2023 PUBLIC PRICES

babilonia

CENTRO DI LINGUA & CULTURA ITALIANA

taormina, sicilia

www.sprachenmarkt.de, Tel: +49-711-12 85 15 40, service@sprachenmarkt.de

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STUDY ITALIAN, DISCOVER SICILY!

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TAKE A VIRTUAL TOUR & VISIT OUR SCHOOL...

...AND DISCOVER OUR COURSES AND PROGRAMS!

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2023 ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS STARTING DATES (A0 LEVEL)

Please, note that **all other levels can start on any Mondays**

JANUARY	PRIVATE LESSONS ONLY from Jan 16th to March 3rd
FEBRUARY	PRIVATE LESSONS ONLY from Jan 16th to March 3rd
MARCH	06.03 + 20.03
APRIL	03.04 + 17.04
MAY	02.05 + 15.05 + 29.05
JUNE	29.05 + 12.06 + 26.06
JULY	26.06 + 10.07 + 24.07
AUGUST	24.07 + 07.08 + 21.08
SEPTEMBER	21.08 + 04.09 + 18.09
OCTOBER	02.10 + 16.10
NOVEMBER	06.11 + 13.11 (until Nov. 17th) PRIVATE LESSONS ONLY from Nov 20th to Dec 16th
DECEMBER	PRIVATE LESSONS ONLY from Nov 20th to Dec 16th

The school will re-open on Monday, Jan, 15th, 2024 for PRIVATE Courses and on Monday, March, 04th, 2024 for GROUP courses

National Public Holidaysin Italy are (on these dates the school is closed):

- Easter Monday
- Liberation Day (April, 25th)
- Labour Day (May, 1st)
- Day of the Republic (June, 2nd)
- Assumption of Mary (August, 15th)
- All Saints' Day (November 1st)
- Immaculate Conception (December, 8th)

We discount National Holidays according to our scheme for Refunds on National Holidays, as below. These amounts will be deducted from the balance on the letter of confirmation and the bills/invoices.

Type of Group Courses	Refund for 1 day holidays
SEMI INTENSIVE COURSE	€ 20 *
INTENSIVE COURSE	€ 30 *
COMBO COURSE	€ 70 *
SUPER INTENSIVE COURSE	€ 65 *

OUR TYPICAL TIME TABLE

Please, note that **all other levels can start on any Mondays**

08:30 - 09:25	One-to-one or Two-to-one lessons
09:30 - 11:00	Intensive group courses: “global approach” session
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 - 13:00	Intensive group courses: "language analyses” session
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 14:55	One-to-one lessons, Combo, Super Intensive sessions, culture courses and extra course
15:00 – 15:55	One-to-one lessons, Combo, Super Intensive sessions, culture courses and extra course
15:00 – 15:55	One-to-one lessons, Combo, Super Intensive sessions, culture courses and extra course

This time-table may change according to the school organizational needs.

On rare occasions (e.g., extraordinary high season) Group Classes may be scheduled in the afternoon (just as an example 14:00 - 15:30 / 16:00 - 17:30) or differently.

Our **class limit** of up to 10 students (the average is between 4 and 7 students per class), continues to ensure the best teaching quality to students in a student-centered type of lesson. Please, note that in very rare occasions in the high season (from mid-May to mid-October) the class limit may be up to 12 students.

All group classes run **Monday through Friday** except during official Italian holidays.

One lesson hour equals 45 (forty-five) minutes in a group class and 55 (fifty-five) minutes in a private lesson.

Group lessons are usually held in the **mornings**, however on occasion (generally during high season) these group lessons may be scheduled in the afternoon.

Individual lessons are generally held in the **afternoon** (or before group classes. Individual lesson packages in the morning will have to be previously confirmed by our office.

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PUBLIC PRICES 2023

No Enrolment Fee is applied. The Enrolment Fee is included in the Course Fee

One lesson hour equals 45 (forty-five) minutes in a group class and 55 (fifty-five) minutes in a private lesson.

These are the Group course structures:

SEMI INTENSIVE	2 lessons/day = 10 lessons/week *global approach OR language analysis session*
INTENSIVE	4 lessons/day = 20 lessons/week *global approach & language analysis session*
COMBO	5 lessons per day = 25 lessons per week *global approach & language analysis session (4 lessons) PLUS 1 hour private lesson*
SUPER INTENSIVE	6 lessons per day = 30 lessons per week *global approach & language analysis session*

# weeks	SEMI INTENSIVE	INTENSIVE	COMBO	SUPER INTENSIVE
1	€ 250	€ 330	€ 505	€ 500
2	€ 500	€ 660	€ 1010	€ 1000
3	€ 700	€ 860	€ 1385	€ 1370
4	€ 900	€ 1060	€ 1760	€ 1740
5	€ 1075	€ 1235	€ 2110	€ 2085
6	€ 1250	€ 1410	€ 2460	€ 2430
7	€ 1425	€ 1585	€ 2810	€ 2775
8	€ 1600	€ 1760	€ 3160	€ 3120
extra week	*€ 100*	*€ 150*	*€ 355*	*€ 350*

