

MANAK



Syracuse  
SICILY



# ALMANAK

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# Introduction

There is no question that Sicily has been discovered by global travellers looking to experience the rich and complicated heritage, meet the lovely people, eat delicious food, drink amazing wine, visit world heritage sites and swim in some of the most amazing beaches.

Palermo, Noto, Taormina and Syracuse have now all become the hottest destinations on everybody's travel list, with every celebrity and instagram 'influencer' all looking for a perfectly original spot.

But you are an Almanak reader so when you get there, you don't want to be the one who is following a huge swarm of tourists

straight off the massive cruise ship.

You want to slip down a side lane, to a hidden bar, a discreet courtyard, a restaurant that creates the food of your dreams and the bespoke boutiques selling unique one of a kind creations.

What you need is an insiders guide, with the very best places explore, eat, drink, sleep, swim and shop.

So the Almanak Guide does not cover everything it covers the best places to visit for the location and help you find out not only what makes it special but what will make it special for you.

So in this Almanak Guide we visit the city of Syracuse (Siracusa) and in particular the beautiful old island town of Ortigia (which is connected to the peninsula by two short bridges), to give you our view on the very very best places for your trip.

Lets start with the multiple names that Syracuse is known by in Italian it is Siracusa and Sicillians say Sarausa some even refer to the name of the historic island and Old City (Città Vecchia) of Ortygia or Ortigia in this guide we have standardised on Siracusa because that is what will be written on addresses and maps when you arrive in the city.







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# Getting There

You can get to Siracusa by car, bus, plane, train or ferry. But most people choose to fly into one of the airports in Sicily depending on where their travel plans are taking them.


There are two major airports in Sicily, **Palermo** and **Catania**. Most people travelling to Taormina or Siracusa will take the option to fly into Vincenzo Bellini Catania Airport which is about two kilometres outside of Catania and one hours drive (64 kms) from Siracusa.

Alternatively there if you are travelling by car you can catch the

ferry from Villa San Giovanni to **Messina** and then drive from Messina to Siracusa which will take a little over 2 hours (164 kms).

If you are planning to visit Palermo you can also take the ferry from Naples and then drive directly through the centre of the island, it will take you about three hours. If you are also keen to visit the incredible architectural ruins of **Agrigento** you should budget for about four and half hours.

The train also runs down the east coast of Sicily and you can catch the train from Messina, **Taormina** or Catania. The train takes two hours and forty minutes from Taormina and about an hour from Catania Centrale.

If you are driving it is important to note that parking in the old city is quite tight and it is best to either take advantage of one of the parking stations (near the marina or by the port) or alternatively organise parking through your hotel. 





# Architecture and History

Siracusa is a city renowned for its rich heritage Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Arabic and Norman. Said to be the birthplace of mathematician and engineer Archimedes (287 BC) as well as to Artemis Greek God (and brother to Apollo).

Siracusa dates back to the 13th century BC, and you can still see some vestiges of the Byzantine era as you wander the streets and visit the historic sites.

Up at the Necropolis of Pantalica you will find more than 5,000 tombs cut into the rock face many dating back to the 13th century.

Much of the city of Siracusa was built by Greeks from Corinth

(Corinthians) in the 8th century and was described by the Roman statesman Cicero as *"the greatest Greek city and the most beautiful of them all"*.


The township of Ortigia is over 2500 years old and it remains rich with a mix of Greek, Roman and Medieval Norman architecture in its majestic buildings and historic ruins, it is no wonder the town is listed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

The narrow laneways of the island town criss-cross back and forth, it feels like you could get lost at any turn but given the island is just over one kilometre long and only 500 meters wide, its unlikely.

The city of Siracusa was established around 734 BC by Greek settlers, the city grew, prospered and for time was the most powerful Greek city in the Mediterranean.

But there is also modern architecture the Basilica Sanctuary Madonna delle Lacrime was started in 1966 and construction was completed 1994.

Some describe it as an inverted ice cream cone and it is visible from most parts of the city.

All of this remarkable history has left a fantastic labyrinth of architecture and culture. Down every laneway is something else to explore, so much to see in a such a compact city. 



