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**GRAND
TOUR**
UNIQUE GUIDED TOURS

Sicilian Treasures: An Authentic Taste
of the Island's Flavours

Small Group 10 Days Grand Tour of Sicily

expressly designed by Chiara Adriani

NOVEMBER 2024



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Our Itinerary

T'amaju di quannu stavi dintr'a la naca
T'addivaj ducizza a muddichi a muddichi
Silenziu d'amuri ca camini intr'a li vini
Nun è pussibili staccarimi di tia

Silenziu d'Amuri, Alfio Antico

(I loved you since you were a baby in the cradle
I fed your sweetness with pieces of crumble,
You, silence of love, you circulate within my veins
It is impossible for me to break away from you.)



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ITINERARY

DAY 1 - PALERMO - ARRIVAL

DAY 2 - ALCAMO - ERICE - MARSALA

DAY 3 - MARSALA - MOTHIA

DAY 4 - MAZARA DEL VALLO - SELINUNTE - SCIACCA

DAY 5 - AGRIGENTO - PIAZZA ARMERINA

DAY 6 - RAGUSA - MODICA - NOTO

DAY 7 - SIRACUSA - MARZAMEMI

DAY 8 - CATANIA

DAY 9 - CATANIA - BRONTE - PALERMO

DAY 10 - PALERMO- DEPARTURE

Welcome to an unforgettable journey through the captivating island of Sicily, where history, culture, and culinary delights await you at every turn. This meticulously planned itinerary will guide you through some of **Sicily's most enchanting destinations**, from bustling cities to tranquil coastal towns, ensuring you experience the island's rich heritage and vibrant flavours.

Begin your adventure in **Palermo**, the island's dynamic capital, where you'll explore stunning architecture and lively markets, sampling authentic Sicilian street food along the way.

Continue your journey in **Alcamo**, where the majestic Castello dei Conti di Modica stands guard over lush vineyards, setting the stage for a taste of **local wines** and traditional cuisine.

Next, ascend to the medieval hilltop town of **Erice**, shrouded in myth and offering panoramic views over the **Tyrrhenian Sea**, alongside its ancient churches and cobblestone streets.

In **Marsala**, delve into the history of its world-famous wine with a visit to a historic winery before exploring the **Punic Ship museum**, which tells tales of ancient maritime adventures.

Moving to Mazara del Vallo, you can wander through the Kasbah district, reflecting the town's **Arab heritage**, and marvel at the famous **Dancing Satyr statue**, a mesmerizing Greek bronze recovered from the sea

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Moving to **Marsala** and **Mazara del Vallo**, you'll savour renowned wines and fresh seafood, gaining unique insights into Sicily's everyday life and traditions.

Continue your journey unlocking some of the most famous **Sicilian world heritage sites** with the guidance of local expert guides. In **Agrigento**, marvel at the majestic **ancient Temples**, some of the best examples of preserved ancient Greek architecture outside of Greece. While in **Piazza Armerina**, instead, let yourself be captivated by the **Roman mosaics** of **Villa Romana del Casale**, and delight in local culinary specialties.

With their timeless atmosphere and picturesque views, **Ragusa, Modica and Noto**, will charm you and lead you to discover not only the **baroque splendours** nestled in the narrow streets and bustling squares of these villages, but also some of the **island's finest chocolates and pastries**, which you'll have the chance to try yourself!

Siracusa will captivate you with its tranquil coastline and the profound history of its ruins. You'll immerse yourself in the city's rich **Greek heritage**, enjoying a lively urban atmosphere paired with an array of **culinary delights**. Visiting in November will allow you to fully appreciate its charm and peace, as the city is less crowded.

Offering a perfect blend of historical charm and modern vitality, the main city at the foot of Mount Etna, **Catania**, is a vibrant city known for its **energetic atmosphere** and **rich cultural heritage**. Our guided tour through the city's architecture will display the striking mix of **baroque buildings and ancient Roman ruins**, with the grand Piazza del Duomo and the impressive Catania Cathedral as central highlights.