COURSES IN A GROUP 2023 PRICES

PRIVATE COURSES *1 lesson = 55 minutes*	**1 h.**	**10 h. per week**	**15 h. per week**	**20 h. per week**
one-to-one	€ 38	€ 380	€ 570	€ 760
two-to-one	€ 52	€ 520	€ 780	€ 1040

INDIVIDUAL COURSES 2023 PRICES

CELI EXAM PREPARATION COURSE
Our school is an authorised **Exam Centre for CELI - Certificato di Lingua Italiana** of the University for Foreigners of Perugia.
The CELI exam is a recognized Italian certification of the European framework ALTE and the Council of Europe.

2023 exam dates are:

- June 20th
- November 21st

The exam prep course includes:

- an assessment test to decide the level of the CELI preparation
- fees for the CELI exam
- Intensive course in a group plus 1 private lesson/day devoted to the preparation for the CELI exams

CELI EXAM PREP COURSE *Intensive course plus 1 private lesson/day devoted to the preparation for the CELI exams*	**2 weeks**	**4 weeks**	**8 weeks**
	€ 1300	€ 2600	€ 5200

CELI EXAM PREP COURSES 2023 PRICES

CULTURE COURSES *2-week course (2 hours/day, 20 hours in total)*	
THE SICILIAN WRITERS IN ITALIAN LITERATURE: *from the writers of the Greek and Roman Age to the Arab poets, from the poets of the court of Frederick II to the Veristi and the contemporary, including Verga, Capuana, Pirandello, Quasimodo, Vittorini, Sciascia, Bufalino and Camilleri.*	€ 950
THE HISTORY OF SICILY: *from the prehistory to the present days passing through the Greeks, the Phoenicians, the Romans, the Byzantines, the Arabs, the Normans, the Spaniards, the unification of the kingdom of Italy, Fascism and world war I)*	€ 950
ART HISTORY IN SICILY: *Sculpture, Painting, Archaeology and Architecture in Sicily from the prehistoric to the present day*	€ 950
LITERATURE & CINEMA IN SICILY: *Sicily has been a natural cinema set for hundreds of movies. Let's explore Sicily through Literature and Cinema!*	€ 950

CULTURE COURSES 2023 PRICES

ITALIAN *PLUS*...

These programs are **to be combined to an Italian language course**.
All courses are given in Italian.
We recomend an **A2 language level**.
Italian plus programs can be extended for more than 1 week.

COOKING CLASS WITH CHEF 02 lessons in one week (about 3 hours/lesson) *This course is meant for those who wish to learn a more professional and sophisticated cuisine. In each session, you will learn how to prepare a full meal with an appetizer, 2 first course (pasta, risotto or soup), a second course (vegetarian, meat or fish), side dish (salad or vegetables) and one dessert.*	€ 180
FOOD & WINE OF SICILY 02 lessons in one week (about 2 hours each, including 1 red wine + 1 white wine + 1 dessert wine + food) *Sicily has an extraordinary production of excellent wines, oils, cheeses, conserves, pastries, jams, etc. Come and learn more about the history and the traditions of the different products with a personal tasting experience. The course includes tasting and explanations about origin, production, recipes*	€ 180

ITALIAN PLUS...
2023 PRICES

HIKING, TREKKING & ECO TOURING 2 eco-tours in the afternoon in one week *This package includes hiking different trails in various National Parks of Sicily guided by professional eco-tour guides. Transportation to the different trails is included. Personal equipment needed. Weather depending. From May to November.*	€ 350
SICILIAN CERAMIC DECORATION 2 sessions in 2 weeks (2 hours per session: 1st session, clay modelling & 2nd session, ceramic decoration) *Learn how to make Sicilian ceramics or wood and furniture restoration, or other forms of art crafts on request. You will be tutored by professional craftsmen at the atelier. At the end of the workshop a Letter of Attendance is issued by the atelier.*	€ 285

ITALIAN PLUS...
2023 PRICES

DIVING FOR BEGINNERS 1 afternoon session *This course is designed for those who have never dived and want to learn how to dive and experience the beauty of diving in Taormina.* *Weather depending. From June to September.*	€ 145
SCUBA-DIVING 1 week, all inclusive: 2 afternoons with 2 dives each afternoon (40" diving each) *This course is designed for those who know how to dive and want to experience the beauty of diving in Taormina.* *Weather depending. From June to September.*	€ 145
TAKE YOUR PADI INTERNATIONAL DIVING LICENCE 2-swimming pool sessions + 3 afternoon dives in sea water in one week *This course is designed for those who want to get the PADI International Diving License.* *Weather depending. From June to September.*	€ 495