Basilica Santuario Madonna delle Lacrime Photo by: Simone Tinella



"The Caves of Acradina near Syracuse in Sicily"  
by Jacob Wilhelm Mechau 1797 - Collection Met Museum NYC



# See and Do

## Siracusa Cathedral

Right in the very centre of the old island city of Ortigia is a majestic piazza and while all of the buildings that face into this public square are beautiful; the duomo with its ornate baroque facade is quite spectacular.

The word duomo (derived from the latin for house of god - Domus-Dei) is usually applied to the main church of the city and while Siracusa has other important churches, the Siracusa Cathedral has a very important history that dates back to 590 BC.

Originally built as a Greek Temple,

the tyrant Greek Leader Gelon, who ruled Siracusa at that time built a great Greek Temple of Athena on the site with Doric columns.

In the 6<sup>th</sup> century the Byzantines converted the temple into a church and in the 7<sup>th</sup> century bishop Zosimo moved the cathedral to the site and named it the duomo.

In the year 878 the city was under Arab control and was converted into a mosque which it remained for the 200 years.

The Normans took the city in 1085 and it reverted to a church the roof of the nave is of Norman origin and you can also see some of the mosaics from that period.

The Baroque facade was built between 1725 and 1753 following the earthquake in 1693 that damaged many buildings in the area.

The whole city of Siracusa has been recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the Duomo is the centre of that heritage representing Greek, Roman and Baroque history.

Also on the square is the beautifully symmetrical Baroque Palazzo Beneventano and the baroque roman catholic church of Santa Lucia, the town's patron saint, which was rebuilt in 1695 after the original church and monastery were destroyed by the 1693 earthquake.



**Siracusa Cathedral**  
Piazza Duomo, Siracusa  
+39 0931 65328



## The Temple of Apollo

The Temple of Apollo dates back to the 6th century BC with the site being one of the most ancient Doric temples in Sicily.

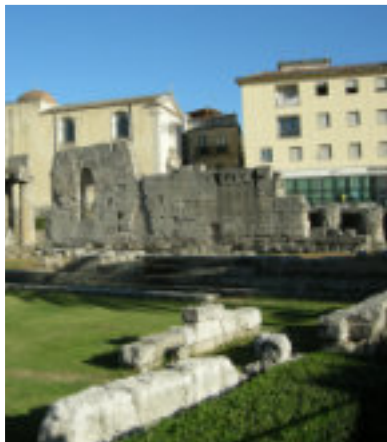
It has undergone numerous transformations over the centuries including the persecution of the pagans in the late Roman Empire which saw it closed down. Next it then became a Byzantine church, then an Islamic mosque during the Emirate of Sicily.

When the Normans defeated the Islamic Saracens in 1085 they reconsecrated the site as the Church of The Saviour. At this time Sicily was extremely prosperous and politically powerful, through succession the kingdom of Sicily moved Bourbon and Spanish crowns, though remaining effectively independent.

When the Spanish arrived in Ortigia in 16<sup>th</sup> century they converted the former Temple of Apollo into military barracks and houses and they became hidden away for another 200 or so years, rediscovered around 1890.

The historic ruins are carefully maintained and you can walk around the outside.

It is very close to the Ortiga Street Market at the Piazza Pancali so its easy to visit both at the same time.



**Temple of Apollo**  
Largo XXV, Luglio,  
Siracusa



# Roman Amphitheatre

The Roman Amphitheatre is located in the ancient Siracusa suburb of Neapolis which today makes up the archaeological park a place where you can visit the Roman Amphitheatre, the Greek Theatre and the Caves of Dionysis.

The Roman Amphitheatre was built for gladiatorial contests in the Augustan Period (27BC to 14 AD) it is 140 metres long by 119 metres wide. The remaining structure is all built into the rock of the hillside, but little of the original masonry which would have been a significant seating structure and covered walkways has survived. The tunnel passage below was used for animals and gladiators to enter the arena, at the centre of the arena there is a rectangular pit connected to the tunnel passages which would allowed for warriors and animals to arrive (and leave) from the centres as well as from each end.

The amphitheatre was first excavated in 1839 by Domenico Antonio Lo Faso Pietrasanta a Sicilian architect and student of history and archeology.



