

**2024 HPS/MAG International Garden Tour Registration Form**

Gardens and Villas of Sicily & Gardens and Architecture Around Rome Extension

**9-Day Sicily with 4-Day Rome Option:**

**Monday, September 9 – Tuesday September 17, 2024**

**Optional Rome Extension: Tuesday, Sept. 17– Friday, Sept. 20**

**TRIP COORDINATORS:**

Jill Shaw (email: [jillbluesky@gmail.com](mailto:jillbluesky@gmail.com); cell: 215-909-0664)

Dawn Freeman (email: [dfreeman01@comcast.net](mailto:dfreeman01@comcast.net); cell 610-442-8875)

**TRAVELER'S INFORMATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (note: must be a current HPS member)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: cellular: \_\_\_\_\_ other: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Emergency Contact:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: cellular: \_\_\_\_\_ other: \_\_\_\_\_

**ROOM ACCOMMODATIONS:**

Choose one:  Double room or  Single Room (requires single supplement)

For double rooms (check one):

I am sharing a room with (name) \_\_\_\_\_

I would like a roommate

Type of bed (check one):  2 Twins or  1 Queen

**ROME EXTENSION (optional)**

Yes  No

**DIETARY NEEDS:**

Vegetarian  Gluten-free  Other \_\_\_\_\_

**ANY MOBILITY CONCERNS (describe):** \_\_\_\_\_

## **TO REGISTER**

Registration is by paper mail only and on a first come first served basis.

This trip is only open to current HPS members. Reservations are allocated upon receipt of a completed registration form and receipt of deposit check on a first-come, first-served basis. The registration fee includes a donation to HPS (\$100) and gratuities for the tour guide and driver (\$100 per traveler for Sicily only and \$140 per traveler for Sicily and the Rome Extension).

To register:

- 1) Complete the Registration Form
- 2) Make deposit checks payable to *HPS/MAG*
  - A check for \$200 for **Sicily Trip ONLY, or**
  - A check for \$240 for the **Sicily Trip AND the Rome Extension**
- 3) Enclose a copy of your current Covid Vaccination Card
- 4) Mail your completed registration form, copy of your covid-card, and deposit check to HPS Treasurer and Trip Coordinator Jill Shaw at the address below:

Jill Shaw  
10 Welsh Lane  
Glen Mills PA 19342

By registering, you agree to the terms/conditions described on the pages below.

## **AIR ARRANGEMENTS**

- You are responsible for securing your own airline ticket to Catania, Sicily and your return flights - they are not included in the cost. For travelers participating in the Rome extension, the flight from Palermo to Rome is included in the cost of the extension.
- The group will meet at the airport in Catania on Sept. 9 at a designated time (t.b.d. based on US & Italy flight times), where we shall be met by our local coach and transfer to our hotel in the Taormina area.
- It is recommended that you wait to schedule your flights until after you are notified that we have confirmed the minimum 20 registrants for the Sicily portion of the trip and the minimum 15 registrants for the Rome Extension (likely mid to late January). Details of the recommended flights (departing from Philadelphia and Newark) will be forwarded to you when we are assured of our 20 travelers.

## **LAND FEES- BRIGHTWATER HOLIDAY TOURS**

The tour will be conducted and managed by Brightwater Holiday Tours. See below for more details on what is included and payment terms.

- **Gardens and Villas of Sicily Tour £2195.00 per person** (double occupancy); single supplement £595.00

Included in the price (per person):

- 8 nights' dinner, bed and breakfast - 4 nights at the 4-star Hotel Caparena, Taormina; 2 nights at the 4-star Hotel Poggio del Sole, Ragusa and 2 nights at the 4-star Hotel Piazza Borsa in Palermo. All hotels have elevators and all rooms have private facilities.

- Three lunches
- Visits to the Villa Trinità, Mount Etna, Casa Cuseni, two private gardens near Catania, San Giuliano, gli AROMI, Princess Maria Carla Borghese gardens, a private garden in Modica and Palermo Botanic Gardens
- Guided walking tour of Taormina included entrance to the Greek Theatre; visit to Monreale Village including Cathedral and Abbey;
- Guided tour of Palermo including Norman Palace and Cattedrale di Palermo
- Services of Trevor Edwards as Brightwater Holidays Tour Manager
- Comfortable coach service in Sicily