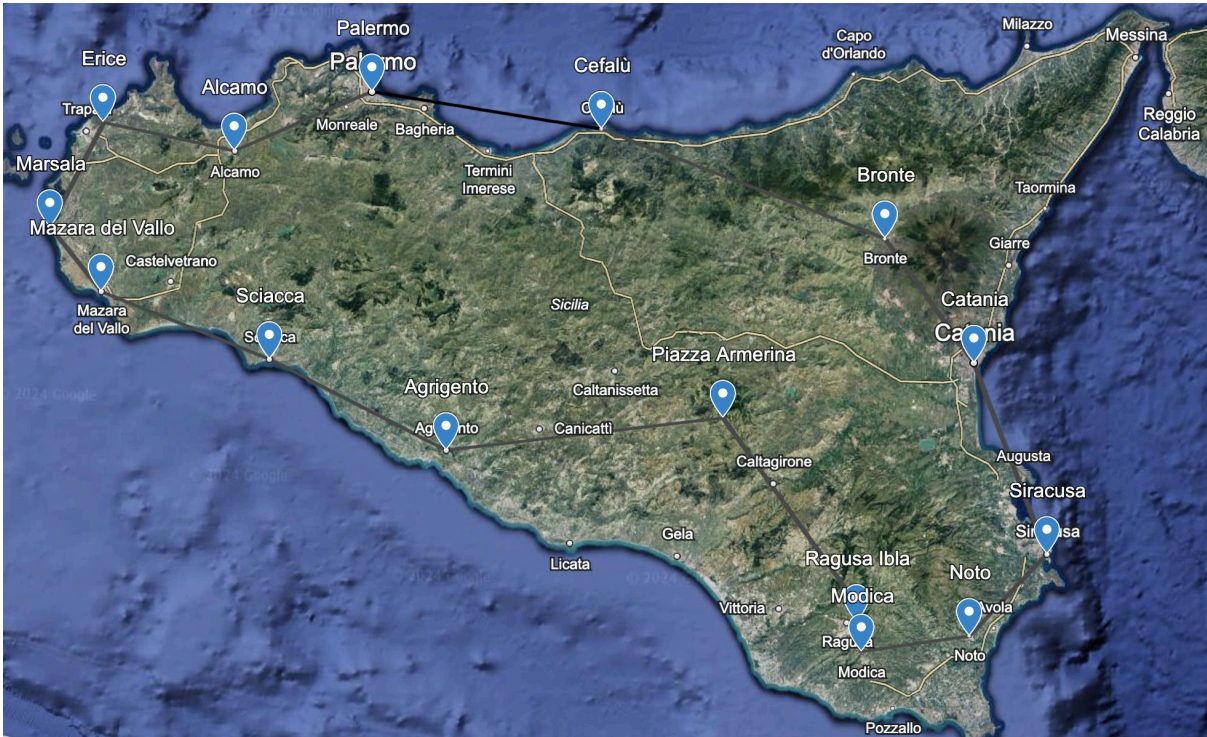
Discover the unique experience of tasting the original **pistachio of Bronte** different uses within the Italian cuisine, as you have never tried before.

Lastly, relax in the charming **coastal town of Cefalù**, where medieval beauty meets seaside bliss.

Join us on this authentic **Sicilian adventure**, where your senses will be delighted by the island's beauty and flavours, all enhanced by the expertise and passion of your tour leader and local guides. Let Sicily's real taste leave an indelible mark on your memory.

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Accommodation

Hotel 3 to 4 stars accommodation in standard double room, including breakfast and city taxes. Room upgrades to suites and other extras are available on individual requests at the time of confirming your booking.

Catering

Each day includes a traditional Sicilian meal featuring two to three courses, accompanied by water and a glass of wine per person. One meal per day, from the dinner of day one, to lunch of the last day, as specified in the itinerary.

