



# Hidden Trails

Ph. 1-888-9-TRAILS

*Equestrian Vacations  
- on & with Hidden Trails*



## About Hidden Trails



Hidden Trails is owned and operated by nature enthusiasts who love horses and adventure activities. We have been involved with riding and other outdoor vacations for over 20 years.

With our partners Voyage du Cheval (France), Pegasus (Germany) as well as Equitour (Switzerland and France) we have collected the best riding destinations all over the world in some hidden places we would like to share with you.

These rides are about galloping on endless beaches, forging rivers, cantering through forests, trotting along age-old trails, gazing at beautiful vistas and encountering foreign cultures. But most of all, these trips are about getting away from the cycle of too much work and never enough free time.

Escape from the rituals, which long ago froze our nights and days into little more than routine and away from the worries of our new tense times. It is so satisfying when we take the plunge of adventure - it's unfortunate that we invent so many reasons to put aside living our dreams of adventure. It is sometimes a tangled web that we weave through life. Some of the threads reveal a work-a-day world of commitments, duties and obligations. Other threads are of a quiet fabric of hope, responsibility and refreshment.

On our adventures you see the real country, its back country and meet the locals. The love for horses has no boundaries but possesses a common language we all speak and understand. The majority of the overseas rides are from inn to inn, some from castle to castle and a few are camping rides.

You will experience new countries and their customs and make new friends. The Hidden Trails trips are the best you can find.

They have been tested by our staff or associates and received our stamp of approval. If you are considering a special riding vacation anywhere in the world, call us first and let our experienced consultants match the perfect trip with your dream.

We will listen to you and give you objective advice to help you choose the best destination and adventure.

Your vacation is the most precious time of the year and we are committed to making it the most memorable time of your life. Wherever you go, have a great time and bring back some peace of mind.

Thank you for your continued support.

### Hidden Trails

Phone: 604-323-1141

Fax: 604-323-1148

Toll Free: 1-888-9-TRAILS

from within the USA or Canada or

E-mail: [info@hiddentrails.com](mailto:info@hiddentrails.com)

Website: [www.hiddentrails.com](http://www.hiddentrails.com)

Address:

659A Moberly Road, Vancouver BC Canada V5Z 4B3 or

4406 Tennyson Road, Wilmington, DE 19802 USA

### Toll Free from the U.K.:

Ph: 0- 808 189-0420

Fax: 0-808-280-1860

### Toll Free Worldwide:

Skype: hiddentrails



# Sicily Explorer Ride - Italy, Europe

Tour Code: IT-ITSIC01S

8 days / 7 nights ~\$1,650.00

Dates: All year round

Trip Rating : ●●●●●

Difficulty : ●●●●●

Lodging : ●●●●●

Tack: English, Western (on request)

Horses: Sicilian, Andalusian,

Quarter Horse, A...

Pace: All riding paces - 6 to 8 hrs in the s...

Airport: Palermo, Catania



## Introduction

Sicily, Italy

This is an unforgettable experience that combines the pleasure to ride a horse with the discovery of an area surprisingly rich in natural, historical, cultural and culinary wealth. You will be staying in a seventeenth century farmhouse that once belonged to the baronial family of Ventimiglia. The farmhouse has been restored in transformed into one of the most scenic lodgings of Sicily. It boasts a restaurant, swimming pool, and a large space for outdoor activity, so you all you need are close by. Both lands and villages blend into a timeless artwork that will take your breath away.

Come enjoy a relaxing week riding through Sicily's untouched and diverse lands. This trip promises a wondrous look into one of Italy's most beautiful regions. Surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea, this island hosts lush landscapes, old historic cities, quiet coastal town, and amazing wines and foods. Explore the island on horseback through olive groves and cork trees to castles and villages. Really enjoy nature as you travel along paths no car could reach. Sicily houses a wide variety of plant and animal species such as deer and wild boar, as well as endemic species such as giant holly trees.

Many villages still practice old craft traditions and are happy to enlighten you about their work. Be sure to try our local products such as our manna, cheese, and traditional desserts. If you are looking to see the best and most varied parts of Italy, then look no further than Sicily.

## Accommodation



### Accommodation

This is a stationary ride where all nights are spent at the same location (possibility of 1 overnight in a mountain lodge).

### Description

Tenuta Luogo Marchese a farm with about 15 rooms, a restaurant, a swimming pool and a large surrounding space where you can perform any outdoor activity. It is a farmhouse dating back to the 17th century that once belonged to the baronial family of Ventimiglia. It was later abandoned and used by local shepherds until the early 80s when it was restored and transformed into one of the most beautiful and scenic farmhouses of Sicily.



The rooms are divided into double, triple and quadruple rooms, some of which are available with a private terrace and others with views of the Madonie mountains. They are all equipped with en-suite bathroom with shower and heating. Not all the rooms have a TV.





The rooms are all furnished in Sicilian style to maintain the memory of the places, but equipped with every comfort to make the stay as relaxing as possible.

There is free Wi-Fi in the common areas and a beautiful swimming pool where guest can relax.

