

Join Limitless Planet and your host, Robert "Bob" Colosimo, the food and travel aficionado, for a tasting tour through Sicily!

Set in the middle of the Mediterranean, Sicily is a treasure trove of history and culture. On this 9-day luxury tour, you will discover the true charm of Sicily, its unbelievable food, iconic countryside all whilst exploring the finest attractions. You'll arrive in Palermo, the charming capital city of Sicily, an urban melting pot characterized by history and culture. Next you will unwind at a beautiful olive oil estate before heading Southeast to the Baroque towns of Ragusa and Modica. The grand finale will be Taormina, where you will discover why Italians call it living the "good life".

Sunday, April 28th, 2024- USA to Italy

Flight to Palermo, Italy.

## Monday, April 29th, 2024 -Palermo

Upon arrival at Palermo airport meet your guide and your driver and travel the short distance to the historic center. Time to relax at the hotel before you gather for a welcome dinner at a local trattoria.

Accommodation: Grand Hotels et Des Palmes, Palermo 5\*
Meals included: welcome dinner at local restaurant

## Tuesday, April 30th, 2024- Palermo, 2700 years of history

A unique patchwork of artistic remains, Palermo has been conquered over three millennia by whatever population happened to cross the Mediterranean. Your guide will take you to the colorful alleys of the Capo market where you'll see why Palermo is 5th in the world for street food. Later in the day we will visit some of the attractions including a workshop of a puppet maker, the Norman Cathedral that almost appears to be made of desert sand and the Historic Kalsa district, you'll feel a variety of contrasting offerings that make Palermo unique. Dinner tonight will be on your own.

Accommodation: Grand Hotels et Des Palmes, Palermo 5\*

Meals included: breakfast, street food lunch

## Wednesday, May 1st, 2024- Down to Agrigento

Saying goodbye to Palermo, we'll travel today to Agrigento where we will spend the next two days in an elegant countryside olive oil estate. Your guide will take you to the UNESCO Valley of the Temples, one of the most important archaeological sites in the world with eight temples built between 510 BC and 430 BC and surrounded by centuries-old olive and almond trees. After time for a quick lunch on own we'll drive the short distance to our resort.

This afternoon, join owner Silvia in the kitchen for a cooking class featuring Sicilian traditional cooking. Afterwards, you will dine together on the prepared food.

Accommodation: Mandranova Resort, Agrigento Meals included: breakfast and dinner at resort

## Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024- Village Life

We will spend the day in a small village in the countryside. Together with our local guide you will stroll the town's streets heading to the shepherd's house to taste freshly made ricotta cheese that is still warm, step into a century-old bakery and have lunch with the family in the courtyard.

Giuseppe and Silvia di Vincenzo, the proprietors of Mandranova, produce an excellent mono-cultivar olive oil. This afternoon, you'll learn the proper way to taste and smell the olive oil while touring the olive groves and the oil press before enjoying one more home cooked dinner at the resort.

Accommodation: Mandranova Resort, Agrigento Meals included: breakfast, light lunch, dinner at resort

## Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024- Sicily

Enjoy one more delicious homemade breakfast and depart to the Baroque area, a quiet and authentic region filled with a wealth of historical, cultural and culinary attractions.

Picture eight small towns built in honey-colored stone with old-world charm that are truly awe-inspiring. This area was destroyed by an incredible earthquake in 1693 and rebuilt entirely in a such a unique Sicilian version of the Baroque style that earned the area the UNESCO world heritage patronage.

Your home for the next two nights will be the lovely Baglio Occhipinti Resort and Farm. Our friend Fausta Occhipinti runs this refined country house and produces olive oil, fruits and vegetables, while her sister is the proud owner of the awarded Arianna Occhipinti Winery. You'll stop at the winery for a tasting of her award-winning wines and continue to the Baglio to have lunch in the olive trees garden.