All wine tastings and food tastings are included. As you book the tour, please specify if you have any allergies or special requests.

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Your tour director Chiara



This beautiful Sicilian experience has been meticulously crafted and will be led by Chiara, your dedicated travel director who envisioned and realized this itinerary.

Born and raised with a deep love for travel, art and history,, I've spent years exploring hidden gems and cultural treasures around the world. My passion is to bring history to life and unveil the unique beauty of each destination. As we embark on this journey together, I'll be there to ensure everything runs smoothly and to share fascinating insights about the places we visit. Get ready to discover new places, traditions and flavours as we create unforgettable memories together!

Transportation

To access the various stops on our tour, we will be transported by private bus, with a dedicated driver available throughout the duration of our journey. Please note that some physical effort will be necessary, as our guided tours are mostly on foot through the urban centres, although there will be periodic breaks to rest and enjoy the sights.

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**DAY ONE— 14th NOV 2024
ARRIVAL TO PALERMO**

**Arrival to Palermo (your arrangements, but we are happy to help)
Meet Us at the Hotel in central Palermo by 2:30 PM for a welcome drink
and walking food tour of PALERMO, followed by a traditional dinner.**

**Hotel in Palermo for 1 night: Hotel Porta di Castro 4*, Via Porta di
Castro, 223 90134 <https://www.bebportadicastro.it/>**

**DISCOVER PALERMO
Palermo Food & Culture Tour**



3:00 PM Half Day Private walking tour of the centre of Palermo

Explore the vibrant capital of Sicily, Palermo, a city with nearly 3000 years of history and a melting pot of cultures. Your journey begins at Piazza Politeama, a lively square where locals gather to play games and people-watch. From here, wander south through the bustling streets to Piazza Verdi and marvel at Teatro Massimo, Italy's largest opera house.

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Next, dive into the Capo Market, a lively bazaar reminiscent of an Arab souk. Here, you'll experience the morning hustle and bustle, with vendors calling out and the air filled with tantalizing aromas. Enjoy the chance to chat with locals and perhaps grab a delicious snack.

Continue your adventure along Via Vittorio Emanuele to Quattro Canti, a stunningly symmetrical square at the heart of Palermo. Nearby, Piazza Pretoria awaits with its opulent fountain adorned with mythical sea gods and nymphs. This half-day tour offers a taste of Palermo's rich history, diverse architecture, and vibrant local life. Enjoy every moment of this fascinating city!

6 PM Free time before dinner

8 PM Welcome Dinner.

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**DAY TWO – 15th NOV 2024
ALCAMO - ERICE - MARSALA**



9:00 AM - Transfer to ALCAMO

10:00 Alcamo & Winery <https://www.adamobio.it/>

Nestled in the heart of Sicily, Alcamo is a charming town known for its rich history and vibrant culture. Features stunning medieval architecture, including the impressive Castle of the Counts of Modica, and its narrow streets are lined with traditional Sicilian shops and cafes. Not to miss the chance to sample the local wines, as Alcamo is famous for its exceptional vineyards and picturesque countryside, we are visiting the Adamo Bio, with a tasting and Tour discovering the Alcamo Doc wines.

12:00 AM transfer to Erice

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Guided tour of Erice and lunch at a chef's home

Have you ever wondered how that famous chef cooks at home? Sometimes the answer is simple: the way his mom taught him! Such is the case of Vito, who grew up on fish and "cous cous" in a fisherman's house in San Vito lo Capo, where his mother carefully prepared every meal with simple but delicious local ingredients. He later moved to Erice to open his own restaurant but, despite working hard on innovative dishes, he never misses a chance to rediscover the flavors of his childhood, cooking just as his mother taught him. Now, he has his wife Francesca by his side, who will welcome you to their beautiful country home with contagious energy and a big smile. Enchanted by a breathtaking view of the Trapani coastline, you will be immediately smitten with the scent of bread that Vito will bake to serve with appetizers freshly made at the home stove. The highlight will be the 'ncucciatina' of cous cous, a sacred rite that Vito will celebrate with you to join the grains of semolina flavored by an unforgettable fish soup. Simple gestures of a family ritual that Vito and Francesca cherish at their home and that you will have a chance to experience, just a few steps from one of the most stunning medieval villages in Italy!

