

Indagare x MANSION GLOBAL

INSIDER
JOURNEY

SICILIAN SPLENDOR: PALAZZOS & GARDENS OF PALERMO

APRIL 8 – 12, 2026 5 DAYS | 4 NIGHTS



HISTORY | CULTURE | GARDENS | ARCHITECTURE

Sicilian Splendor: Palazzos & Gardens of Palermo

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8 – SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2025 (4 NIGHTS)

Renowned for its Greek temples, Baroque cities and dazzling multicultural churches, Sicily is a world unto itself—one that appeals to history and architecture connoisseurs who want to better understand its rich heritage. Step back in time and experience the best of Palermo with expert art historian and horticulturist—and Indagare-favorite host—Amy Kupec Larue. Curated in partnership with Mansion Global, this journey will take you on a deep dive through the city's history, with visits to iconic sites that showcase Palermo's distinctive architecture, including the 18th-century Palazzo Butera, the Monreale Cathedral (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), Villa Tasca and its Victorian-era gardens and the Art-Nouveau Palazzo Francavilla. Indulge in the region's delicious cuisine—which, like its art and architecture, expresses Sicily's unique identity—in the company of like-minded travelers who share your passion for exploration and discovery. Plus, continue the adventure with an Indagare-planned post-journey extension to Taormina (see p. 8 for details).

FROM \$8,900 (PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY); \$10,900 (SINGLE OCCUPANCY)

HIGHLIGHTS & SPECIAL EXPERIENCES

Enjoy history-, art- and architecture-focused touring with expert art historian and horticulturist Amy Kupec Larue, in the capital city of Palermo. Here, you will see marvels of Byzantine and Baroque design, including the Palatine Chapel and the expansive gardens of the Orto Botanico.

Experience private tours at some of Palermo's most iconic historic residences: Villa Tasca (the palazzo featured in the award-winning HBO series *The White Lotus*) and Palazzo Francavilla, an Art-Nouveau masterpiece that sets the scene for a special farewell dinner.

Gain a deeper connection to Sicily's culture through special encounters with local insiders, including a member of the Tasca family and artists at a private ceramic workshop.

Continue the Sicilian adventure in Taormina on an Indagare-planned post-journey extension to deepen your insight into this special island (see p. 8 for details).

Cover courtesy Absolute Sicilia. Right by Sydney Lapin



About Your Host & Accommodations

HOST



Horticultural expert, botanist and art historian **Amy Kupec Larue** has been living, working and traveling in Europe for 30 years, in pursuit of her passion for flowers, plants and French culture. Since 2005, she has been guiding garden lovers and groups on tours through public and private gardens in Paris, Normandy, the Loire Valley, the South of France and Tuscany. Amy has led travelers on Indagare Insider Journeys to the Loire Valley, Paris, Bordeaux, Napa Valley and Portugal.

ACCOMMODATIONS

VILLA IGIEA, A ROCCO FORTE HOTEL, PALERMO (MAIN TRIP)

This turn-of-the-century palazzo on the Gulf of Palermo once hosted Hollywood stars and royalty. With reimagined Art Nouveau interiors by Rocco Forte's one-and-only Olga Polizzi, the property is sure to attract a stylish set; the 78 rooms and 22 suites have a sea-inspired color scheme. The restaurant and bar serve authentic Sicilian cuisine—with a focus on fresh, local ingredients—from chef Fulvio Pierangelini.



VILLA SANT'ANDREA, TAORMINA (EXTENSION ONLY)

This lovely villa is located right on Taormina's pebble beach, making it a perfect enclave in which to end a busy Sicily itinerary. There are just 68 rooms and suites and all but seven have glorious sea views. Interiors are tasteful and understated, and the many terraces all come with cozy spots for a coffee. Beach cabanas are available for full-day rentals, a lovely way to enjoy the relaxed ambience.



From top: Courtesy Amy Kupec Larue; Rocco Forte; Belmond

Ready to experience Sicily?

Click the link below to reserve your spot:

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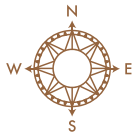


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From left: Sydney Lapin; courtesy Palazzo Butera



Itinerary



DAY 1: WELCOME TO PALERMO

- Arrive at Palermo Airport (PMO) and enjoy a private transfer to Villa Igia for check-in and time to relax (*approximately 30 minutes*).
- Meet your guide, Amy Kupec Larue, in the hotel lobby for an introduction to the history of Villa Igia, followed by a welcome dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: VILLA IGIEA | MEALS: D

DAY 2: MONREALE CATHEDRAL & VILLA TASCA

- Head to the town of Monreale, home to the Monreale Cathedral—a UNESCO World Heritage Site with mosaics covering over 69,000 square feet. Head to a mosaic workshop to witness artisans bringing these ancient techniques to life.
- Tour of Villa Tasca (featured in the award-winning hit HBO series *The White Lotus*) and meet a Tasca family member. Enjoy lunch with wine from the Tasca's world-famous winery. Built in the 1500s, the villa sits on one of Sicily's most emblematic Victorian-era gardens, with 20 acres of centuries-old trees and citrus orchards.
- Tour the streets of Palermo in a vintage Fiat 500—admiring the city's Baroque architecture and passing some of its most famous sites, like the Massimo Theatre.
- Dinner at leisure