ITALIAN PLUS...
2023 PRICES

BUSINESS & EXECUTIVE PROGRAM 2 weeks, 2 days per week, 2-hour lesson per day *If you are a businessman, a lawyer, an architect or a doctor, and you want to meet with an Italian colleague in the same field to discuss professional issues, we can organize tailored private tuition in business, finance, law, medicine and architecture*	€ 1250
COMMERCIAL CORRESPONDENCE 1 week, 5 days per week, 2 hours per day, *Learn how to write, compose or reply to commercial letters in Italian*	€ 500

SPECIAL PURPOSE COURSES 2023 PRICES

CLUB 50+ PROGRAM "THE ISLAND OF THE SUN!"

The idea behind this program is to give partecipants a full taste of Sicily, with several trips to some of the most important sites in Sicily, with cooking and food & wine experiences, with lectures on the history and literature heritage of the Island. This program is specifically geared to travellers over 50 who want to study Italian and, at the same time, learn more about the history, the culture, the traditions and the society of Sicily!!!
It's the perfect way to enjoy a full cultural experience in a leisure time while socializing with new friends. Language classes take place in the morning, with a whole range of cultural activities and excursions following in the afternoons and evenings.

LIVE & EXPERIENCE SICILY IN ONLY TWO WEEKS!

50+ program 2023

50+ PROGRAM DETAILS:

Monday, first week
Lunch together!
Presentation of the program
Taormina guided tour

Tuesday, first week
Lecture on History of Sicily

Wednesday, first week
Hike on Volcano Etna

Thursday, first week
Cooking class: Sicilian cooking lesson

Friday, first week
Free day to explore

Saturday/Sunday, first week
Trip to Siracuse, Neapolis and Ortigia

Monday, second week
Free day to explore

Tuesday, second week
Lecture on The Sicilian Writers in the Italian Literature

Wednesday, second week
Trip to Savoca e Forza d'Agrò

Thursday, second week
Sicilian cheese and wines tasting
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MORE TO KNOW:

- The program is fully run in Italian. We **recommend at least an A1 level** of knowledge of Italian

- Students must be aware that the 50+ program will be run in Italian, even though some English might be used, from time to time, only to summarize the content of the activities or guided tours

PROGRAM STARTING DATES

students can arrive in Taormina both on Saturdays or Sundays

BABILONIA -
ITALIAN COURSES IN ITALY

- March, 30th, 2023
- April, 17th, 2023
- May, 15th, 2023
- September, 04th, 2023
- October, 02nd, 2023

COST OF THE PROGRAM

€ 660 (language course and accommodation not included)

This program **must be combined with a 2 week intensive course** (the price of the intensive course must be added to the cost of this program).

HOME TUITION PROGRAM
LIVE & STUDY AT YOUR TEACHER'S HOME!

LEARN ITALIAN & EXPERIENCE REAL FAMILY LIFE!

Alessandro (the school Babilonia founder) and hi family are happy to welcome students for a study-stay to their home on the hills of Gaggi, in the Alcantara Valley, a few kilometers from the famous Alcantara Gorges, immersed in the greenery of the Sicilian countryside, in the company of the cat Boh and their 2 dogs, Oliva and Blondie. The house is a 5-minute drive from the beautiful beaches of Giardini Naxos, a 10-minute drive from the wonderful Taormina, and half an hour drive from the enchanting Etna.

Students will be hosted in the independet studio-cottage in their garden just a few steps away from their home (about 55 square meters with bathroom and kitchen facilities)

A little paradise where a single student or a couple can relax and learn Italian by leaving with them and taking private lessons with Alessandro.

A beautiful opportunity to enjoy a nice breakfast in their lovely garden, take the morning off to explore Sicily or simply going to the beach, getting back home and have a couple of hours with private lessons and, afterwards, enjoy a Sicilian dinner, chatting with the family and sipping a nice Sicilian wine.

Doesn't sound bad, isn't it?!

We recommend to rent a car at the airport in order to be able to be totally independent during the stay, considering that the house is in the countryside, and especially if students plan to visit some of the historical or natural treasures of Sicily.

Otherwise, we can organize a taxi pick up from the airport to the house and students can rent a car in Taormina or Giardini later if and when they want to drive somewhere.

Full week stay (7 nights). *It can be extended to more than 1 week*	**1 person** (*total price*)	**1 couple** *(total price)*
HALF-BOARD **Breakfast & Dinner** **+ 2 private hour lessons a day** *(10 h/w - Monday to Friday)*	€ 960	€ 1365
FULL-BOARD: **Breakfast, lunch & dinner** **+ 2 private hour lessons a day** *(10 h/w - Monday to Friday)*	€ 1.100	€ 1575
extra private lesson per hour	€ 35	€ 35

HOME TUITION PROGRAM
LIVE & STUDY AT YOUR TEACHER'S HOME!

