



*Projet Erasmus+ Namur - Marsala*

## *" Patrimonia "*



*A la découverte du patrimoine historique, architectural et culturel*

# *Mount Erice*



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# ABSTRACT

## ERICE



## ERICE : medieval village

Erice stands on top of Mount San Giuliano, 751 m. above sea level. It is located on a superb geographical position from where you can admire the most beautiful panoramas of the city from above. Thanks to this geographical location, Frederick II built the castle, currently within reach of visitors and the masonry network all around the city. Today in Erice live about 1000 residents who can meet among the typical alleys built with "**Balate**" (marble blocks), which interchange in a labyrinth between old and new buildings. In modern times, the entire historic center is forbidden from transit, which has allowed over time to preserve buildings and roads.



Thanks to its geographical location, Erice is the first seismological center in the Mediterranean, thanks to the anti-seismic system of CENTER ETTORE MAJORANA, created by Professor Zichichi.

## THE TRAPANI DOOR



THE TRAPANI DOOR, is the main entrance to Erice. From there begins the main street that runs through the city. There are shops that offer culinary tastings and souvenirs ; on the left is the Duomo, called "Matrix", the main church of Erice, next to the watchtower built by Frederick II. On the main climbing alley, you can admire the town, with its houses and monuments leading to the center of Erice.

# THE VENERE CASTLE

THE VENERE CASTLE, built by the Normans as a fortress, was built on the ruins of a pre-existing sanctuary. Later, blackberries and Balio towers were built, formerly connected to the castle by a drawbridge, today replaced by a staircase and built as a defense of the castle. When Count Augustin Pepoli got the estate, he surrounded it with English style public gardens, called "del Balio", in memory of the Norman magistrate.



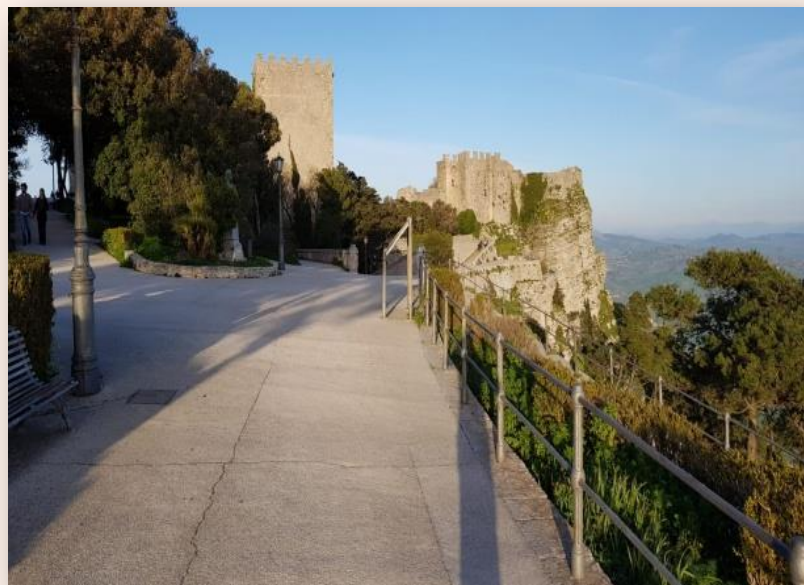
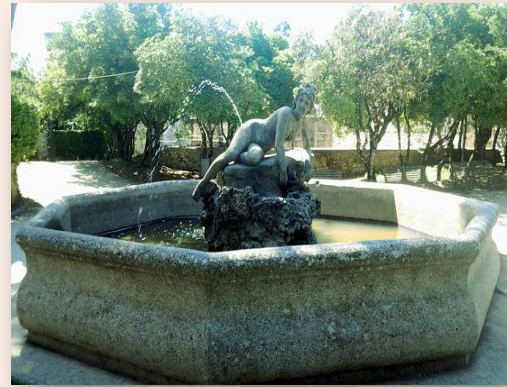
# THE TORRETTA PEPOLI



THE TORRETTA PEPOLI, was built in 1870 by Count Augustin Pepoli, amateur and researcher, he had it built so that it is his corner for study and meditation. Recently inaugurated, it was chosen as Peace Observatory and Mediterranean Lighthouse. The turret, articulated on 4 levels, is made in « liberty » style. A multimedia museum will be set up inside, where it will be possible to revive, through the voice of Count Pepoli, the history, the myth, the culture and the tradition of the characters who left a significant imprint in Erice.

# THE BALIO GARDEN

It is particularly interesting to visit the Balio Garden, also known as the "GARDEN OF LOVERS" which, among other things, has a semicircular bench inside which lovers could once exchange romantic phrases while being distant from each other. Indeed, its shape can reflect the voice throughout its form.



Erice was formerly known as the city of the "hundred churches" and convents, the best known being the **Mother Church** and the **San Giuliano's Church**.

## THE MOTHER CHURCH

Among the attractions to see when visiting Erice is the **Mother Church**, one of the main and most beautiful places of worship of the town, built by Frederick of Aragon in the XIV century, initially for defensive purposes. It's located in Vito Carvini Street and right next to it is the Erice Bell Tower, an imposing structure that once served as a watch tower.



## SAN GIULIANO'S CHURCH

Built by Roger d'Altavilla in 1076, on a pre-existing Church, in appreciation to the Saint who helped him drive the Arabs out of the city. The front of the church, with the imprint of the Renaissance, was surmounted by the majestic belfry, built later on. The Church has been modified several times over the centuries, until taking the present aspect. Inside are three naves adorned with Baroque stuccoes preserving the statuary groups of the mysteries which, on Easter Friday, walk through the streets of the medieval town on the shoulders of parishioners. Adjacent to the church, in the small square with the same name, is the marble statue of "Saint Alberto degli Abati", the creation of Palermo sculptor Nicolò Travaglia.