**Roman Amphitheatre**  
Via Luigi Bernabò, Siracusa  
[regione.sicilia.it](http://regione.sicilia.it)



Photo by Crispin Blackall

# Greek Theatre

Greek Theatre which was built in the 5th century BC, and was a place for the plays and performances of the time.

First built in the 5th century BC, rebuilt in the 3rd century BC and renovated again in the Roman period. The diameter of 138.6m and 67 rows of seating make it one of the largest in Greek theatres in known history.

On the walls of the theatre are inscriptions with names of the gods Zeus and Herakles as well of members of Heiron II's royal family.

Above the theatre seating is the Grotta del Ninfeo. The fountain which dates back to the 2nd century BC was dedicated to nymphs and nature goddesses.

In the 1700's painter Jean-Pierre Houël depicted the Grotta del Ninfeo, at this time there were mills that were powered by the water from the grotto.

Today, it is a part of the Unesco World Heritage Site and much of the theatre is protected with seating that covers the stone.

buy a ticket as part of the archaeological park entry, or alternatively you can book a ticket to see a concert.

The upside to this is that you can see a contemporary performance at the same site on those seats that are built over the original stone, but make sure you rent a cushion as the seats are still quite hard!



La grotte des eaux au haut de Syracuse - Jean-Pierre Houël (1700)



Greek Theatre  
Via Ettore Romagnoli, Siracusa  
[comune.siracusa.it](http://comune.siracusa.it)







## Ortigia's Jewish Ritual Baths (Mikveh)

The Mikveh in Ortigia are believed to be the oldest in Europe, with substantial evidence of a large Jewish Quarter (or Giudecca which is the term used in Southern Italy to describe a district of Jewish communities) in Siracusa dating back to 598AD.

Built during the period of Byzantine Greeks, the Mikveh was used for ritual full immersion bathing in fresh water, a practice that dates back to 322BC.

There are five immersion pools carved into the limestone rock. Three are in the main chamber and in a room off to each side there is another pool. By 15th century there were many Jewish communities thriving all over Sicily by some estimations a quarter of the population of Ortigia were Jewish.

By the 15<sup>th</sup> century, Spanish King Ferdinand forced conversion,

expulsion or execution of anyone refusing to convert to catholicism. The Jews of Ortiga managed to bury the Mikveh in soil and fine sand to hide it from Spanish authorities.

Today the Mikveh in Ortigia is under the Alla Giudecca Hotel and while it is possible that building above was once a Synagogue all traces of that are now gone.

The fresh water spring that flows under Ortigia feeds into the bath house which is at the bottom of a narrow rock staircase beneath the hotel.

The Ortigia Mikveh is under the Residenza Alla Giudecca Hotel and you can organise a tour through the hotel.



Ortigia Mikveh  
Via Giovanni Battista Alagona, 52,  
Siracusa  
[allagiudecca.it/](http://allagiudecca.it/)  
+39 0931 22 255



Photo Credit: Hotel Alla Giudecca

## Castello Maniace

The Castello Maniace is a citadel and castle located at the far end of Ortigia, it was constructed between 1232 and 1240 by the Emperor Frederick II.

The castle is surrounded by a moat and sea walls, it has a large restored hall.

Over the years after Frederick II it was home to King Peter III of Aragon, numerous Sicilian Queens and in the 15th century it became a prison.

During the Napoleonic Wars the castle became an important base and was updated with ramparts equipped with cannons. It remained an active military structure up until the 1970s.

Much of the structure was restored between 1993 and 2003 now there is a lot to visit including the moat, the grand hall and the old garrison structures.



Castello Maniace  
Via Castello Maniace, 51, Siracusa  
[aditusculture.com](http://aditusculture.com)  
+39 0931 450 8211



## Ear of Dionysius

A former limestone quarry built in Greek and Roman times, it later was used for water storage and later as a prison. It was so named by the painter Caravaggio in 1608, after the Greek tyrant Dionysius I who had used the cave as a prison.

Legend had it the cave had a sound focusing effect that Dionysius used to spy on his captives. Another legend was it was also used to amplify the screams of prisoners being tortured.

The cave is 23 metres high and extends 65 metres into the cliff wall, shaped in the form of the letter S it has remarkable acoustics.

