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ristorante



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Dear Guest

This pocket guide is for you to discover the South Eastern Sicily

We are waiting for you



Top places to visit in the province of Ragusa and Syracuse

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BEACHES



SANTA MARIA DEL FOCALLO (about 5 km far from Relais Torre Marabino GPS 36.721247, 14.923223)

Beautiful long beach (about 8 km) of golden sand. You can enjoy the sea and breeze in relax.

Here you can find establishments (LIDO) with shower, sun beds, deckchairs, umbrellas, bar and restaurants.



POZZALLO (about 5 km far from Relais Torre Marabino GPS 36.729193, 14.849815)

Pozzallo is an old seaside village, which grew up around the base of Cabrera tower and one of the province's most popular seaside resorts. From the port, the regular ferries to Malta depart.



SAMPIERI (about 17 KM far from Relais Torre Marabino GPS 36.721674, 14.737363)

An old fishing village, perhaps the most picturesque in the province. Sampieri boasts one of the most beautiful shores of all Sicily comprising a long sand beach and lovely rocky cliffs. The heart of this ancient fishing village has changed very little over the years, keeping its stone houses and narrow alleyways.



DONNALUCATA (about 29 KM far from Relais Torre Marabino GPS 36.763205, 14.637732)

Donnalucata is a lovely village along the Ragusa coast. Fishing, farming and, recently, tourism have been the main resources of this tiny and picturesque village endowed with large and beautiful beaches and developed tourism facilities.



PUNTA SECCA (about 47 KM far from Relais Torre Marabino GPS 36.787752, 14.492555)

Punta Secca is a charming little bay and fishing village with beachfront houses. The home of the fictional detective "Commissario Montalbano", made famous through the television series (after the novels of the Sicilian writer Andrea Camilleri), stands the edge of the beach.



CAPO PASSERO (about 31 KM far from Relais Torre Marabino GPS 36.685446, 15.138333)

The extreme southeastern tip of Sicily consists of a headland with a lighthouse that marks the point where the Ionian Sea meets the Mediterranean. The fishery of local tuna, prawns and seafood flourished during the course of this century. A splendid view stretches across the water to the open horizon which changes tirelessly at the whim of the elements. The whole area is a Nature Reserve because of the presence of the typical dwarf palm and the turtle Caretta Caretta, which uses these beaches to lay its eggs.



SAN LORENZO (about 28 KM far from Relais Torre Marabino GPS 36.762661, 15.098683)

The San Lorenzo beach between Pachino and Noto is one of the best beaches on the Sicilian east coast. Golden sand and crystal clear sea. You can find LIDO with umbrellas and services.

ISPICA (about 6 KM far from Relais Torre Marabino)



The town is situated on the gentle slopes of the "Calandra" hill. The area is famed for the archaeological park, although Ispica's monuments are a good reason to go for a visit. The current layout of the town is the result of post-earthquake reconstruction that rebuilt a new town from scratch. Ispica was built according to an eighteenth century symmetrical grid that incorporating wide and straight streets. The Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore is bordered by an elegant elliptical arcade which joins the church to the surrounding buildings. The interior of the Basilica is considered to be the only example in the province that demonstrates a such and unique mixture of architecture, stuccos, frescoes and gold elements. The Palazzo Bruno di Belmonte is considered one of the finest Liberty style buildings that can be found in Sicily.

Directions: SP /Strada Provinciale 46 – ss 115 GPS 36.789214, 14.910839

Parking: Zone disco – Parking is limited to one or two hours. You are required to display the time of your arrival on the front dashboard. Clamping doesn't exist in Italy, so pay attention to the tow away signs "Zona Rimozione". The white line is free so you can leave there your car (unlimited time). The blue line needs tickets that can be bought by a Tabacchi or newsagents or we suggest to have a look around for a ticket machine.

CAVA D'ISPICA (about 7,5 KM far from Relais Torre Marabino)



Cava d'Ispica is a site of true historical, archaeological and natural importance.

Already well known for its troglodyte dwellings and rocky necropolis, the area has breathtaking panoramas and its own special aesthetic beauty.

Situated between the towns of Ispica and Modica, this great fissure of about 13km, preserves abandoned troglodyte dwellings, small sanctuaries and necropolises.

The earliest signs of human occupation in the area date from Neolithic times.

The hollows studding the walls of the gorge are a natural phenomenon in karst rock, they were subsequently modified and adapted by humans according to their requirements: the Siculi lived in huts and used artificial "oven" caves to their dead.

