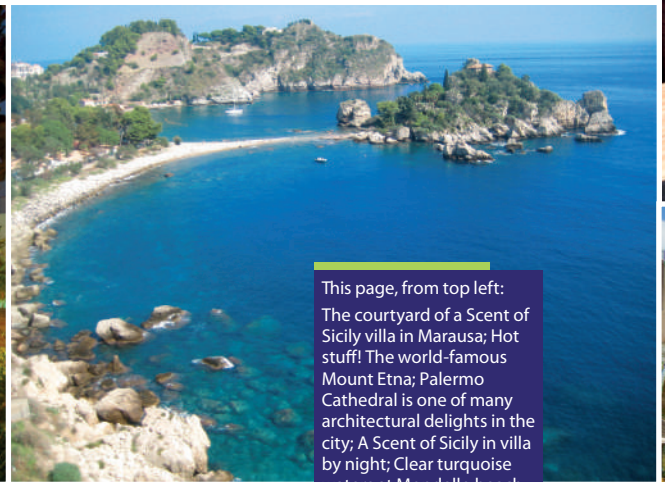


well travelled



This page, from top left: The courtyard of a Scent of Sicily villa in Marausa; Hot stuff! The world-famous Mount Etna; Palermo Cathedral is one of many architectural delights in the city; A Scent of Sicily in villa by night; Clear turquoise waters at Mondello beach in Palermo

2 SCENT OF SICILY VILLAS

THE LOCATION:

Sicily, Italy

PRICE RANGE:

Villas, which sleep six to eight people, average between €2,000 per week, off-season to €3,000 per week, high season.

HOW TO GET THERE:

Aer Lingus flies directly from Dublin to Catania, Sicily's second largest city.

WEBSITE:

scent-of-sicily.com

OVERVIEW:

When you think of Sicily, the name of Michael Corleone might spring to mind but there is much more to this mesmeric Italian region than *The Godfather*. In fact, the only crime you would be guilty of committing is not dusting off your passport and spending a few days immersed in the beguiling atmosphere of the Mediterranean's largest island, a location that's sure to leave you feeling revived, inspired and mesmerised.



Located just off the toe of Italy's well-heeled boot and home to the bolshie Mount Etna, the island has been a crossroads of cultures for over three millennia – a history that is reflected in its diverse architecture, ancient ruins and cuisine, notably its delicious couscous. Bustling with sandy beaches, beautifully-preserved temples and striking Byzantine mosaics, Sicily is one of Europe's most vibrant holiday destinations – one that has un pocofor everyone.

If you're looking for the perfect host, be sure to familiarise yourself with Scent of Sicily, a superb, locally-run business that provides a

magnificent selection of welcoming accommodations that are situated in exclusive locations throughout the island.

All their rental offerings have been carefully hand-picked and are found in either off-the-beaten-track locations or nestled in the meandering narrow, cobbled streets of some of the ancient towns.

Whether it's in the western city of Marsala, the eastern town of Taormina or the UNESCO-listed setting of Syracuse in the south, Scent of Sicily's extensive catalogue is awash with beach or private pool options that guarantee sunny horizons, warm sea breezes, and a life-time of memories to bore the grandchildren with in years to come.



This page, from top left:
The legendary Fountain of Artemis in Archimedes Square, Syracuse; Tonnara di Scopello, Sicily; Views from a Scent of Sicily villa in Marausa; Sicily's numerous outdoor markets are a popular draw with tourists; A moment of quiet in Palermo; Ample space and an elegant design are common to all Scent of Sicily villas



The magnificent Valley of the Temples is worth the trip alone

THREE THINGS TO DO NEARBY

VALLEY OF THE TEMPLES (VALLE DEI TEMPLI)

If you're staying on the west coast of the island, be sure to visit the magnificent and immaculately preserved Valley of the Temples, which is found close to the city of Agrigento.

While calling itself a valley is something of a misnomer, seeing as the site is located on a ridge, it is, nonetheless, amongst the most outstanding examples of architecture in the world. Not only is it one of the main attractions to visit in Sicily, the UNESCO

Heritage Site is also the largest archaeological area this planet of ours has to offer.

PALERMO

On the north of the island is Sicily's cultural, economic and touristic capital Palermo. With a population of around 650,000, the city is a cornucopia of history, culture, art, music and food. It also boasts some stunning beaches.

Give your senses the time of their lives by

sampling the local gastronomy or witnessing the endless Romanesque, Gothic and Baroque churches, palaces and buildings that litter this frenetic and fast-paced city.

MOUNT ETNA

Sicily has UNESCO run ragged with the amount of World Heritage sites to which the island lays claim. Another fine example is the wondrous Mount Etna, Europe's largest active volcano and one of the island's, ahem, hot-spots.

To the ancient Greeks, Mount Etna was the realm of Vulcan, god of fire, and the home of Cyclops, the one-eyed monster. Speaking of eyes, follow one of the many itineraries available and yours will be dislodging themselves from their sockets, such is the magnificence of the sights.