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ACCOMMODATION

All housing is on a **first come first served basis** and is strictly booked from week-end to week-end. On the day of departure students must vacate their accommodation by 10.00 am

T**he school acts only as an intermediary** regarding the lodgings and takes no responsibility regarding the relationship between the renter and the student. We believe that quality accommodation can be just as important as a well-planned curriculum. **All of the accommodation available through the school have been selected for their cleanliness, comfort, and location**. Most of our accommodation is **within 15 minutes walking distance from the school**.

Special prices have been negotiated for our students that are generally below the standard rate available to tourists.BABILONIA does not take any commission in the placement of students in accommodations. It is a service that we offer exclusively to our students because we believe that it is an essential part of an enjoyable and productive stay.

Since all of our accommodation is privately owned and operated, there are minor differences in amenities, but all meet a standard level of quality and convenience and are checked every 3 months by our school.In matching housing needs with what is available, everyone must keep in mind the cyclical and limited nature of housing resources in Taormina. The sooner you communicate housing needs, registration and deposit, the better we can respond to your needs.

When we confirm the accommodation address to you, you will be given the full address for the accommodation and the telephone number(s) for the landlord/hosting family.

Students must inform their landlords/ hosting family of their time of arrival in Taormina in order to fix an appointment to get the apartment keys.

BABILONIA declines any responsibility if a student does not inform the landlord/hosting family (or the agents and the agents then informing the school) about their time of arrival at least four days in advance. If students do not inform the landlords/hosting family about their time of arrival in Taormina, they will risk not finding the landlord/hosting family at the apartment. Landlords for independent or shared apartment do not live in the same apartment and sometimes they can live far away.

In case of complaints, a student can address our administrative office to talk to the Apartment Manager, who will first talk with the student and understand the complaint and then call the landowner in order to fix the problem.

In case of serious and major problems, under suggestion of our Apartment Manager, the Administration Office will move the student to another apartment or find another adequate solution. No change of accommodation will be made for reasons that are not fully justifiable (non-major problems like type of view from the windows, absence of balconies & terraces, distance from school, personal taste issues in furniture, etc) The policy for complaints is on display in our school administrative office.

If no complaint is addressed locally and immediately to BABILONIA's office in the first instance, BABILONIA will NOT take any responsibility for the subject of the student's complaint. Complaints reported to agents after the end of the course or stay in Taormina will be judged as NOT VALID by BABILONIA's management if the complaint has not be previously reported in writing to BABILONIA's office by the student/client.

ACCOMMODATION

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	price per night SINGLE ROOM	price per night DOUBLE ROOOM price per person *
ROOM IN SHARED APARTMENT	€ 45	€ 35
INDEPENDENT STUDIO APARTMENT	€ 75	€ 50
HOST-FAMILY bed & breakfast	€ 50	€ 40
HOST-FAMILY half-board	€ 60	€ 50
HOST-FAMILY full-board	€ 70	€ 60
BUDGET 2 STAR HOTEL	€ 70	€ 42
4 STAR HOTEL	€ seasonal pricing	€ seasonal pricing

- ***PLEASE, NOTE THAT WE DO NOT PAIR STUDENTS IN DOUBLE ROOMS WHO DO NOT PREVIOUSLY REQUEST TO SHARE A ROOM***

ACCOMMODATION PRICES 2023

GENERAL INFORMATION

WHY BABILONIA?

Since 1992, we, at BABILONIA - Centre for Italian language and culture in Taormina, Sicily have passionately dedicated ourselves to promoting our Italian and Sicilian heritage and culture along with the study of the Italian language. We strive to offer not only an opportunity to learn the Italian language but also to directly experience Italian culture and Italian life.

We founded the Centre for Italian Studies with the intention of offering lovers and advocators of Italy and of the Italian language and culture the possibility of learning Italian in another part of Italy other than the traditional destinations and to offer the opportunity to study Italian in Sicily.

Sicily, being an island in the center of the Mediterranean boasts a strategic geographical position for world trade, which boomed when trade was once centered around the Mediterranean. For more than 2,000 years it was at the centre of political and commercial interest for many different civilizations. All have undeniably left their trace on the island: Greek temples and theatres, Roman amphitheatres and villas, Byzantine cubes, Arabic, mosques, Norman palaces and Baroque architecture to name a few examples.

Sicily has 7 UNESCO heritage sites, 2 Nobel prizes for literature and an archeological artistic and monumental heritage that dates back more than 2,500 years. This huge cultural baggage was left to us by the Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans, Spanish and was enriched by the breathtaking landscape which stretches from the Aeolian islands to Etna, from the dozen nature reserves to the stunning countryside where Sicily's excellent products are cultivated, all free from GMO's because Sicily is also OGM-free and so oil, wine, cheese, vegetables, fruit, etc are all high quality products that give us a life and gastronomy that has flavors and influences that come from Ancient Greece, from the Arabs and the Spanish. Sicily has always represented a true Melting Pot to the world.