Between the 3rd and 4th centuries AD, during the Byzantine age, many Christians and monks sought refuge in the caves of the canyon, fleeing from persecution.

Perhaps the most striking feature is the "Centoscale", an extremely long stairway (consisting of

240 steps cut into the rock) which descends 60m at an angle of 45° into the side of the hill until to emerge on a level with the valley floor, below the riverbed.
The rock faces are home to caper bushes, wild figs, ivy and clematis.

Directions: Turn left onto SP /Strada Provinciale 46

At the roundabout Stop there and keep going straight until indication Parco Forza (brown sign)
GPS 36.789481, 14.911844

Parking: Free nearby the “Parco Forza”

MODICA (about 20 km far from Relais Torre Marabino)



“Modica. Noble, opulent and populated city, seat of the ancient and vast county”.

This description of the 18th century of the historian and clergyman Vito Amore elegantly summarizes the political, economic and cultural importance of this city whose history is rooted in remote ages and events. The 1693 earthquake has compelled to rebuild the city. The result is recognised as one of the finest expressions of Sicilian Baroque.

Today Modica is described as the “one-hundred churches town”.

Directions: SP 46 direction Ispica – SS 115 Modica

GPS 36.859517, 14.759269

Parking: Zone disco – Parking is limited to one or two hours. You are required to display the time of your arrival on the front dashboard.

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THE CHOCOLATE (about 20 km far from Relais Torre Marabino)

The Modican Chocolate is one of the best appreciated products of the Sicilian pastry
It is prepared according to a traditional recipe dating back to the Aztec ancient civilization and handed down to us by the Spaniards. The preparation consists of “cold-working” the chocolate with spices and flavoring, without additional fats or additives.



Upon entering in a traditional “dolceria modicana”, you will smell the delicious flavors coming from the genuine ingredients used in the chocolate-making, such as bitter cocoa paste, sugar, vanilla, cinnamon and cocoa butter. Don't be surprised to discover also other tastes, which seem to be more unusual to create a symbiosis with chocolate: try, for example, the chocolate with chilli powder!

Directions: SP 46 direction Ispica – SS 115 Modica
GPS 36.859517, 14.759269

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SCICLI (about 27 km far from Relais Torre Marabino)



Scicli is the most lovely city in the province of Ragusa, lying on a vast valley amidst rocky mountains, where the San Bartolomeo river, the one of Santa Maria La Nuova and the one of Fiumara di Modica join. Its 18th century look is largely the result of the reconstruction that followed the terrible earthquake of 1693. Thanks to its elegant palazzi and churches and to its picturesque shape, it is famously known as the "Baroque jewels" (watch out at the typical baroque style balconies decorated with masques which with their unique face expressions

fascinate and scare people at the same time!).

In recent years it has become even more popular thanks to the detective series "Montalbano"

Directions: SP 46 direction Ispica – SS 115 Modica – Sp 42
GPS 36.794975, 14.706378

Parking: Zone disco – Parking is limited to one or two hours. You are required to display the time of your arrival on the front dashboard.

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RAGUSA IBLA (about 40 km far from Relais Torre Marabino)



Ragusa is the province's capital city interesting for both its artistic and historical heritage.

Set on a wide limestone hill between two deep valleys (the Cava San Leonardo and the Cava Santa Domenica), it is divided into two distinct areas:

Ragusa Ibla (the lower side) and Ragusa (the upper side), separated by the so-called "Valle dei ponti"

(valley of the bridges), a deep valley that is crossed by four successive bridges, among which that known as "dei Cappuccini" (of the Capuchins), dating from the 18th century, is especially renowned. Its diverse architectonic features are evidence for an intense seismic activity in past times.

After the 1693's earthquake the residents settled on the site known as Ibla, that, today with its medieval layout and lovely baroque architecture, is the most attractive historical centre and the major goal of tourists.

Directions: SP 46 direction Ispica – SS 115 Modica – SS 194
GPS 36.927323, 14.737696

Parking: Zone disco – Parking is limited to one or two hours. You are required to display the time of your arrival on the front dashboard.

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SYRACUSE (about 59 km far from Relais Torre Marabino)



Syracuse, with its splendid natural bay, the small and charming island of Ortygia, its historical and artistic heritage, the Greek Theatre, and the Dionisio Ear is one of the most beautiful Italian cities. Its shoreline is enclosed in the North by the small peninsula of Augusta and in the South by Capo Passero, the southernmost of Sicily's headlands. Bathed by the Ionian Sea, the area saw many foreign dominations. The small island of Ortygia, connected to the mainland by two bridges, is the heart of the old city. There stand

three of the city's most attractive monuments, namely the Duomo - a former Greek temple that Christians turned into a cathedral — the Palazzo Beneventano and the Fonte Aretusa. The city's main coastal resorts, Lido Arenella, Ognina and Fontane Bianche, and the neighbouring Brucoli, are most crowded in summer.

