

Of Volcanoes

VETERAN REPORTER ROSANNA SCOTTO, CO-HOST OF WNYW-FOX 5'S GOOD DAY NEW YORK AND AUTHOR OF ITALIAN COOKBOOKS, SHARES HER EXPERIENCES TRAVELING IN SICILY, THE ISLAND THAT SURPRISED HER.

BY CAMILLE CAUTI



“I am an Italy snob,” Rosanna Scotto confides. “I have traveled with my family to Rome, Milan, Florence, Sardinia, Capri, Positano, Portofino, Venice... *basta!* When a friend suggested we meet in Sicily, I was hesitant. What island?

What is there to do? Any shopping?

“To my surprise, Sicily is the trendy spot this summer. My friends Dana and Mike Goldstein summer there every year. They know their way around and gave us an offer we couldn’t refuse: gorgeous architecture, delicious pasta topped with *melanzane*, and vino at Mount Etna! And yes, my credit card got a workout with shopping.

“We flew into Catania and drove about 30 minutes to our gorgeous seaside villa, Don Venerando in Carruba di Riposto. We used that as our home base to explore the island. Sicily is an amazing place to visit,” she concludes. “I feel like we just started to uncover the magic of this Mediterranean island.” See Scotto’s top picks and favorite memories below.

FAVORITE DESTINATION...

“The countryside of Carruba di Riposto, 30 minutes from Taormina. Donna Carmela is a boutique hotel and also offers the Villa Don Venerando, situated in a nursery of plants and trees with gorgeous views of the sea and Mount Etna.” donnacarmela.com

TOP RESTAURANT...

“Zash, in the countryside of Giarre, is a beautiful boutique hotel surrounded by lemon and orange groves with a wonderful restaurant. The truffles over risotto with pesto was heavenly.” zash.it/en

MORE FOOD...

“We dined at Kisté in Taormina—in the shadow of the Duomo, the medieval cathedral—and feasted on fresh fish salad.” kiste.it/en

HIDDEN TREASURE...

“The Gambino Winery high up on the northeast side of Mount Etna. We drove to the top, but you can also helicopter in like Rihanna. Try the remarkable wines that incorporate the Mount Etna soil.” gambinowinery.com

GREAT SHOPPING...

“Taormina! Lots of clothing shops—and you must visit Don Corleone for ceramics.” doncorleoneobjects.com

PERFECT DAY...

“An eating tour of street food in Catania, the second-largest city in Sicily. The architecture of the opera house will take your breath away, but so will lunching on *arrancini*. Don’t forget the icy granita, which locals spread on top of brioche.”



BE MOND HOTEL PHOTO BY TISON SAKISO; DON CORLEONE PHOTO COURTESY OF DON CORLEONE OBJECTS; ROSANNA SCOTTO PHOTO COURTESY OF ROSANNA SCOTTO



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 PHOTO COURTESY OF HOTEL ZASH PHOTO
 BY ALFIO GARIBOLDI, MOUNT ETNA,
 PHOTO COURTESY OF FERDINANDA SCOTTO

Clockwise from top left: Wine from Gambino Winery; red snapper fillet served on a terracotta cream from Kùstè; Zash hotel is surrounded by orange groves; Mount Etna smokes in the distance behind Donna Carmela. Opposite page, clockwise from top left: Seaside dining at the Belmont Hotel; Scotto shopping in Taormina; Don Corleone is a must-stop shop for ceramics.