

[HOME](#) [ABOUT ME](#)

[FLASHPACKER WELLNESS](#)

[TRIPS BY PLACE](#) ▾

[SPOTLIGHT ON SARDINIA](#)

[CONTACT ME](#)

Following the Rivera 

Day trip Ragusa and Modica: Duomos, cave restaurants and chocolate

by Lisa | Sep 18, 2017 | Follow in Europe | 62 comments



Day trip Ragusa and Modica: Duomos, cave restaurants and chocolate

From our base in [Noto](#), we passed through the cities of Ragusa and Modica. Going in with a blank canvas, I'd no idea what to expect, but then again, that's exactly how I like to travel — with no expectations.

There's really no way of getting around Sicily other than by car, so I suggest either hiring one, or finding a local tour company to take you. The journey takes around 50 minutes from Noto, and you'll see plenty of the arid yet pretty Sicilian countryside. Take

particular note of the seemingly endless stream of lemon and olive trees, as well as the old stone structures that whizz past your window. These are muragghi — stone constructions that were built to keep rocks from clogging up the field.

Day trip Ragusa, Modica: Arriving in Ragusa

When you eventually spot Ragusa in the distance, you'll feel as though you're stepping back in time. From a distance, the city looks majestic, and a sense of mystery and intrigue builds the closer you get. You'll feel this even more when you're on the winding road driving up into the heart of the city.

The earthquake in Ragusa 1693 split the city of Ibla in 2, with some of the buildings re-built in Baroque style. That said, it's still possible to see the older pre-earthquake buildings too. Walking around and exploring the city is a must — just try to do this early morning, before the sun gets too hot.

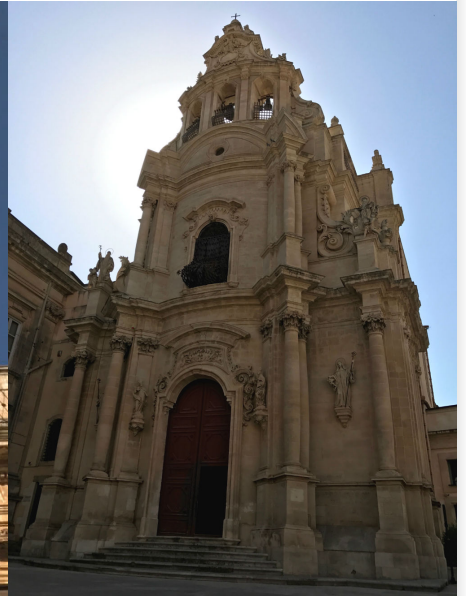
Day trip Ragusa, Modica: Ragusa — points of interest

The number one attraction most people flock to are the awe-inspiring duomos in the city. The Duomo is the principal church or cathedral in every Italian town or city. You can find the Duomo San Giorgio in Piazza Duomo, or the Cattedrale di San Giovanni Battista. Both are perfect examples of Sicilian Baroque architecture, and I must have spent at least 5 minutes in the blazing sun simply staring at the former.

Inside the Duomo San Giorgio, there's almost a theatrical feel, with the deep red full-length curtains married with the golden-brown fringing. The interior itself is impressive and don't forget to look up to admire the wondrous ceiling. Upon visiting, we were witness to the preparations for a wedding and so decided to pay our respects by leaving!

If you have no itinerary to stick to, I'd highly recommend just

strolling around the town. On doing so, we came across a workshop that was not only selling local crafts, but also restoring them. We spotted a traditional carrotero (Sicilian cart) and a Fiat 500 adorned in colourful Sicilian print.



“The number one attraction most people flock to are the awe-inspiring duomos in the city”

FOLLOWING THE RIVERA



“We spotted a traditional carrotero (Sicilian cart) and a Fiat 500 adorned in



colourful Sicilian
print”

FOLLOWING THE RIVERA

Day trip Ragusa, Modica — the restaurant in a cave

When in Italy, finding somewhere good, and something delicious to eat, is never hard. Saying that, it seems my gastronomic experience was about to get 1,000% better when we stopped for lunch at the exquisite [Locanda Don Serafino](#).

You'll find it adjacent to the UNESCO heritage site of La Chiesa del Miracoli, a church built in the 17th century. With 2 Michelin stars to its name, you can assume that the

quality, as well as the prices, will be higher than a regular trattoria.

