



# Catania

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eFesenko/Shutterstock.com

Charismatic seaside Catania is a young, dynamic soul inhabiting a body of narrow alleys and ornate Baroque buildings mounted on top of well-preserved remains of ancient Greek and Roman settlements. Mount Etna defines the cityscape both in terms of the striking panorama and building material - Catania is even referred to as the "grey city" for the color of lava rocks used to construct many of its buildings.



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K. Roy Zerloch/Shutterstock.com

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## Top 5



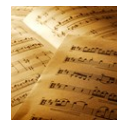
### Piazza del Duomo

Piazza del Duomo, encircled by impressive Baroque buildings in the heart of ...



### Catania Cathedral

Piazza del Duomo is also home to the elaborate Baroque Cattedrale di Sant'Ag...



### Bellini Civic Museum

Sicily's most famous composer is Vincenzo Bellini (1801-1835), who was born ...



### Teatro Romano & Odeon

At Via Vittoria Emanuele you will find Catania's best kept ruins from Roman ...



### Etna

Etna, Europe's largest active volcano, stands about 3,330 metres high betwee...





## THE CITY



*Valery Bareta/Shutterstock.com*

Catania is one of Sicily's nine provinces. It is bordered by Taormina to the north, Augusta to the south, Bronte, Adrano and Misterbianco to the west, and the Ionian Sea in the east. The provincial capital of Catania was founded at the base of the volcano Etna in 729. It was one of the first Greek colonies on the island.

Like other Sicilian cities, it has been heavily influenced by its rulers - Romans, Arabs, and Normans to name a few. The largest impact came from its neighbour, the volcano Etna - when it erupted in 1669 it devastated the city and killed 12,000 inhabitants. Catania was rebuilt in the Baroque style preserved to this day, complete with large boulevards and squares.

Over the last few years, tourism has become one of the biggest sources of revenue. With the sixth largest airport in Italy, Catania is a natural hub for tourists travelling to the island's east coast. It is easy to take day trips from here to the spectacular Mount Etna, to the ceramics centre of Caltagirone, and to the picturesque mountain villages like Randozza and Linguaglossa. There is also Sicily's most glamorous tourist town, the Roman city of Taormina with its medieval city centre, where D.H. Lawrence wrote "Lady Chatterley's Lover."

## DO & SEE



*unknown1861/Shutterstock.com*

Catania is a beautiful city which boasts a plethora of incredible cultural sights. Pay a visit to Piazza del Duomo, marvel at the splendid Catania Cathedral, and walk down the historic Via dei Crociferi (named a UNESCO World Heritage Site). Catania's location by the warm sea makes it a perfect destination for holiday-makers, and hiking trips can be made to the (still active) Etna volcano. In the vicinity, small towns such as the beautiful Taormina or Caltagirone make for ideal day-trip destinations.

### Piazza del Duomo



Piazza del Duomo, encircled by impressive Baroque buildings in the heart of Catania, recently became a UNESCO world heritage site. In the middle of the square is Fontana dell'Elefante, Catania's most famous monument - the lava stone Elephant Fountain.

Photo: Gandolfo Cannatella/Shutterstock.com

Address: Piazza del Duomo, Catania

## Catania Cathedral



Piazza del Duomo is also home to the elaborate Baroque Cattedrale di Sant'Agata (or simply the Catania Cathedral).

Behind the marble walls is the final resting place of the city's patron saint, Agata. Every February processions are held in her honour.

Photo: luigi nifosi/Shutterstock.com

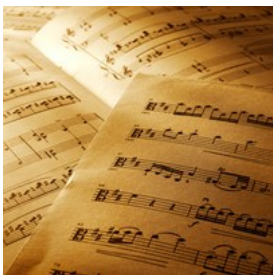
Address: 163 Via Vittorio Emanuele II, Catania

Phone: +39 095 320044

Internet: [www.cattedralecatania.it](http://www.cattedralecatania.it)

Email: [info@cattedralecatania.it](mailto:info@cattedralecatania.it)

## Bellini Civic Museum



Sicily's most famous composer is Vincenzo Bellini (1801-1835), who was born in Catania. His operas like "Norma", "La Straniera" and

"Sonnambula" are famous all over the world. The museum honouring Vincenzo Bellini, Museo Cicico Belliniani, is claimed to be one of the nicest in Catania.

Photo: Alex Staroseltsev/Shutterstock.com

Address: 3 Piazza San Francesco d'Assisi, Catania

Phone: +39 095 715 05 35

More Info: Museo Cicico Belliniani

## Teatro Romano & Odeon



At Via Vittoria Emanuele you will find Catania's best kept ruins from Roman times. The Roman Theatre, including gladiator tunnels and the

circular auditorium Odeon lie next to each other, surrounded by residential buildings dating to

later centuries.

Photo: Lev Levin/Shutterstock.com

Address: 266 Via Vittorio Emanuele, Catania

## Etna

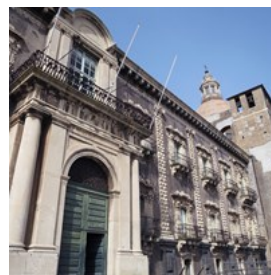


Etna, Europe's largest active volcano, stands about 3,330 metres high between Catania and Taormina. It erupts regularly, most recently

in 2012, and since 2002 visitors are not allowed to climb to the top of any of its four craters (hiking up is allowed). Regular buses depart for Etna from Catania.

Photo: Arts Illustrated Studios/Shutterstock.com

## Monastery of San Nicolò l'Arena



Come here for a stroll in the beautiful surroundings or a guided tour. Monastery of San Nicolò l'Arena (16th century Monastero dei

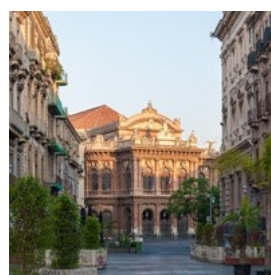
Benedettini) is one of the biggest Benedictine monasteries in Europe and is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Today it hosts a part of the University of Catania.

Photo: IZZARD/Shutterstock.com

Address: 32 Piazza Dante, Catania

More Info: Monastero dei Benedettini

## Massimo Bellini Theatre



Teatro Massimo Bellini is the musical heart of Catania. Different types of high-class performances are held here continuously and the

theatre is well-visited. If you don't find anything that speaks to you but still want to see the insides of the over a century old building, join a guided tour.

Photo: Roberto Lo Savio/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 12 Via Giuseppe Perrotta, Catania  
Phone: +39 095 730 6111  
Internet: [www.teatromassimobellini.it](http://www.teatromassimobellini.it)

### Aci Castello



9 kilometres north of Catania, on the coastline, the small and picturesque town of Aci Castello is located. The castle, which you cannot miss while you are here, was built by the Normans in 1076. Today, a museum is in operation for those interested in its history. The town also offers breathtaking views over the sea and its surrounding area with beaches.