It is for this reason that since 1992, the Centre for Italian language and culture BABILONIA in Taormina has dedicated itself to the promotion of the cultural heritage of Sicily and the study of Italian language and culture. Our aim is to not only offer the opportunity to study Italian but to propose an unforgettable learning, cultural and human experience

Our Italian courses in Taormina can be the start of a trip around Sicily. From Taormina it is easy to reach Syracuse, Etna, the Aeolian islands, Catania, Piazza Armerina and Noto. From there you can continue to visit Palermo, Selinunte, Segesta, Agrigento, Erice and all the other destinations where you can see the Treasures of Sicily

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GENERAL INFORMATION

A SCHOOL FOR LOVERS OF THE ITALIAN CULTURE AND LIFE!

Our Centre is located in the heart of world famous Taormina, the most beautiful town in Sicily. Taormina, from atop Mount Tauro, looks over the Bay of Naxos, the first Greek colony in Sicily, founded in 735 B.C. The magnificent Mediterranean-blue bay with active volcano Mount Etna in the background offer a spectacular view from almost everywhere in town. Taormina is famous for its beauty, its incredible heritage, history, archaeology and architecture, as well as for its reputation in welcoming travellers.

Taormina is perfectly situated to offer students easy access to the beautiful and historically important treasures of Sicily. Our courses and programs are held at “Casa Silva”, an historic villa, built in 1817 just 200 metres away from the Greek Theatre: an architectural, natural and historical treasure that Taormina has miraculously managed to conserve. The villa still today boasts a luxurious botanical garden filled with citrus trees, Mediterranean plants, centuries-old palms, monkey puzzle trees and magnolias, as well as many other exotic trees and plants.

Not just a language school
but a truly cultural centre where our international students meet the local community

BABILONIA's mission of being not just a language school but a truly **Cultural Centre** open to both our International Students and the local community (Taormina residents and Italian visitors) continues successfully!

At Casa Silva, together with its Italian language courses and Italian culture courses, **BABILONIA regularly hosts book presentations by authors**, a cine-forum and in summertime, painting and sculpture exhibitions in its 1.000 square metres of botanical garden. Additionally, live theatre performances and live concerts (jazz and classical music) are offered. In the net-c@fé located in the WI-FI garden students can enjoy their leisure time under the lush green trees to study, relax and meet their classmates.

Our international students gain a wider cultural experience from this and have the chance to easily interact and integrate with the local community

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A language is the result of a culture and of its history, its traditions, its territory.

For us, at BABILONIA, **a language is not the result of a series of grammar rules. A language is the result of a culture, of a history, of traditions and of a land**. For us, it is the result of a way of looking at life and the world. It is this that we strive to share with our international students.

With this in mind, our Culture courses have a special focus on Sicily:

- Literature: “Sicilian writers in Italian literature”
- Art History: “Art History in Sicily”
- History: “The Mediterranean History of Sicily”
- Cinema: “Cinema in Sicily, Sicily in Cinema”

And this is why, beyond being an Italian Cultural Centre, we have created "Italian plus..." programs:

- 50+ program: “The Island of the Sun”
- Italian plus Cooking courses
- Italian plus Food & wines of Sicily
- Italian plus Sicilian ceramic
- Italian plus Diving
- Italian plus Hiking

The main goal of our Culture courses and Italian plus programs is to offer the chance to study Italian and to enjoy a life and cultural experience in Sicily, fully immersed in its culture, in its history, in its traditions, in its territory.

Studying abroad is an experience that broadens our knowledge and our spirit!

GENERAL INFORMATION

OUR SCHOOL ACCREDITATIONS

Our Centre for Italian Studies is the oldest Italian language school in Sicily and in South of Italy and one of the most accredited Italian language schools .
In our Italian language courses, we combine high teaching quality with the most personal and friendly atmosphere and environment. Since 1992, we have had years of constant appreciation and academic recognition.

Our courses and programs are accredited by:

- the **Italian Ministry of Education**
- **I.A.L.C.** – International Association of Language Centers
- **A.S.I.L.S.** - Association of Schools of Italian as Second Language
- **EDUITALIA**
- the **University for Foreigners of Perugia** as Official CELI and DILS Exam Centre
- the **University "Ca' Foscari" of Venice** as Teacher Training Centre for graduating teachers of Italian as Foreign Language Master ITALS
- **C.S.N.** -Agency for Higher Education, in Sweden
- **Bildungsurlaub**, in Germany
- **U.S.** College & **University Credits**

sf / star awards
FINALIST 2022

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The unique atmosphere at our school has been consistently praised by our students. The high percentage of students who return to our school, or recommend the school to their friends, additionally attests to the merit of the Center for Italian Studies "Babilonia".