Erice is a captivating medieval town perched on a hilltop in northwestern Sicily, offering panoramic views of the surrounding countryside and the Tyrrhenian Sea. Known for its well-preserved stone buildings, narrow cobblestone streets, and ancient churches, Erice exudes a timeless charm. Key attractions include the imposing Norman-era Castello di Venere, the beautifully adorned Chiesa Madre, and the quaint squares lined with artisan shops. Renowned for its local pastries, particularly almond-based sweets, Erice provides a delightful blend of history, culture, and scenic beauty, making it a must-visit destination for those exploring Sicily.

Transfer to Marsala (1h drive)



5 Pm Transfer to Boutique Hotel il Carmine (or similar), Piazza del Carmine, 16, 91025 - Marsala (Tp) <https://www.hotelcarmine.it/>

Free Evening

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DAY THREE – 16th NOV 2024
MARSALA - MOTHIA



Visit MARSALA, MOTHIA and FLORIO Winery

Morning Exploration of the Stagnone and the Island of MOTHIA with Ferry

Free time in Marsala at lunchtime

AFTERNOON Winery and Visit to the Archeological Museum

<https://cantineflorio.it/>

Marsala, a coastal gem in Sicily, is renowned for its historic charm, stunning seascapes, and world-famous wine. Explore its vibrant streets, where history blends seamlessly with modern culture, and be sure to visit the local wineries that have made Marsala a symbol of Sicilian excellence. A visit to the iconic Florio Winery, established in 1833, offers an immersive experience into the rich history of the Florio family and the evolution of Marsala wine. The Premium Florio Tour will captivate you with tales of tradition, craftsmanship, and the unique pairing of Marsala wines with gourmet treats, showcasing both Marsala Vergine Riserva Premium and Marsala Superiore Riserva Semisecco Premium

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4 PM Saline di Marsala walking tour <https://www.seisaline.it/saliturismo/>

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DAY FOUR – 17th NOV 2024
MAZARA DEL VALLO - SELINUNTE - SCIACCA

9:00 Morning in Mazara del Vallo with a local guide (35 mins drive)



Although small in size, this city hosts a remarkable number of monumental 11th-century churches and a historic centre of extraordinary beauty. A must-see is the Kasbah, a labyrinthine maze of narrow streets that characterizes the oldest part of the city. With its streets adorned with colourful paintings and house walls decorated with vibrant ceramics and majolica, it immediately gives the impression of being in an Arab country.

Another symbol of Mazara del Vallo is the Norman Arch, the only remaining trace of a castle commissioned by Roger of Hauteville and built after the liberation from Arab rule. From here, you can enjoy a spectacular view of the surrounding sea.

Afternoon Transfer to SELINUNTE -

Transfer to SCIACCA - Overnight - Hotel

<https://www.lapalomablancahotel.it/en>

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**DAY FIVE – 18th NOV 2024
SCIACCA - AGRIGENTO**

Agrigento and Private Guided Tour of the archaeological site The Valley of The Temples (1 h 15 m drive)



Eta Agrigento by 10:30 guided tour

Admire the views of the Sicilian landscape as you travel toward the town of Agrigento. The Ancient Greek city is a UNESCO-listed archaeological site, known as the Valley of the Temples.

The heart of the archaeological site of Agrigento is the area of the magnificent temples. One of the biggest Greek temples was that of the Temple of Zeus, with only the ruins of the foundations and principal altar remaining.

Villa del Casale



Check out from the hotel and transfer to Piazza Armerina (1,30h drive)

After breakfast, leave the hotel to travel onward to Piazza Armerina, the town that's home to Villa Romana del Casale. The villa is one of the most luxurious of its kind. It is especially noteworthy for the richness and quality of the mosaics which decorate almost every room.