Photo: vvoe/Shutterstock.com

### Fratelli Napoli Puppet Theatre

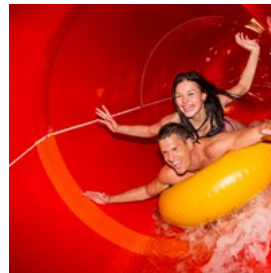


This theatre, only a 5 minute walk from the historical centre, is also a museum that is fun for both children and adults. It tells the story behind the typical Sicilian puppet theatre and visitors can both see and hold a puppet. If you wish to watch a show, remember that there is a summer break.

Photo: SvetaZi/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Via Madonna di Fatima 14, Catania  
Phone: +39 095 416787  
Internet: [www.fratellinapoli.it](http://www.fratellinapoli.it)  
Email: [fratellinapoli@hotmail.com](mailto:fratellinapoli@hotmail.com)  
More Info: Teatro dei Pupi della Marionettistica Fratelli

Napoli

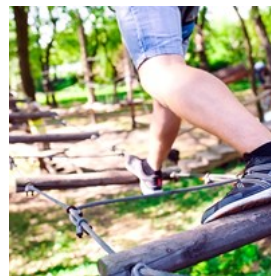
### Etnaland



Etnaland consists of three kinds of amusement parks: one Aqua park with water slides and lots of different pools, one Prehistoric park with replicas of dinosaurs and one theme park with roller coasters and rides. Here you can easily spend a whole day.

Photo: Ikonoklast Fotografie/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Contrada Agnelleria, Belpasso, Catania  
Phone: +39 095 791 3333  
Internet: [www.etnaland.eu](http://www.etnaland.eu)

### Monti Rossi-Etna Adventure Park



Located in the Red Mount pine woods close to Etna, this park is made up of bridges, wires and cables hooked in the tree tops to create paths up in the air. There are different levels of difficulty. Visitors can stay on the ground and join the workshops or explore nature trails and relaxation areas.

Photo: David Tadevosian/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Goethe, Nicolosi  
Phone: +39 388 755 3812  
Internet: [www.montirossietnaadventurepark.it](http://www.montirossietnaadventurepark.it)  
Email: [etnaparkmontirossi@gmail.com](mailto:etnaparkmontirossi@gmail.com)

### Giardino Bellini



After a lot of walking in the bustling city, a break in a lush green park can be necessary. The Giardino Bellini park is located just off the Via Etna in the city centre, and here you can enjoy



a quiet moment among plants, trees, statues and fountains.

Photo: Ivanko80/Shutterstock.com

Address: 292 Via Etnea, Catania

### Butterfly House



At Casa delle Farfalle, the Butterfly House, you can see some of the most beautiful butterflies and flowers in the world. If you want to learn more

about these spectacular creatures, join a complimentary lecture. The greenhouse is situated in the Monte Serra Park, just outside the city of Catania.

Photo: Behling/Shutterstock.com

Address: 244 Via Umberto I, Viagrande, Catania

Phone: +39 095 78 90 768

Internet: [www.casadellefarfalle Monteserra.it](http://www.casadellefarfalle Monteserra.it)

Email: [info@parcomonteserra.it](mailto:info@parcomonteserra.it)

### San Benedetto



Monastero San Benedetto, situated in Crociferi street, is a symbol of Catania. It's identifiable by the arch which unites the

Monastery's main abbey and the Church of Saint Benedict - one of the most beautiful baroque churches in Sicily - to the little abbey, wherein the MacS museum is housed.

Photo: Duncan Andison/Shutterstock.com

Address: 11 Via Crociferi, Catania

Phone: +39 095 715 2207

Internet: [www.benedettineviacrociferi.it](http://www.benedettineviacrociferi.it)

Email: [info@benedettineviacrociferi.it](mailto:info@benedettineviacrociferi.it)

More Info: Via Crociferi belongs to UNESCO World Heritage

### San Giovanni Li Cuti



The curious beach not too far from downtown is made up of volcanic eruption remains, which means that in contrast to golden sandy beaches in the area this one consists of black volcanic stones. The padding might not be ideal for sunbathing, but the water is certainly crystal-clear.

Photo: Michal Zieba/Shutterstock.com

Address: Via San Giovanni Li Cuti, Catania

### Taormina



Half-way between Catania and Messina lies the picturesque, waterside Town of Taormina. It's situated at an elevation, which makes for some splendid views over the water, and has a few pleasant beaches down below. A not-to-be-missed attraction is the ancient Greco-Roman theatre (open to visitors).

Photo: K. Roy Zerloch/Shutterstock.com

### Orto Botanico



The little-known to visitors botanical garden is a true godsend on hot summer days, when the asphalt melts with heat and shaded areas are few and far between. All plants and trees are well-labeled, and there are a few benches inside on which to rest.

Photo: Turbojet/Shutterstock.com

Address: 19 Via Enzo Longo, Catania

Phone: +39 095 430901

Internet: [www.dipbot.unict.it/orto-botanico](http://www.dipbot.unict.it/orto-botanico)

## Museo del Cinema



Museo del Cinema (detailing the history of cinematography and featuring quite a few cinematic memorabilia and posters) is one of four in the small museum complex (other include ones dedicated to radio, maps of Sicily and WWII).

Photo: [wavebreakmedia/Shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com/author/wavebreakmedia)

Address: Viale Africa, Catania

Phone: +39 0954011928

More Info: Centro Fieristico Culturale "Le Ciminiere"

## Historical Museum of the Landing in Sicily 1943



Sicily played an important role in the liberation from the German occupation during World War II. This museum, the Historical Museum of the Landing in Sicily 1943, displays memories and history from that time, and often leaves its visitors emotionally concerned.

Photo: [onilmilk/Shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com/author/onilmilk)

Address: Le Ciminiere, Viale Africa, Catania

Opening hours: Closed on Mondays

Email: [useosbarco@provincia.ct.it](mailto:useosbarco@provincia.ct.it)

More Info: Museo Storico dello Sbarco in Sicilia 1943

## Caltagirone



The small town of Caltagirone, located 42 miles from Catania, is at the heart of Sicily's ceramic handicraft tradition. The town also

offers beautiful architecture, so do not miss the richly decorated walls of the Scala dei Santa Maria steps. The stairs are lined with old historic buildings.

Photo: [Angela Crimi/Shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com/author/AngelaCrimi)

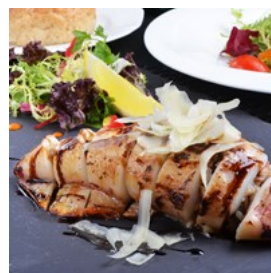
## DINING



[Lapina Maria/Shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com/author/LapinaMaria)

The cuisine in the Catania region is just like in the rest of Sicily - a delectable combination of Italian and Mediterranean cooking. Fish and seafood are the dominant ingredients, complemented by olive oil and wine from the mountains around Etna. One unusual ingredient that has made its way into a variety of dishes and condiments is the local pistachio (the ultimate Catanese pizza is one topped with cream cheese and grated pistachios). In the pasta department, try the local specialty pasta alla Norma - a pasta dish, cooked with aubergines, tomatoes, ricotta cheese and basil.