The cave is located in the Neapolis Archeological Park and accessed on the park ticket along with the Greek Theatre and Roman Amphitheatre.



**Ear of Dionysius**  
Via Ettore Romagnoli, Siracusa  
[regione.sicilia.it](http://regione.sicilia.it)

## Fountain of Arethusa

The fountain is a natural spring found close to the port on the Eastern side of the island,

according to Greek mythology the freshwater fountain is where the nymph escaped her undersea home Arcadia.

It is a popular spot and you can walk down from the Giardino



Aretusa (a large piazza with views over the marina and bay) along the foreshore to the marina.

The fountain has been mentioned in various works of literature including John Milton, William Wordsworth, Alexander Pope and it is even mentioned in Moby Dick by Herman Melville.



**Fountain of Arethusa**  
Largo Aretusa, 96100 Siracusa  
[fontearetusasiracusa.it](http://fontearetusasiracusa.it)

## Historic Ortigia Market

The street market ambles down one street (Via Emanuele Giarcacà) and it is a very traditional food market with fresh fish, vegetables, nuts and spices. Visit early for a more authentic experience and to avoid the crowds of tourists and make sure you buy something from the traders.




**Ortigia Street Market**  
Via Emmanuele de Benedictis,  
Siracusa



# Where to Eat

On a hot day the shade in the courtyard is a blessing and it is an excellent spot to sit at one of the outside tables.

With an excellent range of local wines available by the glass or the bottle, so you can quench the thirst and rest up after a busy morning visiting the sights. The food is rustic and unpretentious, delicious flavours trump the simple presentation and you sit back and smile. 



Good food and Italy go hand in hand and when it comes to Siracusa there is a delicious range of local dishes that you will often find in the numerous restaurants that line the streets and laneways.

The hard part is selecting where you are going to eat with so many amazing places to choose from, here is our selection.

## **Chiodo Showroom con Cucina**

Hidden in a courtyard off Via Roma you will find Chiodo, which is part store, part wine bar, part restaurant.



**Chiodo**  
Via Roma, 15, Siracusa  
+39 3401 193 875

## Cortile Spirito Santo

One of the most outstanding restaurants in Siracusa, Cortile Spirito Santo is hidden away behind the Maniace Castle.

Featuring a lovely private courtyard that faces the Spirito Santo Church. It is the perfect place to start with a drink in court yard (they often have live jazz playing) and then venture into the restaurant.

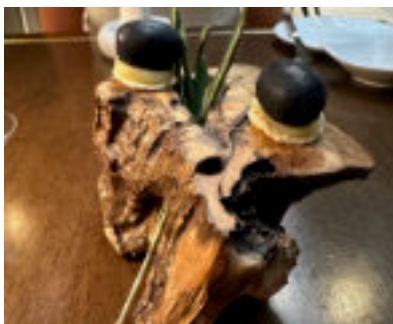
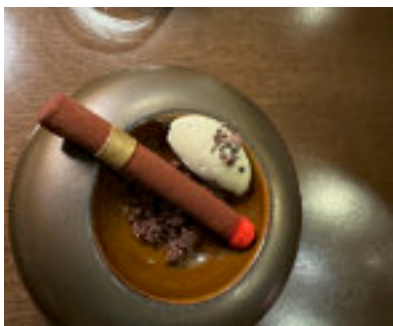
Seating is comfortable, lighting is restrained, there is fine glassware and good linen. Service is warm but quite formal, it is a restaurant designed to make the diner feel special.

The degustation tasting menu is available in three choices each five courses; fish, meat or vegetarian options (range from €80-120) or alternatively there is the six course 'Cortile tasting menu' with the best meat and fish dishes (€140).

Everything on the menu is not just delicious but a combination of theatre and artwork on the plate, a playful illusion between how it looks and what it is.

The staff do an excellent job of making the service into a little magic with flourish.

As you would expect for a restaurant of this calibre there is an exceptional wine list and the sommelier is on hand to help you find your way to the perfect bottle.



**Cortile Spirito Santo**  
Via Salomone, 21, Siracusa  
+39 9311 815 404  
[cortilespiritosanto.com/](http://cortilespiritosanto.com/)



## Regina Lucia

Located right on the piazza with a stunning view of the Duomo, there is no better place to watch the passeggiata (the evening walk) as locals and tourists make their way through the streets most end up in the beautiful square that is even more beautiful at night.

