

*Benvenuti!*

*Welcome to  
Sicily!*



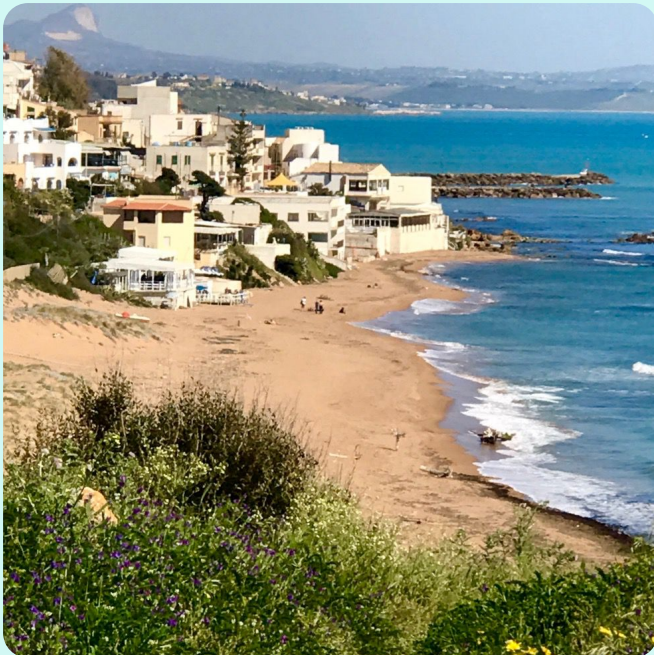
Painting tours hosted by  
Rosetta Sciacca  
Sicily Artist Retreats™

With Instructor  
Costa Vavagiakis

May 22-June 1, 2022  
June 5-June 15, 2022



# Travel Advisory



- For travel to Italy, you will need the following:
- Fill out a [Passenger Locator Form](#) (digital or paper) before entering Italy.
- [Covid-Tested Flights](#) - present a document certifying that you have performed a swab test with negative results within the timeframe required.
- [COVID-19 Green Certification](#) on arrival certifying complete vaccination at least 14 days beforehand by a vaccine recognized by the European Medicines Agency.
- A mask is required in Sicily for all indoor and outdoor activities. To stay updated with information on COVID-19 travel and access to cultural and recreational events, click [here](#).
- Check the [Italian Ministry of Health](#) for further information.

# Accommodations

We will be staying at the [Baglio Custerà](#), a boutique resort in the heart of Marsala's countryside. Known for its gardens and luxurious swimming pool, this ultramodern resort stands on the Rakalia hill, on the site of an ancient shrine to Hercules, surrounded by olive and orange groves.



Car rental is recommended at Palermo's Falcone Borsellino Airport at Punta Raisi (PMO) and is not included in cost. Pick-up service from the airport can be arranged at an additional cost.

Included in your package are all lunches, a celebratory welcome dinner and a farewell Sicilian festival.



Baglio Custerà is a brand new hotel built on ancient lines, those of the “baglio,” or farmhouse. The young staff take every measure to keep their guests safe and happy, with traditional and contemporary cuisine, aperitifs at sunset, and painstaking COVID precautions in line with the Ministry of Health's recommendations.





# Planning For Your Trip

Air travel with oil paint requires a few extra steps. Professor Vavagiakis has provided a useful checklist to assist you with this:

If you are painting in oil, please see his [oil painting checklist](#) to help you get started. Be sure to also include items based on your own preferences and anticipated needs.

Other resources to consult on his site are [4 materials lists for working en plein air](#).

Gamblin's useful tip sheet is worth reviewing: "[Traveling with Oil Painting Materials](#)."

Print out a copy of the [safety data sheets](#) for the oil paint you are bringing.

Have your [TSA label](#) prepared to facilitate check-in during bag inspection before the flight.





# Rosetta Sciacca Art Studio

[Contrada Cutusio #5](#)

[Marsala, TP, Sicily 91025](#)

Our Sicily painting tour will include the added convenience of a large, multi-room, professionally equipped art studio.

We will be painting portrait studies with models as part of the tour, but the studio will also be opened to guests who wish to have time to work on their painting or still-life.

Easels, stools and taborets will be made available, along with OMS, liquin and linseed oil. We ask that you bring any other supplies such as paints, pastels, watercolors, brushes, canvas or sketching supplies that you will need.







# Cultural Tips

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## A Structured Business Day

- The work-day in Sicily and much of Italy begins at 8AM. Almost all businesses, shops and churches close at 1PM for lunch, and re-open at 4pm. The business day ends at 8PM.
- Some exceptions to this rule are supermarkets, pharmacies, coffee bars, and local banks which often have extended hours.
- Restaurants open at about 12:30PM for lunch and close at 4PM. They re-open for dinner at about 7PM.
- Italian diners called '*tavola calda*' and ice-cream shops or '*gelaterie*' are open all day. Pizzerias are generally open only for dinner.