## Ristorante Ambasciata Del Mare



At Ristorante Ambasciata del Mare, traditional Italian fish and seafood dishes are served in a stylish atmosphere, complete with white washed walls and dark furniture. This is the place to go for a fine-dining experience. Located

in Piazza Duomo, the establishment could no be more central.

Photo: 54613/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 6/7 Piazza Duomo, Catania  
Phone: +39 095 341 003  
Internet: [www.ambasciatadelmare.it](http://www.ambasciatadelmare.it)  
Email: [info@ambasciatadelmare.it](mailto:info@ambasciatadelmare.it)

### Ristorante il Locandiere



If you pay a visit to the town of Caltagirone, Ristorante il Locandiere is a good choice for lunch or dinner. This relaxed fish restaurant is known

for its delicious seafood appetisers and mains. The staff is helpful and professional and gladly recommend a wine to accompany meals.

Photo: DonLand/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 55 Via Don Luigi Sturzo, Caltagirone  
Phone: +39 0933 58292

### Gisira Pizza and Drinks



Gisira Pizza and Drinks is a popular pizza restaurant in Catania where you can choose from a wide array of toppings, and for a

different dining experience order your pizza by the meter. The menu also contains a choice of salads, wine, beer and delicious desserts.

Photo: Sara Winter/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 62 Via Gisira, Catania  
Phone: +39 095 349652  
Internet: [www.gisira.it](http://www.gisira.it)  
Email: [info@gisira.it](mailto:info@gisira.it)

### Trattoria Catania Ruffiana



It can be a bit tricky to find this family-run gem, but do give it a try. In a rustic setting, guests can revel in typical Italian dishes at rather

reasonable prices. Their chocolate cake is said to be the best ever and a must to finish off your dinner in the best way possible.

Photo: qanatstudio/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 50 Via Aloï, Catania  
Phone: +39 095 216 2222  
Internet: [www.cataniaruffiana.it](http://www.cataniaruffiana.it)  
Email: [info@cataniaruffiana.it](mailto:info@cataniaruffiana.it)

### Sushilive



To change it up it up from Italian cuisine, try Sushilive. The establishment serves high quality Japanese dishes, with a focus on sushi. The

menu gives you about 50 different rolls to choose from together with sashimi, tempura and other hot dishes. Enjoy your meal in the restaurant or as take-away.

Photo: Maksim Toome/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 14 Via Giuseppe de Felice, Catania  
Phone: +39 095 311272  
Internet: [www.sushilive.it](http://www.sushilive.it)  
Email: [info@sushilive.it](mailto:info@sushilive.it)

### Trattoria Giglio Rosso



This small trattoria with checked tablecloths serves authentic Sicilian food at reasonable prices. Fish and seafood and the antipasto buffet are

popular choices among guests, and regulars



come here to revel in the home-made dishes in a warm and cosy atmosphere.

Photo: giovanni boscherino/Shutterstock.com

Address: Via Sant'Anna, Catania

Phone: +39 095 715 2492

Email: trattoriagigliorosso@gmail.com

### Me Cumpari Turiddu



Just a short walk from the Duomo is the little Italian restaurant Me Cumpari Turiddu, that serves food made of regional products - top-class

dishes with meat, fish and pasta, and home-made bread. The restaurant follows the "slow food" movement and places emphasis on quality.

Photo: Francesco83/Shutterstock.com

Address: 36/37 Piazza Spirito Santo, Catania

Phone: +39 095 715 0142

Email: putia@mcturiddu.it

### Ristorante Ciciulena



To experience modern Sicilian cuisine, try the Ristorante Ciciulena. The ambience is stylish and the food innovative, yet with its Italian roots

clearly traceable. There is a handy menu with a calorie count per dish, ideal for those who like to remain health-conscious.

Photo: Robyn Mackenzie/Shutterstock.com

Address: 207 Via Antonino di Sangiuliano, Catania

Phone: +39 095 816 4047

Internet: www.ciciulena.com

### Locanda Cerami



Located in a superb location in a small courtyard in front of a beautiful baroque church, Locanda Cerami serves delicious pizzas, salads

and other Italian dishes. There is also an extensive list of beers and wines, and the friendly staff do their best to offer guests a lovely dining experience.

Photo: Fanfo/Shutterstock.com

Address: 69 Via Crociferi, Catania

Phone: +39 095 224 6782

Email: ciuuu@tiscali.it

### Feelin' Good



The elegant eatery knows its way around burgers, so if pizza and pasta are getting a tad too overbearing to see on every menu - head to

Feelin' Good and order a burger with the patty frilled to your liking. Sides such as fries and salads are, naturally, on the menu as well. Vegan options available.

Photo: DwaFotografy/Shutterstock.com

Address: 17 Via Carlo Felice Gambino, Catania

Opening hours: Daily 12pm-3pm & 7pm-12am

Phone: +39 0957150770

Internet: www.feelinggood.it

### FUD - Bottega Sicula



The trendy eatery is known for its playful approach to dish naming (even "still water" turns into "stil uoter" on the label, light-heartedly

poking fun at the Italian way of (mis)pronouncing



English words). Serves a variety of succulent burgers and beers to go along.

Photo: NatashaPhoto/Shutterstock.com  
 Address: 35 Via Santa Filomena, Catania  
 Opening hours: Daily 12pm-1am  
 Phone: +39 0957153518  
 Internet: www.fud.it

### Thai Princess



With little variety on the area's food scene, Thai Princess provides a nice alternative to the ubiquitous pizza, pasta, and seafood fare found all

throughout Catania and Sicily. The restaurant serves good quality Thai classics in a refined environment.

Photo: jutamas/Shutterstock.com  
 Address: 31 Viale Africa, Catania  
 Opening hours: Daily 7pm-12am  
 Phone: +39 333 191 8404  
 Internet: www.thaiprincess.it

### Ristorante Be Quiet



Tucked away in a small alley and yet very central is the Be Quiet restaurant and lounge bar. The establishment serves elevated, flavorful Italian

fare. Pizza seems to be a standout in terms of popularity, but do try the seafood as well. Staff are multi-lingual.

Photo: Denizo71/Shutterstock.com  
 Address: 6 Via Monte Sant'Agata, Catania  
 Opening hours: Daily 10am-1am  
 Phone: +39 095 226 2180  
 Internet: www.ristorantebequiet.it

### Eat Pizzeria



The establishment serves remarkably good pizza - try one of the many topping combinations, and follow-up with a decadent dessert. The pizzeria is located in central Catania and enjoys a popularity with locals. The quality-to-price ratio is more than reasonable.

