



Central Sicily

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Best Places to Eat

- Coria (p230)
- Amici Mieì (p225)
- Il Locandiere (p230)
- Vicolo Duomo (p232)
- Antica Hostaria (p222)

Best Places to Sleep

- Tre Metri Sopra Il Cielo (p267)
- Suite d'Autore (p267)
- Azienda Agrituristica Gigliotto (p267)
- Baglio San Pietro (p266)
- Baglio Pollicarini (p266)

Why Go?

Sicily's wild and empty interior is a beautiful, uncompromising land, a timeless landscape of silent, sunburnt peaks, grey stone villages and forgotten valleys. Traditions live on and life is lived at a gentle, rural pace. It's an area that encourages the simple pleasures – long lunches of earthy country food, meandering through hilltop towns, enjoying the scenery.

The newly reopened Villa Romana del Casale, in Piazza Armerina, is a must-see, and the handsome town of Caltagirone has some stunning ceramics and an awesome staircase. Enna, a busy provincial capital, boasts a striking medieval centre and some great hilltop views of the surrounding mountainous region. Northeast of Enna, a string of hilltop towns make for excellent touring.

Road Distances (KM)

| | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|---------------|------|---------|
| Caltanissetta | 85 | | | |
| Enna | 60 | 30 | | |
| Nicosia | 100 | 65 | 50 | |
| Piazza Armerina | 30 | 50 | 35 | 70 |
| | Caltagirone | Caltanissetta | Enna | Nicosia |

Getting Around

Central Sicily is best explored by car – there are bus connections between the towns, but for dipping into hidden villages and taking in the mountain views, your own wheels are priceless.

THREE PERFECT DAYS

Start in the Past

Make an early start in Piazza Armerina and beat the coach parties to the recently reopened Villa Romana del Casale (p226). Once you've applauded the villa's extraordinary Roman mosaics, head out to Morgantina (p229) to investigate the ruins of an ancient Greek city. Spend the late afternoon exploring Piazza Armerina's historic centre, making sure to head up the hill to the landmark cathedral (p224). Round the day off with a relaxed trattoria meal at Amici Mieì (p225) or a more formal dinner at Al Fogher (p225).

Explore Caltagirone

Make your way to Caltagirone, a delightful hilltop town known for its ceramics. Get into the swing of things by climbing the Scalinata di Santa Maria del Monte (p229) and inspecting the Museo della Ceramica (p230). Clear your head with a wander around the Giardino Pubblico (p230), a pretty shaded park with views over to Mt Etna, then while away the rest of the day admiring the attractive old town and its fancy baroque churches.

Hilltop Hoods

Lording it over the hills and valleys of central Sicily, Enna is the king of the area's hilltop towns. Visit its impregnable Castello di Lombardia (p220) and the impressive Duomo (p221) before heading over the valley to Calascibetta. Afterwards push on to Nicosia, another handsome hilltop town, with a grand central square and 14th-century cathedral.

Getting Away from It All

- **Morgantina** Head out to these ancient ruins, spread over two windswept hills.
- **Regaleali** One of Sicily's most important wine estates, this is about as remote as it gets.
- **Lago di Pozzillo** Stock up on picnic provisions and head out to this picturesque lake in the hills between Agira and Regalbuto.

DON'T MISS

Ogle bikini-clad girls and mythical macho men at the thrilling mosaics in Villa Romana del Casale (p226), depicting episodes from ancient mythology, hunting scenes and groups of lasses working out with weights.

Best Hilltop Towns

- Caltagirone (p229)
- Enna (p220)
- Calascibetta (p223)
- Nicosia (p223)

Best Lookouts

- Castello Di Lombardia (p220)
- Centuripe
- Scalinata di Santa Maria del Monte (p229)
- Piazza Armerina's cathedral (p224)
- Aidone (p227)

Resources

- **Turismo Enna** (www.turismoenna.it) Info on sights, monuments and transport in Enna and its environs.
- **Piazza Net** (www.piazzanet.it) Inspirational rather than practical info on Piazza Armerina, its history, monuments and events.
- **Comune di Caltagirone** (www.comune.caltagirone.ct.it) Difficult to navigate but has listings, transport and historical background.