Sit outside on a balmy evening and you will likely also be able to enjoy some tunes from the buskers.

But all of that comes before you consider the food which is excellent. Chef's Salvo Calleri and Roberta Gallo have created a tasting menu of 5, 6 or 7 special dishes (so you can decide how hungry you are feeling) that range from €70 – €90 per head.

As you would expect there are smart modern interpretations of classic Sicilian dishes. Including

delicious antipasti, pasta, meat and fish courses as well as some remarkable deserts; The orange cake with ricotta cheese and nero d'avola wine reduction is phenomenal YUM!!!

And if five or seven courses sounds like way too much food, they do give you the choice of selecting from the a la carte menu which is substantial.

The wine list is extensive with a huge range of Sicilian wines, some excellent Italian red and whites (the range of Barolo is worth reviewing if you are a fan - and you should be) there are numerous wines from France (the Champagne list is also massive), a few from Spain and Chile. Mark up on the wines was modest.



**Regina Lucia**  
Piazza Duomo, 6, Siracusa  
+39 0931 22509  
[reginaluciaristorante.com](http://reginaluciaristorante.com)





# Where to Drink

They have a precious olive oil cellar where you can view a range of specialist oils.

But here at the bar on port the story is all about cocktails and why not, its the perfect place watch the sunset with the boats on the water. There are music, mixers and views all to savour.



## Fratelli Burgio

Fratelli Burgio is a cocktail bar that overlooks the marina and port, the owners have also run the nearby local Salumeria (of the same name) for over three generations so you know that they no a lot about not compromising on quality.

Coincidentally the Salumeria also makes a great place for lunch and so it does get very popular, plan ahead or be prepared to queue up.



**Fratelli Burgio**  
Piazza Cesare Battisti, 4, Siracusa  
+39 0931 60069  
[fratelliburgio.com](http://fratelliburgio.com)

## Boats

Boats is a smart cocktail bar that overlooks the Temple of Apollo, the nautical theme flows through to some of the drinks and there is a range of smart cocktails that will get the night started.

They also have a very smart menu from delicious tapas like bar snacks to full meals – this is a destination venue and you might end up spending the whole night here.



### Boats

Via dell' Apollonion, 5, Siracusa  
+39 3288 818373  
[boats.business.site](http://boats.business.site)

## Colapesce

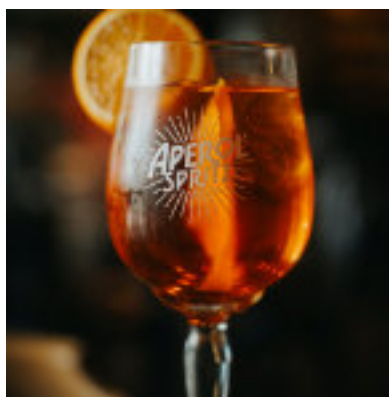
At the top of the stairs just above the Cala Rosa Beach where locals go to swim on a hot day (see below) you will find Colapesce a smart restaurant with an outside deck overlooking the beach.

That makes it the perfect place for an Aperol Spritz after a cooling swim.

**Colapesce**  
Lungomare d'Ortigia, 8, Siracusa  
+39 09311 854989  
[colapesce.info](http://colapesce.info)

## Wine Shop

If you want to drink wine then this is a great choice to settle in for a glass or a bottle with a very good range of predominately Sicilian and Italian wines there is something for



almost every palate. They also have great snack food so you can sit outside and watch the people and boats as you snack and sip.

**Wine Shop**  
Via Savoia, 2, Siracusa  
+39 09311 856459

## Barcollo

If you are looking for something a feels lush and indulgent, then Barcollo might be just the place for you.

Plush furniture, smart cocktails and exquisite nibbles it is perfect here at the beginning of the night or have a night cap at the end – maybe both?

**Barcollo**  
Piazza Cesare Battisti, 4, Siracusa  
+39 0931 24580  
[barcollosiracusa.it](http://barcollosiracusa.it)



# Where to Sleep

## Grand Hotel Des Étrangers

A historical palace built in 1895, it became the preferred lodging for those wishing to visit Sicily on their 'grand tour' of Europe.