# Local Cuisine

Sicily boasts an extraordinary cuisine influenced by the unique flavors of the Mediterranean region. Its mainstays are garden-fresh vegetables, ancient grains and seafood.





# Restaurant Ideas in Marsala

## **Ristorante Baglio Custerà**

Contrada Rakalia 312A

39. 0923. 1873691

Seafood, meats local wines

Hotel Restaurant in resort setting.

## **Ristorante Pizzeria DE VITA**

C.da Cutusio, 188

39. 0923.966228

Pizza, seafood pasta, grilled meat & fish, local wines,

house made desserts and ice cream

Family operated, expansive patio Gluten Free menu

## **Osteria Il Gallo e L'innamorata**

Via Stefano Bilardello 18

Seafood pasta, grilled meat & fish

Colorful, timber-beamed room in Marsala center

## **Bar Oasi**

Contrada Fontana di Leo 166,168

39.0923.996224

Coffee bar, breakfast pastries, diner, house made traditional pastries. Eat in, or take out

## **Antica Trattoria Da Pino**

Via San Lorenzo 27

39.0923.715652

Seafood selection from display, pasta, wines

Located in Marsala center

## **I Bucanieri**

Lungomare Mediterraneo 41/45

39.0923.953477

Known for its excellent roast meats, pasta and seafood dishes, wines

## **Dolce Tentazione La Cannoleria**

Via Giudio Anca Omodei, 3, 91025

39.351.671.7620

Cannoli and other ricotta-based pastries

## **Master Pizza**

Contrada San Leonardo

39.388.730.4611

Excellent Pizza, wines and beers. Local neighborhood eatery. Eat-in take out- and free delivery



Tour  
Highlights





## Florio Cannery Museum Favignana

The tuna fishery (tonnara) on the rugged isle of Favignana is one of the largest in the Mediterranean. For centuries, tuna corralled and slaughtered by small boats would be ferried here to be cleaned, butchered, and sent to market. In 1874, the tonnara became one of the world's first industrial canneries, sending tins of tuna to New York, Buenos Aires, and elsewhere.

The regional government of Sicily acquired the plant in 1991 after centuries of private ownership. In 2010, this splendid structure became a museum, with interactive video exhibits preserving the voices and stories of the men and women who worked there. Outside the museum are stunning beaches and wild, rocky landscapes, as well as the easygoing charm of a small working port.





## The Stagnone Nature Reserve

Lo Stagnone Islands Nature Reserve is a splendid nature park encompassing a lagoon and four small islets. The reserve was established in 1984, but its picturesque windmills, beloved by photographers and painters, have ground sea salt for centuries, sending its “white gold” by ship to Roman legions and sailors of the Italian maritime republics.

Only bird calls and occasional strong winds ever disturb the peace of the Stagnone, making it ideal for meditative walks, landscape painting, or photo shoots.