Photo: Brent Hofacker/Shutterstock.com  
 Address: 49/51 Via Coppola, Catania  
 Opening hours: Daily 7.30pm-1am  
 Phone: +39 095 310100

### A Putia Dell'Ostello



The cavernous interior of this popular local restaurant is frequented by locals and renowned for the superb variety of vegetarian and vegan options (vegan lunch served on Sundays). On Wednesdays, the establishment hosts guest DJs, and Fridays are reserved for live jazz.

Photo: Aleksandrova Karina/Shutterstock.com  
 Address: 6 Piazza Curro, Catania  
 Phone: +39 095 723 3010

### Le Tre Bocche



Le Tre Bocche really allows the marvellous seafood from the region shine in its exquisite dishes, and the fact that the restaurant has its own stand on the famous local seafood market is a testament to the quality of the ingredients like no other. Try the unusual, eerie-looking squid ink spaghetti.

Photo: svariophoto/Shutterstock.com  
 Address: 7 Via Mario Sangiorgi, Catania  
 Phone: +390 95 53 87 38

### La Siciliana



Do not let the simple interior fool you - this is one of Catania's best restaurants. It has been around since 1968, owned and run by one

family. The establishment specializes in local cuisine, and guests are welcome to select their seafood of choice from a display on ice.

Photo: norikko/Shutterstock.com  
 Address: 52 Viale Marco Polo, Catania  
 Phone: +39 095 376 400  
 Internet: [www.lasiciliana.it](http://www.lasiciliana.it)

### Oxidiana



Oxidiana is located in the heart of the city and mainly specializes in fish - namely sashimi and sushi, but serves a selection of Japanese

delights ranging from grilled meat and fish to dessert. Book in advance to ensure being seated, as the restaurant is quite popular.

Photo: funkyfrogstock/Shutterstock.com  
 Address: 4A Via Conte Ruggero, Catania  
 Phone: +39 095 532 585  
 Internet: [www.oxidiana.it](http://www.oxidiana.it)  
 Email: [info@oxidiana.it](mailto:info@oxidiana.it)

### La Giara



The town of Taormina offers more elegant dining, one of the classics being La Giara. The Art Deco-inspired space with breathtaking views over the water and stunning shoreline is popular for romantic dinners. The concise menu features meat and seafood dishes.

Photo: Mikhail\_Kayl/Shutterstock.com  
 Address: 1 Vico la Floresta, Taormina  
 Phone: +39 0942 233 60  
 Internet: [www.lagiarataormina.it](http://www.lagiarataormina.it)

### CAFES



*Family Business/Shutterstock.com*

Italian coffee doesn't need a special introduction, and the variety of local sweets and pastries is truly mind-boggling - many an establishment in Catania serve mouthwatering Italian delights from cream-stuffed cannoli to chocolate-filled croissants and other alluring treats, notably granita, which is a semi-frozen dessert. In the savory department, Sicily is known for its juicy arancini (stuffed rice balls, coated with bread crumbs and then deep fried. They are usually filled with ragù, mozzarella, and peas).



### Café Charmant



Café Charmant's outdoor patio is a popular venue for a quick stop to grab a bite or have some dessert. Their ice drinks, especially the popular

Sicilian drink Granita di Mandorle made of almond milk, water and sugar, are perfect on a hot summer day.

Photo: Gandolfo Cannatella/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 19-23 Via Etnea, Catania  
Phone: +39 095 715 03 16

### Scirocco Sicilian Fish Lab



With its location in the heart of the famous Catania fish market, it's no wonder this street-corner cafe consisting of a counter

and three single tables in the street keeps patrons coming back for more fresh battered seafood cones time after time again. Try the boneless cone assortment.

Photo: Patryk Kosmider/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 7 Piazza Alonzo di Benedetto, Catania  
Opening hours: Daily 10.30am-11pm  
Phone: +39 095 836 1194  
Internet: [www.sciroccolab.com](http://www.sciroccolab.com)  
More Info: Pescheria di Catania

### Prestipino Cafe



One of the more well-known cafes in Catania, Prestipino is the place to go to indulge in a beautifully crafted, elegant dessert right in

the heart of it all, the Duomo square. The cafe also serves savory granita pastries, ice cream,

cakes, and coffee.

Photo: Shebeko/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 9 Piazza Duomo, Catania  
Opening hours: Daily 7am-12am  
Phone: +39 095320840

### Pasticceria Savia



The historical Pasticceria Savia holds somewhat of a legendary status in the city, and is said to be the place that serves some of the best arancini in the

area (multiple stuffings available to choose from). After the savory treats, tuck into one of the airy pastries or decadent cakes.

Photo: francesco de marco/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 302/304 Via Etnea, Catania  
Opening hours: Tue-Sun 7.45am-9.30pm  
Phone: +39 095 322335

### Comis Ice Cafe



The cafe, located right by the Bellini Theatre, is known for the high quality and variety of its ice creams (do give the pistachio a try). The offer

is not limited to Italy's most well-known dessert, however - the place also serves granita in several flavours.

Photo: Luboslav Tiles/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 8/9 Piazza Vincenzo Bellini, Catania  
Phone: +39 095 715 2499

### Bisou



The superb cafe serves savory foods and desserts, both equally decadent. For breakfast, try the mini-pancakes soaked in chocolate

cream or the savory avocado and salmon variety. If dessert alone is what you're after, the cafe will certainly not disappoint with the selection.

Photo: Francesco83/Shutterstock.com

Address: 32 Via Milano, Catania

Phone: +39 095 216 5811

### Pasticceria Spinella



The popular pasticceria serves traditional Sicilian savory snacks (arancini, deep-fried stuffed rice balls, and a selection of layered- and plain-dough

pastries) as well as the delightful Italian desserts, such as cannoli, cakes, and all manner of sweets.

Photo: francesco de marco/Shutterstock.com

Address: 292/298 Via Etnea, Catania

Phone: +390 95 32 72 47

### Dr Juice Italia



The cafe serves a selection of healthy and easy-on-the-taste-buds fruit smoothies and juices, as well as quite a few light meals - soups,

wraps, and bagels. The cafe uses fresh ingredients, and all food is prepared on-site. Located to the north of the city center.

Photo: Bochkarev Photography/Shutterstock.com

Address: 243 Corso Italia, Catania

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-11pm

Phone: +39 095 722 3618

## BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Domakhina Mariia/Shutterstock.com

Catania is a student town, and as such, boasts quite a few hip bars and clubs frequented by the local youths. A regional specialty in terms of night life are the so-called "lido" - beach venues well-visited by tourists and locals for sunbathing, swimming and water sports during the day, and transforming into bars and beach clubs after sundown.

### Agòra Hostel Bar



This is one of Catania's most unusual bars. It lies almost 20 metres underground, beneath the Agòra Hostel. What makes the place so

unique is its location inside a lava cave with water trickling across the floors, and the proximity to a hostel ensures a young and cheerful clientele.