It was run down until the 'Luxury Properties Group' undertook a significant restoration in 2003 retaining the authentic aspects of the building but creating a luxurious hotel with a perfect balance between tradition and modernity.

Each space in the hotel is a little different, all with a sense of peace and luxury.

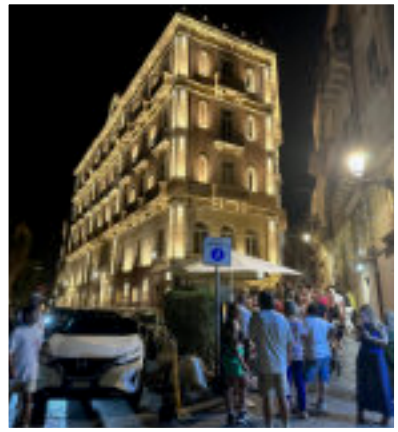
The roof top Clou restaurant and lounge bar have sweeping views around from the Port to the Castle and there is an excellent outdoor roof terrace to watch the sunset.

Breakfast is an absolute treat not just for the food but also the incredibly attentive team who go out of their way to make the stay special.



**Grand Hotel Des Étranges**  
Passeggio Aretusa, 12, Siracusa  
+39 09312 1543  
[desetrangers.com](http://desetrangers.com)






## Re-Federico Boutique Hotel

The Re Federico is a small hotel of suites spanning over three floors in a historic building dating back to 1770.

Located in the Jewish quarter of Giudecca, which some describe as the historic heart of the city of Siracusa. It is an extremely picturesque neighbourhood streets, and just a few steps from the sea and the splendid Piazza Duomo.

Each super stylish apartment has its own space (there are only 6 suites) each including living and dining rooms, some also with sofa beds and private terraces, others having a full kitchen.

This is definitely a place to spoil yourself with a little luxury, and why not. 

**Re-Federico Boutique Hotel**  
Via Larga, 54, Siracusa  
+39 0931 68527  
[refederico.com](http://refederico.com)




## Residence Hotel Alla Giudecca

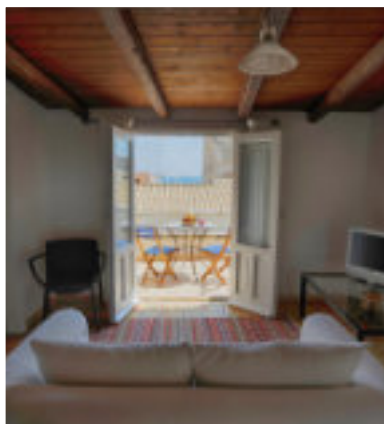
The Residence Hotel "Alla Giudecca" is located in the historic center of Ortigia island, in the heart of the Jewish Quarter, next to the Forte Vigliena and the small stone beach 'Spiaggia Diana nel Forte' where each year the council builds a scaffold platform so that locals and visitors can swim.

So the location is perfect. The building is rich with period charm, the courtyard a perfect place to escape when you have had a big day exploring in the heat.

The hotel features a remarkable history, it is built above the Ortigia Mikveh, (see previous article), the Jewish bath house built in Byzantine times and today it is believed to be the oldest remaining Jewish ritual bath house in Europe.

The building has a central courtyard that has retained some of the Arabic architecture from the period when the Moors ruled Sicily.

Each of the suites in the Alla Giudecca are all around 70m2 and each have ensuite, with the superior suites having a balcony that looks out to the sea. 



**Residence Hotel Alla Giudecca**  
Via Giovanni Battista Alagona, 52, Siracusa  
+39 09312 2255  
[allagiudecca.it/en](http://allagiudecca.it/en)



# Where to Swim

## Varco 23 (venti3)

Varco 23 is about 15 minutes drive from Ortigia situated in the Plemmirio marine reserve so the fish are plentiful and its a lovely place to snorkel.

Its also a great place on a hot day to enjoy the beach club and have crystal clear water to swim.

No sand here as the beach is built on rocks and the sun recliners and umbrellas sit on decks above the rocks.