In the afternoon, you'll join us in the kitchen to do some home cooking and try your hand at old recipes while chatting, sharing, preparing and enjoying good food and wine together.

Accommodation: Baglio Occhipinti, Vittoria

Meals included: breakfast, wine tasting, light lunch, dinner at resort

#### Saturday, May 4th, 2024- Ragusa + Modica

After breakfast feel free to pick the oranges, mandarins and figs from the trees or go for a dip in the pool before heading off to explore the region. Your guide will take you to Ragusa Ibla, a hilltop town and a jewel of Baroque architecture. Modica, a lovely and authentic town nestled on the sides of two valleys filled with little houses, alleys and stairs. This area is a culinary paradise. You'll sample the famous Modicano chocolate at the oldest factory in town and the stuffed bread Scacce at local spots, but leave room so you can indulge in a splendid lunch at a Michelin restaurant.

Tonight, admire the stunning landscape around the farm and enjoy a light dinner in the lively atmosphere of the Baglio.

Accommodation: Baglio Occhipinti, Vittoria

Meals included: breakfast, lunch at Michelin restaurant

## Sunday, May 5th, 2024- From Vittoria to Taormina and Truffle Hunting

Before heading to Taormina for the last leg of the trip, we'll stop en route to meet our expert truffle hunter and our amazing chef. We'll go searching for truffles and, once in the kitchen, enjoy a glass of prosecco while Andrea will show you how to prepare the truffles before sitting down for lunch.

In the afternoon, you'll be in Taormina. One of the most beloved Italian towns for its charming history, stunning Greek theatre and unique panoramas, Taormina is by far the city in Sicily that embodies the good life. Oscar Wilde, Truman Capote, Pablo Picasso, Coco Chanel, and Greta Garbo have all indulged in the pleasures of its outdoor cafés and restaurants. Dinner will be on your own tonight.

Accommodation: Villa Belvedere, Taormina 4\*

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch

## Monday, May 6th, 2024- Mount Etna

Today will be Etna's day. Known as Europe's highest active volcano, Etna has very unique energy and it's now home to world-renowned pioneers of natural wines.

Your guide will whisk you away on a fabulous day packed with stunning treks, lunar landscapes, natural wines and regional cuisine. On board the first class 4WD vehicles you'll cross the lava fields and the craters of ancient and recent eruptions, explore a lava tunnel and hike along seven small aligned eruptive cones with epic vistas. Unwind during lunch in a lovely winery and discover why the wines coming out of Mount Etna are considered some of Italy's most intriguing.

We'll gather in the evening for a farewell dinner at a popular restaurant in town.

Accommodation: Villa Belvedere, Taormina 4\*

Meals included: breakfast, wine tasting and light lunch, dinner

## Tuesday, May 7th, 2024- Sicily, Italy to USA

After breakfast and check out, transfer to Catania airport. Arrivederci Sicilia!

Meals included: breakfast

Safe travels back to the USA.

Thank you for traveling with Limitless Planet!

## PRICING

**Total Cost**: \$6480

\*Based on double occupancy.

To confirm booking and reserve your spot, a \$1000 refundable deposit is required. The final payment will be due January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Deposit is refundable until December 1st, 2023.

Price is based on 14 people traveling together. If the minimum is not met, all guests will receive a full refund for their deposit. Minimum to be met by December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

#### **CANCELLATIONS**

- 75 % fee for cancellations up to 90 days prior to arrival / full charge for no shows and cancellations 0-90 days prior arrival.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Hotel Accommodation 4\* and 5\* luxury: 8 nights/9 days
- Tours: All tours mentioned in the program are included
- Entrance Fees: All entrance fees to the sites mentioned in the program
- Transportation: All transportation from your arrival to departure are included in the program
- Meals: Breakfast every day and other meals mentioned in the program
- Living like a Local: Travel with us and find out