Directions: E45 Motorway (autostrada) green signs from Rosolini GPS 37.077818, 15.277059
Exit Syracuse Sud.

Parking: Zone disco – Parking is limited to one or two hours. You are required to display the time of your arrival on the front dashboard. Clamping doesn't exist in Italy, so pay attention to the tow away signs "Zona Rimozione".

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The blue line needs tickets that can be bought by a Tabacchi or newsagents or we suggest to have a look around for a ticket machine. Ortigia island is closed to traffic. We suggest TALETE parking

NOTO (about 25 km far from Relais Torre Marabino)



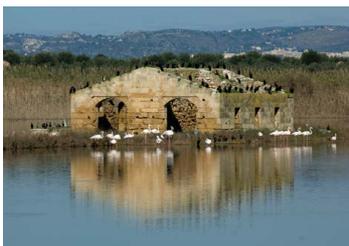
The ancient city of Noto, destroyed in 1693, was on Mount Alveria, in a zone which was without doubt inhabited many centuries before by the Siculan King Ducezio. Like other towns of the area, Noto and the Siculi had to submit to the Greeks, who were themselves subsequently ousted by the Romans. In 866, the town was occupied by the Arabs, who nominated it the head city of the valley for the administration of one of the three sectors into which they divided Sicily, thus giving the name “Noto Valley” to the entire southeastern part of the island. In

1503, Ferdinand the Catholic, known as the “Ingeniosa” or “clever one” has become the king of the prosperous city of Noto. The remains of the imposing gate, the Porta della Montagna, at the entrance to the town destroyed by the 1693 earthquake, can still be seen, and also the ruins of paintings made of the Collegio dei Gesuiti, of Palazzo Belludia and of the churches of San Nicolo, whose cupola collapsed in 1996. In via Nicolaci you can admire one of the most grandiose buildings of town: Palazzo Nicolaci whose façade is characterised by the “most beautiful balconies of the world”, famous for their satires, mytological animals and the chimeras that support them.

Directions: SP/Strada Provinciale 46 – SS 115 direction Rosolini – Noto
GPS 36.891479, 15.068560

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VENDICARI NATURAL RESERVE (about 32 km far from Relais Torre Marabino)



The Vendicari Nature Reserve was created in 1984, but did not become operational until 1989. It consists of a narrow strip of marshy coastline covering 574 and provides a rare and now completely protected habitat for migratory species and a highly peculiar kind of sand loving Mediterranean vegetation. The large stretch of swamp, a hostile environment in many ways because of high salinity levels, is a very unusual ecosystem which continues to attract vast numbers of birds passing through the area during migration. During the autumn months, it is common to see a variety of

waders: grey heron, little egret, white and black stork, greater flamingo. Between November and March, when the level of the water rises, the swamps attract many species of wintering duck, including teal, shoveler, pintail, mallard, tufted duck, pochard and red—crested pochard. Among the few species which breed here, there are black—winged stilt (white body, black wings, long red legs) — adopted as the emblem of Vendicari, as well as Kentish plover, little tern, reed warbler and little bittern.

Directions: SP/Strada Provinciale 46 – SS 115 direction Rosolini – Noto
GPS 36.891479, 15.068560

Parking: parking is available for a fee

MARZAMEMI (about 28 km from Relais Torre Marabino)



Just a few kilometres up the coast, in the deep south-east of Sicily, there is one of Sicily's prettiest seaside villages: Marzamemi.

It is situated on a little promontory and organised around the extremely picturesque Piazza Regina Margherita. On the south side there is the little fishing harbour with its fleet of colourful wooden boats, on the others a series of charming buildings, including the Church of San Francesco di Paola, the tonnara, the prince's aristocratic palazzo and a row of fishermen's houses, whose doors of the color of the sky

and potted red geraniums lend a chromatic vivacity to the whole picture. Narrow streets lead off the main square, offering glimpses of the turquoise sea to the east and north. Every year during summer Marzamemi hosts an important Film festival. It is a magic place and you must visit during your stay in the south eastern of Sicily

Directions: SP 46 – SP 49 – SP 22 - SP 100

GPS 36.741869, 15.119792

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During Summer and bank holidays the center is closed for the traffic and you will find a toll parking near by the center