The food here is nothing short of excellent, which I think shows from my photos! On top of this, the ambience matches the restaurant's high standard, in no less than a cave-style environment.

Locanda Don Serafino is also part of the beautiful boutique hotel of the same name. For an equally luxurious accommodation experience, click [here](#) to find the best deals.

Day trip Ragusa, Modica: Modica — chocolate tasting and baroque

The pretty town of Modica is around 20 minutes by car from Ragusa. It's much smaller, but with just as much character. It used to be an old walled town when the Arabs ruled, but elegant baroque architecture soon replaced any signs of its former rulers.

Modica's most famous export is its chocolate. You'll see plenty of signs selling chocolate when walking around the streets, but the best quality is at Antica Dolceria Bonajuto. The chocolate has a grainy texture to it, and a robust taste, so may not be to everyone's palate.

I took 3 types of chocolate home: the Massa di cacao 100%; Cioccolato Salinae and Cioccolato Mascobedo. As I write, only 1 bar remains...!

Day trip Ragusa, Modica — Duomo di San Pietro

It's pretty impossible to miss the Duomo in Modica, and trust me, you won't want to. It's striking

“Another selling point about this Duomo, is that there were no tourists there! ”

FOLLOWING THE RIVERA

The Duomo di San Pietro, for me, is on par with the cathedral in Siena and also in Florence. From the stained yellow façade of the stone outside, to the intricate detailing inside, I spent around 15 minutes trying to take it all in. Another selling point about this Duomo, is that there were no tourists there! Seriously, no one!

baroque edifice and stone sculptures stop you in your tracks, demanding your full attention. With a whopping 250 steps to reach the top, be sure to have your Rocky 'dancing on the spot' moment when you get there!

All in all, seeing Ragusa and Modica is possible to do in one day, and is the perfect day trip if staying in Noto.

Have you ever visited Ragusa or Modica? If so, what were your highlights?

Want new articles before they get published?
Subscribe below, and get them before anybody else.

E-mail Address

First Name

12 + 5 =

SUBMIT

468

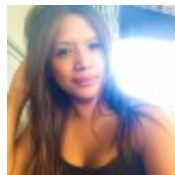
62 Comments



Suzanne on September 18, 2017 at 8:16 pm

Ragusa and Modica are definitely off the beaten track in Italy! They serve up some pretty interesting travel experiences though, like the restaurant in the cave and the chocolate tasting. Also, that cart is so astoundingly detailed! Just lovely! 😊

[Reply](#)



Lisa on September 19, 2017 at 9:04 am

They're both such pretty cities, and really not overrun with tourists! The chocolate's a little bitter, but very good for baking 😊

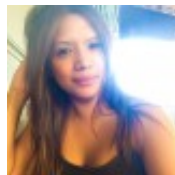
[Reply](#)



Heraa Farooq on September 18, 2017 at 9:08 pm

This place is something new for me. I have never heard about it before. I really liked the place and enjoyed the colorful pictures you have shared 😊

[Reply](#)



Lisa on September 19, 2017 at 9:03 am

Thank you, I appreciate your comments.

[Reply](#)

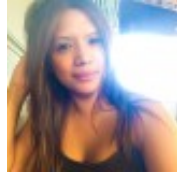


yukti on September 19, 2017 at 5:13 am

Day trip to Ragusa and Modica is definitely the most beautiful one in Italy due to historic and architectural beautiful buildings. That colorful Silician cart is my favorite and good to see Fiat 500 car which was basic car when people started to drive cars. I never heard these places were so near to Sicily in Italy, but

[Reply](#)

now I can really plan to go over again.



Lisa on September 19, 2017 at 9:02 am

That's wonderful to hear! Ragusa and Modica are both wonderful places to visit, and I can't recommend both enough.

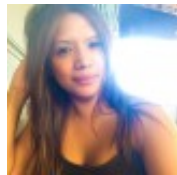
[Reply](#)



Swati Jain on September 19, 2017 at 9:00 am

Never heard of these places before. Been to Italy 6 years ago but I guess it was too much to expect that time. These destinations seem iconic and historic. Loved the architecture of the buildings. I will love to explore them soon

[Reply](#)



Lisa on September 19, 2017 at 9:02 am

You should, they're so beautiful and you won't be disappointed!

