days a prosperous Phoenician settlement. Here a number of excavations have taken place and some outstanding artifacts are displayed in its museum.

Back on the mainland we visit a local winery for a tasting of the famous Marsala wine and other varietals.

The afternoon is spent in Erice, where you will have lunch in this ancient town 2500 feet above sea level on a small peak. Superficially, it is the epitome of the Middle Ages, beginning with the castles, walls and stone streets. In reality, it's much older. Erice is a joy to behold, and you will have the afternoon to admire the stunning views out across the sea and wander through the charming cobbled streets.

Transfer back to our hotel in Marsala

(Breakfast and Lunch)



Wednesday, June 23

(Day 5) Marsala/Segesta/Monreale/Palermo

Enroute toward Palermo, we stop and visit Segesta, a large archeological zone with a magnificent 4th century BC Doric Temple and Greek Theatre located within a beautiful natural setting.

Continue to Monreale, to visit an outstanding 12th century Norman cathedral and cloister, its interior awash in vibrant mosaics representing a complete cycle of the Old and New Testaments.

Transfer to the delightful HOTEL BAGLIO CONCA D'ORO (4 star) located in the countryside between

Palermo and Monreale, where we will stay for the last night and

have our Farewell Dinner. www.baglioconcadoro.it

(Breakfast and Farewell Dinner)



Thursday, June 24

(Day 6) Palermo

Enjoy your last morning on a private guided tour of Palermo. Encircled by mountains and sea, Palermo is an old city steeped with history, rich in artistic and natural beauty and bursting with ancient traditions and customs. It has an interesting, yet somewhat turbulent history, having been conquered by several different civilizations. Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs and Normans all left behind a fascinating mixture of architectural styles that are evident in the places we visit.

Early afternoon transfer to Palermo Airport for your return flight.

(Breakfast)

Package price includes

- 5 nights in first class hotels
- Touring by private air conditioned minibus for the entire time
- English-speaking tour escort, in addition to driver
- Half day tour in Piazza Armerina with private local guide, including entrance fees
- Half day tour in Agrigento (Valley of the Temples) with private local guide, including entrance fees
- Visit of Selinute, including entrance fees
- Visit of Mozia, including entrance fees
- Visit of Erice, including entrance fees
- Half day tour in Segesta with private local guide, including entrance fees
- Half day tour in Monreale with private local guide, including entrance fees for Cathedral and Cloister
- Half day tour in Palermo with private local guide, including entrance fees for Cathedral and Palatine chapel
- Wine tasting in Marsala
- Meals as specified in itinerary

Land package: \$2465* per person, double occupancy (+\$240 single supplement)

*****Special savings for payment by check: \$2395* pp double (single supplement + \$235)*****