

THE PERPETUUM GUIDE

Lilibetan holidays:
instructions for
indulging, sunburning,
and enjoying
endless beauties.

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**"Marsala,
to the adventurous
generations, will remember
how the chains of tyranny
were shattered, and to Italy,
how death is preferred
to servitude."**

G. Garibaldi



Windmills in the Stagnone Nature Reserve of Marsala - Photo by Edoardo Sarzana

...Is it worth visiting, isn't it?

Preamble for the Traveler

There are plenty of guides and itineraries about Western Sicily. There are even more viral Instagram reels from lively voices, saved and then lost in the archives. What we set out to create - initially as a playful endeavor, then with a bit more seriousness - is a collection of places, restaurants, tips, and anecdotes that showcase Marsala, selected by those who live in the city and know its secrets: a "self-produced" guide by the people of Marsala, through repeated surveys involving our Instagram followers.

Sicily is both an island and a continent: each city, each town, sometimes even each neighborhood has the ability to tell its own story, often complex and intricate, difficult to piece together and even harder to understand. On the other hand, as we all know, discovering a place is much easier when there's someone to point out what to see... and where to eat!

Our proposal aims to accompany the reader on a journey of discovery in Marsala - the ancient Lilibeo - whether they are a tourist or a fellow citizen perplexed by organizing an unforgettable summer vacation for colleagues visiting from the North.

To delve even deeper into the Sicilian way of life, we liked the idea of suggesting some books to the reader for a better understanding of the millennia-old complexity of our land: "The Leopard" by Tomasi di Lampedusa, "The Brewer of Preston" by Camilleri, "The Day of the Owl" by Sciascia, "The Lions of Sicily" by Auci, "La Mennulara" or "Bitter Almonds" by Agnello Hornby.

Hoping to be of use to you and to provide you with as much enjoyment as we had during its creation, we wish you happy reading and invite you to send us your critiques and suggestions. Our work is and will remain in perpetual evolution.

The Perpetuum team



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It is worth experiencing Sicily all year round, let's not reduce it to a mere destination for summer pilgrimages.

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Where to Eat

Indulge in a culinary journey through a diverse selection of restaurants, trattorias, and eateries. Explore the vibrant food scene and savor the delicious flavors of Marsala. From traditional Sicilian cuisine to international delights, this guide will lead you to the best



At Sunset

Enjoy enchanting moments at sunset, when the colors are infused with magic and the atmosphere becomes mesmerizing. Discover the perfect spots to admire breathtaking views and let yourself be carried away by the emotion of this natural spectacle.



Where to Drink in the Evening

Explore Marsala's vibrant nightlife and discover the venues where you can indulge in creative cocktails, fine wines, or craft beers. Add a touch of pleasure to your evenings and uncover the perfect places to relax and have fun.



Experiences

Experience vivid and unique moments with a selection of unforgettable experiences. Discover activities that will immerse you in the local culture through guided tours, tastings, sports, and much more. Make your journey even more special.



Places of Interest

Discover the most fascinating and significant places of Marsala and immerse yourself in its history and culture. From historical sites to cultural attractions, this section will guide you in exploring the hidden treasures and wonders of the city.



Sea

Take advantage of the stunning coastlines of Marsala and enjoy the crystal-clear sea. Discover enchanting beaches, secluded coves, and perfect spots for sunbathing, taking a refreshing swim, or engaging in water activities. Relax and immerse yourself in the charm of the Sicilian sea.



Surroundings

Explore the surroundings of Marsala and discover charming and historically rich places. From enchanting medieval villages to captivating natural reserves, this section will guide you in discovering nearby locations that are worth exploring. Let yourself be amazed by the surrounding beauty.



Where to eat



This section of the Guide is undoubtedly the most extensive. Stereotypes about the excess calories of a Sicilian vacation aside, who are we to select only a few of the delicacies that our territory generously offers? Absolutely no one. Therefore, we give due importance to food, which - in our peninsula - is not just a means of sustenance, but rather a fragment of life and conviviality.

The division into **breakfast**, **street food**, **restaurants**, and **desserts**, in which we have chosen to categorize the selected venues, seemed to be the best choice to make our Guide easily accessible to you, the readers, even though it may sometimes appear too rigid to contain the multifaceted nature of some of these establishments. The order in which we present the venues is alphabetical and has no hierarchical value.

The opening lines of each section are dedicated to gluten-free and vegetarian options, with the hope of making the Marsala vacation more comfortable for those who have specific dietary needs, whether by choice or necessity.

We wish you enjoyable reading... and **bon appétit!**





What would you like to eat?



Breakfast



Street Food



Restaurants



Desserts



Breakfast



Sacred moment for the people of Marsala, for whom a quick "coffee to go" cannot be considered a dignified start to the day. Whether enjoyed at home with family or at a local bar with friends, especially on holidays or during the summer, breakfast is savored slowly.

Repeated snacks, both sweet and savory, accompany the morning routine until lunchtime. To blend in with the locals, tourists are encouraged to embrace these customs. We believe in you!

According to our surveys, which involved followers of our Instagram page, the bars that offer the best and most diverse plant-based and gluten-free alternatives are Juparanà and Bar Vito. We will discuss them below.

Bar Enzo Trapani



Where?

Via Trapani, 136 - Marsala



Enzo Trapani
BAR

In Italy, **Enzo Trapani** was a renowned director, screenwriter, and set designer from Rome.

In Marsala, Enzo Trapani is the man behind one of the city's most famous historic bars. It's all about art, once again.

From sweet to savory, this ancient pastry shop, located on the bustling Via Trapani (you won't have any trouble remembering its location), is a factory of fragrance, authenticity, and palate pleasure.

Among all the delicacies you can taste, there's one we strongly recommend: the cream-filled croissant.

This breakfast treat, in the variation presented here, differs greatly from the traditional one: the pastry is crispy and ultra-thin, just enough to contain a unique filling of cream and chocolate chips.

Every bite begs for the next.

Bar Vito



Where?

Via Capitano Vito Falco, 2C

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Bar Vito offers a 360° dining experience: upon entering the spacious and brand-new premises, you will be amazed by an endless and diverse counter.

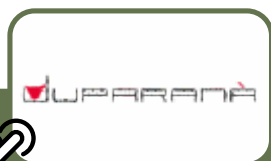
Creamy and vibrant gelato, an inviting hot food section that is swarmed by vacationers in search of a beach lunch, traditional dishes lovingly prepared for a quick but not mediocre meal.

But there's more: local sweets like **cannoli**, **sfincioni**, **cappiddruzzi**, and **fried pastries**, as well as modern and refined creations. Bar Vito is much more than just a breakfast place, but since "a good morning can be seen from the start," we recommend coming here early, taking in the sight of the displayed products that will accompany you to the coffee corner, and ordering the breakfast that suits your taste.

Brioche and granita, cappuccino and cornetto, orange juice and calzone—there is no wrong choice. The only mistake you could make is depriving yourself of this culinary stop.

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Juparanà



Where?

Piazza Francesco Pizzo, 11

Juparanà stands out as one of the **most stylish** venues in Marsala: modern and dynamic in its decor, this fluid space welcomes and entices at any time of the day. Whether it's breakfast, a light lunch, dinner, or an aperitivo, Juparanà stays true to its philosophy: high-quality standards, efficient service, and a seductive atmosphere. Highlighting Juparanà's versatility and its dedication to the art of mixology, which makes it a favorite meeting place for Marsala locals in the evenings, the breakfast offered is what intrigues our community the most.

The coffee bar is worthy of the trendiest coffee houses, and the artisanal pastry selection goes beyond traditional offerings, embracing a more international cuisine. The minimal and clean design, the classy service, and the top-notch products set the perfect tone for your day in Marsala.

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Zicaffè



Where?

Via Abele Damiani, 88



Zicaffè, the pride of Marsala's businesses, was founded in 1929 as a small coffee roastery.

Thanks to the careful selection of coffee beans, attention to the roasting and blending process, and the creation of a creamy and aromatic espresso, it quickly gained popularity throughout Sicily, becoming a leading coffee exporter in Italy and around the world.

At Caffetteria **Zicaffè**, you will find buttery and fragrant croissants and pastries, but above all, you will enjoy coffee products of exceptional quality.

Their "cremini" are famous in town: coffee cream enriched with pistachio, chocolate, sprinkles, meringue, and other delicious toppings, making them a favorite snack for workers and students attending schools in the city center.

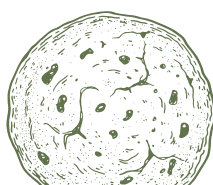
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SOMMARIO

Street Food



Many of the most typical traditional **street foods in Sicily** are vegetarian, such as the panelle sandwich and various other fried snacks, and many can easily be made vegetarian by varying the toppings. This applies to arancine, pane cunzato, couscous, and much more.

Beware of those who say otherwise. As for gluten-free alternatives, according to our surveys, the best places are Oasi Bar, Juparanà, Bar Vito, and Assud Mozia (especially for pizza). We have already mentioned Juparanà and Bar Vito in the "breakfast" section, as their nature goes beyond simple coffee shops. Let's now talk about Oasi Bar.

Assud Mozia, located at Contrada Spagnola 228, is worth a visit not only for its location, which allows you to admire the sunset over Lo Stagnone, one of the most stunning landscapes you will encounter in Marsala.

Using **ancient Sicilian grain** flours, long leavening processes, and fresh tomatoes, this place offers exceptional quality Sicilian-style pizza. The menu also includes a wide selection of traditional dishes, especially seafood.

Their attention to different dietary needs makes it even more deserving of your attention.

Panificio Ragona



Where?

Via Abele Damiani, 10



Panificio
RAGONA

Try the arancine!

No trip to Sicily is complete without tasting at least one arancina.

Among the many establishments, each with its own recipes, Ragona Bakery represents a true institution in our province. Thick and crispy crust, a multitude of flavors to satisfy every palate, and guaranteed enjoyment. This rice ball alone is worth the price of your stay in Trinacria.

We owe thanks to the Arab domination for their kind concession.

And to **Mrs. Ragona** for the frying.

Busiate - Pasta siciliana da passeggio



Where?

Via Cammareri Scurti, 20



BUSIATE
Pasta siciliana da passeggio

Try the Busiate!

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On **Sunday** mornings, grandmothers, mothers, and fathers in southern Italy start preparing an opulent lunch. In Marsala, in particular, the traditional pasta format is gnoccoli cavati: long and hollow vermicelli, perfect for capturing the sauce.