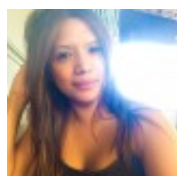
[Reply](#)



Melynda Harrison on September 19, 2017 at 10:36 am

Ragusa and Modica look like amazing places to visit. I hadn't heard of them, but now they are on my list! The cave restaurant looks delicious and it has such a cool atmosphere. Like you, I like strolling around towns and seeing what I see.

[Reply](#)



Lisa on September 19, 2017 at 12:41 pm

That's great to hear! There's so many little hidden treasures around, and the food in Don Serafino is excellent!

[Reply](#)



Abigail Sinsona on September 19, 2017 at 10:42 am

Reply

Ragusa and Modica – I've never heard of both of these cities! I am curious now, thanks to you! I love the architecture too, and you are right it does feel like you are stepping back in time. I can only imagine how gorgeous the city is to marvel at in person!



Lisa on September 19, 2017 at 12:42 pm

Reply

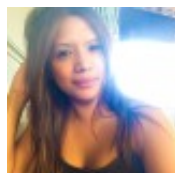
They're both so pretty and you can't imagine how much better it is in person. Make sure to add it to the list 😊



James on September 20, 2017 at 10:35 am

Reply

I met a guy from Sicily yesterday and I told him about your blog and how I'd read about Syracuse. How the cathedral there looks so beautiful. His recommendation to me was to drive around the Island which is exactly what you're doing here! I'm visiting Malta next week and I'm tempted to get the ferry over to Sicily. The Duomo di San Pietro looks stunning and I think the fact that there are no tourists will make it a better experience than others in the country!



Lisa on September 20, 2017 at 1:44 pm

Reply

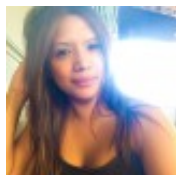
It's so great and very easy to drive around Sicily. Around this time should be even less busier (I hope), so perfect for taking plenty of photos. You must do the ferry from Malta! That's on my list the next time I return 😊



My Travelogue by Bhushavali on September 20, 2017 at 10:51 am

Reply

Wow! I haven't heard of these cities. Thanks for introducing them to me and showcasing their impeccable beauty... Whole of Italy is filled with so much of beauty... A restaurant inside a cave?? Whoa! The chocolate is making me drool. The food looks yummm. I hope to head to Italy again, this time for these places.



Lisa on September 20, 2017 at 1:45 pm

Reply

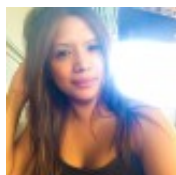
You're welcome! The restaurant is excellent, not just for the food but ambience too. Lol, I always like to make readers drool over the chocolate. I hope you get to visit for yourself!



Medha on September 20, 2017 at 11:46 am

Reply

I'm actually quite ashamed to say that I've never heard of these two cities before! This is literally a lesson in Geography for me. The red Sicilian cart in your pictures looks so pretty! Thanks for this post, I learned about new Italian cities today 😊



Lisa on September 20, 2017 at 1:48 pm

Reply

You're so welcome! I love Sicily, its vibrance and people, so it's always nice to read I've introduced it to other people 😊

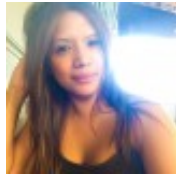


Abhinav Singh on September 20, 2017 at 3:13 pm

Reply

Ragusa and Modica seem like they are in a time warp. It is a great detour for those who are visiting Sicily.

The restaurant in cave sound so interesting. I hope they had vegan food also on their menu.



Lisa on September 21, 2017 at 10:23 am

[Reply](#)

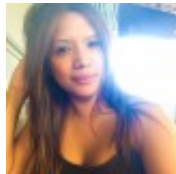
I'll be honest with you...Italy isn't so big (yet) on vegan, and I'm a meat eater, so I didn't really look for the options! However, I'm sure there's plenty of veggie things you could eat there.



