

Passionate About Italy

Sicily 2007

A Cultural Legacy

The program will consider various aspects of the history and culture of Sicily as well as addressing the lives and achievements of some significant Sicilians.

SICILIAN HISTORY

Mediterranean melting pot

Greeks, Romans, Christians and Arabs

“The jewel in the Norman crown”

The Normans in Sicily

Occupation and liberation

Garibaldi and The Risorgimento

The “M” word

Murder and mayhem the Sicilian way

THE LITERATURE OF SICILY

The “invisible hand” of Verismo

Giovanni Verga and tales of Sicilian life

Novels including: ***“I Malavoglia” (The House by the Medlar Tree)***

Short stories including: ***“Cavalliera Rusticana” (Rustic Chivalry)***

“Jeli the Shepherd”

“The curious course of the foolish lives of innumerable mortals”

The Sicilian stories of Luigi Pirandello

Short stories including: ***“La Giara” (The Oil Jar)***

“La Mosca” (The Fly)

“Citrons from Sicily”

The novel of a lifetime

Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa and “Il Gattopardo”

His one and only novel: ***“Il Gattopardo” (The Leopard)***

A Memory: ***“Places of my Infancy”***

The defeat of reason

Leonardo Sciascia and the Mafioso mystery

Novels including: ***“The Day of the Owl”***

“Equal Danger”

Short stories including: ***“The Ransom”***

“Forty-Eight”

“A Matter of Conscience”

THE ART & ARCHITECTURE OF SICILY

Theatres and temples

The art and architecture of Magna Graecia

“An artificial creation of enlightened despotism”

Norman-Arab art of the 12th Century

A glorious resurrection

Sicilian Baroque architecture

SICILY ON THE SCREEN

Verga meets Marx

Luchino Visconti's “La Terra Trema” (The Earth Trembles)

Figures in the landscape

Luchino Visconti's “Il Gattopardo”

Allied landings - the Sicilian episode from

Roberto Rossellini's “Paisan”

Death of a bandit

Francesco Rosi's “Salvatore Giuliano”

THE MUSIC OF SICILY

Songs of love, celebration, work and honour

Music of the Sicilian people

“The simple nobility and beauty of song”

The music of Vincenzo Bellini - “The Swan of Catania”

SICILY ON THE OPERA STAGE

Vincenzo Bellini's “Il Pirata”

Giuseppe Verdi's “I Vespri Siciliani”

Pietro Mascagni's “Cavalleria Rusticana”