#### The Details:

- 2 overnight stay & breakfast at Grand Hotel et Des Palmes 5\* Palermo
- 2 overnight stay & breakfast at Mandranova Resort 4\* Agrigento countryside
- 2 overnight stay & breakfast at Baglio Occhipinti 4\* Ragusa countryside
- 2 overnight stay & breakfast at Villa Belvedere 4\* Taormina
- 9 days Private first class 20/30 seats vehicle and driver
- 1 small bottle of water supplied daily on the bus for e.p.
- 9 days English speaking Licensed Guide throughout the itinerary
- Accommodation and meals for the driver and the guide
- Local guide for Lifestyle village experience
- #3 First Class 4WD vehicles and English speaking drivers for Mount Etna
- Naturalist Guide for Mount Etna
- VAT and taxes currently in effect
- Parking
- Entrance Fees at Museums and archaeological sites as per program currently in effect
- Local City taxes

#### Meals Included:

- Welcome Dinner at local restaurant
- Street Food Lunch in Palermo
- Lunch at home restaurant in Agrigento area wine included
- #2 dinners & #1 lunch at Mandranova resort
- #1 lunch & #1 dinner at Baglio Occhipinti
- Tastings in Modica
- 4 courses tasting menu lunch at Michelin restaurant
- Truffle hunt experience and lunch wine included
- Wine Tasting & Light Lunch at Tenuta at Mount Etna premium winery
- Farewell Dinner

#### Note

Water and coffee always included at meals – wines not included except when specified

## **NOT INCLUDED:**

- Personal expenses such as laundry, beverages, phone call, internet access.
- Services not mentioned in the program.
- Tips for guides and drivers.
- Travel Insurance
- Meals not specified in the itinerary

# Meet Your Host-Robert "Bob" Colosimo



Robert "Bob" Colosimo was born and raised in Warren, Pennsylvania and upon graduation from high school attended the Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, NY graduating in April 1980.

Bob began his traveling career in 1981 joining Holland America Cruise Line sailing on board several oceangoing cruise ships traveling worldwide.

In 1984, Bob joined St. Louis-based Clipper Cruise Line as executive chef and eventually became responsible for the entire food service operation for all four Clipper Cruise Line ships. During this period, Bob had the opportunity to work on passenger riverboats in Europe and on the American Orient Express Luxury Train. Bob also has worked as an adjunct instructor at St. Louis Community College, Forest Park. Bob also teaches culinary cooking classes at Kitchen Conservatory.

Bob had been General Manager for Eleven Eleven Mississippi Restaurant since September 2008, recently stepping down to mentor a new General Manager and delegating his responsibilities as he eases into retirement. During this period, Bob has participated in several charity events & cooking demonstrations sponsored by Eleven Eleven Mississippi. Eleven Eleven Mississippi has been awarded several "best of" awards in several local trade magazines over the years.

Bob has been a member of the American Culinary Federation since 1986 and joined the Chefs de Cuisine Association of St. Louis in 1993. He is a Certified Executive Chef and Certified Culinary Administrator. Bob is past president of the Chefs de Cuisine Association of St. Louis' Educational Foundation and is currently on the advisory board of St. Louis Community College. Bob has been Chairman of the Mardi Gras fundraiser for the past several years which raises funds for culinary education. Bob has enjoyed competing in several ACF certified competitions. In 2015 Bob competed and won the "Taste of St. Louis Battle Royal" and "2016 Chef of the Year" award from Chefs de Cuisine Association of St. Louis ACF chapter. Bob has taken a keen interest in bee keeping and is tending to his bee hives located in the city of St. Louis and St. Louis County.

Bob lives in Crestwood with his wife Lisa and has three children, Patrick, Dominick and Gianna.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

#### **Airfare and Transfers**

Limitless Planet is happy to book your airfare. If you use miles, you will be responsible for booking your airfare on your own. Transfers are included in the trip price. If you are arranging your own flight arrangements, please send a copy of your itinerary to <a href="mailto:christian@limitlessplanettravel.com">christian@limitlessplanettravel.com</a>

Transfer are included on group arrival and departure days only. If you are arriving outside of the group travel dates, we are happy to make arrangements for you (additional fees will apply).

