

Palazzo Vecchio

TAORMINA



TAORMINA BY APE CALESSE

Discover the beautiful views of Taormina aboard Ape Calesse, a limited edition of one of Italy's most beloved vintage icons, and experience the town in true dolce vita style. Buzzing along in the enchanting little three-wheeler, immerse yourself in the sights, sounds and scents of this captivating destination. Taormina is a place that has become a legend thanks to the many people who have passed by: from David Herbert Lawrence, author of *Lady Chatterly's lover*, to the 'divina' Greta Garbo, from Oscar Wilde to one of the pioneers of photography Wilhelm Von Gloeden, from the histrionic director Roberto Benigni to the outstanding actor Carlo Verdone. Visit places they frequented, including Casa Cuseni, the old casino, the historical gardens of Villa Caronia (open Monday-Friday 09:00-13:00) and stop at a breathtaking viewpoint overlooking Isola Bella.

PRICES

Two-hour tour in an Ape Calesse for up to 3 guests: €143.00 per hour.

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ETNA JEEP TOUR

The regular eruptions of Europe's most active volcano have made it a feature of great intrigue in both Greek and Roman mythology, as well as folk legends. The god Aeolus, king of the winds, was said to have imprisoned the gales in the caverns of Etna. According to the poet Aeschylus, the giant Tifone was incarcerated in the mountain and caused the eruptions. Immerse yourself in these rich stories, or conjure up your own on our thrilling excursion. Depart from the hotel by car to Linguaglossa, a small village on the northern slopes of Etna. Once on the mountain, jump on a 4x4 vehicle with a professional nature guide and other visitors to explore unique spots, such as a lava cave, lava front and some extinct lateral craters where you'll be treated to spellbinding views. You'll have the opportunity to approach the very top of the volcano by reaching an altitude of 3,000 metres.

If you wish, an inviting wine tasting at a local winery can be organised.

PRICES € 650,00

The tour can be tailored to your interests and its duration and price may vary based on the selected activities.

Wine tasting to be paid separately on site.

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ETNA WALK AND WINE

Enjoy an exciting tour of some of the best local wineries of Mount Etna. Your driver will whizz you off to boutique wineries on the volcano's lower slopes.

Enjoy a delectable lunch and a fantastic tasting of Etna wines led by an expert vinologist.

PRICES

Full-day tour (7 hours):

- Mercedes Benz Sedan car: € 350.00 up to 3 people
- Mercedes Benz Luxury Mini Van: € 450.00 up to 6 people
- Mercedes Benz S Class: € 450.00 up to 3 people

Wine tasting and light lunch starting from €40.00 per person, to be paid separately on site.

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WINE ROUTE ON A FIAT 500

Embark on a route inspired by the surprising wine heritage of Mount Etna. Reach Castiglione di Sicilia, awarded as one of the most enchanting villages of Italy, by private car and venture on the North slope of the highest active volcano in Europe.

Admire the fascinating 'Gurine dell'Alcantara', tiny lakes created by water erosion along the Alcantara River. Here a lush vegetation has grown among lava stone, leaving room to resilient poplars, fragrant oleanders and weeping willows.

Then venture to the centre of medieval Castiglione di Sicilia by a vintage Fiat 500 for a visit to its ancient castle - where unparalleled views await, as well as an exhibition of the most remarkable Sicilian wine labels. Continue aboard your Fiat 500 to a local wine cellar for a dazzling wine tasting and light lunch.

PRICES

Half-day tour (up to 2 guests): €580.00, including transfer by Mercedes-Benz E Class and pick up in Castiglione di Sicilia by Fiat 500.

Wine tasting and light lunch to be paid separately on site.

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DISCOVER SYRACUSE

Syracuse was the most important city of Magna Graecia. It was home to many a great Greek, including the inimitable Archimedes and, according to Cicero, was “the greatest Greek city and the most beautiful of them all”. Today it’s one of the most interesting cities in Sicily, the cradle of theatre and a fantastic monument to Sicilian Baroque style. Stroll around the city’s ancient heart, Ortigia Island, home to the Piazza Duomo with its imposing cathedral, which was built on top of the remains of a Doric temple dating from the 5th century BC.

Entrance fees not included.