But there is another pasta format, more well-known and originating from our neighboring city of Trapani: busiate. This fresh pasta, a type of long fusilli, is served with various typical Sicilian condiments, all served in a convenient cup. This is the original concept of Busiate. Breaking the notion that a good plate of fresh pasta can only be enjoyed at home or at a slow-paced restaurant, Busiate offers you the opportunity to savor an excellent lunch under the sun or while strolling through the city center. Whether you prefer the traditional gnoccoli cavati or the innovative **Busiate**, Marsala offers a variety of options to satisfy your pasta cravings. So, immerse yourself in the flavors of the local cuisine and indulge in a delightful pasta dish during your visit to Marsala.

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Oasi Bar



Where?

C/da Fontana di Leo, 166/168



OASI

Try the Cous Cous!

The **Oasi Bar** is a guarantee of quality. There isn't a Marsalese who doesn't appreciate their products, whether sweet or savory. The restaurant here embraces craftsmanship, with a concept centered around tradition and quality that never grows old and never disappoints.

The term "bar" is somewhat limiting for a place that produces such high-level gastronomy, but it does reflect the origins of this establishment. The couscous, which is a cornerstone of the **Western Sicilian tradition**, to the point of having its own dedicated event, the "Cous Cous Fest" in San Vito Lo Capo, is considered one of the best in the city. Served with fresh fish and accompanied by a flavorful and rich broth, it will make your taste buds dance with joy.

A glass of wine is a necessary complement to complete a perfect dinner. At the Oasi Bar, you can expect a wide selection of wines to choose from, ensuring that your dining experience is **truly exceptional**.

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SOMMARIO

De Gaetano



Where?

Piazza Goffredo Mameli, 7



Try the Focaccia!

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The "**tavola calda**" (hot table) in Marsala is an institution. Calzoni, focaccias, arancine, and express dishes are some of the dishes that satisfy the hunger and delight the taste buds of the locals.

De Gaetano is among the last historic bars, where time seems to have stood still. Fortunately, the traditional recipe for Marsala's focaccia has remained unchanged as well.

Ragù, shredded chicken, and cheese are the fillings of an incredibly soft brioche, similar to the one used for eating gelato. This is a true Marsala delicacy that can be enjoyed while admiring the elegant Porta Garibaldi. Don't let it slip away from you.

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Gemme di Grano



Where?

Via Sirtori, 95



Try the Pane Cunzato!

If you don't know what "**pane cunzato**" is, study and repent.

The freshly baked warm bread, made of durum wheat as Sicilian tradition dictates, is enough on its own.

Good olive oil, tomatoes, anchovies, olives, pecorino cheese, basil, salt, and pepper are all you need to turn an already excellent product into a **true delicacy**.

This little bakery will make you want to taste everything displayed on the counter and intoxicate you with the scent of freshly baked warm products.

The tuna sandwich is also excellent, but some individuals dare to call it "pane cunzato with tuna," but there is a special place in hell for those people.

Let's repeat it together: "**pane cunzato and tuna sandwich are not the same thing.**"

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Assud Cibo da Strada



Where?

Via Scipione l'Africano, 7



Try the Gourmet Sandwich!

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Level up in the Marsala street food scene, this small and folkloric place will tempt you with gourmet arancine and sandwiches filled with local products.

The use of Sicilian Ancient Grains in the bread dough makes every bite a journey to rediscover flavors and traditions of the past.

And if we haven't convinced you yet, know that in 2017, Assud's "tunnu tunnu" sandwich, filled with tuna porchetta, won the "Palermo Street Food Fest". Winning in the homeland of street food must mean something, right?

Chiosco Antico Mercato del Pesce



Where?

Piazza Mercato, 1



Try the Panino e Pannelle!

In Sicily, chickpea flour takes the spotlight in one of the most iconic dishes of the tradition: the "**panino e pannelle**" (sandwich with chickpea fritters).

If you're looking for an authentic Marsala experience, follow these simple steps: head to the friendly vendors at the Antico Mercato kiosk, spend a few coins for a "panino e pannelle" and a delicious slice of "pizza rianata," then go to the seaside, perhaps to Due Rocche (see "mare" section).

Find a comfortable spot - good luck! - **unwrap and take a bite.**

Now, lay down in the sun and listen to the sound of the waves. The game is on: in no time, you'll start using the verb at the end of your sentences and calling your loved ones "vita mi" (my life).

PS: Legend has it that for every tourist or local who seasons their sandwich with ketchup and mayonnaise, a chickpea fritter falls to the ground in despair.

We purists recommend salt, pepper, and lemon.

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La Pergola

La Pergola

21-10 P. card. 11. 054



Where?

Corso Gramsci, 82



Try the Pizza!

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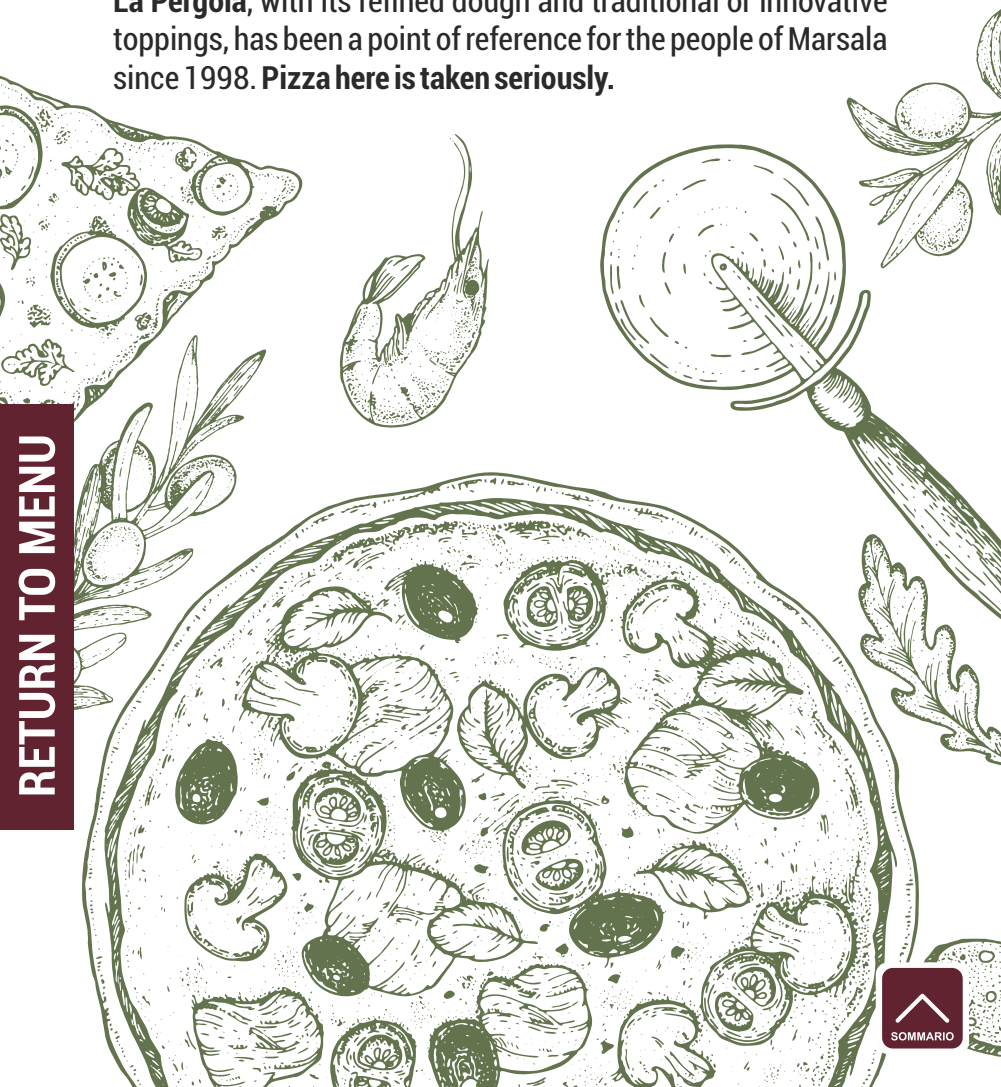
In Sicily, there is another way to say "pizza": "**tabisca**."

This name derives from the Arabic word "tabisc," which refers to a naturally leavened flattened bread. In Sciacca, in the Agrigento area, it was Sicilianized by adding typical local ingredients such as tomatoes, onions, olives, and pecorino cheese.

Today, we use this term to indicate a pizza, usually for takeout, to be shared in company. It is considerably larger than the classic pizza dough, rolled out rather thickly and with a distinctive oval shape. It is then topped with at least two flavors to satisfy all tastes. Transported in giant cardboard boxes, tabisca pizzas feed entire groups of friends.

La Pergola, with its refined dough and traditional or innovative toppings, has been a point of reference for the people of Marsala since 1998. **Pizza here is taken seriously.**

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SOMMARIO

Ristoranti



Sicilian cuisine is deeply rooted in the peasant tradition, and many traditional recipes are vegan or vegetarian, with the option to easily make them vegan by excluding a single ingredient without compromising the taste. Just think of caponata, fava bean puree, pasta alla norma, pasta with "tenerumi" (young greens of certain vegetables), and vegetable couscous. Aren't these dishes among the ones that have made Sicilian cuisine famous worldwide?

Therefore, you won't have any trouble finding vegan alternatives in the recommended restaurants, as we have already explored their menus for you. The restaurant that offers the most varied vegetarian options is La Corte Dei Mangioni.

The same goes for gluten-free dishes, which are available in each of the listed establishments. However, according to our surveys, the best and most varied gluten-free and vegetarian options can be found outside the more refined restaurants, specifically at Juparanà, Bar Vito, and Oasi Bar. These establishments have demonstrated their commitment to meeting the needs of their customers.

Baglio Custerà



Where?

C/da Rakalia, 312/A



"U bagghio" is a fortified farm typical of western Sicily. **Baglio Custerà**, which is not only a restaurant but also a lush resort, deeply embraces its etymology, taking on the characteristics of a place that derives its strength from nature and serves as a stronghold for all things Made in Sicily. Here, there is no belief outside of what is autochthonous.

The owners of this family-run establishment have a clear vision of gastronomy: providing an excellent culinary experience in a location that rivals the most Instagrammable masserie (farmhouses) in Puglia.

If we have convinced you (and we believe we have, if only for using the terms "autochthonous" and "Instagrammable" in the same description), go and dine at Baglio Custerà, and perhaps even stay overnight for an unforgettable experience.

Bottega del Carmine



Where?