We are also proud that our continuous efforts to offer high standards of teaching and related services for our students have been rewarded by Study Travel Magazine by winning the **STM Star School Award** in 2008 and being short-listed in 2006, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013,2014, 2015, 2019, 2020 and 2022 too!

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GENERAL INFORMATION

TAORMINA AND SICILY!

For more than 2500 years, Sicily has shared its spirit with travellers from many lands. Situated in the centre of the Mediterranean, Sicily has served as a meeting place for three continents, each of which has contributed to Sicily's unique history and culture. There are few other places which have been impacted by as great a number of civilizations: the Sicani, the Sicilians, the Greeks, the Carthaginians, the Romans, the Byzantines, the Arabs, the Normans, the Spaniards, all influenced the vibrant Sicilian culture. Our study abroad programs reflect Sicily's magnificently rich 2500 years of knowledge, poetry, art and traditions. Studying Italian in Sicily is also an opportunity to discover the roots of Italian culture.

Taormina was built atop Mount Tauro, just above the Bay of Naxos, the first Greek colony in Sicily, founded in 735 B.C. The magnificent Mediterranean-blue bay and Mount Volcano Etna on the back offer a spectacular view from almost everywhere in town.

Taormina can be the starting point for a trip around Sicily to discover the roots of Italian culture and traditions.

As Wolfgang Goethe wrote in 1786: **“To have seen Italy without having seen Sicily is to have not seen Italy at all: for Sicily is the key to everything “**.

The reason he wrote this was that, on the contrary to what most people think, the start of Italian history does not lend its foundations to Rome but to Magna Grecia, from which Caput Mundi drew culture, politics, philosophy and religion.

Remember, as a preferred partner, you are always welcome at our school for a free course!

And... are you ready to stay with us for one week and refresh your Italian?

Experience a study abroad program with us! Let us know when you have time and we will help you organise your stay in Taormina!

GENERAL INFORMATION

FIRST DAY OF CLASS

We highly recommend that all students begin on our specified start dates, which occur roughly every two weeks (please consult Course Schedule) and it is required for all Absolute Beginners.
The following description is valid for the course starting dates according to our Course Schedule.

08:30 AM – 09:00
CHECK-IN TIME AND WELCOME BREAKFAST

Students should arrive at school at 08.30 on the first day to check in and start their day with a welcome breakfast.
Students are welcomed in our student reception and garden with an Italian breakfast of coffee and pastry. This is an opportunity to meet our Studies Director.

09:00 AM – 09:30
ORAL ASSESSMENT TEST

All new students should take an online written exam https://corsi-di-italiano.babilonia.it/test-italiano/ at least on week before their arrival in Taormina . Once at school, students then complete an individual oral exam to assess their level of spoken Italian and real communication skills.

09:30 AM – 01:00 PM
IN CLASS LESSONS

New students will be told which class to join during their check-in in our office

AFTERNOON
SOCIAL ACTIVITES

Students will receive our weekly social and cultural activity program by email after tcheckin-in in our office

GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS

All enrolments are subject to the following General Conditions, which become legally binding on acceptance of enrolment by BABILONIA – Italian Language School -

Lessons

All group classes run Monday through Friday except during official Italian holidays.
Students must present themselves at school on their first day at 08.30.
One lesson hour equals 45 (forty-five) minutes in a group class and 55 (fifty-five) minutes in a private lesson or in the “Intensive course” afternoon session.
Group lessons are usually held in the mornings, however on occasion (generally during high season) these group lessons may be scheduled in the afternoon.
Individual lessons are generally held before or after group classes.
Individual lessons in the morning will have to be previously confirmed by our office.
The number of course hours includes the entrance/placement test (mandatory) and final exam (given on request).
Completion of a particular 4-week course does not guarantee advancement to the next level.
In the rare event that a student arrives, takes the entrance exam and is the only student for a particular level, that student’s tuition cost will be converted to private one-to-one lessons. The standard 4 lesson course (standard course) will be converted to 2 hours of private lessons.
If we don’t have a group (min 2 student) for a certain level of the afternoon component of the intensive course the 2 lessons in group will be converted into 1-hour private lesson.

In the event that there are only 2 students for a particular level, the number of hours for the class will be reduced by 1 lesson per day (for example: 3 lessons instead of 4 for the Standard class) given the more intense nature of a small class size.
Our class limit of up to 10 students (the average is between 4 and 7 students per class), continues to ensure the best teaching quality to students in a student-centered type of lesson. Please, note that in very rare occasions in high season (from mid-May to mid- October) the class limit may be up to 12 students.
In case of complaints, a student can address our administrative office to talk to the Director of Studies. The policy for complaints is on display in our school administrative office.

