

# ITALY - RESIDENTIAL WEEK - A TASTE OF SICILY

## ITINERARY

### Day 1

Transfers are included to and from Palermo airport on arrival day and departure day.

On arrival day, your flight should be between 11.00 and 17.00 so that you don't miss the first dinner. On departure day your flight should depart between 11.00 and 17.00.

If you are on a connecting flight, please ensure you have at least 1.5 hours in transit (unless you are travelling with hand luggage only).

Overnight Casa Il Bosco. This charming, restored nineteenth century country house is surrounded by the wilderness of Madonie Park.



Casa Il Bosco



A twin room at Casa Il Bosco

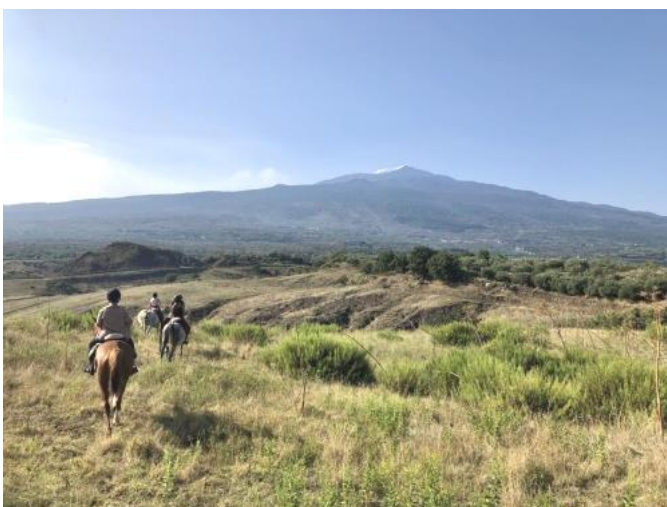
Overnight Casa Il Bosco.

## Day 2

An enchanting introduction to the local area and the territory of Cefalù. After breakfast, set off and begin the day by riding around and then to the summit of the highest mountain in the territory of Cefalù, Pizzo Sant'Angelo (1081 metres).

When the weather is good, from here you can admire spectacular views of the high Madonie Mountains, the Tyrrhenian Coast from Palermo to Capo D'Orlando, the Aeolian Islands, and much more. Enjoy a picnic lunch and visit the famous Sanctuary of Gibilmanna, before riding back to the horses base.

(Approx. 5 hours riding)



Overnight Casa Il Bosco.

### Day 3

After breakfast begin the day's ride following an ancient trazzera (old paths used for transporting animals which date from the Bourbon era) in the direction of Castelbuono, one of the most famous villages of the Madonie area, with beautiful views towards the high Madonie Mountains.

Before lunch, reach the renowned vineyard of the Abbazia Santa Anastasia, a restored abbey, where you can enjoy a guided tour of the cellars, a tasting and a light lunch, before riding back to Casa "Il Bosco" in the afternoon.

(Approx. 5 hours riding)



Overnight Casa Il Bosco.

### Day 4

In the morning, ride to a local farm and get a real taste for Sicilian rural life, learning about how ricotta and local cheeses are made.

Return to the base via one of the most panoramic spots in the territory of Cefalù, with fantastic views towards Palermo on one side and the Nebrodi Mountains on the other. In the late afternoon, head down to the charming seaside town of Cefalù, where you can enjoy a guided tour of the beautiful historic centre and a delicious seafood dinner on the water's edge.

(Approx. 5 hours riding)



Overnight Casa Il Bosco.

## Day 5

After breakfast, set off on a two-day mini trail into the high Madonie Mountains. The day will begin with a beautiful climb up through wild Mediterranean vegetation and woods, with fantastic views of the Tyrrhenian Sea.

After a picnic lunch, begin the ascent on the northern slopes of Pizzo Carbonara, Sicily's second highest mountain at 1979 metres, riding through lush forests of oak, holm oak and beech trees to reach Piano Battaglia, a mountain station located at the heart of the Madonie Park, where you will enjoy a dinner prepared using typical local produce and spend the night at Rifugio Marini.

(Approx. 7 hours riding)



Overnight Rifugio Marini. This 18 room refugio offers simple accommodation, with mainly bunk rooms and some twin rooms.



One of the bunk rooms at Rifugio Marini

## Day 6

Before leaving the heart of the Madonie Mountains you visit the Battaglietta, a depression in the landscape where all of the meltwater gathers and then travels along underground tunnels to Cefalù.

Descend from the high mountains, riding through beautiful woodland to reach the territory of the characteristic village of Isnello. Here you stop for a picnic lunch, before returning in the afternoon to the base through wild and unspoilt vegetation, with beautiful views of the north coast.

(Approx. 7 hours riding)



Overnight Casa Il Bosco.

## Day 7

On the last day of your stay, ride through dense Mediterranean vegetation and small country lanes to the small, picturesque seaside village of Sant'Ambrogio, where you will visit a local oil press and enjoy an olive oil tasting.

Depending on the weather and the time of year, we may take the horses down to the beach and enjoy a beach picnic, before riding back to our base in the afternoon, to enjoy a delicious final dinner. Please note that the beach ride cannot be guaranteed on any week.

(Approx. 5 hours riding)



Overnight Casa Il Bosco.