Rachelle on September 20, 2017 at 4:21 pm

[Reply](#)

Oh my goodness I'm so excited you got to dine at Locanda Don Serafino! I've heard of this place and the chef is pretty much a rock star! I'm so happy that you enjoyed your food, and yes, the pictures are drool-worthy. What could be more exciting than dining in a cave?? Especially one where you step back in time!



Lisa on September 21, 2017 at 10:24 am

[Reply](#)

That's amazing you've heard of it! Locando Don Serafino is soooo good, and the atmosphere is just the icing on the cake 😊



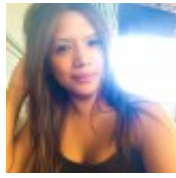
FS Page on September 20, 2017 at 4:24 pm

[Reply](#)

Loved your photographs of the huge Duomos and the Sicilian cart. It is so colorful and creative. The restaurant in the cave seems to be a really interesting concept. Hope you had a good time in Ragusa.

Lisa on September 21, 2017 at 10:25 am

[Reply](#)



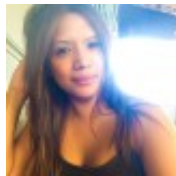
Thank you. It's a colourful place
and the restaurant is wonderful!



Ha on September 20, 2017 at 6:00 pm

I have not heard about this place but it looks just
amazing! The pictures looks pretty with these
building and architecture. I would love to visit that
cave restaurant! It looks unique 😊

Reply



Lisa on September 21, 2017 at
10:26 am

It's very unique! I'm glad I managed
to introduce you to a new place!

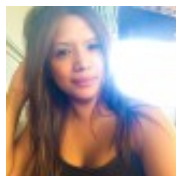
Reply



Judy on September 20, 2017 at 7:38 pm

These cities are I guess a part of the offbeat travel
destinations in Italy cause I haven't heard of them too
often. Nevertheless the pictures are driving me crazy.
The Food, Cave & Chocolate tasting are pulling me...
😊

Reply



Lisa on September 21, 2017 at
10:28 am

Great! That's what I like to read.
Yes, they're not as popular as
Rome, Milan etc, but in my opinion,
they offer so much more 😊

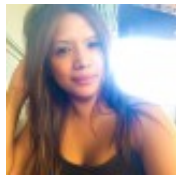
Reply



amit on September 20, 2017 at 9:15 pm

I have friends that are traveling through Italy and will
be heading to Sicily in the next couple of week, I will
be sure to pass this post onto them, they would both
love this 😊 I've been in a few caves during my
travels but never in any cave restaurants that would
be an amazing experience 😊

Reply



Lisa on September 21, 2017 at 10:28 am

[Reply](#)

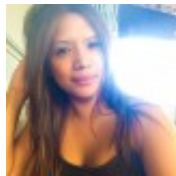
Aww that's really nice of you! I hope they have just as good an experience as I did. It's very beautiful there 😊 Tell them Buon Viaggio from me!



hannah on September 20, 2017 at 10:04 pm

[Reply](#)

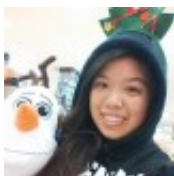
Ahh, how gorgeous is that cart and car?! I would love everything about your trip, I'm a big fan of quirky restaurants and this tops the list! Have you been to Cappadocia in Turkey- they have a city of underground caves! What was your favourite thing you ate in Sicily?



Lisa on September 21, 2017 at 10:35 am

[Reply](#)

Thanks Hannah! I haven't yet been to Cappadocia, but I'd love to. Honestly, it's so hard to choose one thing, but I would have to say the seafood. It's so fresh, and with so many varieties. If you like seafood, try the totano. It's like squid, but more tender 😊



Jojo on September 21, 2017 at 1:28 am

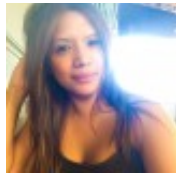
[Reply](#)

Are there many motorcycles or scooters around?

I think I would like the grainy chocolate. Hmm.. maybe I should look into where I can get that around here haha

Lisa on September 21, 2017 at 10:33 am

[Reply](#)



Actually no! It's not like Naples with the motorcycles, it's very peaceful here, which I much prefer. Good luck on finding your grainy chocolate!