Photo: Jacob Lund/Shutterstock.com

Address: 6 Piazza Currò, Catania

Phone: +39 095 723 30 10

Internet: [www.agorahostel.it](http://www.agorahostel.it)



### Mercati Generali

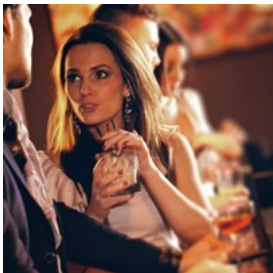


Arguably the finest nightlife establishment in Sicily (and a solid contender for being in the top worldwide), Mercati Generali is located about

10 kilometres from the city center, but is certainly worth the drive. The crowd it attracts is rather posh, but the vibe remains relaxed and party-like.

Photo: Nykonchuk Oleksii/Shutterstock.com  
 Address: 417 Strada Statale, Catania  
 Phone: +39 095 571 458  
 Internet: [www.mercatigenerali.org](http://www.mercatigenerali.org)  
 Email: [info@mercatigenerali.org](mailto:info@mercatigenerali.org)

### Zò



The Zo cultural space frequently serves host to a variety events and happenings, such as music and dance shows, various performances,

and movie screenings. There is an on-site restaurant and bar, which is an intimate, candle-lit space with an extensive selection of wines from the cellar.

Photo: Jacob Lund/Shutterstock.com  
 Address: 6 Piazzale Asia, Catania  
 Phone: +39 095 8168912  
 Internet: [www.zoculture.it](http://www.zoculture.it)

### Bar Cuore Catania



The cosy Bar Cuore Catania is a great place for both a coffee and an evening drink in a young, dynamic environment. The eclectic interior

invites for a very casual evening pastime inside

or in the outdoor seating area. Drinks served range from draft beer to cocktails.

Photo: bogdanhoda/Shutterstock.com  
 Address: 35 Via Penninello, Catania  
 Phone: +39 347 609 5021

### A Putia Dell'Ostello



The cavernous interior of this popular local restaurant is frequented by locals and renowned for the superb variety of vegetarian and vegan

options (vegan lunch served on Sundays). On Wednesdays, the establishment hosts guest DJs, and Fridays are reserved for live jazz.

Photo: Aleksandrova Karina/Shutterstock.com  
 Address: 6 Piazza Curro, Catania  
 Phone: +39 095 723 3010

### Razmataz Wine Bar



Wine, beer and cocktails are all served in the beautiful outdoor square of this evening venue. This one is the ultimate

place to be for an aperitivo and onwards. Several food options are always available and vary daily (these are listed on the board).

Photo: JM Travel Photography/Shutterstock.com  
 Address: 17 Via Montesano, Catania  
 Phone: +390 95 31 18 93

## Nievski



Nievsky's clearly left-leaning interior is popular for pre-party drinks amongst the local artsy and alternative crowds, as well as the student population. The stairs in front of the establishment are a buzzing hang out spot as well, favored by the younger generations.

Photo: Kondor83/Shutterstock.com

Address: 15/17 Via Alessi, Catania

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 12pm-2am

Phone: +39 095 313792

Internet: [www.nievski.it](http://www.nievski.it)

## Etnea Roof Bar & Restaurant



The stunning views over mount Etna aren't the only reason to pay a visit to this rooftop establishment - the evening "aperitivo" buffet is varied and generous, and includes a drink in the price. During the daytime, it is a high-quality restaurant that serves elevated Italian and Mediterranean food.

Photo: Africa Studio/Shutterstock.com

Address: 218 Via Etnea, Catania

Opening hours: Daily 7am-10.30am, 1pm-2:30pm, 8pm-11pm

Phone: +39 095 250 5024

More Info: Una Hotel Palace

## Mezza Parola



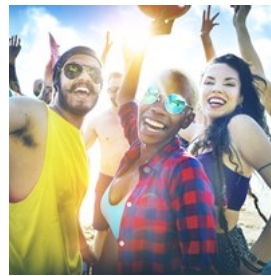
Currently a popular watering hole, Mezza Parola is a tiny bar with some seating in the upstairs lounge area, but patrons often opt to simply chill outside by the entrance when it gets

too packed (which it increasingly does nearing midnight).

Photo: Arina P Habich/Shutterstock.com

Address: Via Landolina, 48

## Le Capannine



Le Capannine is a beach club by day and a pumping party venue at night, when its relaxed cafes and fitness spaces transform into busy dance floors (DJs spin different genres depending on the spot) and bars. The venue follows a Caribbean theme, complete with palm trees and tropical cocktails.

Photo: Rawpixel.com/Shutterstock.com

Address: 93 Viale Kennedy, Catania

Phone: +39 095 735 7235

Internet: [www.lecapannine.com](http://www.lecapannine.com)

## Afrobar



Afrobar is a beachfront venue with a dance floor that is set directly on the sand. It's located on premises of one of the many waterside "lido" spaces. During the day, the place is visited by beach-goers and families, but the night sees it transform into a night club with bonfires and fire dancers.

Photo: Rawpixel.com/Shutterstock.com

Address: 47 Via Presidente Kennedy, Catania

Phone: +39 095 340880

Internet: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Afrobar-Playa-Catania/172322376167003>



### Boheme Mixology Bar



A bar with a great ambiance, Boheme Mixology has no set menu but rather offers guests the option of getting something very special

crafted for them based on individual preferences. Centrally located, with a mixed crowd of locals and international visitors.

Photo: Kondor83/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 27/29 Via Montesano, Catania  
Phone: +393494547158  
Internet: [www.bohememixologybar.com](http://www.bohememixologybar.com)

### First Lounge Bar



The tucked away bar in a small central square isn't a place a wandering visitor would just stumble upon. It's a hidden gem of a spot with seating

outside and a distinctly bohemian feel to it, much due to the past-century-looking buildings encircling the square.

Photo: Rawpixel.com/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Vicolo Moschetti, Catania  
Opening hours: Tue-Sun 6pm-2am  
Phone: +39 320 763 3921  
Internet:  
[https://www.facebook.com/firstct/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/firstct/?ref=page_internal)

### MUDD



The venue is a beach side mixology bar with great drinks, DJs spinning tunes, and guests dressed to the nines. It is currently one of the

trendiest places to be in the city. On days when the bar doubles as a night club (check their page

to see what's on), the opening hours remain longer.

Photo: Arina P Habich/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 28 Viale Presidente Kennedy, Catania  
Opening hours: Mon-Sun 7.30pm-1.30am  
Phone: +39 095 596 7552  
Internet: [www.muddbar.it](http://www.muddbar.it)

### Glamour Cafe

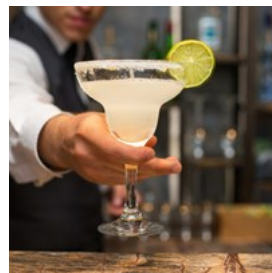


The casual eatery and bar isn't one of the places to go for those party vibes, but it's certainly great for a leisurely evening with a cocktail following an

abundant aperitivo. Music nights are hosted here on the regular, which includes both contemporary and jazz tunes.