Ragusa to hotel to check in (1,30h drive)

Antico Convento Ibla, V.le Margherita, 41, 97100, Ragusa Ibla (RG)
<https://www.anticokonventoibla.it/>

Discover the singular pleasure of spending an afternoon enveloped in the tranquil and serene atmosphere of a historic Capuchin monastery, meticulously transformed into an enchanting hotel featuring a delightful restaurant. This peaceful haven provides exclusive and revitalizing experiences, including yoga classes and therapeutic massages.

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DAY SIX - 19th NOV 2024
RAGUSA, MODICA, NOTO

Morning Guided Tour of Ragusa

Ragusa Ibla is renowned for its beautifully preserved Baroque architecture. The town is a UNESCO World Heritage site, boasting a remarkable collection of churches, palaces, and public buildings adorned with intricate facades, grand staircases, and elaborate decorations. Key examples include the Duomo di San Giorgio and Chiesa di San Giuseppe.



Transfer to Modica



Continue your journey with a scenic drive to Modica, renowned for its unique chocolate. Here, you'll immerse yourself in the world of Modica chocolate, a tradition dating back to the Spanish colonization. Visit a local chocolate factory, where you'll learn about the traditional methods of chocolate making, see the process firsthand, and, of course, indulge in tasting this delicious treat.

Lunch in Modica

Afternoon transfer and free time in Noto (45 mins drive)

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Often referred to as the "Capital of Baroque," Noto is a UNESCO World Heritage site, celebrated for its harmonious urban layout and beautifully preserved buildings. The town was rebuilt in the early 18th century following a devastating earthquake, resulting in a cohesive and elegant architectural style. Key highlights include the magnificent Noto Cathedral, with its grand staircase and ornate facade, and the elegant Palazzo Ducezio.

6 pm transfer to Siracusa to hotel to check in (40 mins drive)

Hotel in Siracusa 2 nights

**Boutique Hotel Molo Santa Lucia (or similar), Riva Porto Lachio, 25, 96100
Siracusa SR <https://www.boutiquehotelmolosantalucia.it/>**

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**DAY SEVEN – 20th NOV 2024
SIRACUSA**



9 AM Transfer from the hotel to city centre to start the guided tour with a local guide

Syracuse is a timeless beauty, offering a wealth of historical treasures, from Ancient Greek ruins to dazzling baroque piazzas and charming medieval lanes. Once one of the most important cities of the ancient Greek world, Syracuse was the largest city of its time.

Your private tour begins with a pick-up from your hotel, whisking you away to the heart of Syracuse. Explore the magnificent archaeological park, home to the impressive Greek Theatre, the Roman Amphitheatre, and the Ear of Dionysius—a limestone cave with remarkable acoustics.

Next, cross the bridge to Ortigia, the most beautiful and historic part of the city. Wander through its narrow, winding streets, marvel at the stunning Cathedral of Syracuse, which was originally a Greek temple, and visit the Arethusa Fountain, a legendary freshwater spring.

Free afternoon

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Aperitivo and Dinner in Marzamemi



Known for its charming historic center, the village features traditional stone buildings, narrow streets, and a scenic harbor. Marzamemi is renowned for its vibrant summer festivals, particularly the International Frontier Film Festival, which attracts visitors from around the world. The area boasts beautiful beaches, clear turquoise waters, and excellent seafood cuisine. Marzamemi's tuna processing plant, one of the oldest in Sicily, adds to its historical significance. Overall, Marzamemi offers a blend of cultural heritage, natural beauty, and a relaxed Mediterranean atmosphere.