There is an excellent waiter service and good restaurant when you are ready for lunch its a great option.



Str. Capo Murro di Porco, 192  
Plemmirio  
[varco23.it](http://varco23.it)  
+39 33195 66696









## Spiaggia di Cala Rosa

Towards the Castello end of the island on the Lungomare 'Ortiga you will find the Cala Rossa Beach.

It is definitely a locals beach and you can find it tricky to have a place to sit on a hot day.

You climb down a flight of steep stairs and then wade over the rocks and shallow water before you get out to the swimming area.

The water is quite clear but there is a bit of glass and rusty metal about so swimming footwear is definitely advised.

On a hot day after traipsing around the sights of Otygia it is sensational. When you are finished swimming take a shower on the beach and head up to **Colapesce** for an Aperol Spritz and watch the sunset.



**Spiaggia di Cala Rosa**  
Lungomare d'Ortiga  
Siracusa

## Solarium Forte Vigliena

Of the three swimming beaches on Isola d'Ortiga, Solarium Forte Vigliena is the one most seen on Instagram.

The blue sea, rocks and swarms of people make this a must see and for many a must swim too.

The rocks below the historic Forte Vigliena are converted to a swimming beach each year with the addition of quite rudimentary scaffolding and walkways.

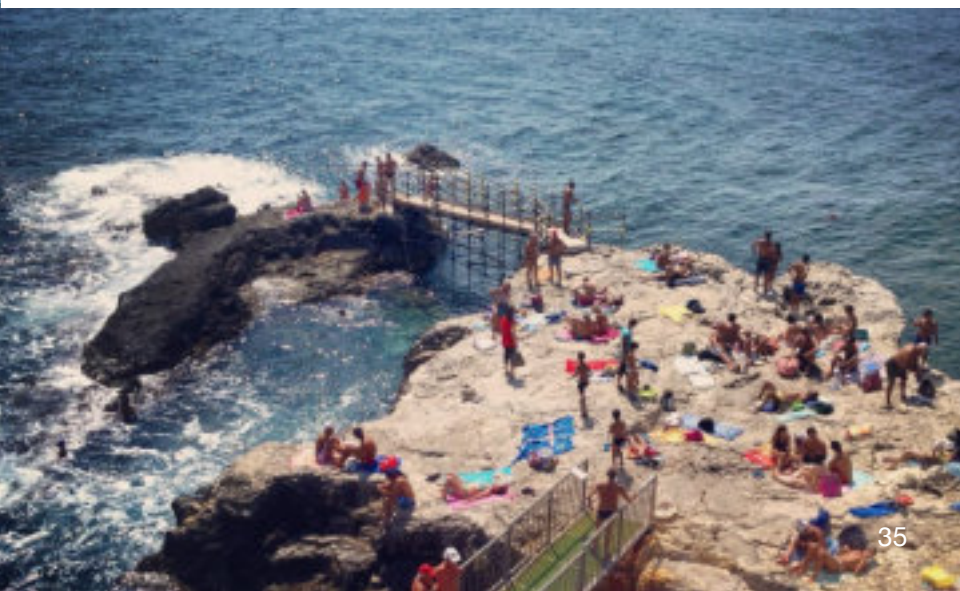
Down the stairs you will find a place on the rocks to sit and clear water to swim in.

But it does get quite busy and sometimes it is hard to find a place to put your towel.

There is also a fresh water shower to rinse off after your swim.



**Solarium Forte Vigliena**  
Via Eolo, 46  
Siracusa





## Zefiro Solarium

Zefiro is a beach club situated beside the marina and just along the waterfront from the Arethusa Spring.

It is a super convenient place for sun baking, enjoying the rays with drinks, food and tunes, but the water here is not always the cleanest being right next the marina with tour boats constantly coming and going so it is worth checking the water before you head down to swim that way.

You can also just take a dip from the small beach Spiaggetta della Marina Ortiga which is right beside and has free access.

But with DJs and a dance floor this is almost more nightclub than beach club and they also have a smart restaurant where you can take in the views.