Photo: alexpro9500/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 11 Via Carcaci, Catania  
Opening hours: Wed-Mon 6.30pm-2.30am  
Phone: +390 95 218 05 79

### Ritz



The classy yet lad-back Ritz is a place where cocktails are serious business - the mixologists exhibit true professionalism, and craft

both vintage and contemporary drinks of a very decent quality. Food is served for those looking to grab a bite, and the pizza seems to be much favored.

Photo: Tarik Kaan Muslu/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 54 Via E.Pantano, Catania  
Opening hours: Tue-Sun 7.30pm-2am  
Phone: +39 095 836 2922

## SHOPPING



Artens/Shutterstock.com

Catania is sometimes referred to as the Milan of Sicily - not so much for the fashion, but for the enterprising spirit. There are countless craftsmen, artists and small business owners who sell their wares all over the city, one example being the typical 53-inch Sicilian Pupi puppets that can be bought on Via Etnea. The elaborately carved wooden candelabras on sale in the historic quarters are another speciality of the region, and so are the colorful local ceramics.

One must-visit local attraction is the open-air fish market La Pescheria - a bustling, loud, smelly locale where some of the finest seafood restaurants go to stock up on dish ingredients. Brand name shopping can be had along expensive Corso Italia and around Via Pacini, Via Umberto I, and Via Etnea.

### La Pescheria



The bustling, smelly market La Pescheria (next to the cathedral), is worth a visit even if you are not buying any fish. It's a cultural experience in its own right - seeing the busy vendors display all sorts of curious marine creatures is quite the uncommon sight.

The bustling, smelly market La Pescheria (next to the cathedral), is worth a visit even if you are not buying any fish. It's a cultural experience

Photo: Marco Ossino/Shutterstock.com

Address: Piazza Curo, Catania

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 7am-2pm

### Via Etnea



One of the city's main arteries and its busiest shopping street, Via Etnea stretches all the way from the Duomo square towards Etna (hence the telling name). The street is lined with all manner of shops and department stores, as well as a variety of eateries to suit any taste.

Photo: EpicStockMedia/Shutterstock.com

Address: Via Etnea, Catania

### Fera 'o Luni - Carlo Alberto Square Market



The busy morning market in Carlo Alberto square is a vibrant shopping venue where anything and everything from fresh produce to clothes and spices can be found. Come with time, as there are a lot of stalls to browse through. It can get a bit loud in peak hours, but the bustle decreases after 1pm.

Photo: Sabino Parente/Shutterstock.com

Address: Piazza Carlo Alberto, Catania

Opening hours: Daily except Sundays

### Sicilian Wine Shop



The old town Sicilian Wine Shop packs a punch with its variety of local wines from small wineries in the region and all over Sicily. Apart from wines, the store stocks a variety of other local products, including many made from olives and pistachio.

The old town Sicilian Wine Shop packs a punch with its variety of local wines from small wineries in the region and all over Sicily. Apart from wines,

Wine tasting is possible.

Photo: Markus Mainka/Shutterstock.com

Address: 155 Via Vittorio Emanuele II, Catania

Phone: +39 095 746 2210

### Wine & Charme



The cavernous shop holds a host of treasures, it seems - the store's curious insides hold a selection of local products and wines from

Etna and all over Sicily (prices range from several euros per bottle to a couple hundred euros), as well as charming souvenirs (such as the famous local ceramics).

Photo: Christian Delbert/Shutterstock.com

Address: 143 Via Vittorio Emanuele II, Catania

Phone: +39 095321773

Internet: [www.wineandcharme.com](http://www.wineandcharme.com)

### I Dolci Di Nonna Vincenza



The sweet shop I Dolci Di Nonna Vincenza is a great place to go for traditional Italian sweets and pastry (that can be packed up and turned

into perfect gifts). Do get a box of cannoli (the "classic" variety or ones with chocolate, pistachio, or orange flavoured cream filling).

Photo: Kvitka Fabian/Shutterstock.com

Address: 7 Piazza San Placido, Catania

Phone: +39 095 71 51 844

Internet: [www.dolcinonnavincenza.it](http://www.dolcinonnavincenza.it)

### Menza



A celebrated store known throughout Catania, Menza specializes in Italian deli products. One side of the store is given over to savory foods such as meats, cheeses, and even entire meals (there is a seating area for those looking to dine on-site), while the other is packed with sweets and pastries.

Photo: Natasha Breen/Shutterstock.com

Address: 143-145 Viale Mario Rapisardi, Catania

Opening hours: Daily 9am-11pm

Phone: +39 095350606

Internet: [www.menza.it](http://www.menza.it)

### Porte di Catania Shopping Mall



The Porte di Catania Shopping Mall is located outside the city center, close to the airport. The large Auchan supermarket occupies the ground floor (great for groceries and deli foods); the second floor is packed with shops and stores of major local and international brands.

Photo: Billion Photos/Shutterstock.com

Address: S.S. Gelso Bianco, Catania

Opening hours: Daily 9am-9pm

Phone: +39 0958734111

### Etnapolis



Etnapolis, a major shopping destination in Sicily, offers a unique shopping experience complete with a multiplex cinema, kids

entertainment area and dining venues. There is a large affordable supermarket inside, as well as a



great selection of local and international brand stores and boutiques.

Photo: gpointstudio/Shutterstock.com

Address: 23 Contrada Valcorrente, Belpasso

Opening hours: Daily 9am-9pm

Phone: +39 095 7867432

Internet: [www.centroetnapolis.it](http://www.centroetnapolis.it)

### I Portali



One of the largest shopping centres in the south of Italy, I Portali is right for those looking to do some major shopping.

It is located about an hour's drive outside of Catania but is certainly worth the trip if international clothing, accessories and beauty brand stores are what you're after.

Photo: [www.BillionPhotos.com/Shutterstock.com](http://www.BillionPhotos.com/Shutterstock.com)

Address: 13 V.le Cristoforo Colombo, San Giovanni La Punta

Opening hours: Daily 9.30am-9pm

Phone: +39 095 7415534

Internet: [www.iportaliweb.it](http://www.iportaliweb.it)

### Mizzica



For traditional Sicilian souvenirs, try the centrally located Mizzica boutique. It sells hand-made crafts and decor items, bags,

jewellery and accessories. The store offers good value for money and is a good find for those looking to bring local souvenirs to loved ones.