Joella on September 21, 2017 at 10:19 am

My dad was Italian and I visited Italy a lot growing up but had never heard of these two cities. What a gem you have found. Love the architecture inside and outside of the duomo. And the food looked out of this world. It is always a great experience to eat at a Michelin rated restaurant. Oh and that chocolate place is a dream come true. I would have had a hard time picking what to take home. Fantastic!!

[Reply](#)



Lisa on September 21, 2017 at 10:31 am

It was really hard Joella, so I took home 5 bars of different varieties of chocolate! Aww, where was your dad from in Italy? Ragusa and Modica are so pretty, and still very authentic places to visit. I hope you get to visit for yourself.

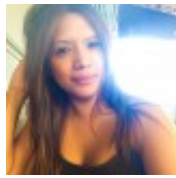
[Reply](#)



Joanna on September 21, 2017 at 12:06 pm

Who knew there was such beautiful gems to be discovered in Sicily! I have only seen Catania and Taormina and promised that I will be back! The restaurant in the cave from Ragusa looks so atmospheric and the food seems delicious! I have never dined in a Michelin restaurant before but I can imagine the food is outstanding. I had no idea that Sicily was producing chocolate! I'd like to experience a chocolate tasting in Modica as well. You can tell I'm a foodie, right? 😊

[Reply](#)



Lisa on September 21, 2017 at 4:07 pm

[Reply](#)

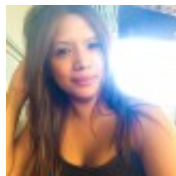
Oh yes, I could tell when I read your wonderful article on Sorrento! The chocolate is good, but I find it really good for baking. Locanda Don Serafino was excellent, and I wish I could return tomorrow! You need to add Ragusa and Modica to the list 😊



Bee on September 21, 2017 at 3:51 pm

[Reply](#)

how cool is it that they have a restaurant in a cave! the food looks so delicious too. Ragusa looks beautiful and so fascinating that it was actually split into 2 from an earthquake. great photos too!



Lisa on September 21, 2017 at 4:07 pm

[Reply](#)

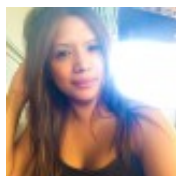
Thank you! The food was so good, I couldn't just put one photo!



Jamie on September 21, 2017 at 3:54 pm

[Reply](#)

Your photos are stunning. I enjoy seeing architectural details of the buildings (Duomo). And wow, the colors and details of that cart are wonderful. This is a good resource for visiting Ragusa Modica.



Lisa on September 21, 2017 at 4:08 pm

[Reply](#)

Thanks Jamie, I really appreciate your comments. Ragusa and Modica are so worth visiting, and as a photographer, you'll have endless angles to capture!



Shibani on September 21, 2017 at 5:03 pm

Sicily is really pretty and the day trips you mentioned here seems like a plus while visiting there. I would love to see the older pre-earthquake buildings, that might literally drive into the 16th century. Is there a restaurant in the cave, is it for real?? Wow just wow!! Thanks for introducing me to a wonderful place.

[Reply](#)



Lisa on September 22, 2017 at 11:14 am

You're very welcome 😊 Ragusa and Modica are both incredible, as is the restaurant in the cave!

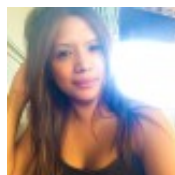
[Reply](#)



Soumya Nambiar on September 21, 2017 at 5:24 pm

The restaurant at the cave looks like something I would love to do. I love visiting Duomos when I am in Italy. But Ragusa was not on my list till this post. It looks like a charming city.

[Reply](#)



Lisa on September 22, 2017 at 11:14 am

It's incredible and the food was heavenly too! You won't be disappointed.

[Reply](#)



Matilda on September 21, 2017 at 7:06 pm

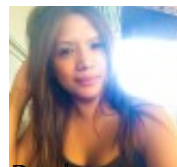
First hearing about Ragusa or Modica but they sound lovely. The duomos are beautiful and would love to eat in a cave.

[Reply](#)

Lisa on September 22, 2017 at 11:17 am

They're pretty incredible and the

[Reply](#)

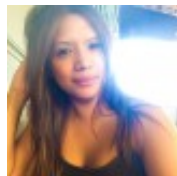


cave restaurant is divine!

