

## SICILY 4. - 18. OCTOBER 2022

After 2 nights in Zisa Home, on October 10, I felt well enough to drive further west, but we skipped quite a few stops along the way and followed the highway most of the way.



Here we have made another detour to [Isola delle Femmine](#).  
This is the port.



Downtown.



It had rained during the night. So there was a lot of water in the streets.



I stayed at this hotel, Hotel Sirenetta, in 2006.







Marble quarry.



Lifting equipment.



Then we arrived at the hotel. Then we has a lager.





The hotel is called [Hotel Pocho](#).  
It is located a little south of San Vito lo Capo.



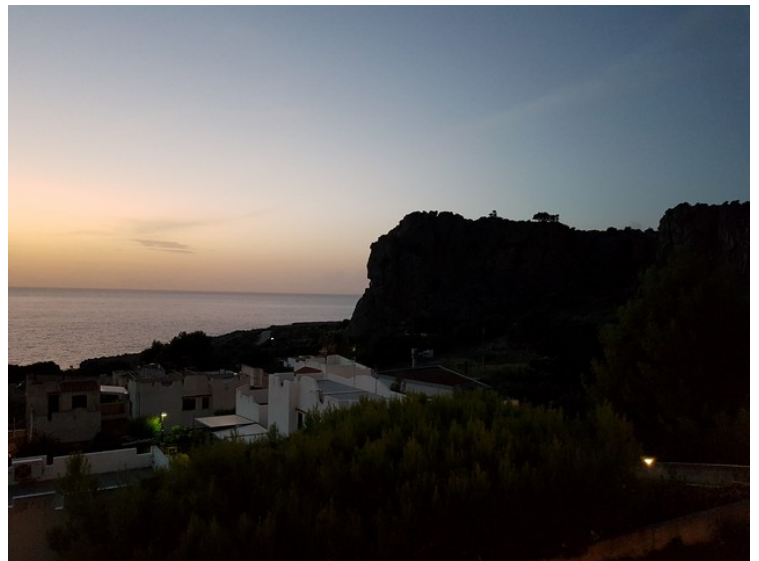
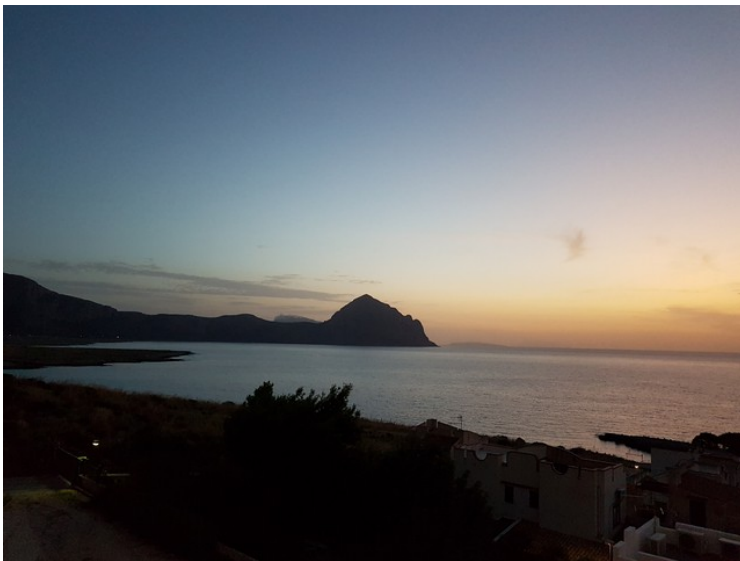
View from the terrace.



View to the neighboring terrace.



Here we look from the restaurant down towards 'our'  
terrace.



View from the restaurant terrace.





Here we wait for the food.



We ordered meat.



This was the wine we had with the food.



The next day, October 11, we drove first to San Vito lo Capo. There were a lot of people on the beach.

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The lighthouse, [Faro di Capo San Vito](http://Faro di Capo San Vito).



One of the streets that goes down towards the beach.





One of the city streets. The mountain, [Monte Monaco](#), in the background.



A picture of San Vito Lo Capo with Monte Monaco.



We had planned to go up to [Erice](#), but our form was not yet so good, so we skipped that detour as well. The town is located on a mountain top 751 meters above sea level, and there are good views in all directions. Today, only 200 people live in the town. There is a road up there and in addition there is a cable car from Trapani.

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Viktor Emmanuel



Fontene



We drove through [Trapani](#). It is the capital of the province of the same name. 70,000 people live here and businesses include fishing, coral cultivation, agriculture, salt extraction, and marble extraction. We made a stop at Piazza [Vittorio Emanuele](#). Here stands a statue of Vittorio Emanuele who was the first king of a united Italy. There is also a fountain there called [Fontana del Tritone](#).