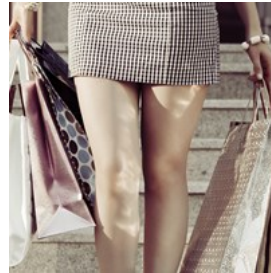
Photo: [hookmedia/Shutterstock.com](http://hookmedia/Shutterstock.com)

Address: 13 Via Garibaldi, Catania

Phone: +39 0958842497

Internet: [www.mizzicasouvenir.com](http://www.mizzicasouvenir.com)

### Corso Italia



The Corso Italia street, running from the seaside up towards Mount Etna, is one of the most elegant streets in the city. It is the place to go for

upscale brand name shopping - the street is lined with world-famous brand name stores and boutiques, and breathes a sophisticated air.

Photo: [wrangler/Shutterstock.com](http://wrangler/Shutterstock.com)

Address: Corso Italia, Catania

### Catania Mall



Do not be misled by the name - Catania Mall isn't at all a mall, but a relatively small outlet that offers well-known brand clothing and

accessories for up to 70% less than in regular High Street stores. Choose between brands such as Burberry, Calvin Klein and Dior.

Photo: [Blend Images/Shutterstock.com](http://Blend Images/Shutterstock.com)

Address: Viale Del Commercio, Misterbianco

Opening hours: Daily 10am-1pm & 4pm-8pm

Phone: +39 095 473886

Internet: [www.cataniamall.it](http://www.cataniamall.it)

## ESSENTIAL INFORMATION



lapas77/Shutterstock.com

### Airport Catania-Fontanarossa



Catania's airport, Fontanarossa (CTA), is located 7 kilometres south-west of the city and handles both domestic and international

flights.

Buses (AMT Alibus) connect the airport to Catania city centre and leave every 20 minutes from 5 am to midnight. There are also several other bus companies, operating other cities on Sicily such as Etna Trasporti to Taormina. The journey takes 50 minutes. Sais Autolinee takes travellers to Palermo in 2 1/2 hours. Bus tickets can be bought at the currency exchange office or at a newspaper shop inside the airport terminal.

A taxi from the airport to the city takes about 15 minutes. There are taxi ranks outside the airport.

Photo: Juan Garces

Address: Airport Catania-Fontanarossa, Catania

Phone: +39 0957 239 111

Internet: [www.aeroporto.catania.it](http://www.aeroporto.catania.it)

### Public Transport



A rental car is the best way to explore Sicily. The road network is well maintained, especially the toll roads (autostrade). To drive in the city of

Catania can be quite tricky though. A majority of the city centre is for pedestrians and parking lots are difficult to find.

An alternative to driving, is travelling by train to Messina, Syracuse, Palermo and other cities from the station at Piazza Giovanni XXIII.

A cheaper mode of transport is the bus, which depart from the depot at Via d'Amico close to the train station. To get around in the city, the company AMT serves a number of lines. Bus tickets must be validated upon entering the bus (get them punched in the orange machine on board).

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

Address: Piazza Giovanni XXIII, Catania

Internet: [www.amt.ct.it](http://www.amt.ct.it)

More Info: [www.interbus.it](http://www.interbus.it)

### Taxi



Taxi fares vary, and the rate increases after 10 pm. The 10 percent tip is sometimes included in the overall price, check with the driver if it is

already included. The licensed taxis are often yellow or white and have a meter.

Radio Taxi Catania

+39 095 330 966

[www.radiotaxicatania.org](http://www.radiotaxicatania.org)

Distefano Taxi  
+39 360 968 390  
www.taxi-catania.com

### Post



The post office in Catania is situated at Via Etnea 215. Stamps can be bought at tobacconists that either carry the blue and white "Tabacchi"

sign or are simply marked "T".

Photo: Andy Fuchs  
Address: 215 Via Etnea, Catania  
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8 am-6.30 pm, Sat 8.30 am-12.30 pm.  
Phone: +39 095 715 5111  
Internet: www.poste.it

### Pharmacy



Farmacia Caltabiano Dr.  
Mauro Marcello 36 Piazza  
Stesicoro, Catania +39  
095 327647 Farmacia  
Cutelli Fonzo Franca 54  
Via Vittorio Emanuele,

Catania  
+39 095 531 400  
www.farmaciacutelli.it

Farmacia Lucina  
125 Via Umberto I, Catania

Photo: Gemma Garner

### Telephone



Country code: +39 Area code: 095 (also dialled in Catania). If you call Italy from abroad, you must always dial zero in the area code (do not omit it

as is the general practice when making international telephone calls), e.g. +39 095 + the number.

Photo: Jardson Almeida

### Electricity

220 volts AC/50Hz



Photo: Stirling Tshan

**Population**  
Approximately 295,000

**Currency**  
1 Euro = 100 cents

**Opening hours**  
Italian shops are open Monday-Friday 8.30 am-1 pm and 3.30 pm-7 pm (some stores open at 9 am and close at 8 pm). Supermarkets are sometimes open all day. Some shops are also open on Saturdays.

**Newspapers**  
La Gazzetta di Catania  
La Sicilia

**Emergency numbers**  
112

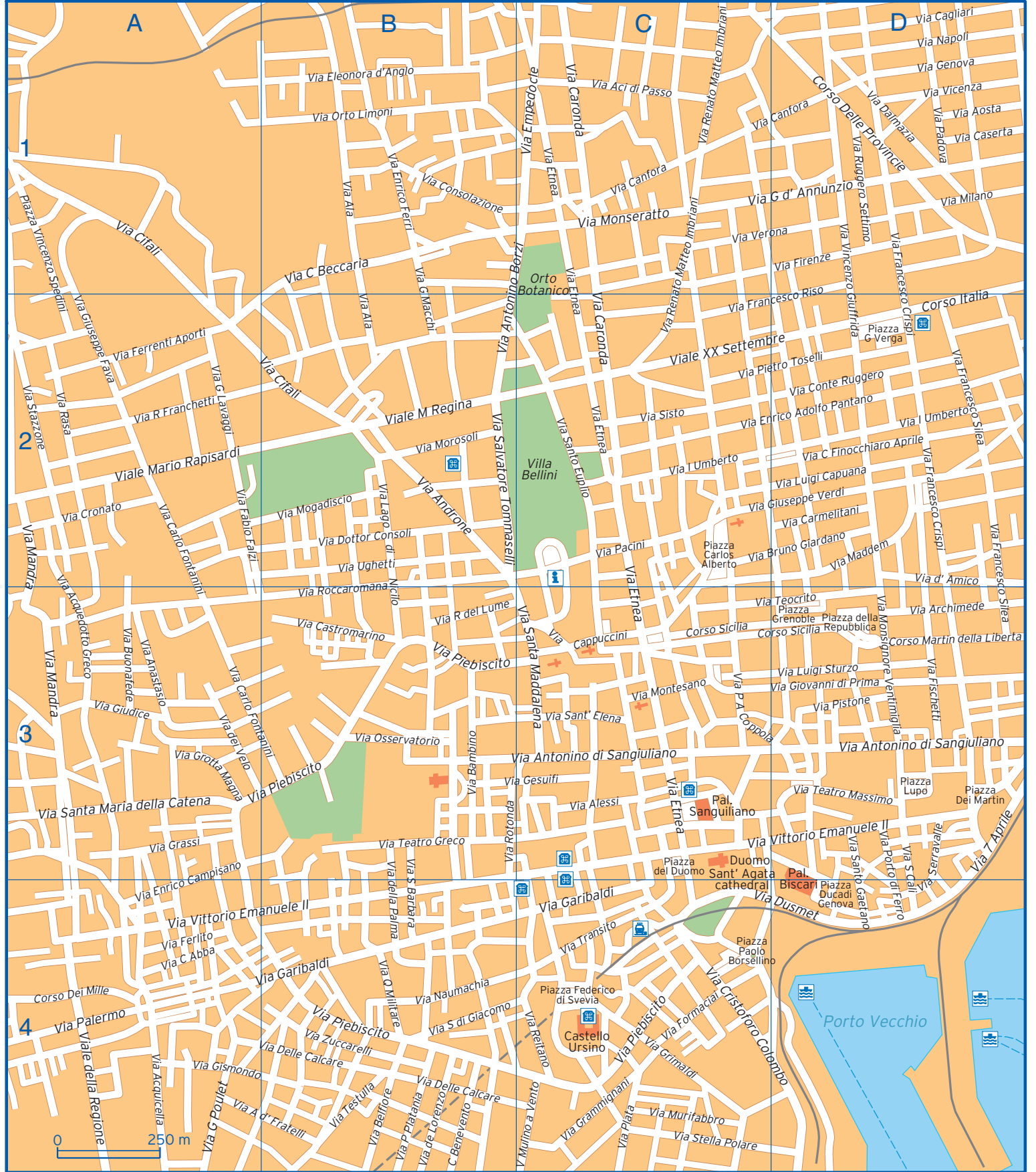
**Tourist information**  
Tourist Information:

