

# Visit Tindari – Patti

## Tour schedule 26 October 2018

**9.00 a.m.** departure from Montalbano Elicona.

**10.00 a.m.** arrival in Tindari, ancient Greek theatre, archaeological sites, Black Virgin Mary Cathedral.

**12.30 a.m.** lunch break, restaurant Tindarys (from the viewpoint, you can enjoy a wonderful view across Marinello small lakes).

**14.30 p.m.** departures from Tindari.

**15.00 p.m.** arrival in Patti; tour of CSR- CERAMICHE SICILIANE RUGGERI, ceramic factory.

**16.00 p. m.** free time in Patti

**17.30 p.m.** arrive back in Montalbano Elicona

## Participation fee

INCLUSIONS:	TOTAL TOUR COST:
Transfer roundtrip	€ 69
Entrance Fees per the Itinerary	
Lunch with traditional dishes and local products <i>Menu: appetizer, pasta and risotto, second course, side dish, cannolo/cassata, dessert, water and wine.</i>	
English-speaking Guide	
Minimum 4 participants	

## Tour notes

### ...about Tindari

Once you reach Tindari you will see the imposing church dedicated to the **Black Madonna** from the wooden statue carved in dark wood portraying the Holy Virgin just inside the cathedral. This statue is Byzantine in style and said to have come from Constantinople.

From the Belvedere in front of the church you can look down on a lagoon known as the "**Laghetto di Marinello.**" This is also a protected area where birds stop during their migrations.



Walking along the colorful little souvenir shops you will



reach the **ruins of Tyndaris**, the Greek town founded in 396 B.C. by Dionysius I of Syracuse as a defense against the Carthaginians.

As you walk through the ruins, you will be able to see the little museum where you have descriptive plans, fragments of pottery, vases, reliefs, two "nikai" and an interesting marble head of Augustus.

When leaving the ruins, pay attention to the marble plate near the front door of the block opposite the archaeological site: you will read a poem written by the nobel-prize **Salvatore Quasimodo** dedicated to Tindari that he used to visit when he was in Sicily.

### ***.....about Patti and its old tradition in ceramic products handmade***

Patti, or rather Marina di Patti, a seaside village almost entirely dedicated to the production of ceramics, was the seat of a true industrial pole of clay in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, specializing in "Pignate" pots, plates, pitchers and "saimmere", which were exported all over the Mediterranean thanks to the sailing vessels that the local entrepreneurs had armed. The customs archives confirm the industrial activity "marinota", documenting with the numbers of the duty as it was flourishing and represented one of the main items of exports for this strip of Sicily. The circumstance gave rise to the saying, still remembered today "Voli essiri di Patti la Pignata pi' fari la minestra sapurita" , that means "Flight from Patti la Pignata pi 'headlights the sapurita soup."



### ***.....about the Patti and its Old Town***

#### **Porta S. Michele and city walls**



Simple, elegant, powerful. This is how you can define the unique S. Michele door, one of the five remaining in the city. It was part of the walls built by Peter III d'Aragona (I di Sicilia), in 1300, to protect the city from possible attacks by the Angioini, barricaded in the castle of Milazzo after the evolution of the Sicilian Vespers, to which the City of Patti took an active part. The King himself repeatedly checked

the progress of some jobs. This wall was the third and also included 17 towers.

**The Church of St. Hippolytus** is the oldest in the city. Written sources go back to the construction of the Temple in the thirteenth century but during the latest restoration works, findings have come to light that indicate the existence of much older buildings. The crypt, now open, shows an apse probably dating back to the Byzantine period, but the excavations, accidentally went further and uncovered crocks and findings of older periods.

At the top of the hill is the churchyard of the **Cathedral Church** with the Norman prospect. The columns of the portal were in white marble, while in the recesses on the sides and above of the



portal it is possible that there were mosaics. The zoomorphic motifs of the capitals would seem attributable to the work of the Comacini brothers (organization of builders of Cathedrals and sculptors) arrived in Sicily following Adelasia, after his marriage to the Gran Conte Ruggero I.

In the **chapel of S. Febronia**, on the left side stands the tomb of Adelasia del Vasto (App), wife of Gran Conte Ruggero I and mother of Roger II of Altavilla I King of Sicilia. The

Countess Adelasia was also Queen of Jerusalem because, although for short time, she was the wife of Baldwin I. After this unfortunate marriage he retired to this City and died in 1118, as stated in the epitaph placed on the sarcophagus.

The current sarcophagus is Renaissance; with no trace of the original tomb of Adelasia built by the Abbot Giovanni on behalf of the King Roger in the same year of the death of the Nobil Woman. The epitaph, however, seems to be original, composed and made around the year 1130 and applied to this second sarcophagus. Thus he recites: "here lies the body of the Noble Lady Adelasia Regina, Mother of the Most Serene Lord Ruggero, first King of Sicily, whose soul for the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen. 1118". In the sacristy the true portrait of the Grand Count Ruggero d'Altavilla husband of Adelasia is kept.