Via Caturca, 20

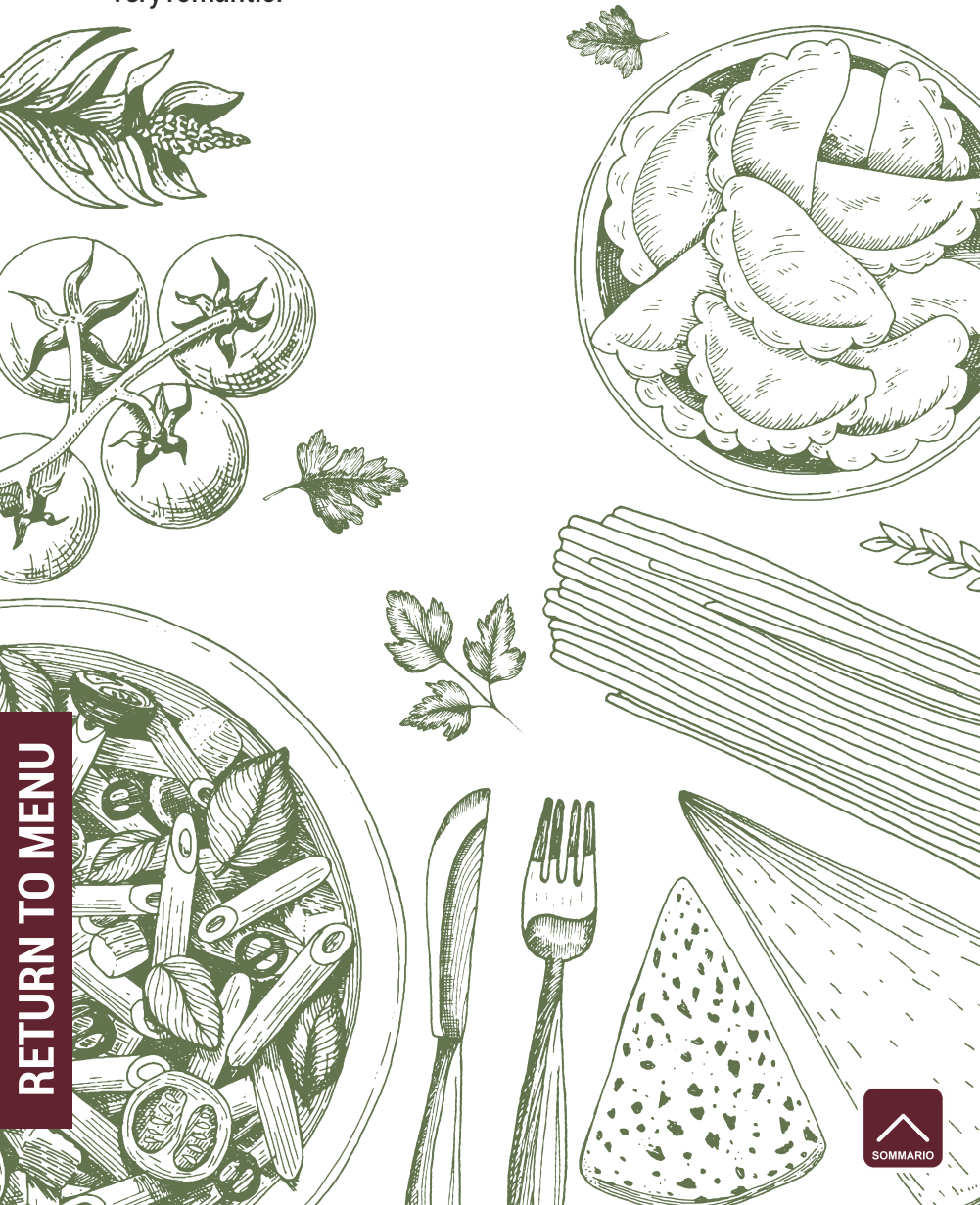


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Sometimes the names given to establishments can be more explanatory than an elaborate narrative. This restaurant, which also features a lounge bar and an elegant inner garden that is constantly evolving, is a true workshop of taste. Clean and expertly combined flavors form the foundation of every bite you'll taste.

The meticulously designed location is situated near one of the most picturesque corners of the city center: **Piazza Carmine**. Dominated by the bell tower and the convent, this square will invite you to continue the evening with a pleasant stroll. It's all very romantic.

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La Corte dei Mangioni



Where?

Via Giovanni Bovio, 28

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In the heart of the historic center of Marsala, within historic premises steeped in Sicilian charm, you'll find La Corte dei Mangioni. Behind an extensive yet coherent and narrative menu, there are dishes that are first and foremost ideas before they are meals.

The chef's concept is crystal clear: gourmet dishes in trattoria-sized portions. Is there anything else to add?

La Corte dei Mangioni is the ideal place for a satisfying seafood dinner, accompanied by cocktails from the nearby Taverna del Tocco and a carefully selected wine list.

Teetotalers are welcome, but we cannot guarantee they will remain so by the end of the meal.

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Le Caserie



Where?

Via Frisella, 28

Le Caserie, located in the heart of Marsala, is a restaurant that tantalizes the senses from the very first encounter: a vibrant trinacria symbol that engages the eyes with its colors, soft music to soothe the bustling atmosphere of Marsala's center in summer, and aromas from the kitchen that awaken the appetite.

Upon reading the menu, it becomes evident that each dish is accompanied by a clear concept, and each name holds a delightful surprise. Bite after bite, the sensory experience will be complete.

If you wish to immerse yourself in the sensations of authentic Sicily, amidst tuff stone, ceramics, and "caserie" (the dialectal term for terracotta pots used for nurturing flowers), this restaurant, which also operates as a unique Bed and Breakfast, is the perfect choice for you.

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Le Lumie



Where?

C/da Fontanelle, 178/B

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Your Marsala vacation is sure to bring you at least two pleasures: good food and breathtaking sunsets. Now, imagine the ultimate combination of both: the result is a summer dinner at Le Lumie restaurant.

Located on a hill, just 15 minutes from the city center, the restaurant offers a clear view of the islands in the Stagnone Lagoon and the Aegadian Islands. The saying "the eye wants its share" is taken very seriously here.

But even if the restaurant were situated on the narrowest street in town, it would be worth reserving a table. Each dish reveals meticulous preparation, research, and a near-obsessive respect for the ingredients. The service is impeccable, and even the bread and breadsticks for your "scarpetta" are made by the chef.

If you're looking for a relaxing atmosphere and a classy dinner, Le Lumie is the place for you.

Parrinello Pescheria e Cucina



Where?

Via Vincenzo Florio, 4

From sea to table, literally. This restaurant is a highly successful attempt to shorten the seafood supply chain and bring the taste of the sea directly onto your plate. Stepping inside the historic fish market feels like entering an aquarium.

Even the most devoted carnivore will be amazed by the variety of offerings. In the adjacent kitchens, that very same Mediterranean fish, caught just a few hours before, takes center stage.

The raw dishes, fresh pastas, and main courses will tell you the story of the deep respect for ingredients, something that only the most conscientious workers can turn into their greatest strength. **Parrinello** Pescheria e Cucina's minimalist and modern decor offers expansive and bright windows overlooking the sea. It couldn't be any other way.

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Based on our surveys, as already extensively mentioned, the best and most diverse pastry options for both celiacs and vegans can be found at **Bar Vito, Juparanà, and Oasi Bar**.

Dolce Tentazione



Where?

Via Giulio Anca Omodei, 3



Dolce
Tentazione

Try the Cannolo!

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Between myth and legend, the origin of the cannolo is and will forever be a subject of debate. Some believe it was the creation of cloistered nuns, while others attribute the phallic shape of the "soccia" (the tube-shaped shell) to a playful and irreverent carnival joke.

Setting aside the stories and modesty, at "Dolce Tentazione" in the historic center, you can taste a marvelous cannolo. Raw sheep's milk ricotta and chocolate pieces held within a crunchy and never greasy shell will be your most sinful sensory experience in Marsala.

Finding the location is impossible to miss, as there is a giant, understated cannolo marking the entrance of the establishment. A glass of high-quality Marsala wine, to be sipped slowly, is the perfect pairing.

Vivona



Where?

Via Giulio Anca Omodei, 3



Laboratorio di
Pasticceria
S. VIVONA

Try the Cassata Siciliana!

The cassata is the dish that best represents the multiculturalism of our land. Combining Arab, Norman, and Spanish influences, it features ricotta, the undisputed queen of our traditional desserts, along with chocolate and brightly colored candied fruits, creating a sweet treat that is not only delicious but also beautiful.

Cutting into this small work of art may bring a tinge of regret, but it is a necessary sacrifice to indulge in this iconic delight. Vivona Pasticceria is an ancient pastry shop whose trays of sweets gracefully enter the homes of Marsalans every Sunday and on special occasions. Their cassata is undoubtedly among the best in town.

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Piazza Gelato



Where?

Piazza Francesco pizzo, 18



Prova le granite e i gelati!



The reasons to visit Piazza Francesco Pizzo are at least two: the Wine Fountain by Salvatore Fiume and a delicious "**brioscia**" with gelato, preferably to be enjoyed in flip-flops after a day at the beach, at Piazza Gelato. The brioches, to which we Marsalesi and Sicilians are devoted, are always fresh, soft, and fluffy here.

The gelato, creamy and boldly flavored, is made from a selection of excellent ingredients. In addition to the classics, we recommend trying the most daring combinations. You won't be disappointed.

As for granite in Sicily, we could write a separate booklet. Treat yourself to a gelsi and almond granite, or gelsi and lemon, or whichever flavor entices you the most. "**Ammuggiate**" (dip) the brioches into the glass and refresh yourself. There is no better solution for the heat. And neither for languor.

Lo Stagnone



Where?

Corso Antonio Gramsci, 204



Prova l'Iris frita



The **Lo Stagnone** bar offers a rich breakfast, a traditional hot table, and an exquisite selection of pastries. Its proximity to two high schools makes it the morning pilgrimage destination for hordes of hungry students.

Generations of students have likely found in the Lo Stagnone bar breakfast the necessary incentive to wake up in the morning and fulfill their dreary school duties.

The iris, in particular, is a majestic sphere of brioches - the one with gelato, to be precise - filled with ricotta and chocolate, fried, and then generously dusted with sugar and cinnamon.

If you're wondering, the answer is: "Yes, we Sicilians like to shape things into spheres, fry them, and eat them. It usually works." The iris is worth a full meal, and at the "Lo Stagnone" bar, you'll find the best one.

Antica Pasticceria di Bonafede Pasquale



Where?

Via Trapani, 64



Sfincione di S. Giuseppe!

The **sfincioni**, large clouds of soft fried dough topped with a luscious ricotta cream and chocolate shavings, are a sweet treat originating from Palermo, traditionally enjoyed only during the Feast of Saint Joseph on March 19th.

Today, these delightful pastries are made throughout the year, rightfully joining the holy trinity of ricotta desserts: "cannolo, cassata, sfincione". At Pasquale, you can taste an sfincione that is never greasy, light, not overly sweet, and absolutely delightful.

