



Extraordinary culinary and cultural adventures in Italy

If you love fabulous food, cooking and culture...

A vacation adventure unlike any other

Your unique adventure will immerse you in the historic culture and divine cuisine of the Sicilian province of Ragusa. Our talented team of experts will take you behind the scenes of the destination the New York Times has called, the great new frontier for cooking, culture and wine.

Hands on cooking classes and discovery tours

You'll enjoy daily hands-on cooking classes with outstanding local chefs. You'll dine with business owners, historians, and regional celebrities who will give you the true flavour for this Italian paradise. And you'll participate in excursions to historic sites that tell the rich story of this ancient land.

Relax in elegant comfort

Contessa Vacation guests stay at the beautiful and elegant Grotta Di Ferro with spacious air-conditioned rooms, satellite television and in-room fridges. Swimming pool, expansive grounds and terraces make Le Grotta the perfect vacation spot to relax and get to know fellow guests.



CLOCKWISE from top left:
Cooking is always a family affair!
Caution—Master pastry chef at work!
La Contessa joining in on the fun!

Experience Sicily as a guest of the people

Contessa Vacations provides a unique opportunity for you to experience Sicily, not as a tourist, but as a guest of the people. The culture, cuisine and residents of the region are all part of the mix.

Each day hands-on cooking classes are followed by a meal shared with our guests from the region. In the kitchen where culture and cuisine begin to weave Sicilian magic you will come to understand the Sicilians "romance with food".



Sicily is the largest island in the Mediterranean Sea. An autonomous region of Italy, Sicily is rich in its own unique culture, especially with regard to the arts, cuisine, architecture and language.

Along with the cooking classes, excursions of the region are an integral part of your experience in the province of Ragusa, Sicily. Visit Modica, the city of Chocolate, Ragusa Ibla, a city within a city, Donnafugata, the castle that tells its story through its architecture and gardens, the seaside towns of Marina Di Ragusa and Donnalucata and the weekly market! Something for everyone – and all with the special attention to a full experience!



Gelato, gelato – forever gelato!
A day without wine – in Sicily, never.
Italian lessons make outings all the more adventurous!



We hope to see you soon!

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Fall in love with Sicily. It's easy with Contessa Vacations!

At Contessa Vacations we know that every person has a very special idea of what a vacation is for them. This is why we offer you choices. Each vacation includes your accommodation at Grotta Di Ferro, breakfast and lunch at the villa, daily 3-course Cooking Class dinners with wine, excursions with English guide, "Mini" Italian lessons, side trips to the seaside and market, and The Contessa Vacation Book of Sicilian Delights.

Beyond Closed Doors

Our original and most popular Vacation, it is the full meal deal! 6 nights accommodation, Sun - Sat.

Glimpse of Sicily

Sometimes it is just an appetizer you are yearning for and so our "Glimpse of Sicily" is perfect for you. 3 nights accommodation.

Slice of Sicily

Dip into the cuisine, for just one day – take a morning tour with our expert guide, have a mini Italian lesson and participate in a hands on class – then enjoy the labours of your afternoons work. As always there is wine and fun for everyone at La Contessa table.

La Dolce Vita

We have all dreamt of that one very special holiday – pure luxury in every way. La Contessa understands. She will design the ultimate Sicilian week just for you. Every day will be a memory.

Come, live your dream in Sicily!

Contessa Vacations** run from May to July and September to November.

2009 Rates:

Behind Closed Doors *

1,259 Euros per person

Minimum 4 persons/session

Based on Double Occupancy

Single Supplement 300 Euros (based on availability)

Glimpse of Sicily *

859 Euros per person

Minimum 4 persons/session

Based on Double Occupancy

Single Supplement 150 Euros (based on availability)

Slice of Sicily

129 Euros (based on availability)

Accommodation when available is an additional 119 Euros for two based on double occupancy

* Transportation is provided from Ragusa or Comiso Airport to Grotta Di Ferro

**Programs and prices are subject to change.

Visit Grotta Di Ferro Estate at www.grottadiferro.it for more information on Contessa Vacation accommodation. To book your vacation, contact shelley@contessavacations.com.



Contessa – behave! There's a lesson being taught!
Enjoy – the wine from the region is wonderful.
Bounty of the fields, and organic too!



After a long but wonderful day, dream in total comfort.
Relax, refresh and renew in the pool.
The joy of youth—our Sicilian friends.

A Baron's lovingly restored estate is 'home' during your Contessa Vacation

Located in the beautiful southeastern corner of Sicily, 15 kilometers from the town of Ragusa, our guests stay at the Grotta di Ferro.

The renovated summer home of the Baron of Calamenzana, Federico Grimaldi is the perfect combination of the old and new. Lovingly restored, this 52 hectare estate accommodates up to 14 in its large modern rooms.

A fresh water swimming pool with outdoor Jacuzzi is surrounded by eating terraces, an outdoor kitchen and plethora of nooks and crannies to explore or simply get lost in!

The Estate's many kitchens are perfectly designed for our *hands on* brand of teaching. An indoor professional kitchen, terrace side kitchen with traditional pizza oven and outdoor kitchen accommodate preparation of the divine cuisine of the region beautifully.

We invite you to make the selection that meets your unique vacationing style... at Contessa Vacations you can have it all.



COUNTERCLOCKWISE from top left:

Exploring the countryside - don't worry it isn't all uphill!

Lemoncello – we made it ourselves!

Almost ready – a plethora of gastronomic delights.



2009 Vacation Calendar

Spring

May 3 - 9
May 10 - 16
May 17 - 23
May 24 - 30
June 31 - 6
June 7-13
June 14 - 20
June 21 - 27
June 28 - July 4
July 5 - 11

Fall

Sept. 6 - 12
Sept. 13 - 19
Sept. 20 - 26
Sept. 27 - Oct. 3
Oct. 4 - 10
Oct. 11 - 17
Oct. 18 - 24
Oct. 25 - 31
Nov. 1 - 7
Nov. 8 - 14

Visit us at
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