National Holidays

The school is closed on Easter Monday, Liberation Day (25/4) Labour Day (1/5), Day of the Republic (2/6), Assumption of Mary (15/8), All Saints' Day (1/11), and Immaculate Conception (8/12). For these holidays, we will grant a discount, according to course that they are enrolled for. These amounts will be immediately deducted on the letter of confirmation so that you can bill/invoice your clients immediately, net of this refund.

Type of Group Courses	Refund for 1 day holidays
SEMI INTENSIVE COURSE	€ 20 *
INTENSIVE COURSE	€ 30 *
COMBO COURSE	€ 70 *
SUPER INTENSIVE COURSE	€ 65 *

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Accommodation

Finding accommodation is a free service for all students regularly enrolled.

All housing is on a first come first served basis and is strictly booked from week-end to week-end. On the day of departure students must vacate their accommodation by 10.00 am

The school acts only as an intermediary regarding the lodgings and takes no responsibility regarding the relationship between the renter and the student.

We believe that quality accommodation can be just as important as a well-planned curriculum. All of the accommodation available through the school have been selected for their cleanliness, comfort, and location. Most of our accommodation is within 15 minutes walking distance from the school.Special prices have been negotiated for our students that are generally below the standard rate available to tourists.BABILONIA does not take any commission in the placement of students in accommodations. It is a service that we offer exclusively to our students because we believe that it is an essential part of an enjoyable and productive stay.

Since all of our accommodation is privately owned and operated, there are minor differences in amenities, but all meet a standard level of quality and convenience and are checked every 3 months by our school.In matching housing needs with what is available, everyone must keep in mind the cyclical and limited nature of housing resources in Taormina. The sooner you communicate housing needs, registration and deposit, the better we can respond to your needs.

When we confirm the accommodation address to you, you will be given the full address for the accommodation and the telephone number(s) for the landlord/hosting family.

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Students must inform their landlords/ hosting family of their time of arrival in Taormina in order to fix an appointment to get the apartment keys. BABILONIA declines any responsibility if a student does not inform the landlord/hosting family (or the agents and the agents then informing the school) about their time of arrival at least four days in advance. If students do not inform the landlords/hosting family about their time of arrival in Taormina, they will risk not finding the landlord/hosting family at the apartment. Landlords for independent or shared apartment do not live in the same apartment and sometimes they can live far away.
All of the accommodation available through the school has been selected by our Accommodation Manager, according to our Inspection Scheme for cleanliness, comfort, and location.Since all accommodation is privately owned and operated, there are minor differences in amenities, but all meet a standard level of quality and convenience and are regularly checked by our school.
In matching housing needs with what is available, everyone must keep in mind the seasonal and limited nature of housing resources in Taormina, and our efforts to offer competitive rates in respect of the current market prices.
In case of complaints, a student can address our administrative office to talk to the Apartment Manager, who will first talk with the student and understand the complaint and then call the landowner in order to fix the problem.
In case of serious and major problems, under suggestion of our Apartment Manager, the Administration Office will move the student to another apartment or find another adequate solution. No change of accommodation will be made for reasons that are not fully justifiable (non-major problems like type of view from the windows, absence of balconies & terraces, distance from school, personal taste issues in furniture, etc) The policy for complaints is on display in our school administrative office.
If the payment for the accommodation is not done directly by the agent, on their first day of school, students are given a bill to be paid within 24 hours.

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Pick-up booking conditions

We offer an airport pick-up service from the Catania Airport to Taormina. This service must be reserved at least one week in advance of arrival.
All lastminute flight changes or late flights (on Saturdays and Sundays) must be immediately communicated directly to the taxi service. The telephone number of the taxi service is always provided by our office to the booking part who is responsible for informing the taxi service. Please, note that the taxi driver's telephone number for a pick-up service is (+39) 338-7167241 (Mr Renato Mirabile, RM SERVICES).
Please give this telephone number to your client for any booking of a pick-up service from the airport. The school will not be responsible if the agent will not inform the client.
The school is not responsible if agents do not notify the student of the stated conditions or if the student does not follow the conditions given.
This service cannot be cancelled after 48 hours before arrival.
Taxi airport pick-up is available for both individuals and groups. Larger groups may be accommodated on request and with appropriate advanced notice.

Extra courses

Extra courses are operated through external partners who are liable for the services provided.

Changes to bookings

On no account can the tuition fee paid for group classes be transferred to individual classes, after the beginning of a course.
After the course starts, BABILONIA reserves the right to levy an additional administration fee (150 €) to cover the costs of any changes that are requested to pre-booked courses or accommodation after we have confirmed the student's place in school.
It is possible to upgrade the course for a more intensive course during the study-stay but the contrary is not possible, without paying an additional administration fee (150 €).