More of the fountain is shown here.



Between Trapani and Marsala are the [Aegadian Islands](#).



On the way south from Trapani, we saw many ponds where they were engaged in the extraction of salt.



Salt mounds.



Along the way, we also looked out towards one of the Aegadian islands. This is the largest named [Favignana](#).



We couldn't find the hotel at first, so we ended up at this marina.

There is also a swimming beach just beyond the harbour.





We also drove over to Torre San Teodoro. There is a restaurant here, but it is apparently closed.



We finally found the hotel and then I thought we deserved a beer.



This day we were going to stay at the [Resort Santa Maria Hotel](#). It is located in Birgi Vecchi a little north of Marsala. The islands we see off the coast here are [Isola Grande](#), Isola Santa Maria and Isola di Pantaleo.



As usual, we were there first when the dinner service began.



We ate lasagna.



The view from the patio.

The next day, October 12, we drove on through [Marsala](#). Marsala was founded in 397 BC. of the [Carthaginians](#) as the fortress of Lilybaion. In the 18th century, the English began wine production there. The city did not gain much importance until the unification of Italy; it was here that [Giuseppe Garibaldi](#) and his 1,000 volunteers landed on May 11, 1860.





Along the way we saw several salt mounds.



Boats on the canal.



This column stands on Capo Lilybeo, which lies in the far west of Marsala. It is a memory that Garibaldi landed in the city on 11 May 1860 when he united Italy.

When we drove in the narrow streets afterwards, there was a place where the street became so narrow that both mirrors scraped the walls of the houses on both sides, and the street became even narrower. I tried to back up, but there were 20 cars behind me. I managed to put the mirror in on one side, so we got through.



This is [Porta Nuova](#). Porta Nuova is one of the four ancient gates that bounded the center of Marsala and was built in 1790 to replace the previous one that was built of wood.



A Madonna figure on a column.



This church is called Santuario dell'Addolorata and is dedicated to [Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows](#).





[Porta Garibaldi](#) is another of the city gates that should remind that Giuseppe Garibaldi and the thousand landed here on 11 May 1860.



[Monumento ai Mille](#) (Monument to the Thousand) is a small building to commemorate Garibaldi and the thousand soldiers.

All 1,000 names are engraved on the top of the building. There is also tourist information here.



This is the Fontana del Vino, the Wine Fountain.



[Chiesa di Santa Veneranda](#) in Mazara del Vallo



Monastero Benedettino S. Michele Arcangelo



Chiesa di San Michele Arcangelo

[Mazara del Vallo](#) is a city with approximately 50,000 inhabitants. The town is located at the mouth of the river Mazaro.

The town is an agricultural and fishing center with a harbor that shelters one of the largest fishing fleets in Italy.





[Arco Normanno](#) is considered a symbol of Mazara del Vallo.

From here we drove on towards Agrigento



The largest archaeological park in Sicily is in [Selinunte](#).

These are the remains of Hera's temple.

I was here in 2006, so we didn't make that detour.



We were supposed to spend 2 nights at the [Dioscuri Bay Palace](#) in [San Leone](#), which is located just south of Agrigento.

The hotel probably took its name from the [Dioscuri](#) Kastor and Polydevkes.



The reception.



The hotel is located right by the harbour. This is the view from the terrace.



From the hotel terrace we could look up towards [Agrigento](#). Here was the ancient Greek city of Akragas, one of the leading cities within [Magna Graecia](#) during the golden age of ancient Greece. It then had a population that ranged from 200,000 to 800,000 inhabitants before 406 BC. The city was founded by settlers from [Gela](#) around 582 BC. and became an important cultural and economic centre.

Today, there are approximately 60,000 inhabitants in the city.

[UNESCO](#) has listed the archaeological site of Agrigento as part of the [World Heritage Site](#).

It rained quite a lot the day after we got to San Leone, so we just as well relaxed at the hotel that day.





A picture from the terrace on the day we travel on, 14 October.



On the way up to the archaeological site of Agrigento.



Further up.



These are the remains of the temple to [Hera](#).



The remains of the temple to [Herakles](#).

Most of these ruins are located on a hill, but the area is called [Valley of the Temples](#).





This is the [Tomb of Theron](#).



The Concordia Temple was to honor [Zeus](#).



Concordia Temple seen from the other side.



The Monumento ai caduti di Caltanissetta will commemorate the over 280 soldiers from Caltanissetta who fell during the First World War.



Street pictures from Caltanissetta.

[Caltanissetta](#) is the capital of [the province of Caltanissetta](#) and has approximately 63,360 inhabitants. It is located in an area of rolling hills and many small villages. The river Salso flows through the area.

