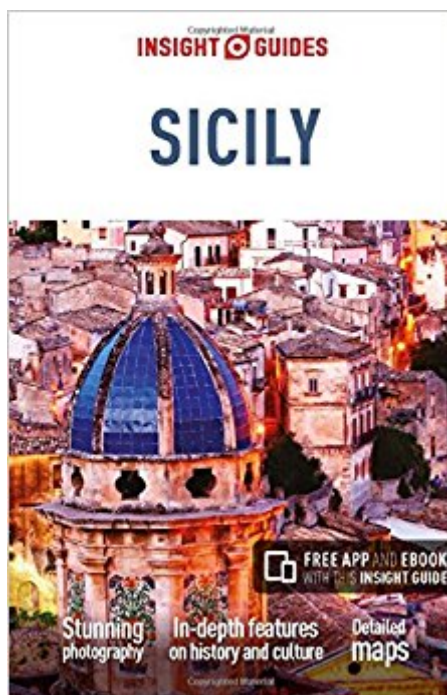


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Insight Guides: Sicily



Synopsis

Insight Guides: Inspiring your next adventure Beautiful and seductive, the Italian island of Sicily offers everything from Greek and Roman temples to mouthwatering street food and a dramatic scenery topped by mighty Mount Etna. Be inspired to visit by the new edition of Insight Guide Sicily, a comprehensive full-color guide to the largest of the Italian isles. Inside Insight Guide Sicily: A fully-overhauled edition. Stunning, specially-commissioned photography that brings the island and its people to life. Highlights of the island's top attractions in our Best of Sicily, including the frenetic capital Palermo, alongside Agrigento's fine Greek temples and, further afield, the stunningly beautiful Aeolian Islands, popular for volcano-climbing. Descriptive region-by-region accounts cover the whole of the island, from Val di Noto's sublime Baroque architecture to the dizzying heights of Mount Etna. Detailed, high-quality maps throughout will help you get around and travel tips give you all the essential information for planning a memorable trip, including our independent selection of the best restaurants. Free app for every customer. About Insight Guides: Insight Guides has over 40 years' experience of publishing high-quality, visual travel guides. We produce around 400 full-color print guide books and maps as well as picture-packed eBooks to meet different travelers' needs. Insight Guides' unique combination of beautiful travel photography and focus on history and culture together create a unique visual reference and planning tool to inspire your next adventure. 'Insight Guides has spawned many imitators but is still the best of its type.' - Wanderlust Magazine

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Customer Reviews

Italy is the 5th most visited country in the world: 46.4 million tourists visited the country in 2012, a 0.5% increase on 2011. (Source: Skift March 2013). This revised edition of Insight Guide Sicily coincides with the island's rise in popularity as a tourist destination given a boost by improved transport links and a new airport in the south of the island, Comiso, along with new luxury spa and golf resorts.

Insight Guides wherever possible uses local experts who provide insider know-how and share their love and knowledge of the destination.

This is a very good guide that I downloaded this evening. I would have written a different guide--emphasizing the off-the-beaten-path even further. But, this is a great invitation to exploration. It has a few interesting side-notes, some worth reading (to me), some not (to me). That is actually just what you want in a guidebook--providing some interesting context. One thing I must really emphasize, there is not "a refusal to support the Mafia in many quarters", it is A RENUNCIATION IN VIRTUALLY EVERY QUARTER! I talked to Carabinieri who said they still have a few small neighborhoods of Palermo--but they have a few neighborhoods of Jersey, too. I made many anti-mafia statements in Sicily, and met with nothing but strong and genuine support. This island is over the Mafia, and the Mafia have actually either been put in the jail or moved to Rome. Their power has been miniscule on the island for the past 20 years. The island averages around 50 homicides per year in a population of 6,000,000. My city gets that in 2 months with half the population. Your greatest risk of death is traffic accident... really. The book is almost selling the danger of the mafia--they are really uninteresting guys in track-suits who happen to be thuggish jerks. Historically they were important, but visit the anti-Mafia museum in Corleone, and you're done, you can youtube stories of mafia violence survivors, etc. Remember, Sicily should be known for its anti-Mafia heroes, LaTorre, Falcone, Borsellino, and the heartbreaking Rita Atria. Sicilians are defensive about this, and they deserve not to be known for the plague they helped overcome. To make friends with Sicilians, return their kindness and you will be richly rewarded. Make sure that references to the Mafia do not sound condescending... after all, a certain American presidential candidate has more mob ties than anybody recently elected to regional offices in Sicily... sickeningly true. Mafia is a no-go for the Sicilian electorate. Similarly, the author talks of religious frictions in Sicily. There might be some anger if your kid switches Churches, but jeez--nobody really seemed to care about the Orthodox/Catholic distinction--they never saw any friction--just different families go to different churches. If the author wanted to sell conflict in Sicily--he would've been much better to

focus on the staggering unemployment of the islands intelligent and well-educated youth--it's the real "mafia" story of Italy--politicians are protecting people with money and jobs and keeping the young in a 5-10 year holding pattern for a simple post. Politicians won't change the system, because they people with money would turn on whatever party tries to change it. Go to Sicily for Easter--definitely check-out Prizzi's Ballo dei Diavoli... I feel nothing in that ritual "echoes Mafia lore"... and I kinda want to slap the author for saying it. Caltanissetta has a beautiful Holy Thursday and Enna is great on Good Friday. Holy Saturday, you may be able to catch the tail-end of Trapani's festival. My trip last year was the BEST travel idea I've ever had. I love Riserva dello Zingaro, and I was happy they put it #1. However, the #1 and #2 of the island are Etna and Monreale--I don't care which order you put them in. Monreale is the world's most beautiful church. Imagine Hagia Sophia without the whitewash and Green Disks... and imagine an 800 year-old Church, never restored, but still stunningly beautiful.... I digress... also, check-out Syracuse and the Valley of the Temples. Palermo is obviously a must--Capella Palatina was breath-taking. Stay at an Agriturismo, too. They are cool.

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