OVERNIGHT: VILLA IGIEA | MEALS: B, L

DAY 3: BOTANICAL GARDEN & PALAZZO BUTERA

- Start the day with a visit to the Orto Botanico di Palermo, a 24-acre botanical garden and scientific research center dedicated to environmental conservation.
- Tour Palazzo Butera, an art museum within an 18th-century estate whose collection seamlessly blends antiques with contemporary works.
- Lunch at a local restaurant
- Experience one of Sicily's most important art forms—ceramics—during a private workshop. Your creation will be shipped home to you.
- Dinner at leisure

OVERNIGHT: VILLA IGIEA | MEALS: B, L

Itinerary

DAY 4: PALERMO'S HIDDEN GEMS & FAREWELL DINNER

- Enjoy a relaxed morning to explore the city's boutiques, historic markets or simply unwind at the hotel.
- Exclusive visit to Villa Malfitano Whitaker, a 19th-century residence surrounded by lush gardens, with elegant interiors that offer a glimpse into Sicily's aristocratic past.
- Private tour of the 12th-century Palatine Chapel (Cappella Palatina), a fascinating Norman-Byzantine church with its dazzling golden mosaics.
- Festive farewell dinner at Palazzo Francavilla, a true hidden gem of Palermo situated opposite the Massimo Theatre. Admire the Art-Nouveau architecture and frescoes by artists such as Giuseppe Velasco, Giuseppe Patania and Natale Carta.

OVERNIGHT: VILLA IGIEA | MEALS: B, L

DAY 5: DEPARTURE

- Say goodbye to Palermo and check out of the hotel in time for your transfer back to the airport for your departure flight home—or continue on to your Indagare-planned post-journey extension within Sicily (see pp. 8-9).

MEALS: B

**Please Note: Elements of the itinerary are subject to change*

**See p. 8 for details on the extension to Taormina. Please note, Amy will only be joining the group in Palermo.*



From left: Sydney Lapin; courtesy Villa Tasca



“

It was extremely interesting from a historical point of view to see and learn about Sicily, which is very different from Tuscany, Venice, Positano and other parts of Italy. To see 300-year-old trees in a world-class botanical garden was worth the whole trip! Trip sights and experiences at private residences were also great highlights.”

A traveler on the 2025 Indagare Journey to Sicily

From left: Courtesy Palazzo Francavilla; courtesy Villa Tasca



Ready to experience Sicily?

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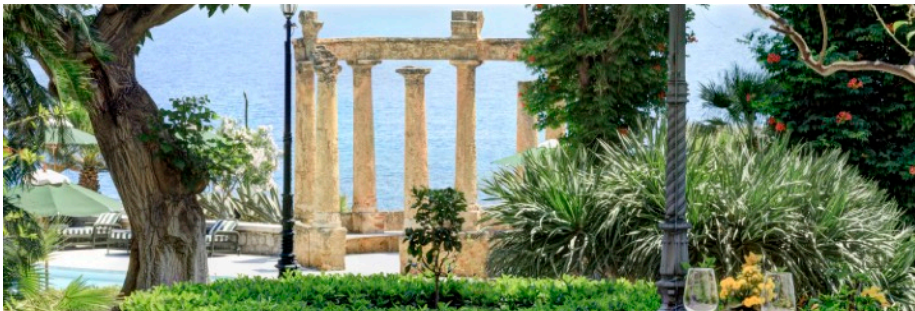
INDAGARE IMPACT

At Indagare, we believe that travel can and should have a positive impact on the destinations we visit. We are proud to operate as a 100 percent carbon-neutral company, and you can rest assured that the unavoidable emissions from your trip have been offset through trustworthy carbon projects. And through the Indagare Impact Fund, we donate an additional percentage of our annual revenue to carefully vetted non-profits committed to helping preserve culture, heritage and the environment.

Journey Inclusions

- All accommodations as detailed in the itinerary. Indagare can arrange higher category accommodation upgrades, subject to availability.
- All meals and beverages, as detailed in the itinerary
- All guided touring, admission fees and activities, as detailed in the itinerary
- Scheduled group airport arrival and departure transfers, as well as group transfers throughout to all included activities, in small luxury vehicles
- Transfer to Taormina (with extension purchase only)
- Baseline gratuities for drivers on touring days and guides
- Expert guides and drivers and the 24/7 support of Indagare's partners on the ground
- The services of Indagare's expert travel team to plan all trip details, international flights and trip extensions (costs not included; see p. 8)
- Complimentary Indagare Self-Planner Trial Membership (valued at \$395)
- 24/7 access to Global Rescue emergency medical, security and evacuation services for the duration of the trip (see p. 9)
- Carbon Neutrality: Offsetting 100 percent of unavoidable emissions through certified carbon projects