In addition to **sfincioni**, they also offer **cappidruzzi**, iris, mignons, fresh fried pastries, and cakes that are constantly churned out from a bakery that never misses a beat, quite literally.

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SOMMARIO

At sunset



According to several reliable rankings - which include numerous lists compiled by homesick Marsalans witnessing the sunsets under the gray skies of the North - the sunset in Marsala is among the most beautiful in the world.

We agree: food and sunsets are our strengths, but they also become our Achilles' heel when we leave our land.

One thing is certain: once your stay is over, you will miss them as well.



Anita



Where?

Via Lungomare Boeo, 36



Anita, "the heroine of the two worlds," was a Brazilian revolutionary and the wife of General Garibaldi.

There is a revolutionary spirit even in this corner of paradise by the sea, which turns the Lilibeo aperitif moment into a super social experience.

Trendy music, exquisitely nautical decor, canopies, seating on the cliffs, and enchanting sunsets make Anita the coolest place for a beer with friends at sunset, but also the perfect location to update your Instagram profile.

Cantine Fina

"(see 'experiences' section)".

Le 5 Palme



Where?

Via Lungomare Boeo, 1



Le 5 Palme is a seaside venue, just a short walk from the city center and the romantic "due rocche," offering chic and lively aperitifs and after-dinner drinks, often accompanied by DJ sets or live music.

Frequented by customers of all ages, this establishment is now a reference point for entertainment in Marsala, especially during the beautiful season.

The pier on the sea, an elegant solarium during the day, is a highly sought-after spot for aperitifs, which at sunset offers a view of the Egadi Islands and the sound of the sea.

The staff, **friendly and knowledgeable**, will win you over. If you want to count the palm trees at the entrance of the venue, we recommend doing it before consuming: the third gin and tonic might make them appear as 10.

Pe'ahi Beach Club



Where?

Via Passalacqua



PE'AHII
BEACH CLUB

The name of the venue, which evokes a Hawaiian location known for its surfing, perfectly reflects the dreamy atmosphere of this place. Here you will sip cocktails outdoors in a setting that is perhaps the most picturesque in Marsala.

By the sea, overlooking the Stagnone dotted with the sails of kite surfers, the Islands of the nature reserve are clearly visible, and in the distance, the Egadi Islands.

The venue is reached after a winding but characteristic path... don't be discouraged: chill music (but not only), an international atmosphere, dreamy colors, and the sea breeze will make the effort worthwhile.

Saline Genna



Where?

C/da Spagnola SNC

C/da Dammusello 628



SALINE
GENNA
SNC

The ancient Salina Genna, dating back to the 15th century and still active today, offers the priceless scenery of traditional salt production. The "curatoli," who take care of the salt pans and extract the salt, pass down this ancient craft from generation to generation.

The spectacle of salt mounds (which appear like a spectacular fictional set rather than a stage in salt processing), the shimmering-colored basins, and the Egadi Islands in the background provide the backdrop for enjoying your cocktail, marveling at the beauty that humans and nature can synergistically create.

For sensitive souls: be careful with the sensational display of pink, orange, and sky-blue hues that the sunset over the Saline can offer. You might run the risk of being moved to tears in front of your friends.

SEI - Mamma Caura

(see 'experiences' section)

Where to drink in the evening



Marsala is the **city of wine**. Our history is inseparably linked to the Marsala wine trade, among our greatest treasures.

We would be ungrateful, or rather foolish, if we didn't give due importance to the art of wine service and mixology. In addition to some of the most representative wineries in the area, which we have suggested in the "experiences" section, here are the locals most loved by the people of Marsala for a drink with friends or alone.

If you enjoy it, we invite you to drink, and above all, to drink well.

However, afterwards, avoid driving: you can burn off the excess alcohol with a romantic walk in the city center. At night, the streetlights of Marsala emit a very yellow light: it's not the hangover, it's the bulbs.



Albaria



Where?

Via Giuseppe Garibaldi, 10



THE PERPETUUM GUIDE

Garibaldi Street is perhaps the last stronghold of the urban style that our historic center was supposed to have before the American bombings of May 11, 1943.

An essential stop on morning and evening walks, it is now adorned with cheerful establishments, both touristy and local. One that stands out is Albaria, with its outdoor sofas and visible counter.

If you want to pause time to sip a local wine or your preferred drink, in one of the most beautiful streets of the city, this is the place you're looking for.

The staff will pamper you.

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La Taverna del Tocco



Where?

Via Giovanni Bovio, 21



A small establishment located right in front of La Corte dei Mangioni, which we have already praised in the "Restaurants" section.

The management of the two places is the same, and so is the attention to detail and customer service.

La Taverna del Tocco, now a hub of excellent libation in Marsala, is a small oasis of mixology where one can receive a treatment that is difficult to find elsewhere in our area.

Cocktail enthusiasts can attest to it.



Portale Botteghe



Where?

Piazza Filippo Milazzo Maggio, 5

A true institution for the young people of Marsala, this suggestive venue adjacent to the Chiesa Madre (Mother Church), housed in historic premises - where you can admire two 16th-century workshops and a Baroque portal from the 18th century - and the outdoor pub-style tables, represent the main hub for the city's nightlife.

Here you will find qualified staff and an extensive selection of alcoholic beverages, as well as the opportunity for a casual and tantalizing dinner in an atmosphere of elegant conviviality. While strolling through the city center, you will often hear the magical words: "**Hey, see you at the Portale,**" a classic meeting point among friends to start the weekend.

Terrazza San Francesco



Where?

Viale Cesare Battisti, 1

A long garden and cocktail bar in Villa Cavallotti, the only true green space in the city center.

The public park dates back to 1895 and houses a somewhat decadent garden, once known for its precious exotic plants, of which only a few traces remain today.

After walking along the main avenue that stands on the ancient city moat, amidst mighty trees, shrubs, and busts of patriots, politicians, and Garibaldini, and climbing an imposing staircase, you will find yourself on the upper level of the garden, built on what remains of the bastion of San Francesco.

In this unexpected location, overlooking the sea with a glimpse of the Egadi Islands and Capo Boeo, Terrazze Cavallotti was born. A wide selection of cocktails, wines, and beers will provide relief from the summer heat and a perfect way to end the evening after a stroll in the city center.

We recommend tasting Marsala, of course.

Experience



In this section, we have gathered some of the experiences most loved by our fellow citizens to allow you to get to know the local culture and pastimes in a more immediate way.

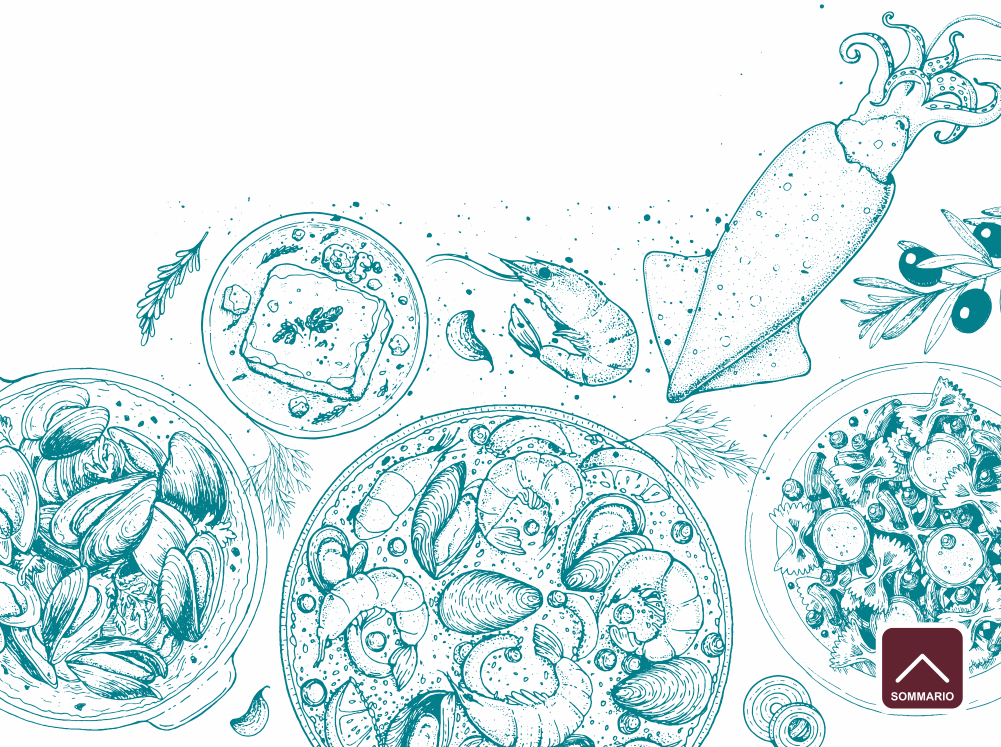
Whether you are sporty or lazy, lovers of contemplation or seeking adrenaline, don't worry: there's truly something for everyone's tastes!

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Visit to the historic center



The itinerary can symbolically start from Capo Boeo or the Monument to the Thousand.

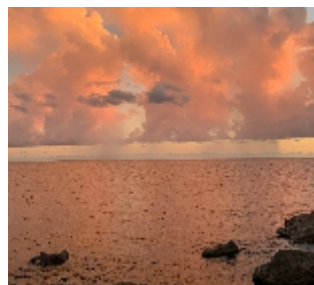
Starting from Capo Boeo: From this picturesque place, the westernmost point of Sicily - where you can admire a symbolic obelisk that recalls the most important events that took place in the surrounding waters, such as the legendary final naval battle of the First Punic War - you can enjoy a fantastic view of the Egadi Islands.

Just a few meters away, you have the opportunity to visit two of the oldest wine production establishments in Marsala, the "bagli" Anselmi and Grignani, which are now home to the Regional Archaeological Museum "Baglio Anselmi". Inside the museum, you can find the only existing wreck of a Punic ship, the remains of a Roman ship discovered in Marausa, and precious archaeological evidence of ancient Lilybeo.

From the museum, you can also access the Villa Romana and the Plateia Aelia.

Continuing the walk, you can visit the Church of San Giovanni al Boeo and its suggestive Well of the Cumaean Sibyl, in the remote possibility that you find it open. In that case, consider playing a lottery ticket, the stars have aligned for you.

Proceeding along Viale Isonzo, you will reach Piazza della Vittoria, where you can admire the majestic Teatro Impero, built during the fascist era, the bust of Garibaldi, and the municipal gardens of Villa Cavallotti (which lead to the belvedere of Bastione S. Francesco, from the Spanish era).