#### Room Occupancy

If we are unable to find another rider to share the room with you, a single supplement fee applied.



#### Meals

All meals are included with this trip.

The restaurant serves typical meat-based madonita cuisine with an excellent selection of Sicilian and local wines, own production of cheeses, local vegetables and fruit.

Breakfast, with typical local products, is served at the restaurant from 07:30 to 10:00 am.

All the dinners are eaten in the farmhouse and include 4 courses: starter, first dish, second dish, fruit, wine (included with dinner only) and water.

#### Dietary Restrictions

We can cater to all dietary restrictions with prior notice.



#### Riding



#### Riding Experience





You need to have a strong intermediate riding level. You must be able to control the horse on every paces, in difficult situations (ex. crossing rivers, walking on rocky tracks) and able to lead the horse on foot for short parts of the ride, if the ground is not the best.

You should be able to sit on horseback for up to 8/9 hours, with a considerable physical effort.

#### Horses

The horses are bred by us. They are Sicilian-native (indigenous), Arabs, Arab mixed, Andalusians and Sanfratellani. They are trained with a good attitude for long distance rides. They are safe, proud and happy to go everywhere you ask them to go.

#### Staff

Luciano is a breeder of indigenous Sicilian thoroughbred horses and has extensive knowledge of the paths and bridleways of the Nebrodi and Madonie mountain range. In addition, he is an expert guide of all the trails and speaks fluently French, Italian, Sicilian as well as basic English.

Sergio has been an expert in the field of tourism in Sicily for many years. His passion for promoting tourism in Sicily is second to his passion for horses. He speaks fluently English, French, Italian and Sicilian.



#### Itinerary



#### Sample Itinerary - subject to changes

*Note: itinerary might change due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances.*

##### Day 1- Arrival

Transfer to Tenuta Luogo Marchese and dinner.

*Meals included: Dinner*

*Overnight at Tenuta Luogo Marchese*

##### Day 2- Castelbuono

8:30 Meet at the stables with the participants. The journey will begin with an interesting ride along trails surrounded by the Mediterranean olive groves and cork trees. After crossing the river bed, which is almost always dry in summer, you get in Castelbuono, in front of the Castle of Ventimiglia. The city is a medieval town known as the residence of the barons Ventimiglia and still keep the old craft traditions. Once in the town, you will have some free time to relax to taste typical local products, such as our manna, cheese and traditional desserts. Guests may also participate in a guided tour of the Castle (entrance 4 € per person). We enjoy a picnic lunch and make our way back to the Agriturismo in the afternoon.

*Riding: 6-8 hours*

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at Tenuta Luogo Marchese*

##### Day 3- Gorges of Tiberius

Today we partake on an adventure that takes us to the wild and rugged shores of the river Pollina in the territory of San Mauro Castelverde, notorious for their stories of bandits that in the past infested the area. We ride up to the Gorges called in dialect "Miricu", a place highly suggestive where we can descend into the gorges in canoe (10 € per person) or go for a swim.

*Riding: 6-8 hours*

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at Tenuta Luogo Marchese*

##### Day 4- Gibilmanna

Ride through the thick forests of cork oaks and holm oaks until you reach the Sanctuary of Gibilmanna (about



800m above sea level). Visit the Church which houses the famous Madonna of Gagini and free time to rest. The trail continues with many points of interest, nature, and beautiful landscape along the way. After our picnic break, we go back to the Agriturismo.

*Riding: 6 hours*

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at Tenuta Luogo Marchese*

#### **Day 5- Tour of Madonie Mountains**

Depart for a thrilling ride in the woods of the Madonie National Park full of high peaks that reach altitude of almost 2000 meters above sea level. The area hosts a wide variety of plant and animal species such as deer and wild boar, as well as endemic species such as Abies Nebrodensis and giant holly trees.

The ride is of great charm and allows you to enjoy unique landscapes, breathe fresh air, drink water from the springs of the high mountains, and listen to the sound of the forest.

This tour requires that the rider is experienced at riding for some distance, and also has good physical endurance. Taking place mostly on mountain trails, this excursion may be subject to change for reasons related to weather or obstacles along the routes.

*Riding: approx. 6-8 hours*

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight stay at an excellent mountain hotel in Madonie National Park*

#### **Day 6- Piano Battaglia**

We descend in the direction of Cefalù through woods and fields and make our way down to Isnello, a small town built on the mountain.

After lunch, we go back to the Agriturismo for dinner and overnight.

*Riding: approx. 6-8 hours*

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at Tenuta Luogo Marchese*

#### **Day 7- St.Ambrogio**

Meander amid the pastures until you get to Sant'Ambrogio, a coastal and picturesque village. Continue the excursion by following a path almost to the sea, passing through cultivated fields with olive trees, citrus groves and woods of cork, red and holm oaks. Lunch in a restaurant by the sea is an option based on guest preference. During spring and autumn you can sometimes ride on the beach as it's not so busy with tourists then. Swimming in the sea with the horses is also possible but of course this depends on the weather and sea conditions!

