

DIVINE SICILY LA VENDEMMIA FALL 2010

Arrive Palermo/Trapani: Monday September 13th

Depart Palermo/Trapani: Monday September 20th

Day 1

Monday, September 13: Guests arrive in Palermo/Trapani and transport to agriturismo Baglio Donna Franca, located near Marsala. Surrounded by vineyards, this lovely Baglio will be our home for the next week during the grape harvest. Get settled in and relax before we have a welcome cocktail together and meet with winemaker and owner of Donna Franca, Giacomo Ansaldo. Over dinner, we'll talk about what our role will be in the "Vendemmia" and we'll taste some wines from the estate.

Day 2

Tuesday, September 14: After breakfast we'll have an overview of the vineyard and its history before we head into the fields to pick grapes. Time working in the vineyards is a regularly scheduled activity. You may choose to participate at whatever level is comfortable for you. After lunch, we'll take a day trip to the charming town of San Vito Lo Capo overlooking the Tyrrhenian sea. The Arab influence in this region of Sicily is not only apparent in the cuisine, but also the architecture. This evening we'll dine at a taverna enjoying one of the local specialties of the area, il cuscusu – couscous flavored with fresh rock fish stock and seafood.

Day 3

Wednesday, September 15: After an early breakfast at the Baglio, we'll spend the morning helping with the grape harvest and pressing. Then we'll drive a few minutes down the coast to the city of Marsala, which takes its name from the Arabic, Mars-al-Allah, meaning the harbor of God. The Marsala wine that you'll taste today is nothing like the wine you cook with back home. Later this afternoon, at Baglio Donna Franca, we'll join the chef for a cooking class featuring some specialties of the region. We'll sup on what we've made in the class and then off to bed.

Day 4

Thursday, September 16: Breakfast, and then we'll see how we can help with the harvest this morning. Afterward, we'll take the "Via del Sale" (Salt Road) and visit the ancient Ettore and Infersa Saltworks. These salt flats were first started by the Phoenicians and are still operating today as they did thousands of years ago. We'll have a special dinner in Trapani prepared by our friend Chef Francesco.

Day 5

Friday September 17: After breakfast, we'll see what morning harvest chores need to be done on the estate, and then we'll take a drive to the charming village of Scopello where we'll visit some local shops, possibly take a swim, and enjoy lunch on your own. Then, on to Segesta Archeological Park where the best-preserved Greek temple in the world dominates the landscape. Tonight, an essential Sicilian dining experience...pizza for dinner!

Day 6

Saturday, September 18: An early breakfast, as we'll be working alongside Giacomo, the estate wine maker, to tend to the morning's harvest. We'll drive to the nearby hill town of Erice, with

gorgeous views of the Egadi islands, and explore the narrow cobblestone streets. Lunch on your own and then back to the agriturismo for a relaxing afternoon by the pool. We'll have a tour of La Divina Wine Cellar there at the Baglio with Giacomo before a light dinner on the terrace.

Day 7

Sunday, September 19: After breakfast we'll finish our work with the harvest and pressing. If we finish early, we'll have an opportunity to visit a nearby vineyard and taste some other wines of the region. At the end of our last day, we'll sit down with everyone who has helped with the harvest at the long communal table and break bread and drink wine together in celebration of the successful harvest.

Day 8

Monday, September 20: Guests transfer to Palermo/Trapani airport (approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour from Baglio Donna Franca) for departure. **Arrivederci Sicilia!**