Capo Boeo - Tre rocche



Baglio Anselmi



Chiesa di San Giovanni al Boeo



Villa Cavallotti

In the same square, you can also find Porta Nuova, one of the four ancient gates of Marsala (and one of the two that still exist today), dating back to 1780, and the adjacent Palazzo del conte Grignani where - as the plaque affixed there recalls - Garibaldi stayed in 1862 upon his return to Marsala.



Porta Nuova

Passing through Porta Nuova, you enter the ancient heart of the city, known as its "Cassaro," the main street named "Via XI Maggio" in commemoration of the day in 1860 when General Garibaldi entered the city with his Thousand. Arriving in Piazza Marco De Bartoli - named after one of the most enlightened contemporary wine entrepreneurs from Marsala - you can admire the majestic late Baroque facade of Palazzo Fici (home to the Municipal Wine Shop) and, if open, its magnificent courtyard, as well as the eclectic corner facade of Palazzo Spanò Burgio.



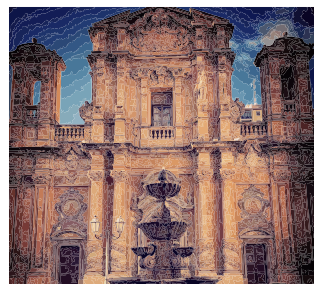
Via XI Maggio "Cassaro"

Continuing the route, you can choose to go straight towards Piazza Loggia - the main square of the city - or turn right towards Via Caturca, which leads to the splendid Piazza Carmine, where the Church and Convent of Carmine are located, as well as the sumptuous Palazzo Grignani (now the Municipal Art Gallery).

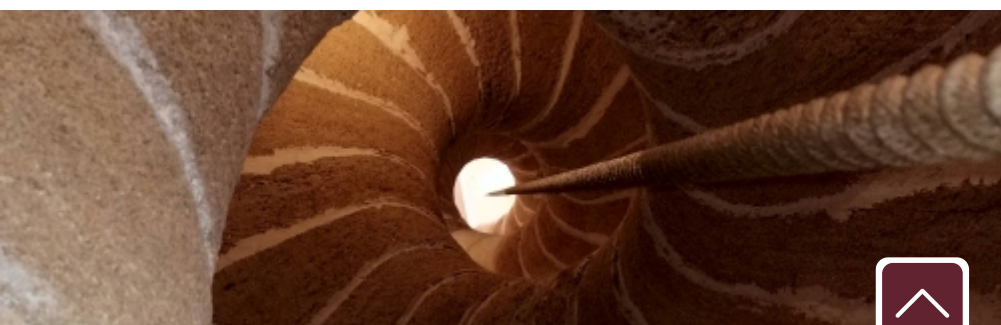


Palazzo Fici

From Piazza Carmine, you then proceed along Via Garraffa, passing by the archaeological excavations of San Girolamo and the delightful little square of the Baroque Church of Purgatorio, and you enter Via Cammareri Scurti, where Palazzo Giacalone is located (currently under renovation), with a plaque commemorating the moment when Garibaldi received as a gift his white mare that he renamed "Marsala."



Chiesa del Purgatorio



Scorcio di Piazza Carmine

Continuing ahead towards Cassaro and turning right, you finally arrive at Piazza della Repubblica - known by everyone in Marsala by its ancient name "Piazza Loggia" - where you can admire the Mother Church, the Church of San Giuseppe, and the Palazzo VII aprile, home to the City Council, as well as the delightful dome, or observatory, of the Monastery of San Pietro, the most important in the city (inside of which we find the Garibaldi Museum).



Palazzo VII Aprile

Continuing along the route towards Cassaro, you can admire Casa Damiani - the noble residence of the Marsala revolutionary and senator of the Kingdom of Italy, Abele Damiani - home to the cultural association Otium, a virtuous reality in the city.

A few more meters ahead, on the left side, you will find the eclectic Palazzo Sarzana Fici - now the headquarters of Banca Unicredit - where a plaque commemorates Garibaldi's stay in that palace on the evening of his landing in Marsala on May 11, 1860.



Piazza Loggia

Returning back towards Piazza Loggia, you can walk along Via Mario Rapisardi, admiring the Baroque facade of Palazzo Sala - with its 19th-century corner balcony and its typical "goose breast" balconies - and the delightful ancient covered walkway in Liberty style that led from a room in the Hotel Stella d'Italia to the front palace, until you reach the former Church of the Collegio dei Gesuiti, which will soon host the prestigious Museum of Flemish Tapestries.



Museo degli Arazzi Fiamminghi

Once again in Piazza Loggia, you walk along Via Garibaldi, admiring Palazzo Trapani (home to Banca Intesa), one of the most beautiful examples of Marsala Liberty style, and the Spanish Quarter, home to municipal offices, where you will find a magnificent atrium with a fountain featuring a symbolic cherub with grape clusters and topped by four splendid and ancient Benjamin fig trees.

Finally, you reach Porta Garibaldi, dating back to 1685 and known in Italian history for



Quartiere Spagnolo
(sede degli uffici comunali)

Starting from the Monument to the Thousand, a Marsala work with centuries-old vicissitudes that finally, in 2016, was officially inaugurated, you can walk along Via Scipione l'Africano straight towards the sea. This monument symbolically represents one of the ships with which Garibaldi and the Thousand landed in Marsala. The large wrought iron structures bearing the names of each of the thousand Garibaldini "picciotti" are evocative. Passing through Porta Garibaldi and continuing straight along Via Scipione l'Africano, towards the sea, you will reach the much-criticized "Monument to the Thousand." This Marsala work has had a centuries-old history and was finally officially inaugurated in 2016. It symbolically represents one of the ships with which Garibaldi and the Thousand landed in Marsala.

The large wrought iron structures bear the names of each of the thousand Garibaldini "picciotti," creating a powerful and evocative sight.

From there, you can retrace your steps in reverse, following the same path mentioned earlier.



Porta Garibaldi



Scorcio di Monumento ai Mille





Cantine Donnafugata

Donnafugata, an ambassador of Sicily in the world, is one of the most representative wineries of our region. Immersing oneself in the varied and colorful reality of Donnafugata is not difficult; you simply enter the historic baglio, look around, and amidst the palms and citrus trees, you are greeted by one of the most iconic quotes about Sicily: "Italy without Sicily leaves no image in the soul: here is the key to everything."

From there, the journey into the wine world of a region with countless resources and expressions begins. First, a tour of the production cellar, until you reach 15 meters underground, inside one of the most impressive modern-age barrel cellars you can visit. Then the real fun begins: it's time to taste! Donnafugata is not just a physical place; it is a meeting point between art and music, between dreams and rebellion.





Cantine Fina

The most beautiful place you will visit in Marsala is located north of the city, up in the hills, away from the hustle and bustle of the center.

From Cantine Fina, you can enjoy the breathtaking view of the Islands of Lo Stagnone and the Egadi: at sunset, the sun weaves its way through the islands before disappearing in shades of pink, red, and orange. The magic of that moment cannot be captured by a cellphone camera, but we're sure you'll make an attempt.

During the winery tour, you will not only learn technical details about Grillo or aromatic Traminer, but you will also be entertained and moved by the anecdotes and life stories of the Fina family. The hospitality and beauty of the place encapsulate, and perhaps surpass, the concept of wine tourism, offering you a generous dose of Sicilian charm and authenticity.





Cantine Florio

Florio is the oldest active winery in Marsala, founded in 1833 by Vincenzo Florio, whose life inspired the best-selling novel "I Leoni di Sicilia" (The Lions of Sicily). Following in the footsteps of the English entrepreneurs who made their fortune with Marsala wine, Florio incorporated the production of historic labels from the oldest Woodhouse and Ingham-Whitaker wineries starting from 1928, establishing itself as a leader in the production of the famous fortified wine.

A visit to the winery offers a historical, cultural, and sensory journey. The tuff stone arches, oak barrels and vats, Sicilian carts, the scent of must, and the essence of a glorious past that has never faded are the pieces of a puzzle that vividly depict the history of the family that revolutionized the story of Marsala and its wine.





Cantine Pellegrino

Founded in 1880, Cantine Pellegrino represents one of the most important wine producers in Italy. Wine is a matter of family here, spanning seven generations. In addition to being one of the oldest historic wineries and one of the most dynamic producers in all of Sicily, the story of Pellegrino is intertwined with that of Marsala, and vice versa.

The collections of agricultural tools and 19th-century Sicilian carts, the valuable Ingham-Whitaker archive documenting the commercial exchanges between Marsala and the rest of the world from 1814 to 1928, the casts of the Punic Ship from 241 BC, a testament to the significant economic, technological, and logistical contributions of these wineries to the recovery of the artifact – these are just a few traces of the relentless patronage that has distinguished this Sicilian wine family. Today, in addition to visiting the historic cellars, visitors can enjoy the view of the Egadi Islands and a dreamy sunset at the modern Ouverture premises.



A tour of the Islands of the Stagnone

The Stagnone lagoon of Marsala, the largest in Sicily, owes its name to the natural calm of the basin, created by the internal islets, seagrass beds, and shallow seabed. It comprises four islands: San Pantaleo, Isola Lunga (or Grande), Schola, and Santa Maria. However, at the beginning of the 16th century, there were seven islands; in addition to San Pantaleo, Schola, and Santa Maria, historical sources also mention Frati Janni, Altavilla, Burrone, Sorci, and San Teodoro.

The construction of salt pans, which began between the 15th and 16th centuries, irreversibly altered the conformation of the Stagnone. The small islands were consolidated by the salt pans, forming a 6.5 km strip of land called Isola Lunga.

If you want to experience tranquility and rejuvenation, an excursion to the islands of the Stagnone is perfect for you. For the more adventurous and those who love challenges, it is possible to rent pedal boats, canoes, or stand-up paddleboards from one of the rental services along the coastline facing the lagoon. We recommend **Jamakite**, located in Contrada Spagnola, 112/A.

While the islands are privately owned, you will feel like modern-day Robinson Crusoes, exploring untouched and wild places. As you approach Schola (from the Greek skolè, meaning "resting place" or from the Latin schola, meaning "discussion" or "lesson"), you might hear the echoes of Cicero or the Greek-Phoenician philosopher Porphyry of Tyre, who may have had their rhetoric schools here. Passing by Mozia, on the other hand, you will sense its captivating and millennia-old history, which deserves further exploration on its own. And as you brush by the island of Santa Maria, a couple of donkeys with languid gazes might greet you before lazily wandering off to a grove that few have visited.