**Zefiro Solarium**  
Largo Aretusa, 2/10  
Siracusa  
[zefirosolarium.it](http://zefirosolarium.it)  
+39 328 878 5926

## Lido Beach Agua

Lido Beach Agua is a bit of drive (40 mins) from Ortigia to Noto, but once there it is totally worth it for the fine golden sand and crystal clear water.

This is a luxury beach club, here you will find a smart restaurant and casual dining, showers and change rooms.

It is enormous and you will want to make sure you have booked to be close to the water or you might find yourself trekking from the back row each time you get hot and want a dip.

Its right next door to Lido San Lorenzo which is more casual and gets super busy.

Arrive before lunch and you are also likely to find complimentary parking but its a big beach club and the parking does fill up.



**Lido Beach Agua**  
Contrada Reitani,  
Noto  
[aguabeach.it](http://aguabeach.it)  
+39 0931 841684



# Where to Shop

## Cool de Sac

Cool de Sac is a smart atelier in Ortigia making and selling a designer range of clothes, bags, jewellery and accessories.

All of the products are designed and made locally with some hand made made in the workshop on site. They also have some very cool t-shirts with original designs.

  
**Cool de Sac**  
Via Cavour, 25  
Siracusa  
[cooldesac.it](http://cooldesac.it)  
+39 379 2682405

## Chiodo

We told you about Chiodo in Where to Eat but it is more than a restaurant and wine bar it is also the location of one of the most interesting designer stores in Ortigia with a collection of beautiful original and creative items from local and international designers.



**Chiodo**  
Via Roma, 15  
Siracusa  
[chiodoshowroom.wordpress.com](http://chiodoshowroom.wordpress.com)  
+39 3488 401315

## Ortiga

Ortiga is a small Italian soap and scent company founded in Sicily by Sue Townsend (one of the founders of Crabtree and Evelyn).



You might have already seen the Ortiga brand as it is now found all over the world and is a premium product used in some luxury hotels.

Manufacture is all done in Sicily with the producers all using

ingredients indigenous to Sicily and manufactured by small family companies.

The packaging (a key to the enormous success of the brand) is designed by Townsend and reflects the colours and images of Sicily. Being the namesake of the now well known fragrance brand it is worth visiting Ortiga in Ortigia.

**Ortiga**  
Via Roma, 21  
Siracusa  
[ortigasicillia.com](http://ortigasicillia.com)  
+39 0931 461 365

## Monica Castiglioni

Monica Castiglioni is a jeweller, sculptor, photographer and ceramic artist making remarkable and unmistakable pieces for more than 40 years.

She has stores in Ortigia, New York, Milan and Fukuoka, Japan. Her works in gold, silver, bronze



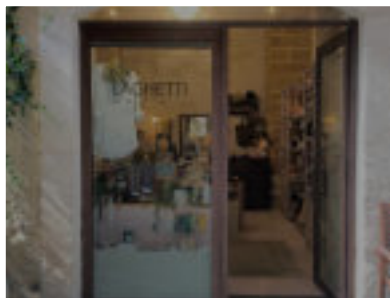
and clay are all limited edition or unique. A visit to her workshop and store in Ortigia is the perfect opportunity to get to know her work.

**Monica Castiglioni**  
Via Roma, 15  
Siracusa  
[monicacastiglioni.com](http://monicacastiglioni.com)  
+39 347 707 4742

## Laghetto

Smart and stylish Laghetto has a range of clothes, jewellery, homewares & trinkets.

There are some really unusual things here and an excellent selection of smart socks!



**Laghetto**  
Via Pompeo Picherali, 10/B  
Siracusa  
[laghettiortigia.com](http://laghettiortigia.com)  
+39 3496030683

## Vintage Look Store

Sells an amazing range of second hand sunglasses, with some incredible classics.



**Vintage Look Store**  
Via della Amalfitania, 25  
Siracusa  
+39 338 446 1720

## Mave

Selling a range of tailored clothes, handcrafted accessories and streetwear.

**Mave**  
Via Cavour, 8  
Siracusa  
[maveortigia.com](http://maveortigia.com)  
+39 338 406 2659





# ALMANAK

The Almanak Guide to Syracuse gives you what you need to know to plan a trip to the Unesco World Heritage City of Syracuse.

Where to Eat, Drink, Sleep, Swim and Shop as well as all the most important places to see and do.

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