A Taste of Italy on the Danube Express: Taormina to Venice

https://www.irtsociety.com/journey/taste-of-italy-taormina-venice/



Overview

The Highlights

- Accommodation in five-star hotels in Taormina and Venice;

- Accommodation on the *Golden Eagle Danube Express;*

- Discover UNESCO-listed sites in Verona, Venice, Palermo/Monreale;

- Witness the train cross the Strait of Messina by ferry;

- Attend a private concert at Teatro Massimo, Italy's largest opera house, in Palermo.

- Enjoy authentic cuisine with a Sicilian cooking demonstration and hands-on pizza making class;

- Visit to Maratea's iconic Christ the Redeemer status.

The Tour

Board the *Golden Eagle Danube Express* on this exciting 6-day journey through the best of Italy. Travel from Taormina in Sicily to Venice and witness Italy's rich history unfold at every stop. Along the way, visit UNESCO World Heritage Sites, indulge in exquisite cuisine, and admire the Baroque architecture, dramatic coastal landscapes, and the vibrant character of southern Italy.

Combine with the Sicilian Odyssey tour for a round-trip in-depth exploration of Italy.

Itinerary

Day 1: Taormina

Arrive in Sicily, where you will be met and transferred to a centrally located, five-star hotel for a one-night stay.

This evening, you will enjoy a Welcome Dinner at your hotel with your fellow travelers and toast to the start of your journey.

Day 2: Ragusa

After breakfast at the hotel, you will transfer to the *Golden Eagle Danube Express* and settle into your private en-suite cabin. Watch the dreamy Sicilian landscapes pass by outside your window as the train travels to Ragusa.

Ragusa is a photographer's dream: a hilltop town bursting with Baroque charm-with honey-hued churches and grey-stone houses tumbling down the hillside.

Enjoy a fun cooking demonstration this afternoon, where you'll learn about regional flavors and secrets of traditional Sicilian cuisine.

Day 3: Palermo

Breakfast is served in the dining cars as you arrive into the lively Sicilian capital, Palermo. A gentle walking tour through its vibrant old town reveals a captivating blend of architectural styles. During your tour, you'll enjoy an aperitif and private concert at the grand Teatro Massimo, Italy's largest opera house.

After lunch, choose to delve deeper into Palermo at your own pace: visit Corleone to explore its Anti-Mafia Museum and enjoy breathtaking mountain views, or head to Monreale to admire the golden mosaics of its world-famous Norman Cathedral.

Day 4: Maratea

In the early morning, be part of a truly once-in-a-lifetime moment as the train is gently taken

apart and rolled onto the waiting ferry for the Straits of Messina crossing. You can remain aboard the train for this extraordinary crossing, or climb to the ferry's top deck to feel the salt air and take in sweeping views of the Italian mainland.

Upon arrival, the train is carefully pieced back together, ready to carry onward—an unforgettable experience.

Arrive in the charming coastal town of Maratea, set dramatically between the mountains and the sea. Ascend to the iconic Christ the Redeemer statue, where sweeping panoramic views stretch across the Tyrrhenian coastline, offering one of southern Italy's most breathtaking vistas.

Later, continue to the elegant Santavenere Hotel, beautifully positioned above the sea. Here, enjoy a relaxed and immersive pizza-making class, led by expert chefs who will introduce you to the art of traditional Italian pizza. Then, enjoy your freshly made pizza in the refined coastal setting.

Day 5: Verona & Venice

This morning, arrive in the elegant city of Verona. Immortalized as the setting of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, Verona reveals its rich tapestry of Roman, medieval, and Renaissance heritage during an informative guided walking tour. Highlights include the magnificent first-century Roman Amphitheatre in Piazza Bra, one of the best-preserved in the world, as well as the city's historic squares and atmospheric streets.

Later this afternoon, continue to Venice, where you transfer to a five-star hotel for a one-night stay in the heart of this extraordinary city, allowing time to relax and soak up the unique ambience of the canals and palazzi at your leisure.

In the evening, you will enjoy a farewell reception dinner, giving you the opportunity to reflect on your journey through Italy.

Day 6: Venice

Following breakfast in the hotel, you will be transferred to the airport for onward departures.

Dates & Prices

2027 Dates

September 7 - September 12

Accommodation	Double	Single	Deposit
Deluxe Class	$16,400	$29,000	25%
Superior Deluxe Class	$20,500	$34,500	25%

Prices are shown in USD and are based on quarterly exchange rates. Prices are subject to change quarterly.
All prices are per person.

2028 Dates

September 19 - September 24

Accommodation	Double	Single	Deposit
Deluxe Class	$17,100	$30,300	25%
Superior Deluxe Class	$21,400	$36,050	25%

Prices are shown in USD and are based on quarterly exchange rates. Prices are subject to change quarterly.
All prices are per person.

More

Combine with the Sicilian Odyssey tour for a round-trip in-depth exploration of Italy.