

Anthony Pelonero
April 2019
Our Trip to Sicily

I listed the places we went to sort through the pics and it is an impressive list. I'm sorting this out before making a photo book for ourselves. I used my notes I took and this includes a few drive-by locations. I did not include all the restaurants/ meals.

3/30. Flew into Palermo. Saw the Cathedral at Monreale and all the mosaics.
Walked through historic Palermo area, lunch at the capomarket. Capuchin Monks catacombs, saw the Spanish HQ/ 4 corners by St. Joseph's, the Cathedral of Palermo.
Drove past Mondello beach in Palermo. Stayed in Castellammare del Golfo, Hotel de Petrolo.

Sun 3/31: morning walk by the gulf, drove to Segesta, and saw the temple at Segesta which dates to 500 BC. Past groves of olive trees, vineyards, and wild artichoke flowers. Views of the aqueduct-style train bridges, and along the autostrada.

On to Marsala. Tasting wine and limoncello.
Drove along the salt road - La Finestra Sale - to see the salt pans where they mine sea salt.

Then on to Trapani for gelato, and up the hill to Erice. On Mount Saint Julian, The castle of Venus and Maria Grammatio and her bakery.

What's that that day was pictures overlooking tuna fishery, Scopello.

4/1: we left the Hotel Marina del Petrolo and headed to Sciacca. South past olive orchards, Salemi, Castelvetrano, and to the port of Sciacca. We have lemon ice at Bar Roma - from the owner Sarina. You look through ceramic shops and saw a hot sulfur spring. We had hot snacks of Arancini, pizza and beer in Ribera.

On to Cianciana, Alfi's home. You met Alfi's wife and heard how actor Ray Winston lives there in Cianciana.

We then headed back towards the Mediterranean sea, south, and stop at RealMonte, Lido Beach / Capo Rosello. Went on the beach and saw the Turkish steps.

Next was Agrigento and the Valley of the temples. After touring the temples we spent the night in Serradifalco.

4/2. In Serradifalco We went to municipal offices, and met some other Peloneros at the driving school in car dealership. We also went to the birthplace of our grandfather, my Micheal Pelonero.

With Alfi's help, a very nice lady at the municipal office found his birth record as well as our great great grandfather's birth records. Then we found some other Peloneros that we concluded were cousins by brothers of my grandfather.

On to Villarosa, however the municipal office was closed. We had a picnic there for lunch.

Next we headed to Enna. There we toured the Castle de Lombardi and could see the town of Calascibetta across the valley

Next we drove to Siracusa, and checked into the Hotel Approlo delle Sirene (top of the rock of the mermaids) before dinner and a night walk in Ortigia. The cathedral of Siracusa is dedicated to the virgin Mary and Saint Lucy. That is in the church piazza. We also saw the freshwater spring porto grande.

4/3 Steve's birthday. The next morning we walked after breakfast through Ortigia, seeing the Diana fountain in Archimedes square - she is the goddess of the hunt. We walked through the market, saw the temple of Apollo ruins, and some more of our Ortigia, this time in daylight.

In Siracusa we visited the Parco Archeologico della Neapolis- walking through the Orecchio de Dioniso, the Greek amphitheater, Heiron's alter, and the Roman amphitheater.

Next on to Mount Etna! Stopped in the hillside town of Belpasso and bought candy at Conorelli's. On the mountain we Walked around and in the Silvestri crater.

Lunch was at the Gambino winery in Linguaglossa. Celebrating Steve's bd with a cake.

Then on to check into Hotel Villa Diodoro in Taormina.

4/4 was another busy day - Up to Castelmola, the Turrisi Bar, and Chichirichi Tratoria for lunch. Fresh pasta and wine. Got to view Isle Bella and the Bay of Giardini-Naxos too.

We were a bit tired so we stayed in, met in Steve and Pat's room, ate and learned Scopa.

4/5: we left Taormina and headed north.

Stopped at Bar Vitelli - The godfather bar in Savoca. Saw the black (volcanic) bleaches (Letojanni) on the ride.

Arrived in Messina where you can see Italy across the straight,

Saw the Cathedral in Piazza Duomo, and the Church of the Sacred Heart, and had lunch. Then...to Cefalù.

In Cefalù there is the church / cathedral at the rock (head) in their Piazza Duomo.

Finally back to Palermo, dinner in old Palermo and jewelry shopping.

Whew!