From left: Courtesy Rocco Forte; Palazzo Butera



JOURNEY EXCLUSIONS

- International air transportation to/from Sicily
- Meals not specified and premium beverages other than those included in the meals
- Optional activities and personal items and expenses
- Gratuities for arrival/departure representatives, transfer drivers, porters and housekeeping
- Trip insurance (highly recommended—please let us know if you would like quotes)
- Custom trip planning for add-on travel to destinations not included in the Journey is available; please inquire.
- Liability for change in itinerary due to reasons beyond our control (such as flights, cancellations, natural phenomena)

Courtesy Belmond



Post-Journey Extension: Taormina

APRIL 12 – 15, 2026 (3 NIGHTS)

PRICING COMING SOON

DAY 1 — CEFALÙ

- After breakfast, depart for Taormina. Stop en route to discover the medieval sea-side village Cefalù with an expert guide. One of the most beautiful villages in Italy, Cefalù is known for its 12th-century Norman cathedral—housing spectacular Byzantine mosaics—as well as the Temple of Diana.
- Lunch at leisure in town before continuing to Taormina for check-in at Villa Sant'Andrea, A Belmond Hotel (*approximately 2.5 hours*). Evening at leisure to enjoy the property.

OVERNIGHT: VILLA SANT'ANDREA, A BELMOND HOTEL | MEALS: B

DAY 2 — TAORMINA TOUR & COOKING CLASS

- After breakfast, tour Taormina, nicknamed the “Pearl of the Ionian Sea” for its unique natural beauty. Explore its historic sites, like the Ancient Theatre of Taormina (still used today).
- Visit a small village where Sicilian *nonnas* (grandmothers) will teach you how to prepare Sicily's best traditional dishes. Enjoy your freshly prepared meal for lunch before transferring back to the hotel.
- The rest of the afternoon and evening is at leisure.

OVERNIGHT: VILLA SANT'ANDREA, A BELMOND HOTEL | MEALS: B, L

DAY 3 — MOUNT ETNA & WINERY VISIT

- This morning, head to Giarre to meet your expert mountain guide. Together, explore Mount Etna, the tallest active volcano in Europe at around 10,921 feet high. Drive up the mountainside in a 4x4, your guide will navigate through a landscape of trees, lava flows and unique plants.
- After the hike, enjoy a private wine tasting and lunch at a local winery. Return to the hotel for the rest of the day at leisure.

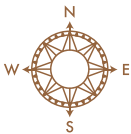
OVERNIGHT: VILLA SANT'ANDREA, A BELMOND HOTEL | MEALS: B, L

DAY 4 — DEPARTURE

- Say goodbye to Sicily and check out of the hotel in time for your transfer back to the airport for your departure flight home.

MEALS: B

Know Before You Go: Global Rescue & Trip Insurance



Complimentary International Global Rescue Services Coverage

*To help you travel more safely, responsibly and seamlessly, as part of your signup and registration, **all guests on International Indagare Journeys receive Global Rescue coverage for the dates of their journey as an added benefit.*** This means that in the event that an emergency occurs during the trip, guests have access to a variety of services, including medical assistance and evacuation assistance.

Global Rescue Overview

Global Rescue was founded in 2004 and has five operations centers and offices in five countries, with 200+ medical centers of excellence worldwide and 20,000+ operations globally. Global Rescue operations centers are staffed by experienced nurses, paramedics and military special operations veterans.

For the duration of any Indagare Journey you have access to:

- **24/7 medical assistance and advisory services for natural disasters, terror attacks and civil unrest**
- **Evacuations from the point of injury / illness to home country hospital (pending the type of care and level of care needed)**
- **Travel intelligence services, including alerts and real-time destination reports for 215 countries**

Additional services include: symptom triage, referral to local hospital or clinic, urgent/emergency message relay, telephonic support, health information services, replacement of lost medical supplies & medical triage.

For more on Global Rescue, go to globalrescue.com.

Additional Trip Insurance Recommendation

It is important to note that the **Global Rescue coverage that comes with every purchase of an Indagare Journey is not the same as travel or trip insurance**, which—among other features—offers financial protection concerning situations that occur before a trip begins and require a change or cancellation of travel plans. These can include a personal or family illnesses or other unexpected factors such as lost luggage, flight disruption, illnesses or accidents that require emergency medical treatment and/or hospitalization.

So that guests can plan and undertake travel with the minimum possible financial risks, **Indagare also strongly recommends that guests joining Indagare Journeys trips purchase travel insurance to cover their trip(s).** Travel insurance may be obtained from any of a number of providers that specialize in such insurance, and as a courtesy to guests, **Indagare can arrange for a quote for coverage with our preferred provider, Redpoint, to be prepared and emailed directly to you at your request.**

Note: Plans from some providers can be purchased up to 24 hours prior to departure; others require 14 days notice. Indagare recommends opting in to a plan well in advance of your trip. Please be advised that Indagare is not a licensed insurance company or advisor.