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Cancellations and refund policy-general

The following are BABILONIA – Italian Language School - charges and refunds for cancellation or withdrawal from a course:

·The school must be informed immediately of any requested changes or withdrawal notices or cancellations in writing.
·In case of cancellation, a € 150 Cancellation Fee will be billed to the agent if the cancellation arrives less than 2 weeks prior to the course starting date
·Deposits and fees are not transferable from person to person
·If BABILONIA rejects an application, the applicant is entitled to a full refund within 30 days

On no account can the tuition fee paid for group classes be transferred to individual classes, after the beginning of a course.

Refunds of tuition fees after course start date

If a student does not attend, withdraws or shortens his/her course after the course has begun, tuition fees will not be refunded. No refunds are allowed for a delayed start or premature departure. Student tuition is never refunded due to absence from class and study hours subsequently lost cannot be made up.

Refunds of Accommodation fees after arrival

No refund is allowed for a delayed arrival or premature departure. Should a student withdraw from his/her accommodation after arrival without satisfying the Administration Office with a valid motive, a 2-week notice is required. In this case, any accommodation fees paid in excess of this period will be refunded in full, less a cancellation fee of € 150.
In the event of a fully justifiable reason for withdrawal, with the help of our Apartment Manager, the Administration Office will move the student to another apartment or find an alternative solution.

“Permesso di Soggiorno” Residence Permit and Visas

According to the Italian Law n° 68, May28, 2007, foreigners (citizens not belonging to the European Union) staying in Italy for less than 90 days with a regular Tourist Visa do not need to apply for a Permesso di Soggiorno.
As per the Official website of the Italian Police (http://www.poliziadistato.it/pds/ps/immigrazione/ingresso.htm), all individuals entering Italy who are citizens of non-European countries (countries not belonging to the Schengen area) and staying in Italy for fewer than 90 days are only required to get their passports stamped at the customs station at the airport of entry. The customs stamp is equivalent to the Dichiarazione di Presenza required of the Schengen area citizens. Additionally, according to the current legislation, U.S., Canadians, Australians, N.Zs.and Japanese citizens, do not need to apply for a Permesso di Soggiorno, if staying for fewer than 90 days.

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If the stay is for over 90 days, all non EU citizens who enter Italy legally must comply with the rules governing the stay of foreigners in Italy, and are required to report their presence on Italian territory to the local Central Police Station ('Questura') of the province in which they are staying within 8 working days from the date of entry and apply for a residence permit ('permesso di soggiorno') pursuant to article 5 of Law 286/1998. Visitors requesting this residence permit are required to be fingerprinted.
For up-to-date information we suggest looking on the Italian Police website http://www.poliziadistato.it/ and the Foreign Office website www.esteri.it

Accident and Medical Insurance
We advise students to take out medical and personal insurance before leaving their home country.
Citizens from the European Union are entitled to free medical care in Italy if they hold an European Health Insurance Card. More information on: http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=559 or can be obtained from their local health authority in their home country before departing for Italy.
Citizens not from the European Union must conform to the requirements issued by the Italian Government. Details can be obtained at their local Italian Embassies.
BABILONIA has insurance for those liabilities expressly imposed by Italian law and for indoor and outdoor activities organised by the school.

Resolution of disputes
If a student wishes to complain about any aspect of the services, the complaint should be made in the first instance to BABILONIA office.
In the event that the matter is not resolved, the student or student's agent should make a complaint in writing to the Director of BABILONIA.

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Such complaints will be investigated provided that:

- ·the complaint is received within one month of the course finishing
- ·the complaint was initially registered in writing
- ·all bills relating to the student making the complaint have been settled in full

If no complaint is addressed locally and immediately to BABILONIA's office in the first instance, BABILONIA will NOT take any responsibility for the subject of the student's complaint. Complaints reported to agents after the end of the course or stay in Taormina will be judged as NOT VALID by BABILONIA's management if the complaint has not be previously reported in writing to BABILONIA's office by the student/client.

Liabilities

BABILONIA and its staff and representatives are not held liable for any loss, damage or injury to persons or property however caused, except where liability is expressly imposed by Italian law. BABILONIA is not held liable in the event that any service contract to be provided by BABILONIA should become impossible to supply for any cause or reason beyond the control of BABILONIA.

Valid prices

Prices in the brochure are valid from January 1st until December 31st

Expulsion

BABILONIA reserves the right to dismiss any student whose conduct is unsatisfactory at the discretion of the centre Director whose decision is final. There will be no refund for fees in cases of expulsion and any billed but unpaid fees become payable immediately.

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Acceptance of these regulations

All enrolments are subject to the above-mentioned General Conditions, which become legally binding on acceptance of enrolment by BABILONIA – Italian Language School -

By BABILONIA's acceptance of an applicant's electronic and/or signed form of registration or any other written form of registration by the Agent or Representative, the applicant tacitly agrees to accept these General Conditions.