### **Lost or Delayed Luggage**

Limitless Planet is not responsible for pieces of luggage lost or delayed by the airline during your arrival or departure flights. If you luggage is lost or delayed, please file a claim with the airline and provide your Account Manager with the claim information. We will do what is within our power to help.

## **Passport**

Each traveler will be required to have a passport valid for at least six months after your travel departure date. Limitless Planet is happy to assist you with your passport application or renewing an expired passport. Additional fees may apply. Please send a copy of your valid passport with your deposit payment.

#### Visa

A visa is not required for US citizens to enter Italy.

#### **Travel Insurance**

Travel insurance is not included in the quote of this itinerary. For your convenience Limitless Planet offers travel protection plans through Travelex Insurance Services. We are happy to send you a quote. A Limitless Planet Travel staff member will be onsite to assist in case of any emergency.

## **Tours**

All activities on this trip are optional. Tours will meet in the hotel lobby prior to departure to travel as a group. Any passenger that is not in the lobby upon designated time will be responsible for their transportation to that day's activity location.

If you would like to sleep in and skip a tour, no problem! It is your trip; we want you to enjoy it as you wish.

Have something you want to do while in Sicily that is not listed on the itinerary, let us know. We are happy to make special arrangements.

#### **Concierge Service**

Limitless Planet is happy to provide on-site VIP Concierge Service for the duration of your trip. Our on-site travel directors will ensure your restaurant reservations are made and your flights are on time. Travel Directors are experienced in managing the most intricate on-site details of today's complicated programs. Be rest assured, you will have on-site assistance for any issue that occurs during your travels.

#### **Health & Wellness**

Your health and wellness are very important to us. We are happy to accommodate any dietary restriction and special requests. All participants of Limitless Planet's tours must be physically fit enough to participate on the tour. Limitless Planet reserves the right to deny participation on any of our tours, according to the tour itinerary.

#### **IMPORTANT:**

For every booking entrusted to us, we require the following information:

- Full passengers' name, date of birth, nationality & passport number
- International arrival/departure flight (if not arranging through Limitless Planet)
- Active medical problems
- Bed preference (subject to availability)

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#### LIMITS ON LIMITLESS PLANET'S RESPONSIBILITY:

Limitless Planet acts as Tour Operator. It purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant, and other services from various independent suppliers, that are not subject to its control. Limitless Planet cannot, therefore, be liable for death, personal injury or any other loss that may occur due to any act or omission of any such a supplier or by reason of any other event over which it has no control. Domestic flights are, occasionally, subject to overbooking, cancellation, and schedule changes. If this occurs, Limitless Planet will do all in their power to assist clients in boarding flights or finding alternate arrangements. It must be stressed that this is done as a courtesy to clients and Limitless Planet cannot be held responsible for denied boarding, nor for the additional costs thus incurred; nor for payments not recovered for missed land arrangements due to airline delays.

Optional Activities that may be Dangerous

Depending on the itinerary you have selected, optional activities will be available at some of the places they will visit. Some of these activities carry with them the inherent risk of serious personal injury. These activities include, but are not limited to: horseback tours, canoe trips, hiking, river rafting, etc. You should be aware that your personal safety cannot be guaranteed, and Limitless Planet assumes no responsibility for your safety.

Acts of God and the Like

Limitless Planet is not responsible for acts of God, fire, acts of local government or other authorities, wars, civil disturbances, riots, terrorist acts, strikes, thefts, pilferage, epidemics, quarantines, earthquakes, adverse weather conditions, dangers incident to sea, land, and air travel and other similar acts or incidents beyond its ability to control or its suppliers.

See Terms and Conditions page for more information.

