

CATANIA, SICILY TRAVEL GUIDE

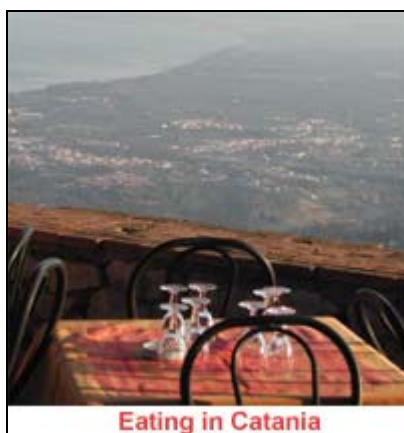
Introduction and brief history

Weather

Catania, like the rest of Sicily, has mild and short but humid winters with a temperature of 10 degree Celsius on average and occasionally colder. February is the coldest month. Summer can be scorching hot, with temperatures reaching peaks of 48 Celsius degrees in summer time. Thunderstorms may take place at the end of August. Springs, from March to May, are mild but unpredictable with sunny and rainy days alternating. Autumn in Catania is mild and often sunny, with sunny days until December.

Nightlife

Nightlife in Catania revolves around the city centre, where there are several pubs (even some Irish pubs) with live entertainment, pizzerias and restaurants. The Agorà Youth Hostel in Catania is very popular, not only with backpackers but also with locals who enjoy its atmosphere (www.agorahostel.com for more information). After eating, usually young people from Catania enjoy going to a nightclub. Most of the nightclubs in summertime are open air and are outside the city, in villages such as Acicastello or Taormina, so you will need a car if you want to visit them. Sicilians go out quite late; they meet at around 10pm, finish eating at around midnight and go to the disco afterwards. At around 4 or 5 am people from Catania enjoy eating a croissant or an arancino in one of the bakeries or bars open in the city centre, especially in la Pescheria. In Catania there are also several cinemas and theatres, such as the music theatre Teatro Massimo Bellini.



Where to stay

In Catania there are several B&Bs, especially around the Via Etnea, hotels of every level, a couple of camping sites on Viale Kennedy (along La Playa) and a youth hostel (the Agorà in the city centre).

Transportation

In Catania there are buses, a local train called Circumetnea, that leads to some villages around the Etna and they are in the process of building a metro that, however, does not have many stops yet and the locals do not use it much. You can rent a car in Sicily, but be aware that the driving style of the locals is quite 'free' and over assertive, totally different from the northern European way of driving.

How to get there

You can get to Catania, Sicily, either by train or coach from mainland Italy or the rest of Sicily, by boat (with Grandi Navi Veloci from Naples or Genoa to Palermo or with a ferry boat from Reggio Calabria to Messina) or by air from Italy or other European destinations, including direct flights from London Gatwick to Catania Fontanarossa.

For more information on how to get to Catania and to Sicily see

<http://www.investsicily.com/getting.htm>

Further useful links

www.enit.it The Italian National Tourism Board's site (also in English).

www.apr.catania.it The local tourism boards' website (in Italian only)

Written by Valeria Lo Iacono – need to learn about [flights, flying and travelling to Catania, Sicily?](#)