The muddy seabed of the lagoon does not make it ideal for swimming, but the natural spectacle and the sense of peace are guaranteed. If you are looking for a spectacular landscape but don't want to exert yourself, then an aperitif boat ride at sunset amidst these islands is perfect for you. We recommend the experience with **Arini and Pugliese** on the motorboat Tanit (named after a Phoenician and Carthaginian deity). Unparalleled Instagram-worthy moments are included in the ticket price.



Visit to the Island of Mozia

Mozia was the ancient Phoenician city located on the present-day Island of San Pantaleo. The archaeological site is one of the most important Phoenician-Punic remains that have survived to this day, and it was a candidate for UNESCO World Heritage status in 2006. The island is home to the Giuseppe Whitaker Museum, which houses, among other artifacts, the Youth of Mozia, an incredibly exquisite sculpture.

Today, you can reach the coast of Mozia by ferry, purchasing an affordable ticket at the **Historical Wharf of G. Whitaker** in Contrada Spagnola, 228, or by renting a canoe, pedal boat, or SUP. After a short journey by sea and reaching the small pier, you will need to buy an entrance ticket to the island, which grants you access to all the magical places within. Lose yourself and find yourself again among the vineyards, the tophet, and the kothon. Have a picnic in the shade and refresh yourself with a mulberry granita from the island's only bar. For those hours, forget about the clock.

The history of Marsala wouldn't exist without this little island in the heart of the Mediterranean, a treasure trove of archaeological rarities that astonish the world. To truly understand Marsala, you must pass through here, where everything began.



Visit to the salt pans

Taking a stroll at sunset and contemplating the succession of salt pans along the road is already a fascinating and unique spectacle. The basins, necessary for salt extraction, take on different colors, but are predominantly dominated by an intense pink hue.

No, Photoshop is not involved: the unusual coloring is due to high salt concentrations that support the life of a bacterium, *salinibacter ruber*, and microalgae, such as *dunaliella*. The pink pigment produced by the bacterium is responsible for the water coloration, and it is also consumed by mollusks and crustaceans (particularly the *Artemia Salina*) that serve as food for certain birds. With a bit of luck, you may even admire elegant pink flamingos.

If you are fascinated by the salt production process, Saline Ettore e Infersa s.r.l. manages the tourist activities of the salt pans in the Stagnone Lagoon and the functioning Infersa mill, one of the few perfectly operational mills in Europe. At the salt museum, in addition to learning about traditional salt extraction techniques (we are definitely not talking about cocaine), you will have the opportunity to purchase some unique souvenirs: leave the magnets for the uninformed tourists. Once you have completed the tour, we recommend having an aperitivo at **SEI - Mamma Caura**. The mill of the salt pans and the breathtaking sunset will be your backdrop. Unmissable.



Kite, windsurf and sailing

The shallow waters and constant wind of the territory make the Stagnone Lagoon ideal for practicing kiteboarding, a water sport that originated as a variation of surfing. Kiteers are propelled by the wind using colorful kites, making the landscape of the Stagnone even more spectacular than it already is.

This adrenaline-pumping and incredibly fun sport has made Marsala the capital of the world for kiteboarding twice, hosting the world championships in 2006 and 2013. Today, nearly 30,000 tourists are attracted to the city each year solely for kiteboarding. If what your Sicilian vacation is missing is a dash of wild and pure freedom, all you need to do is rely on one of the professionals from the many schools located along the coast. Among the most renowned, we recommend the **Sicily Kite Academy**, in Contrada Birgi Vecchi.

A place of honor among the most beloved sports for the people of Marsala - and for which our territory is particularly suited - is also reserved for windsurfing and sailing. The **Laura Linares Kitesurf & Sailing School**, located at Via Baia dei Fenici 116, offers the experience of a champion who is a source of pride for our city. As a world-class athlete, Laura now trains the champions of tomorrow in a school that caters to the needs of beginners of all ages.



Places of interest



This section provides a concise overview of the history and description of monuments, squares, museums, and churches that are particularly significant for Marsala and its citizens.

Among Perpetuum's intentions and goals is the dissemination of this information through dedicated social media channels **(by the way, we would be honored if you followed us!)**.

[Click here and follow us!](#)

While strolling through the city and coming across one of these places, we will be happy to satisfy your curiosity.

If, on the other hand, history doesn't interest you, you can still use these nuggets of culture to impress your crush. It can't hurt to try.

[_perpetuum](#)



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SOMMARIO



Porta Garibaldi



We find ourselves in front of the imposing and elegant arch of Porta Garibaldi. Until the mid-19th century, Marsala was surrounded by an impressive system of fortifications: the Porta was the main entrance to the city center and was originally known as Porta di Mare due to its proximity to the port and the economic activities that took place there. Only after Garibaldi's Expedition of the Thousand, which had a crucial stage in Marsala, was the arch renamed in honor of the Hero of Two Worlds. The exterior facade of the monumental arch is surmounted by a crowned marble eagle, symbol of the House of Habsburg of Spain, who ruled over Sicily at that time. Upon entering the Porta, you step into a large atrium topped by a large lantern, while on the left, you can see the outlines of a bricked-up door, which in the past was the main entrance to the adjacent Sanctuary of the Addolorata.





Santuario dell'Addolorata



Crossing the arch of Porta Garibaldi, you enter Via Garibaldi, formerly known as Ruga Portae Maris, one of the oldest and busiest streets in Marsala. To the left of the monumental city entrance, there is a charming square in front of the Sanctuary dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows (Maria SS. Addolorata). The Marian cult in Marsala has ancient roots. It is said that during the winter of 1691, when a terrifying storm broke out over the city, people gathered in prayer in front of the statue of the Madonna della Concezione, which was located near the Porta di Mare. Suddenly, a lightning struck a horse that had been left next to the statue just moments before by a young man who had started to pray, thereby escaping disaster. This event was immediately hailed as a miracle, and from that moment on, the statue was nicknamed "Madonna del Fulmine" (Madonna of the Lightning). On July 14, 1691, the people decided to build a church on the site of the miracle, by renovating the armory of the nearby military quarter for this purpose.





Antico Mercato e Quartiere Spagnolo



On the opposite side of Piazza dell'Addolorata, after a short staircase, you'll find the entrance arch to the Antico Mercato (Old Market), a spacious square enclosed on all four sides by high walls. Originally intended to house the stables of the adjacent Military Quarter, it now serves as the location of the city's most famous seafood market. Continuing along Via Garibaldi, on the right, you'll come across a large battlemented building with clear military features. This is the Renaissance-style Military Quarter - now housing the Municipal Offices - built between 1576 and 1577 at the request of the people of Marsala. Its purpose was to accommodate the Spanish troops stationed in the area, thus preventing them from camping throughout the city and causing harm to the defenseless citizens.





Palazzo VII Aprile



Palazzo VII Aprile stands on the site where, in medieval times, the "Loggia" of the Pisans and/or Genoese was located, a large portico used for hosting the market and the bankers who conducted currency exchanges. This memory has remained alive in the historical memory of the people of Marsala, who still refer to the square in front of Palazzo VII Aprile as "Piazza Loggia" in their daily speech. The construction of the current building began in the 16th century, with the works being completed only in the mid-18th century. Now serving as the seat of the City Council, the palace bears its current name in memory of the revolutionary events that led to the declaration of the downfall of the Bourbon monarchy on April 7, 1860. It was on that day, for the first time in Marsala, that the tricolor flag was raised.





Mother Church



Curiously, the Mother Church of Marsala is dedicated to St. Thomas Becket. According to legend, a ship carrying columns of Corinthian marble, intended for an English church dedicated to the Archbishop of Canterbury, shipwrecked in the sea in front of Marsala. This event was interpreted as a divine sign, and those columns were used in the construction of the city's Mother Church, which has since been named after the Anglo-Saxon martyr. More likely, the cult of St. Thomas Becket became popular in Sicily following the marriage of the Sicilian King William II to Joanna Plantagenet, daughter of the King of England.

The first Norman cathedral was built around 1176. After numerous interventions and alterations spanning seven centuries, the Church was solemnly consecrated in 1821.





The Tapestry Museum



Since 1589, the Mother Church of Marsala has been in possession of 8 precious Flemish tapestries, donated to the archpriest of the city by Monsignor Antonio Lombardo (1524 - 1595), a prominent figure in the Kingdom of Spain in the second half of the 16th century. According to tradition, the tapestries were a gift from the Queen of Spain, of whom Lombardo was said to be the personal confessor.

The cycle of tapestries depicts a series of scenes from the events of the Jewish-Roman War (66-73 AD), waged by the emperors Vespasian and Titus to suppress the independence aspirations of the rebellious Jews.

The new location of the museum dedicated to them will be housed in the premises of the Church of the Collegio, which is currently closed for worship.





Complesso Monumentale San Pietro



It is the cultural center of Marsala par excellence, housing the Civic Museums (divided into three sections: archaeological, Garibaldi, and popular traditions, with the ancient costumes of the Holy Thursday procession), as well as the municipal library "Salvatore Struppa" and the city's historical archive. The structure is located within the premises of the 16th-century Monastery of San Pietro, which was built in the area where the city's Jewish quarter was located until 1492. The complex is centered around a large central courtyard, which used to house warehouses and kitchens. The Church adjacent to the Monumental Complex, with its façade facing Via XI Maggio and featuring an elegant rose window inscribed within an octagonal frame, has a basilica plan with a single nave. Recently, the entire complex has undergone restoration.





Museo Risorgimentale Garibaldino "Giacomo e Luigi Giustolisi"



Located in the historic heart of the city, inside the aforementioned Monastery of San Pietro, the Garibaldi Risorgimento Museum - named after Dr. Giacomo Giustolisi and his son, Engineer Luigi, who devoted themselves to its creation and arrangement - houses precious relics and artworks that tell the story of the Italian unification process, which started right here in Marsala. If you are passionate about history, you cannot miss this magical immersion into the Risorgimento, right in the place where it all began. And in case you're wondering, no, there is no bed where Garibaldi slept among the artifacts, but more humbly, there is a chair where he rested on the evening of his landing in Marsala... and much more!





Church of Purgatorio



Originally dedicated to the saints Fabian and Sebastian, today it houses the auditorium of St. Cecilia. The name by which the church is known to the people of Marsala instead derives from the fact that, starting from 1601, it was the seat of the Congregation of the Souls of Purgatory.

In clear Baroque style, the church has a Latin cross plan, divided into three aisles, and it houses numerous 18th-century frescoes.

Also of significant artistic value is the Baroque fountain in the small square in front of the Church. Views worthy of an impressive Instagram feed.