Caltanissetta's origins can be traced back to 406 BC, when Admiral Nicia of Hamilcar's besieging force from Carthage established a fort on the site, later called Castra Nicia (Fort Nicia).





This is [Piazza Garibaldi](#). It is the most important square in the old town. We also see the [Chiesa di San Sebastiano](#). Around 1,500 were built at the request of the population. It has undergone a number of restorations and modifications.



In the middle of the square stands the [Fontana di Tritone](#). It was inaugurated on 15 December 1956 to replace an old lamp post.



This is [Santa Maria La Nova](#), the cathedral of Caltanissetta. Construction began in 1570 and was completed in 1622.



We took these photos as we drove past, but I haven't been able to find out what the church is called and what the statues are supposed to represent.





Klesvasken henger ute i gata. The laundry hangs out in the street.



We drive towards Enna and come quite high, so the roads can probably be slippery here in the winter.



Then we come to Enna.



It's a steep town.



Narrow streets here too.



[Chiesa Santa Chiara](#),

[Enna](#) has around 30,000 inhabitants. The city is almost 1,200 meters above sea level and is the highest provincial capital in Italy.

It is almost as central to Sicily as one can get and is called the 'navel of Sicily'.





[Napoleone Colajanni](#), born 27 April 1847 in Enna, died 2 September 1921, was an Italian sociologist, publicist and politician.



[Giuseppe Mazzini](#) (born 22 June 1805 in Genoa, died 10 March 1872 in Pisa) was an Italian politician and revolutionary. He worked for the collection of Italy.



Giuseppe Mazzini.



This is in the cathedral square.



The cathedral, [Il duomo di Enna](#), dedicated to [Maria Santissima della Visitazione](#).



Side door.





The south end of the cathedral.



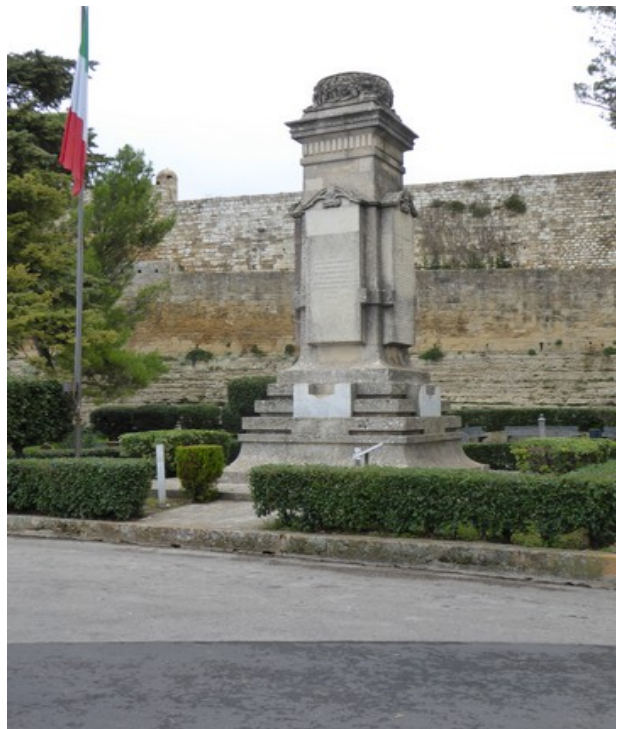
The area around the church.



A side door on the cathedral.



Here we drive further upwards.



There is a war monument outside Castello di Lombardia.





This is [Castello di Lombardia](#). It is one of the oldest and largest in Italy. It was built in the 1st millennium BC. of the Sicels



There is a good view from here. We look over to a town called [Calascibetta](#).



We drove on from Enna. In the surrounding area there was a type of car race going on. We drove past many checkpoints.



The landscape looks like this in this area.



There is a lot of clay and sand in this area. It had rained heavily the day before and that rain had carried sand down the slopes. There was a lot of sand along the roads, so the road authorities probably had a job to do here.



Then we arrive at [Piazza Armerina](#). It has approx. 21,000 inhabitants. Near the town is the well-known sight [Villa del Casale](#). It is a Roman villa from the 3rd or 4th century. It has a large collection of mosaics.





Streets up in the city.



[Chiesa del Carmine](#)



Here I have parked the car outside the hotel in Piazza Armerina.



We were to stay at [Hotel Ritrovo](#).



There was a real leather sofa in the room.

The hotel was situated in the middle of two one-way roads, but there were many trees in the area which muffled the sound from the traffic, so it was not disturbing.

There were two buildings, a hotel building and a restaurant building.





The restaurant in the restaurant building.



We ate breakfast in the hotel building. The breakfast consisted of almost only cakes.