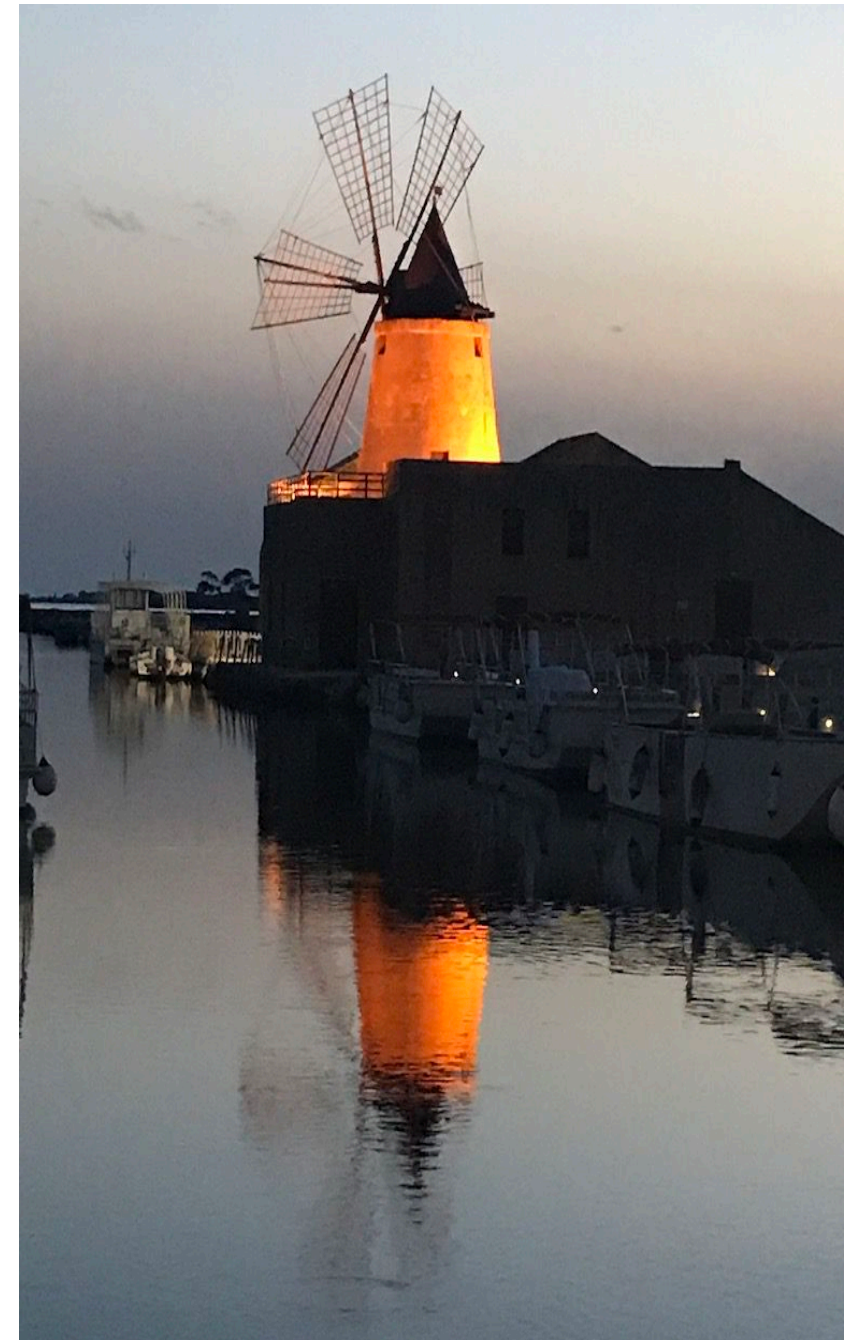




## Salt Windmill Museum & Visitor Center

Salt was a hugely important commodity for the preservation of food, so the west coast of Sicily played a fundamental role in the daily life of thousands of people around the Mediterranean basin and on the Continent.

The Windmill Museum illustrates the rhythms and techniques of this ancient trade. Lovers of architecture and pencil-sketch enthusiasts can explore up close the sails and wooden cogs of the mills, or how they pump water through sluice gates. Piles of harvested salt, neatly covered with terracotta tiles, lie between the road and the basins, drying in the sun and waiting to be dispatched.





## Cathedral of Monreale

One of the priceless treasures of Sicily, the cathedral at Monreale is a pan-European masterpiece. The 12<sup>th</sup> century basilica sits high on a hill overlooking the hubbub of modern Palermo. It exhibits a seamless blend of Romanesque and Byzantine architecture, with traces of Islamic Sicily's craftsmanship, and later Gothic and Baroque additions. Inside, you will have a chance to witness the splendor of the medieval imagination, from the mosaics on the gold-lined walls to the searing majesty of the Christ Pantocrator – an unforgettable window into the mystery of faith and the spiritual power of art.

