



## Sicilia in MG - La Targa Florio

After the last reconnaissance trip to Sicily the programme has now been finalized. The second half of June has been chosen for the event. This may seem the beginning of the summer, but considering the climate of Sicily this is really full summer there. We will be able to fully enjoy the sea and the beach. Much time in the programme is going to be dedicated to those elements and we will stay four nights each at two hotels directly on the seaside. The first near Cefalù and the second near Marina Ragusa and near the locations (Scicli, Punta Secca...) where the Commissario Montalbano movies were produced. We will obviously visit these locations.

There will be the possibility to depart from two different ports with modern and comfortable ferries "*Grandi Navi Veloci*" [www.gnv.it](http://www.gnv.it): Genoa for those who arrive from northern Italy and abroad and Naples for the participants arriving from central and southern Italy. Having in mind the success of the pre-meeting that Wim Jetten organized in 2013 prior to the Sardinia event there are plans to organize a similar pre-meeting next year. Whoever is interested may participate in a pre-meeting in Umbria organized by Piero Fusaroli, starting from Saturday June 13 2015. Of course one may start to participate in the pre-meeting any day between the Saturday the 13th and Thursday the 18th of June, the day of departure to Sicily. In this way particularly foreign participants can benefit to maximum extent of their long journey to Italy and enjoy the unique cultural and scenic beauty of this area. To meet the needs of those who may take part in the Umbria pre-meeting and will depart by ferry from Napoli, it will be possible to request to return by ferry to Genoa.

Let us now look at the main points of the programme. For those who choose to depart from Naples the departure time of the ferry will be at 8.00 pm on **Thursday** the 18th of June. Arrival at Palermo will be the next morning at about 7.00 am. Those who choose to depart from Genoa (departure of the ferry at 9 pm. on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June) will arrive in Palermo on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June at 7.00 pm. Those arriving from Naples will therefore gain almost a full day on Sicily.... Besides the higher cost of traveling via Genoa this is maybe another reason to take the option of the Umbria pre-meeting.

The entire day of **Friday** the 19<sup>th</sup> of June will be spent by those having arrived from Naples at the "*Hotel Acacia*" [www.hotelacacia.it](http://www.hotelacacia.it). There is time for relaxing, the pool or the beach. After dinner we will do the briefing in the room of the hotel that is dedicated to the Targa Florio. The hotel in fact is on the finish straight of the circuit, called Contrada Pistavecchia.

The next day, **Saturday** the 20<sup>th</sup> of June, the programme will be the same in order to give those who arrived from Genoa also a chance to rest and relax. In the afternoon there is an optional visit to the Targa Florio museum at Termini Imerese. During the evening there will be the opportunity to buy and sell spare parts and gadgets.

On **Sunday** the 21<sup>st</sup> of June we depart for a day on the track of the very famous Targa Florio. The track is also known as the "*Grande Circuito delle Madonie*". One complete lap equals a distance of 148 km. The day will start with a visit to the town of Castelbuono and its castle from the 13<sup>th</sup> century with a display of magnificent furniture. Those who like antiques will be surprised by a very large shop with antique furniture and objects, almost a museum in its own right with 10 rooms. During lunch at the restaurant "*Il Romitaggio*", [www.romitaggio.it](http://www.romitaggio.it) we will enjoy dance and

folkloristic performances in the courtyard. The location dates back to the presence of the Arabs after the year 850 and it became three centuries later the last bastion conquered by the Normans after the decisive battle on the nearby Pian di Battaglia. After lunch we will cover the second part of the Targa Florio track, on curvy and demanding roads. Along the way we will stop at Cerda and visit its famous and prestigious Targa Florio museum, after which we will return to the hotel for dinner.

The morning of **Monday** the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June will be spent on the beach. Before lunch we will move to Cefalù [www.siciliadavisitare.it/cefalu/](http://www.siciliadavisitare.it/cefalu/), which is rated one of the most beautiful towns in Italy. Lunch will be at the restaurant “Villa dei Melograni” [www.villadeimelograni.it](http://www.villadeimelograni.it), after which we will continue our way to Aspra for a folkloristic show and to visit its sardine fishery museum. Return to the hotel for dinner.

The next day, **Tuesday** the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June, we depart to Piazza Armerina, where everybody can choose between options. The first option is a visit of the Roman villa with its impressive mosaics that some of us have done already in 2009, but it merits a repeat visit. The second option is a visit of a large outlet centre [www.siciliaoutletvillage.it](http://www.siciliaoutletvillage.it) that may be appreciated specifically by the ladies. Those who would prefer to enjoy the hotel and the beach a little longer may depart an hour and a half later. All will reconvene at the “Agriturismo Gigliotto” [www.gigliotto.com](http://www.gigliotto.com) with a wine tasting and a lunch on a terrace offering breathtaking views. During the afternoon we will move to the hotel “Donnalucata” [www.donnalucataresort.com](http://www.donnalucataresort.com), further south near Marina di Ragusa.

**Wednesday** the 24<sup>th</sup> we will spend quietly on the beach which is on par with the beaches in the Caribbean. Those who are interested may optionally visit the castle of Donnafugata [www.comune.ragusa.gov.it/turismo/castello](http://www.comune.ragusa.gov.it/turismo/castello) before rejoining the rest of the group at Punta Secca, where we move to during late afternoon. We continue to Marina di Ragusa to have dinner at “Donna Lina”.

**Thursday** the 25<sup>th</sup> of June we have on the programme a visit to Noto, an enchanting town and very characteristic for the Sicilian baroque architecture. Lunch will be served at the restaurant “Ducezio” [www.trattoriaducezio.it](http://www.trattoriaducezio.it), after which we will return to the hotel.

The morning of **Friday** the 26<sup>th</sup> of June has been reserved for time on the beach, lunch at the “Poggio del Sole” [www.poggiodelsoleresort.it](http://www.poggiodelsoleresort.it). During the afternoon we will visit Ragusa Ibla and via Modica we will reach Scicli, a monumental baroque town, which in 2002 was named a UNESCO World Heritage site. Together with Pozzallo and Noto these places represent the typical baroque architecture of Sicily.

The next day, **Saturday** the 27<sup>th</sup>, we move to Porto Empedocle for a visit to the “Scala dei Turchi”. Prepare yourself for a surprise: we will have two hours for relaxing and for taking a swim before going to lunch at the restaurant “Madison” [www.ristorantemadison.com](http://www.ristorantemadison.com), followed by the transfer to Palermo for embarkation to Naples at 8 pm. and Genoa at 10 pm.

There should be something for everybody in this meeting. Above all it is a mixture of vacation and culture during an ideal time of the year for a trip to Sicily. And everything with our beloved cars so that we enjoy everything even more....