Months when it could be possible are April, May, June, September, October and the beginning of November. We can't guarantee it but keep your fingers crossed and it might be possible!

*Riding: approx. 6-8 hours*

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at Tenuta Luogo Marchese*

#### **Day 8- Departure**

Breakfast and transfer to the airport or train station.

*Meals included: Breakfast*



### **Other Info**

**Meeting:** Stationary ride-except 5 & 6 nights in the mountains. Departure from the ranch

**Airport:** Palermo, Catania

**Train station:** Cefalù

**Transfer:** Palermo or Catania airports

**Distance:** 40 miles, 110 miles

Pick-up/ drop-off for this trip from Cefalù train station is included. Transfers are also possible from Catania-Fontanarossa Airport (CTA) or Palermo airport (PMO) for an additional cost

**Tack:** English, Western (on request)

**Horses:** Sicilian, Andalusian, Quarter Horse, Arab and "San Fratellani" mix

**Pace:** All riding paces - 6 to 8 hrs in the saddle

**Level:** 🐾🐾🐾🐾 (3.5 to 3.5 out of 5) Strong Intermediate

**Riders:** Min 1 riders Max 12 riders

Rates and Dates 2024 - IT-ITSIC01S

Rates include: Accommodations, All meals including wine with dinner, 6 riding days with support vehicle & Transfers from/to Cefalù railway station or Palermo airport  
Helmet and half chaps can be provided

Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US\$
A 2024	8 day trip	€1500	\$1650

The US Dollar Rate is based on a EUR Exchange Rate of 1.1 and subject to currency fluctuation

Transfer Option

Description

2024	Single supplement	€190	\$210
2024	Transfers from Cefalù railway station -- free of charge		
2024	Transfers from/to Catania per car, each way (1-3 pax)	€315	\$345
2024	Transfers from/to Catania per car, each way (4-6 pax)	€375	\$410
2024	Transfers from/to Palermo per car, each way (1-3 pax)	€290	\$320
2024	Transfers from/to Palermo per car, each way (4-6 pax)	€350	\$385

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
A 2024	01/01/2024 - 12/31/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip

Min/Max: 1/12

Dates run Saturday to Saturday.

Rates do not include:Alcoholic beverages, Transfers from/to Catania & Gratuities



# Reservation Form

Tour : \_\_\_\_\_ Code #: \_\_\_\_\_ from: \_\_\_\_\_ to: \_\_\_\_\_

The Travelers (Last Name, First Name)	Male Female	Single room / or tent	Birth Date MM/DD/YY	Height	Weight	Special diets	Beginner	Novice	Intermediate	Strong Inter.	Advanced	ride English	ride Western	mostly arena	mostly hacking
1. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Special Diets: \_\_\_\_\_

Your fitness level: Excellent ☐ Moderate ☐ Poor ☐ How long have you been riding? \_\_\_\_\_

How often do you ride? \_\_\_\_\_ Have you been on other riding tours? No ☐ Yes ☐ last trip when? \_\_\_\_\_

If Hidden Trails offers a transfer from the local airport/station: I would like the transfer to be included: YES ☐ NO ☐

In an emergency, name and phone number of contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Attention: Please, if there is more than one participant, all have to sign the reservation form - make copies if needed

With my signature I confirm my reservation of the listed program(s) under the Hidden Trails Booking Conditions. I'm aware, and I made all participants aware of the risk involved with these outdoor adventure activities. All participants have read and agree with the Hidden Trails Booking Conditions and the Hidden Trails Recreational Activity Release and Indemnity Agreement in this brochure or as listed on the Internet.

I (we) will sign and forward the Recreational Activity Release and Indemnity Agreement at least 10 weeks before trip starting date.

Last Name and First Name (The Traveler) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (wk) \_\_\_\_\_ (hm) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature (mandatory) 1. \_\_\_\_\_

Please, charge a 25% deposit (minimum \$ 350 per person) now and full payment 10 weeks before the travel date to my credit card.

For payments by VISA ☐ or Mastercard ☐ (no debit cards)

Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ 3 digit Security # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp.Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address for Credit Card (if different than mailing address):  
\_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a check for the deposit ☐

Additional Signatures:

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Travel Cancellation Insurance** Credit Card required

Sign me (us) up ☐ initial \_\_\_\_\_

No, we will provide our own ☐ initial \_\_\_\_\_

Hidden Trails Ltd. 659A Moberly Road Vancouver, BC V5Z 4B3 FAX: 604-323-1148 Phone: 604-323-1141



## Hidden Trails

659A Moberly Road  
Vancouver, BC  
Canada V5Z 4B2

Toll Free: 1-888-9 TRAILS  
(1-888-987-2457)

Phone: 604-323-1141

FAX: 604-323-1148

From the U.K.:

Phone 020-323-96201

Fax 0203-004-1200

Skype hiddentrails

E-mail [info@hiddentrails.com](mailto:info@hiddentrails.com)

Website [www.hiddentrails.com](http://www.hiddentrails.com)

Office hours:

Mo-Fr 8:30 am to 6 pm

Pacific Standard Time



