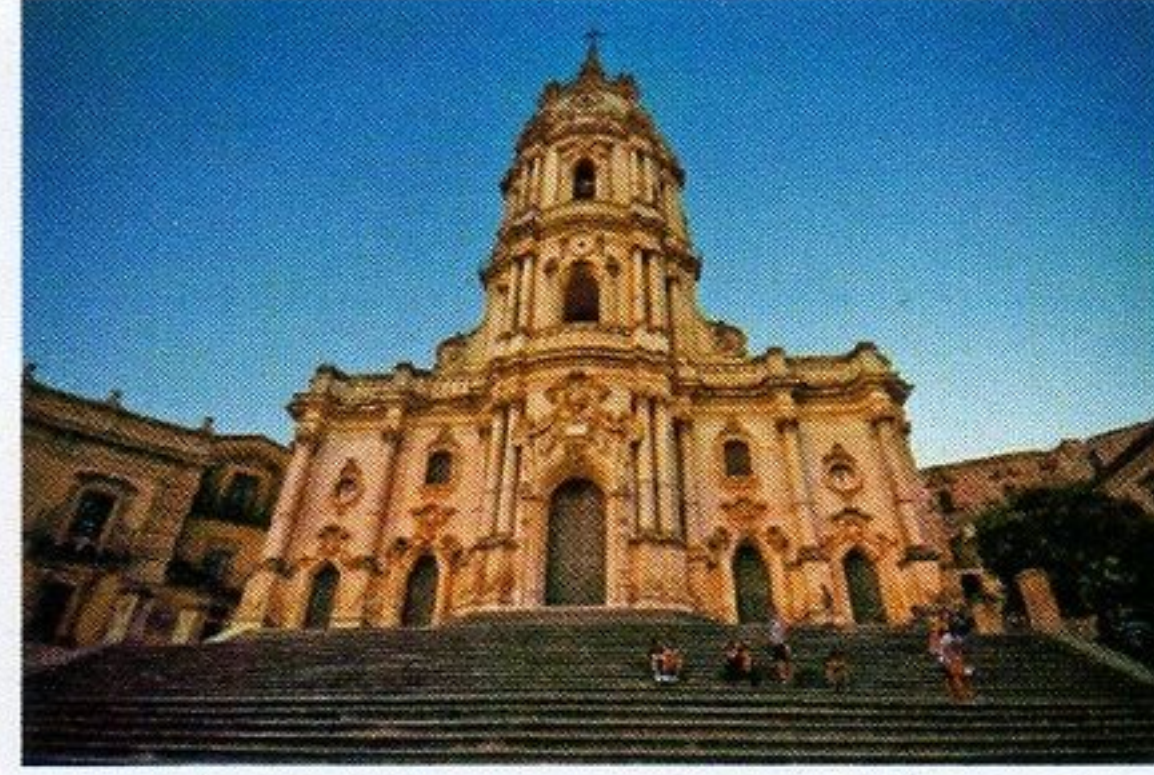


# Itinerario Barocco

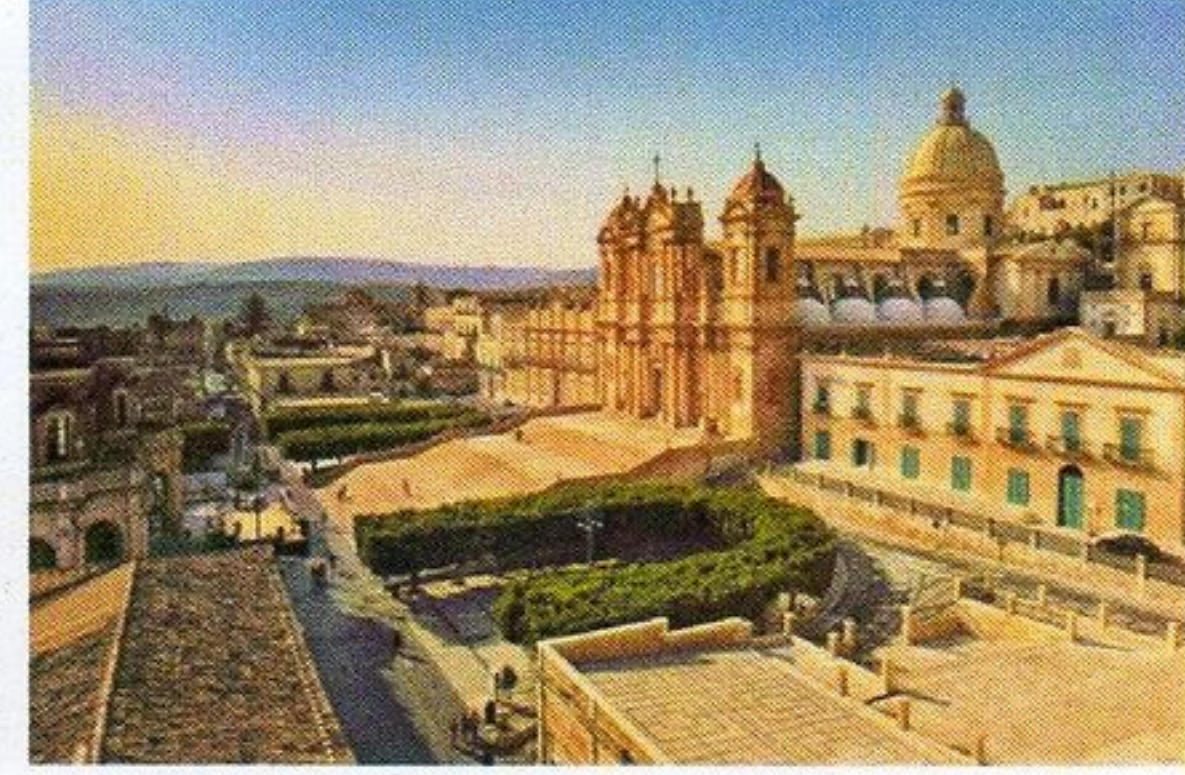
## Ragusa Ibla



## Modica



## Noto



The itineraries include the baroque towns of south-eastern Sicily.

Departure from Siracusa

Arrival at **Ragusa-Ibla**. Ragusa's baroque architecture has earned it UNESCO World Heritage status. It's an unusual town, divided into two parts - the Upper Town and Ibla. After the earthquake of 1693 destroyed most of the town, half the people decided to build on the ridge above town and the other half renovated the old town Ibla. The spectacular Baroque *Duomo di San Giorgio* sits in the center of Ibla, behind a large piazza where there are several cafes, shops, and *Gelati Divini*, selling ice cream made from wines. Ibla has several UNESCO churches - Santa Maria dell'Idria, San Filippo Neri, Santa Maria dei Miracoli, san Giuseppe, Santa Maria del Gesu, San Francesco, and Chiesa Anime del Purgatorio. UNESCO Baroque buildings in Ibla are Palazzo della Cancelleria, Palazzo Cosentini, Palazzo Sortino Trono, Palazzo La Rocca, and Palazzo Battaglia.

Transfer to **Modica**. Like the other towns in the Val di Noto, was badly damaged in the 1693 earthquake and largely rebuilt in Sicilian Baroque style. It is divided into two parts, "higher" Modica and "lower" Modica, which are connected by numerous flights of steps. Palazzi and houses rise from the bottom of the gorge seemingly stacked one on top of the other. Magnificent churches, with their inspiring domes, bell towers and intricate facades, punctuate the red-tiled roofs and one is struck by the uniform beauty of the whole. The centrepiece is undoubtedly the beautiful Church of San Giorgio, though the "Castello dei Conti", surveying the town from atop a rocky outcrop, is also very impressive.

Modica is custodian of a 400 year tradition of Sicilian chocolate-making. Being part of the Spanish kingdom for so many years meant that Sicily was often one of the first recipients of the new foodstuffs being brought back from South America. Cacao was one of these and today Modica still specialises in making granulous chocolate, often flavoured with chilli pepper, cinnamon or vanilla, that is based on Aztec methods and recipes. Chocolate shops abound and, for the real chocoholic, it is sometimes possible to watch the "chocolatiers" at work.

Break for lunch (not included)

Departure to **Noto**, a town south of Syracuse, is part of the Unesco's World Heritage List thanks to its wonderful baroque buildings. The tour moves along the main street with its surprising baroque churches, the Cathedral and Via Nicolaci, famous for the "Infiorata" flower festival organized every year in May and the Palazzo Nicolaci, an aristocratic residence of the 18th century, with the possibility to have a look at the interior decorations .

Back to Siracusa