PRICES

Half-day Syracuse tour (up to 6 hours):

- Mercedes Benz Sedan car: € 265.00 up to 3 people
- Mercedes Benz Luxury Mini Van: € 325.00 up to 6 people
- Mercedes Benz S Class: € 325.00 up to 3 people

Private guide options quoted depending on request and subject to availability

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DISCOVER NOTO AND SYRACUSE

Noto is the apotheosis of late Baroque town planning and architecture. Completely destroyed by the terrible 1693 earthquake, it was rebuilt from scratch on a new site, about 10km from the old centre. Visit one of the UNESCO World Heritage, take time to simply wander around the narrow streets, admiring the golden-coloured stone buildings, beautiful façades and balconies.

Entrance fees not included.

PRICES

Half-day tour in Noto & Syracuse (up to 7 hours):

- Mercedes Benz Sedan car: € 290.00 up to 3 people
- Mercedes Benz Luxury Mini Van: € 350.00 up to 6 people
- Mercedes Benz S Class: € 350.00 up to 3 people

Private guide options quoted depending on request and subject to availability

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GODFATHER TOUR

Discover the beautiful locations made famous by Francis Ford Coppola's Godfather films. You'll be picked up from the hotel by a private driver and will head along the coastline before veering uphill to Savoca. Here you'll get the chance to stop for a lemon granita at the famous Bar Vitelli, one of Coppola's favourite spots. Then visit St Lucia's Church, where the wedding between Apollonia and Michael was filmed. From Savoca, proceed towards Forza d'Agrò, an enchanting hilltop village with incredible views and the place where a young Vito Corleone hid in a donkey cart. Step back in time to glimpse traditional lifestyles and witness a slice of authentic Sicily. Alternatively, you can take the tour on your own and rent a vintage Fiat 500.

PRICES

Half-day tour by private car (up to 4 hours):

- Mercedes Benz Sedan car: € 250.00 up to 3 people
- Mercedes Benz Luxury Mini Van: € 330.00 up to 6 people
- Mercedes Benz S Class: € 330.00 up to 3 people

Private guide option to be quoted on request and depending to availability

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AGRIGENTO AND THE VALLEY OF THE TEMPLES

Discover Valley of the Temples, the largest archaeological site in the world in a wonderful state of preservation. The area is included in UNESCO World Heritage Site list since 1997. Formerly the ancient Greek city of Akragas, described by the poet Pindar as “the most beautiful of mortal cities”, it was founded in 581 BC and quickly became a flourishing metropolis. Immerse yourself in a forgotten world, exploring well-preserved temples and artefacts, including the magnificent Temple of Concordia and the colossal atlases at the Temple of Olympian Zeus, all surrounded by olive and almond trees.

PRICES

Full-day tour (up to 7 hours):

- Mercedes Benz Sedan car: € 430.00 up to 3 people
- Mercedes Benz Luxury Mini Van: € 530.00 up to 6 people
- Mercedes Benz S Class: € 530.00 up to 3 people

Private guide option to be quoted on request and depending to availability

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CALTAGIRONE AND PIAZZA ARMERINA

Situated deep into the Sicilian countryside and more than 720m above sea level for an insight into daily Roman life. Piazza Armerina is home to the famous Villa Romana del Casale, built in the 4th century as a hunting lodge by a Roman patrician, the Villa is home to some of the best preserved and extensive examples of Roman mosaics spread over around 3500 square meters. Almost covered by a landslide in the 12th century, the Villa was fully excavated in the 20th century and now enjoys UNESCO World Heritage status. Admire vivid mosaics depicting scenes ranging from mythological stories to everyday activities. One intriguing tableau shows women exercising in bikini-style garments.

PRICES

Full-day tour (up to 7 hours):

- Mercedes Benz Sedan car: € 430.00 up to 3 people
- Mercedes Benz Luxury Mini Van: € 530.00 up to 6 people
- Mercedes Benz S Class: € 530.00 up to 3 people

Private guide option to be quoted on request and depending to availability

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CATANIA AND FISH MARKET

Cosmopolitan, exuberant, eclectic. Catania is a multicoloured universe, from the glittering whiteness of its Baroque stuccoes (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) to the lava black of the *Liotru*, the elephant sculpted from basalt that greets us in Piazza Duomo in the heart of the city. Food and cooking are central to the Sicilian way of life and only the best ingredients are selected to make tasty regional dishes. A “Piscaria” is the historical fish market of Catania. It is famous for its colors and its picturesque atmosphere that make it look like an arab “suq”. Be like a local and try a raw shrimp or sea urchin direct from a stall.

PRICES

Full-day tour (up to 5 hours):

- Mercedes Benz Sedan car: € 250.00 up to 3 people
- Mercedes Benz Luxury Mini Van: € 330.00 up to 6 people
- Mercedes Benz S Class: € 330.00 up to 3 people

Private guide options quoted depending on request and subject to availability