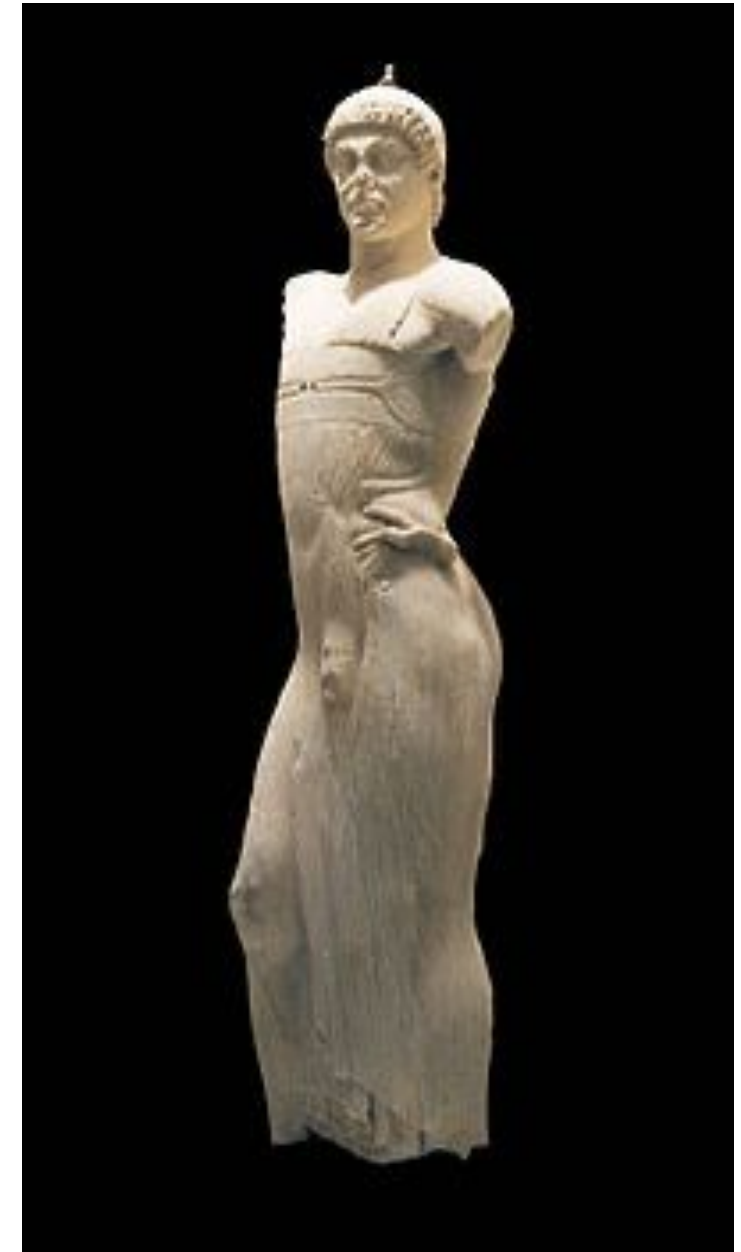




## Ancient Ruins of Motya

Motya (Mozia in Italian) is a lost Phoenician city, which once occupied one of the four uninhabited islands of the Stagnone. Part of the greater Carthaginian, or Punic, Empire, the small, densely populated town was a key node in the trade with Carthage, and had a complex urban plan, a harbor, and temples to the Phoenician gods, to whom the Motyans are alleged to have sacrificed children.

Motya was razed in 397 BC by the Greek tyrant of Syracuse, Dionysus I. Its refugees settled at the small cape of Capo Boeo to form a new city, called Lilybeum, later given the Arabic name Marsala. Motya's museum houses rare artefacts and works of art from this mysterious chapter of Mediterranean history, including the masks, stained glass, tomb markers, and the celebrated marble sculpture known as the Youth of Motya.





## Temples of Segesta and Selinunte

Segesta is found in the province of Trapani in Calatafimi-Segesta. The Doric temple of Segesta lies on the outskirts of the ancient city and is exceptionally well preserved. It is believed to date to 420 BCE. The Archeological park at Segesta also contains a Greek-style theater built into the hillside. It dates from the 4<sup>th</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> century BCE. The Theater is still used today for performances and concerts.

Selinunte was an ancient Greek City on the south-west coast of Sicily in the province of Castelvetro. Founded in 628 BCE, the archeological park contains 5 temples, of which the Temple of Hera (also called *Temple E*) has been rebuilt.





## Museum of the Dancing Satyr

The Dancing Satyr is a Greek bronze depicting a satyr, the embodiment of humanity's animal nature. Once believed to be an original Praxiteles, art historians have since dated the Dancing Satyr to either the Hellenistic or Roman period. It is likely a copy of a much imitated, now-lost statue. The statue was only discovered in 1998, when a fishing boat out of Mazara del Vallo dislodged it from the sandy seabed with a net. You will be able to sketch the joyous, twisting lines of the young satyr, and his mysterious expression of ecstasy, at the archaeological museum of Mazara del Vallo.





## Mountain of Erice

Just north of Marsala is a mountain known to the ancient world as Eryx (Erice in Italian). Atop the mountain is a village, called Erice, as charming and picturesque as any in Italy. First built by the mysterious Elymoi people, Erice passed through Phoenician, Greek, and Roman hands, always preserving its legendary temple to Aphrodite.

In the Christian era, the goddess' temple was replaced with a church, whose nave was redecorated in sinuous Art Nouveau style in the 1890s. The town has retained its medieval feel, with two castles, cobbled streets, and tightly packed stone houses — a watercolorist's dream. You'll be able to enjoy Erice's famous pastries, its views of the sea, and its sudden changes in mood brought on by dense mists or bursts of sunshine.





# Agrigento

The 5<sup>th</sup> century Greek city of **Agrigento** is one of the best-preserved archeological sites of Classical Greek Civilization.

The vast archeological park, called the **Valley of the Temples** is located on a ridge outside of town and includes 7 temples:

- ***The Temple of Concordia*** built in the 5<sup>th</sup> C. BCE and turned into a church 6<sup>th</sup> C AD;
- ***Temple of Juno***, burned by Carthage in 406 BCE;
- ***Temple of Heracles***, the oldest in the Valley;
- ***Temple of Olympian Zeus***, marks the city's victory over Carthage;
- ***Temple of Castor and Pollux*** symbol of modern Agrigento;
- ***Temple of Hesperhestus (Vulcan)*** one of the most imposing and now most badly eroded;
- ***Temple of Asclepius*** where pilgrims sought cures from illnesses.







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