*Not Included (per person):*

- Air Travel
- All lunches except the 3 included above
- Gratuities for hotel and restaurant service
- Personal expenses
- \$200.00 Per person for Tour Manager/Driver Gratuities and HPS Donation
- Single Supplement £595.00

**Gardens and Architecture Around Rome Extension £1405.00 per person** (based on double occupancy)

Included in the price (per person)

- One way flight between Palermo and Rome
- Three nights' bed and breakfast in Rome at the 4-star Rome Times Hotel
- Welcome drink on the first evening in Rome
- Visits to the gardens of Ninfa, Castel Gandolfo, Villa d'Este and Villa Lante; guided tour of Viterbo
- Services of Trevor Edwards as Brightwater Holidays Tour Manager
- Comfortable coaching in Rome

*Not included in the cost of the Rome Extension:*

- Air travel except the one way flight between Palermo and Rome
- All lunches and dinners
- Gratuities for hotel and restaurant service
- Personal expenses
- \$40.00 Per Person for Tour Manager and Driver Gratuities
- Single Supplement £420.00

**Fee Schedule And Payment Information**

The deposit payment to Brightwater Tour is £350 per person and is payable once it is confirmed that we have the minimum 20 registrants for the Sicily portion of the trip and the minimum 15 registrants for the Rome Extension (likely mid to late January). The balance payment is due 12 weeks prior to departure (by June 17, 2024).

**CANCELLATION/REFUND INFORMATION**

In the event that you need to cancel, notify the HPS trip coordinator and Brightwater Holiday contact person immediately.

## HPS

If a person must cancel, their payment will be refunded as per the policy of the travel operator/agency. Their \$100 contribution to HPS/MAG and gratuity contribution will be refunded. If there is no member who can replace them, it is possible that the entire trip may need to be canceled if the minimum number of participants required by the agency/operator cannot be satisfied.

### Brightwater Holidays Cancellation Policy:

Cancellation charges apply from the day that written confirmation is received; the schedule is noted below:

- Up to 84 days: deposit and any invoiced flight or hotel costs
- 83-64 days: 35% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs
- 63-46 days: 55% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs
- 45-31 days: 75% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs
- From 30 days to departure: 100% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs

Brightwater recommends that each oversea traveler purchase adequate travel insurance (including coverage for any Covid related issues). You may make a claim on your Holiday Insurance if the reason for the cancellation falls within the terms of the insurance policy.

### COVID POLICY/INFORMATION

Covid is still present and outbreaks are still occurring. For the safety of all travelers, we are asking registrants to have the most current covid vaccination. Please provide a copy of your Covid card and/or other documentation of vaccination. If you need to obtain an updated vaccination, you may register with the expectation that you will provide documentation of your vaccination update in a timely manner.

In addition, HPS/MAG international trip participants will comply with all COVID-related requirements imposed by the host countries, the in-country travel company and the COVID-related requirements, if any, of each garden host. All attendees must bring a mask in case it is required.

### HPS/MAG TRIP POLICIES and ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The Sicily trip requires a minimum of 20 paying travelers and the Rome Extension requires a minimum of 15 paying travelers. If we do **NOT** meet these minimum requirements, the trip or the extension will be canceled. We plan to have a maximum of 22 paying travelers.
- All members are eligible for all trips. Membership must be current, and dues paid through the end of the trip. A new member can sign up at the time of registration to become a member and register for the trip.
- Members must be responsible for their mental and physical ability to participate in the trip. Members will be asked if they have a mobility issue and need ADA restrooms and/or accommodations. Best efforts will be made to accommodate this issue but may not be possible.  
**NOTE: This trip requires a good degree of mobility. Some of the places we will visit have many steps to climb, some without railings, and long distances to walk on hilly terrain.**
- Each member participant must have a form of communication that is operable in all trip states or trip country/countries (preferably a cell phone) which enables them to be reached immediately during the trip in the event of an emergency.
- No member's place on a trip is guaranteed until all money requested has been paid and all completed paperwork received.

- During all HPS/MAG trips and events, each member participant is representing the Hardy Plant Society/ Mid-Atlantic Region. We are always respectful of our garden hosts, their property and culture and each other. We abide by the schedule, take only pictures and thank our generous garden hosts.
- Gifts to the trip organizers are not included in the cost of the trip. Gratuities for drivers and hosts are included. Gratuities for hotel and restaurant service are not included.
- Travelers are to arrange special dietary concerns and other requests with each hotel. The hotels typically provide gluten-free and vegetarian options.