Rashmi and Chalukya on September 22, 2017
at 5:13 am

We are yet to explore this part of Italy. Most of the architecture of churches and buildings you shared reminds us of our visit to Malta. We have a great fascination for history and architecture and these places Ragusa and Modica look great for history buffs. Hope to visit soon.

[Reply](#)



Lisa on September 22, 2017 at
11:18 am

You're very right about these places being perfect for history buffs. I hope you get to visit one day soon!

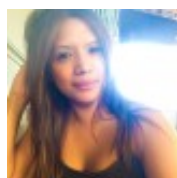
[Reply](#)



Cat on September 22, 2017 at 4:57 pm

It has been my dream to visit Italy! Looking at your pictures makes me want to book my tickets right now! Dining in a cave must be a memorable experience. Chocolate tasting sounds fun – we did something similar in Mexico and we loved it!!

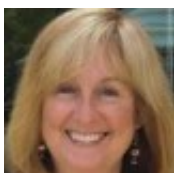
[Reply](#)



Lisa on September 22, 2017 at
5:33 pm

Aw then you got to go! It's a beautiful place, and these 2 cities are like stepping back in time 😊

[Reply](#)

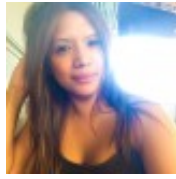


Lois Alter Mark on September 25, 2017 at 6:52
pm

Well, you had me at chocolate but I would absolutely love to eat in that restaurant in the cave. Italy is one

[Reply](#)

of my favorite countries, and everything is just so beautiful. We haven't visited this area yet but your photos make me want to pack right now!



Lisa on September 25, 2017 at 7:49 pm

[Reply](#)

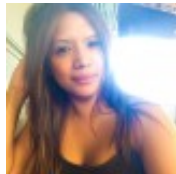
I'm delighted to read that Lois! You're so right about Italy, and I hope you get to visit Ragusa and Modica one day soon.



Manjulika Pramod on September 25, 2017 at 9:29 pm

[Reply](#)

I had never heard about the cities of Ragusa and Modica. They look so amazing and I am sure exploring them must have been like having a date with history. The cave restaurant sounds cool and food looks great. I have eaten in once such cave like ambiance in Muscat in Oman.



Lisa on September 26, 2017 at 11:03 am

[Reply](#)

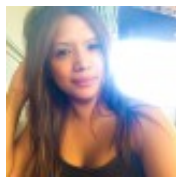
You're spot on about the eating in the cave being a part of history. Both Ragusa and Modica have something unique to offer travellers, and you won't be disappointed!



lisa on September 26, 2017 at 9:49 am

[Reply](#)

I love your pictures, what amazing historical cities. I have not eaten in a cave only slept in a few so that must be a wonderful experience I would love to try. Looks like you really enjoyed your experience



Lisa on September 26, 2017 at 10:50 am

Reply

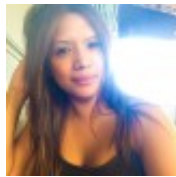
Thanks Lisa! The cave restaurant is a one-off experience and I really recommend you try it 😊



Justine on September 28, 2017 at 12:12 am

Reply

I have never eaten in a Michelin star restaurant! But OMG! This cave restaurant is definitely on my bucket list now. But with or without Michelin stars, Italian food is the best <3



Lisa on September 28, 2017 at 4:16 pm

Reply

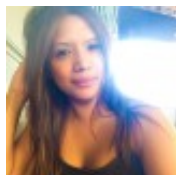
You're very right, and I hope you get to try a restaurant as good as this on your travels in the future 😊



Becca Talbot on September 28, 2017 at 12:23 pm

Reply

I have to admit Lisa, I'd never heard of Ragusa and Modica before – looks like I've been missing out though! What beautiful places 😊 Definitely adding these to the bucket list! x



Lisa on September 28, 2017 at 4:19 pm

Reply

Wonderful, that's what I like to read! You won't be disappointed, they're l
cities.



Share This

Share this post with your friends!

Trackbacks/Pingbacks

1. [Verona Was Not As I Expected It To Be](#) - [...]

We were welcomed by the towering wall and I

Followingtherivera@gmail.com | @LisaRivera220



Facebook



Twitter



Google+



Pinterest



LinkedIn



StumbleUp
on



Tumblr