Carmine place



Located in the ancient Annunziata neighborhood, Piazza del Carmine represents one of the most scenic corners of the city. Several important buildings from the city's past overlook the rectangular square: at the southern end, the Carmelite complex of Annunziata with the church, the convent, and the bell tower; in the northern part, the ancient palace of the noble Grignani family. The construction of the Carmine Convent, the oldest in the city, dates back to 1150 and was the work of the Carmelite fathers. After losing its religious function and being transformed into a barracks, in the 1990s the Convent was finally restored and became the headquarters of the Contemporary Painting Exhibition Center.

Adjacent to the Convent is the Church of Annunziata, with its façade dominated by a Renaissance-style portico with three arches, featuring columns made of limestone and a central arch larger than the other two. Closing off the square on its northern side is the majestic façade of Palazzo Grignani (or Grignano). Of particular note on the façade are the large portal with a round arch, framed by two tall smooth ashlar pilasters supporting a horizontal cornice, and the balcony on the second floor, the only remaining one from the original design. The palace, now returned to the city, houses the Municipal Art Gallery.





Piazza della Vittoria and Teatro Impero



The square owes its name to the victory achieved by the Kingdom of Italy at the end of the First World War. The open space is dominated by the imposing structure of Porta Nuova arch, one of the four gates that were part of the walls of Marsala. Built in 1790, it acquired its name because it was the last access point to open towards the city center. To the right of the arch, there is the ancient palace of Count Mario Grignani with a plaque that recalls the moment when General Giuseppe Garibaldi, upon his return to Marsala on July 19, 1862, stood on the balcony and shouted to the crowd the famous phrase "O Roma o Morte" (Either Rome or Death). To the left of Porta Nuova, you will find the main entrance to Villa Cavallotti, from whose terrace you can admire the extraordinary panorama of the Egadi Islands. On the side of the square opposite to Porta Nuova arch, the Cine Impero stands solitary, now a venue for numerous cultural activities, theater performances, and music events.





Villa Cavallotti and Bastione S. Francesco



The municipal garden "Villa Cavallotti" is the green lung of the city. Named after the politician and Garibaldi patriot Felice Cavallotti, the Villa is divided into two different levels: the lower level, built by filling in the sixteenth-century moat, and the upper level, which extends on the terrace built above the Bastion of San Francesco. From the top of the bastion, you can enjoy a view of the sea and the Egadi Islands. The bastion itself dates back to 1541 and was built during the Spanish domination, along with the other bastions that strengthened the fortified system of the city. In the late nineteenth century, the structure was decorated with some of the friezes from Porta Mazara, one of the four historic entrances to the city center. Porta Mazara was demolished by order of the City Council as it was considered an obstacle to the new urban development.





Archaeological Museum and Park



Housed in the premises of a nineteenth-century winery, the Archaeological Museums of Baglio Anselmi are one of the most significant tourist attractions in the city of Marsala. The museum is annexed to the Archaeological Park of Lilibeo, a site of extraordinary historical and architectural interest, where visitors can admire some of the most important archaeological evidence in all of Sicily. These remains belong to the glorious city of Lilybaeum, one of the most important commercial and military ports in the Mediterranean during the Punic and Roman periods. Thermal installations, streets paved with white marble (including the renowned "Plateia Aelia"), and houses adorned with exquisite mosaics are just a few of the precious treasures that this vast green area has preserved for the city. Many of these artifacts have found their place in the rich Archaeological Museum, famous worldwide for the ancient vessels it houses, including the renowned Punic ship. This unique ship, the only one of its kind to have been preserved, sank during the bloody Battle of the Aegates in 241 BC, marking Rome's victory over the Carthaginians at the end of the First Punic War. Among the other archaeological artifacts enclosed in the museum, it is worth mentioning the well-preserved remains of a Roman cargo ship and the splendid statue of Venus Pudica, also known as Venus Callipygian.





Sea

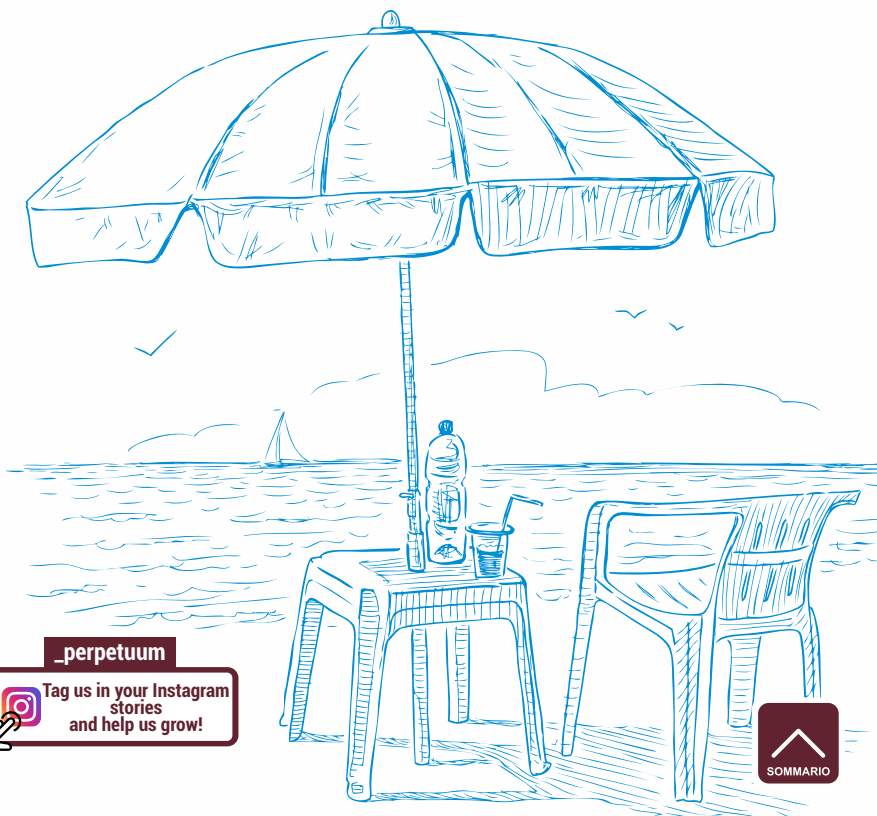


On the beach section, there's not much to write about.

Grab a beach towel, a "panino cunzato" or a "pane e pannelle," and relax to the sound of the waves.

In Sicily, you'll likely have some of the most beautiful swims of your life.

We're not being boastful, just objective. Enjoy your swim!



[_perpetuum](#)



Tag us in your Instagram stories and help us grow!

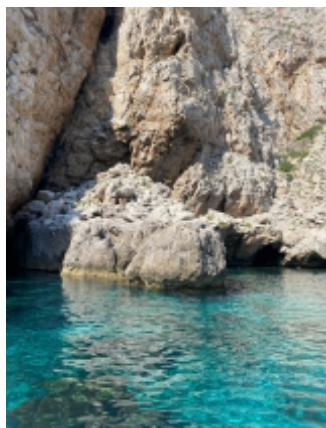


Favignana and Levanzo



We are certain that you have come across dream-like images of the bays of Favignana and Levanzo. It's no surprise that one of the reasons to stay in Marsala is the proximity to the Egadi Islands, the backdrop of our sunsets and the stars of our summers. The sea, near the coast, takes on different colors depending on the seabed: intense blue, bright azure, and emerald green. A swim in the Egadi Islands alone is worth the trip to Sicily.

Favignana and Levanzo can be visited in a day: by land, reaching them with the Liberty Lines ferry and renting a bicycle or scooter on-site for getting around, or by sea, renting a rubber dinghy or a small boat that will allow you to move more easily and quickly between one bay and another. We recommend Seastar Charter Nautico for rubber dinghies. If you are not familiar with boating, we suggest a boat tour with Egadi Charter, a leading company in mini cruises to the Egadi Islands.





Marettimo



According to some, Marettimo is the Ithaca of Ulysses, a dolomite rock fragment in the Mediterranean whose geology, fauna, and flora differ greatly from its two sisters, Favignana and Levanzo.

Wild and untamed, this island deserves a longer stay, not only because of the greater distance that separates it from Marsala but also because the surrounding sea and the dominating mountain are worthy of contemplation without any rush.

The white and blue hues of the buildings, the deep blue of the sea, and the intense green of the vegetation paint the slow life of the island, a place that captures the heart of anyone who sets foot on it.

To reach Marettimo, you can purchase tickets at the port of Marsala or through the Liberty Lines website.





Lidos on the South Coast

Which wind? Tramontana, Ostro



The south coast of Marsala was once characterized by real sand dunes. The generation of our grandparents and, to some extent, our parents (the writer of this text is not yet a quarter of a century old) tell stories of walking hundreds of meters on almost desert-like terrain to reach the shoreline and enjoy the cold, azure water. The beauty of the water made the effort worthwhile.

The unauthorized construction that began in the 1960s has irreparably scarred our coastline, which has now settled into a thin strip of sand, nothing like its glorious past, but still enough to spend a delightful day at the beach. Among the most well-known lidos are Signorino, Escondido, Playa Blanca, al Gazebo, and Zelig, where you can rent a sunbed and purchase various refreshments. If you prefer direct contact with the sand, you can lay your towel on one of the various free beaches, but beware, a stray beach ball might arrive right on target just as you're about to doze off in the sun. Whatever choice you make, our coastline, although perhaps less equipped than more famous beach resorts, will amaze you with its extraordinarily clean and crystalline water. One last piece of advice: bring or buy a satisfying lunch because around noon, mothers in unison will be offering their children rice salads or baked pasta dishes that will make you crave a portion for yourself.





Capo Boeo and the *Due Rocche*

With which wind? Scirocco



Cape Boeo is one of the extreme points of Sicily, the western part that faces Africa, located just 141 km from the Tunisian border. It marks the boundary between the Tyrrhenian Sea and the Sicilian Sea. From the sea, two rocks emerge, giving it the nickname "due rocche" (two rocks) given by the people of Marsala. Some claim that there are actually three rocks. Feel free to count them.

Cape Boeo holds great significance for Marsala. It is not just a geographical location and a spot to admire Erice and the Egadi Islands at sunset, but also a place for contemplation, relaxation, and occasionally intimate theatrical and poetic events. Taking a swim at the Two Rocks, in the silence interrupted only by the sound of the sea, accompanied by a good book and a panino cunzato or panelle, is the perfect refuge for the people of Marsala from the daily hustle and bustle. Try it to believe it.





Swim at Spagnola at sunset

With which wind? Scirocco



The Stagnone Lagoon gets its name from the natural calmness of the basin, thanks to its internal islets, posidonia, and shallow seabed. If you're looking for crystal clear water, compact sand, or a rocky seafloor, you'll find many ideal places in Western Sicily. A place referred to as a "large stagnant pond" may not fulfill this desire. However, it is customary for us people of Marsala to enjoy a relaxing swim in the warm and highly salty waters of the Stagnone, which some believe have healing properties.