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DAY EIGHT - 21st NOV 2024

CATANIA

Check out 9:00 and transfer from Siracusa to Catania

Luggage drop off

Guided tour of Catania



Dominated by the majestic Mount Etna, one of the world's most active volcanoes, Catania offers unique experiences such as volcanic hikes and tours. The city's baroque architecture, especially the UNESCO-listed historic center, showcases grand buildings and vibrant piazzas. Catania's bustling markets, like La Pescheria, provide a taste of authentic Sicilian life with fresh seafood and local delicacies. Additionally, the city's coastal location means beautiful beaches and crystal-clear waters are easily accessible.

Catania Food Tour for Lunch

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Free Afternoon

**Hotel in Catania 1 night 4 starts 20 Miglia Boutique Hotel (or similar), Via
Monsignor Ventimiglia 164/170 - 95123 Catania
<https://www.20migliahotel.com/>**



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**DAY NINE - 22nd NOV 2024
CATANIA TO PALERMO WITH STOP IN
BRONTE AND CEFALÚ**

10 AM Check out and transfer to Bronte for Lunch with pistachio-tasting



Start the last day by heading to Bronte for a delightful pistachio experience. Enjoy a specially curated menu featuring: pistachio Arancini, a delicious rice ball filled with pistachios, a savory pastry with ham, pistachios, and mozzarella., Creamy pistachio ice cream. The meal is complemented by water and a traditional Sicilian amaro.

After Lunch, Transfer to Cafalú and Free time in Cefalú

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Cefalù is a charming coastal town in northern Sicily, known for its stunning medieval architecture and beautiful beaches. Dominated by the imposing Rock of Cefalù (La Rocca), the town features narrow, winding streets and picturesque views of the Tyrrhenian Sea. The centerpiece of Cefalù is its magnificent Norman Cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage site, boasting impressive twin towers and exquisite Byzantine mosaics.

6 PM Transfer to Palermo (1h drive)
Farewell Dinner in Palermo

Hotel in Palermo 1 night

**4 stars Hotel in Palermo, Hotel Porta di Castro (or similar), Via
Porta di Castro, 223 90134 – Palermo**
<https://www.bebportadicastro.it/>

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**DAY TEN 23rd NOV 2024
PALERMO**

Individual Departures from Palermo (Post-trip extension available)

GOODBYE, SICILY

Prices, T&C's

**Cost per Person in Double Occupancy Adult euros 4995.00
Single Supplement 1450,00**

**Deposit at Time of Booking EUROS 500.00
Balance 60 days prior to travel (September 15th)**

**Small group tour minimum 8 pax/max 15 pax
For private tours and larger groups, we can set up a dedicated separate departure.**

**Trip will be confirmed upon reaching the minimum number of guests, in case of
cancellation 100% of the deposit will be refunded, or you will be able to book the
next departure for May 2025, at a discounted rate.**

**No refunds for cancellations received after September 15th, if you cancel after that
day deposit is forfeited.**

**Tour includes Private Guided Tours with local guides, Activities, Transportation
(private car with driver, private boat) and Skip line Entrances to all attractions, 4
stars hotel in BB, CITY TAX not included to be paid directly to hotels.**

Inclusions: The above package is Inclusive of all Tours as described in the itinerary,
entrances with priority/reservation and private guiding in English as per itinerary, all
transfer per itinerary, private transfers and transport including Airport private Pickup
with Meet and Greet, plus our assistance 24/7.

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Exclusions: Food, Drinks, and personal expenses Capri docking fee (euros 100) and Blue Grotto Entrances (60).

Cancellation Policy: To confirm your reservation we only need a 20% fully refundable deposit at time of booking. This deposit is fully refundable no matter the reason up to 60 days before arrival. 60 Days before arrival payment is due in full.

From 60 days up to 7 days prior to starting the tour 50% cancellation fee.

Under 7 days not refundable but based on availability and type of tour you will be offered the chance to reschedule or postpone at a reduced fee.

We strongly advise buying Cancellation Travel Insurance as well as Medical Insurance.

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Thank you for travelling with us!

The Grand Tour Europe Ltd.

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AWARDS

