

SCENES OF SICILY

You are here: [Home](#) » [Blog](#) » [Destinations](#) » [Scenes of Sicily](#)

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Kim & Yolanda



Time for holidays... even for us. Our first stop was Sicily. It accidentally happens we both visited Sicily with our companions, but doing totally different things. Curious? Follow our conversation....

Buon giorno chiara Yolanda!

A little balcony on the seaside at [Villa St Andre](#) in Taormina. A cool bottle of red local wine and my favorite company travelling with me. #happyholidays

My last visit in Sicily was more than 5 years ago. Then with a corporate client. I promised myself to return because I felt in love with Taormina! Here we are. Ready to explore the beauty of Sicily again. And I sure have some plans for this week...

You?

Buon giorno Kim,

What a coincidence I find you here too, my first time at Sicily and after a day already impressed! My base is a little South of Taormina at a little boutique hotel called [Hotel Etna](#) facing the Mount Etna, the volcano I certainly will conquer this week.

However today I took it easy strolling along the boulevard of Giardini Naxos, nipping from my white wine at a nice terrace at Castelmola enjoying beautiful views of Taormina, the beaches and the skylines of the island. The Castle was unfortunately closed but Castelmola is still worthwhile visiting with its narrow streets where each corner gives you a nice surprise.



Back down I strolled the streets of Taormina (great shopping, got my self stunning shoes!) and visited the Teatro Greco, a Greek-Roman theatre of the 3rd century before Christ. Can you imagine listening to a concert or opera here must be magic. Let's see if I can score some tickets here.... Must be great for incentives too!

After another nice drink back at the hotel to get ready for dinner...

Saluti! Yolanda

Chiara Yolanda,

Today we enjoyed a great tour in a little red devil aka **Fiat 500 vintage!** We were taken along the shores of the Etna. The Alcantara gorge is a literally cool outdoor place here. In this gorge you can do canyoning, rafting etc etc. The existence of this gorge dates back hundreds of years when an earthquake created this piece of beautiful nature. With our little car we drove all the way to the origin of this gorge to taste the cool and purest water.

The next stop was something that will not surprise you: a wine tasting. Gambino winery is situated at 900 mtrs above sea-level and dates back to the seventies. Manuela Zullo gave us a warm welcome and a interesting explanation. I say a must-visit including a pure tasty lunch. 500 vintage tours has 10 Fiat 500's available plus one Fiat 600. Either for private rental or for tours. It's something to remember. While writing, I am relaxing at the beach a

bit to prepare for tadada... An evening with Mark Knopfler in the Teatro Greco, wow!

Never a dull moment on Sicily... Oh and since you mentioned new shoes, I am convinced that I still need to do some shopping in Taormina 😊

Bye, Kim



Ciao Kim,

That really sounds great. We had a rather relaxing day with some sunbathing and swimming but not before we drove to Taormina again to get us tickets forMark Knopfler, so I suggest meeting each other for some wine afterwards!! We are excited already to see this great guitar player in such an amazing place!

Yesterday we had a fantastic long day with a classic theme; starting early towards the lovely city, Agrigento where you will find the Valle dei Tempei. Facing the city several temples and holy places bring you back to the earlier days where the Greek colonist Falaris. I would say a perfect setting for a private dinner for a medium sized group!



From Agrigento we drove to the coast of Realmonte to enjoy a lovely BBQ lunch with fresh calamari and shrimps. With a full stomach we walked to Scala dei Turchi. Was I hallucinating? An iceberg? No a blinding white chalk cliff ending in the blue sea. Wow sunglasses needed! Still blinded we found our way through the hills for our last stop at

Villa Romana del Casale in Piazza Armerina. Another highlight, stunning mosaic floors probably made by North African artists during the Roman times. What a work and how many! Time to return home and enjoy a lovely bottle of wine and well deserved meal at the patio of our hotel.

Wondering what you planned today Kim and arrivederci tonight at the Teatro Greco!

Yolanda

Buon giorno Yolanda,

What a wonderful trip we had in Sicily. However the real treat was Panarea for us!

The concert of Mark Knopfler was amazing. And you know, I never ever saw a band with not a single handsome band player. (Normally the drummer or the frontman is that one and only good-looking guy, haha) But their performance, in one word WOW!

Next morning we jumped into a taxi to Milazzo where our RIB with 2 x 300 HP engines was ready to 'fly' us to Panarea. The sea was a little bumpy but it was a great ride. Panarea was on my radar for years. I read about the [RAYA hotel](#) somewhere in a magazine and ever since then I wanted to visit this place. Well, I wasn't disappointed. Although their rates are expensive in summer it is a real little gem and worth it. Their rating is two stars, but you don't have to be misled by this. The whole concept is like a little hippie chic village.



Upon arrival in the little bay of Panarea you see the reception area and restaurant with a wonderful rooftop bar. The view on the island of Stromboli which is actually a working volcano is magic. The owners Myriam & Paolo run a little boutique famous for its batik designs in the small streets of this island. Further up hill you enter the area of Raya Alto with the most beautiful rooms and the most amazing views.



The island itself is as beautiful as the hotel. In winter there only live about 400 inhabitants, and the local scene is an atmosphere of a village in a by-gone era. No cars are allowed, only little golf cars or Italian APE cars. A morning coffee in the harbor, a stroll along the tiny streets and boutiques, a dip in the geothermal pool, the Wi-Fi for the necessary online fix everyday and all my Italian favorites such as Bresaola salad, fresh catch of the day, granite ice and superb wines.

Those are the days!

Maybe not the most ideal location for an event, but hey you need some good tips for yourself so now and then as well, right?

Ciao! Kim

Hello Kim,

Indeed we also had a wonderful time at Sicily. Climbing the Etna (cost me my pair of sneakers!) and swimming the Alcantara gorge with only 10 degrees Celsius as water temperature was one of our highlights. Did you know you could do this as well with groups? Thinking of jeep safaris to the Etna finishing with some hiking and finally a plunge in the ice cold water of the gorge. If it is too cold just wear a special wet suit and helmet. Psst... to be honest I really was proud on myself I made it without such gear swimming against the stream to the waterfall.



But also discovering the little mountain villages where every corner brings a new surprise is something special. Can you imagine your next incentive with only scooters branded in the company colors racing the mountains from town to town? Finally having your lunch with the best local anti pastas presented in a farmhouse accompanied by nice wines. Yummie!

Well.... day dreaming now at the office,.... Till next time!

Saluti, Yolanda