The beauty of the sunset in a dream-like setting, the tranquility of the water, and the respectful silence reserved for this place and moment will compensate for the slightly muddy seabed of the lagoon. In particular, the most picturesque area for this almost thermal experience is the coastal zone corresponding to Contrada Spagnola, named in honor of Antonia Ramos, the daughter of a high-ranking Spanish official who married a Marsala local named Don Giuseppe Vaccari in the late 18th century. The noblewoman enjoyed riding her horse across the vast family estate in the Stagnone, which consequently became known as "lu locu di la Spagnola" (the place of the Spanish woman), a toponym that has remained unchanged to this day.





San Teodoro

With which wind? Scirocco



The name San Teodoro now refers to the promontory with two towers in front of the North Mouth of the Stagnone Lagoon, between Isola Lunga and the Marsala coast. In the past, however, this name referred to a small island where a medieval church was located, probably built by Venetian merchants and dedicated to San Todaro, the patron saint of Venice before San Marco. The island in question, connected to the other islands of the lagoon by saltworks, later gave birth to the present-day Isola Lunga.

The small beach on the mainland overlooks shallow and crystal-clear water. You can walk the entire route to Isola Lunga, and the water will never exceed the height of your knees. However, access to the island is prohibited as it is private property. You may spot some elderly swimmers playing cards with chairs and tables in the water. It's all very Instagrammable.



Surroundings



Marsala is often relegated to a mere stopover in a longer stay in Western Sicily.

With this section, our intention is to highlight the strategic position of this city in the region, enabling easy day trips to discover the varied beauties of this corner of Sicily. And upon returning from each excursion, the sunset over the Egadi Islands will be ready to welcome you.

Before embarking on this journey, however, we must make a necessary statement: we highly recommend renting a vehicle. The public transportation available in Sicily is not only inefficient but often nonexistent.

For this reason, while the political debate about the Messina Strait Bridge rages on, and a train carriage dating back to the late 19th century timidly makes its way from one city to another with the precise punctuality of the Mad Hatter's watch, do yourself a favor and rent a car.

If you are incurable optimists, though, good luck!





Casbah of Mazara

Distance: about 20 km from Marsala



Without venturing too far from Marsala, you can immerse yourself in a glimpse of Arab Sicily: the Casbah of Mazara del Vallo.

This neighborhood in the historic center of Mazara still preserves all the characteristics of the harmony that characterized our land during the Arab-Norman era.

A synthesis of both cultures, the progenitors of our Sicily, in the Casbah, you will find yourself strolling through small courtyards and squares, where fountains, plants, and flowers create an atmosphere of great beauty and tranquility.





Cannolo - Euro Bar Dattilo

Distance: about 30 km from Marsala



On the podium of Sicilian cannoli shops, for indiscriminate times, a place of honor is reserved for the Euro Bar in the hamlet of Dattilo, in the municipality of Paceco. This tiny village, with its sense of history and inland charm, houses a jewel recognized and praised by anyone who has had the pleasure of trying it. The "scoccia" of the cannolo, dry, thick, and assertive, is the shell of a fresh and unprocessed sheep's milk ricotta, just made. The dark chocolate, then, breaks the monotony in the mouth. The combination is classic but never disappoints.

From neighboring towns, people travel dozens of kilometers without hesitation to enjoy this special dessert, despite the rise in gasoline prices. For those who will spend a large part of their vacation by car, going from one place to another, do yourself a favor and stop in Dattilo. But be careful while driving after devouring the record-breaking cannolo, as the blood sugar spike is just around the corner.

If the Euro Bar is closed, you can make a stop at the less renowned Bar Erice in the nearby village of Napola.

The cannolo is equally delicious, and some local ladies will entertain you with anecdotes and life stories.

Based on a true story.





Cretto di Burri



If you want to explore the Belice Valley, a must-visit is the Cretto di Burri, located on the ruins of the city of Gibellina, destroyed by the devastating earthquake of 1968.

While walking in this evocative maze of white earth, designed and created by the renowned contemporary artist Alberto Burri during the post-earthquake reconstruction, you can get lost in an experience of reflection and contemplation of the fragility and beauty of human existence.





Erice

Distance: about 50 km from Marsala



Derived from ancient Greek *Ερυξ-Èryx*, the name Erice comes from the giant son of Aphrodite who lost his life while competing with Hercules. According to Thucydides, the origins of Erice can be traced back to the settlement of Trojan survivors after the legendary war. Here, the sons of Priam would have encountered the indigenous population, and from their union, the Elymians were born. This mountain, steeped in myth, is an essential stop during your stay in the province. Strolling through the streets of the medieval village within the mighty city walls is a fascinating journey into the past and a refreshing escape from the heat.

Characteristic of Erice are the handmade pastries, which resemble more like jewels than edible treats when displayed. The "ericine" or "genovesi" dominates the scene: a rich and dense cream wrapped in a unique shortcrust pastry. The recipe for each pastry shop is a closely guarded secret, and the competition for the best sweet is fierce.

According to our surveys, Pasticceria San Carlo and the renowned Pasticceria Maria Grammatico are in a head-to-head competition. You simply have to try both versions and let us know. For an exceptional dinner, we recommend Gli Archi Di San Carlo, located at Via San Carlo 10. With satisfying dishes, an elegant setting, and a cozy atmosphere, it will be the perfect ending to your stroll in Erice. If you're a sports enthusiast, the hiking and mountain biking trails in the Monte Erice Nature Reserve can help you burn off the calories you indulged in guilt-free at the summit.

Note: It is obligatory to take away a tray of genovesi for the next morning. They are a story apart at breakfast.





Monte Cofano, Mākari e Cornino

Distance: about 40 km from Marsala



The coastal area of northwestern Sicily offers marvelous views of a land still wild at heart, an experience not to be missed for any tourist who wants to discover the "Real Sicily."

At the eastern end of the Gulf of Bonagia, about 20 km from Trapani and 40 km from Marsala, you will come across Monte Cofano, a promontory with a distinctive triangular shape. At its foot, two bays open up: Baia di Cornino to the west and Baia di Makari to the east. Here, you can enjoy captivating snorkeling activities in the crystal-clear waters that shy away from the mass tourism that characterizes the more famous beach of San Vito lo Capo.

However, don't expect particular comforts. The area is still rugged and full of cliffs, and there are few beaches where you can comfortably lay on the sand. There are also opportunities for excursions beyond the water. You can enjoy long nature walks by climbing Monte Cofano, from where you will admire breathtaking panoramas of the surrounding territories, including, if you are observant and lucky, a stunning sunset that fades away over the city of Trapani.





Scopello

Distance: about 70 km from Marsala



Scopello is a small seaside village, a hamlet of Castellammare, that resembles an ancient Sicily: small, with few houses, and fragrances of delicious food spreading through the main square. One of the main attractions of Scopello is its crystal-clear beach, also known as the "Spiaggia dei Faraglioni" (Beach of the Faraglioni), as it is characterized by two offshore sea stacks that create the most distinctive image of this location, a true postcard scene to see in person.

Access to the beach is through the splendid tonnara (tuna fishery), one of the oldest in Sicily, which is still privately owned but can be visited (warehouses and a small museum).

Although there are several access points to the sea, the Spiaggia dei Faraglioni remains the most characteristic. Access to this beach is subject to a fee and attracts many tourists, so we recommend arriving early in the morning to secure a beach chair.





Segesta

Distance: about 50 km from Marsala



Despite the summer heat tempting you to stay at the beach, if you are lovers of archaeology, you should not miss the opportunity to visit the Archaeological Park of Segesta.

The archaeological site includes the Doric temple, the remains of the city, and the Greek theater. We recommend visiting the site in the late afternoon, away from the hottest hours of the day. After visiting the temple, a bus will take you to the top to admire the spectacle of the ancient theater with a view of the Gulf of Castellammare.

The theater is still used for fantastic theatrical performances, surrounded by enchanting summer sunsets. We recommend choosing the opera that you like the most during your stay in Sicily for an unforgettable evening.





Selinunte

Distance: about 50 km from Marsala



About an hour's drive from Marsala, you will come across the ruins of the ancient city of Selinunte, the westernmost outpost of Magna Graecia in Sicily.

In this vast Archaeological Park, which is the largest in Europe, you will be transported back in time to the grandeur of ancient Greece, with its Doric temples and ruins overlooking the sea. Here, you can walk among the columns of the ancient structures, admire the splendid views, and imagine the life of the ancient Greeks who inhabited this area.

Next to the archaeological park, you will find the beautiful beach of Selinunte, small but definitely characteristic, with crystal-clear water and crowned by a hill from which one of the park's temples is visible. It is a perfect location to combine history and leisure without having to travel long distances.





Riserva dello Zingaro

Distance: about 50 km from Marsala



For nature lovers, a visit to the Zingaro Nature Reserve is a must, a strip of unspoiled and protected land that stretches for seven kilometers between San Vito Lo Capo and Castellammare Del Golfo.

The reserve offers hiking trails that alternate with 7 beautiful coves where you can relax and swim.

The most famous is Tonnarella Dell'Uzzo, which can be reached on foot in a few minutes from the northern entrance near San Vito Lo Capo (an alternative to the southern entrance from the side of Scopello).

In case it is excessively crowded and you feel like walking, you can explore the following coves.





Trapani

Distance: about 30 km from Marsala



A short distance north of Marsala, you will find the provincial capital: Trapani, a beautiful coastal city with an extensive historical and cultural heritage, capable of offering visitors a unique and unforgettable experience. Art and architecture enthusiasts will be fascinated by the numerous Baroque churches that dominate the city, such as the Church of Sant'Agostino and the Church of Purgatory.

While you're there, we suggest trying Pizzeria Calvino, which is a pilgrimage destination for pizza lovers from across the province, thanks to its Sicilian-style pizza. The pizza has a thicker crust and a rich, flavorful topping, making it a delightful and savory treat.

It's a decidedly informal dinner experience, in a place that was once a brothel, in the lively and chaotic atmosphere of a pizzeria that churns out an uncountable number of pizzas.



THE PERPETUUM GUIDE

Thank you very much for choosing to consult the **Perpetuum Guide**.

We hope that it has enriched your travel experience and helped you discover the beauty of Marsala through its carefully selected places, restaurants, and recommendations.

We would like to thank the people of Marsala who have shared **their secrets** and all the readers who have followed and supported us.

We are grateful for your feedback and suggestions, which help us constantly improve.

Our commitment to providing an up-to-date and engaging guide will continue to evolve perpetually. We wish you a pleasant continuation of your journey, and remember: **Marsala will always be here, waiting for you.**

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