Railway Central Station FF.SS  
Piazza Giovanni XXIII, Catania  
+39 095 7306255

International Airport "Vincenzo Bellini"  
Fontanarossa, Catania  
+39 095 7306266







Corso Dei Mille	A4	Via Cronato	A2	Via Monsignore Ventimiglia	D3
Corso Delle Provincie	D1	Via Dalmazia	D1	Via Montesano	C3
Corso Italia	D2	Via de Lorenzo	B4	Via Morosoli	B2
Corso Martin della Liberta	D3	Via dei Velo	A3	Via Mulino a Vento	C4
Corso Sicilia	C3 D3	Via della Palma	B3 B4	Via Murifabbro	C4
Cortile Benevento	B4	Via Delle Calcare	A4 B4	Via Napoli	D1
Piazza Carlos Alberto	C2	Via Dottor Consoli	B2	Via Naumachia	B4
Piazza Dei Martin	D3	Via Dusmet	C4 D4	Via Orto Limoni	B1
Piazza del Duomo	C3	Via d' Amico	D2	Via Osservatorio	B3
Piazza della Repubblica	D3	Via Eleonora d'Anglo	B1	Via P A Coppola	C3
Piazza Ducadi Genova	D4	Via Empedocle	C1	Via Pacini	C2
Piazza Federico di Svevia	C4	Via Enrico Adolfo Pantano	C2 D2	Via Padova	D1
Piazza G Verga	D2	Via Enrico Campisano	A3 A4	Via Palermo	A4
Piazza Grenoble	D3	Via Enrico Ferri	B1	Via Piebiscito	A3 B3 C4
Piazza Lupo	D3	Via Etnea	C1 C2 C3	Via Pietro Platania	B4
Piazza Paolo Borsellino	C4	Via Fabio Falzi	A2	Via Pietro Toselli	C2 D2
Piazza Vincenzo Spedini	A1 A2	Via Ferlito	A4	Via Pistone	D3
Via 7 Aprile	D3	Via Ferrenti Aporti	A2	Via Plata	C4
Via Aci di Passo	C1	Via Firenze	D1	Via Porto di Ferro	D3 D4
Via Acquedotto Greco	A2 A3	Via Fischetti	D3	Via Q Militare	B4
Via Acquicella	A4	Via Formaciai	C4	Via R del Lume	B3
Via Ala	B1 B2	Via Francesco Crispi	D1 D2	Via R Franchetti	A2
Via Alessi	C3	Via Francesco Riso	C2 D1	Via Rasa	A2
Via Anastasio	A3	Via Francesco Silea	D2 D3	Via Reitano	C4
Via Androne	B2	Via G d' Annunzio	C1 D1	Via Roccaromana	B3
Via Antoni d' Fratelli	A4 B4	Via G Lavaggi	A2	Via Rotonda	B3
Via Antonino Borzi	B2 C1	Via G Macchi	B1 B2	Via Ruggero Settimo	D1
Via Antonino di Sangiuliano	B3 C3 D3	Via Garibaldi	A4 B4 C4	Via S Cali	D3 D4
Via Aosta	D1	Via Genova	D1	Via S di Giacomo	B4
Via Archimede	D3	Via Gesuifi	B3 C3	Via Salvatore Tommaselli	B2
Via Bambino	B3	Via Giovanni di Prima	C3 D3	Via Santa Barbara	B3 B4
Via Belfiore	B4	Via Gismondo	A4	Via Santa Maddalena	C3
Via Bruno Giardano	C2 D2	Via Giudice	A3	Via Santa Maria della Catena	A3
Via Buonafede	A3	Via Giuseppe Fava	A2	Via Santo Euplio	C2
Via C Abba	A4	Via Giuseppe Poulet	A4	Via Santo Gaetano	D3 D4
Via C Beccaria	B1	Via Giuseppe Verdi	C2 D2	Via Sant' Elena	C3
Via C Finocchiaro Aprile	D2	Via Grammignani	C4	Via Serravalle	D3 D4
Via Cagliari	D1	Via Grassi	A3	Via Sisto	C2
Via Canfora	C1 D1	Via Grimaldi	C4	Via Stazzone	A2
Via Cappuccini	C3	Via Grotta Magna	A3	Via Stella Polare	C4
Via Carlo Fontanini	A2 A3 B3	Via I Umberto	C2 D2	Via Teatro Greco	B3
Via Carmelitani	D2	Via Lago di Nicilo	B2	Via Teatro Massimo	D3
Via Caronda	C1 C2	Via Luigi Capuana	D2	Via Teocrito	C3 D3
Via Caserta	D1	Via Luigi Sturzo	D3	Via Testulla	B4
Via Castromarino	B3	Via Maddem	D2	Via Transito	C4
Via Cifali	A1 A2 B2	Via Mandra	A2 A3	Via Ughetti	B2
Via Consolazione	B1	Via Milano	D1	Via Verona	C1 D1
Via Conte Ruggero	D2	Via Mogadiscio	B2	Via Vicenza	D1
Via Cristoforo Colombo	C4 D4	Via Monseratto	C1	Via Vincenzo Giuffrida	D1 D2



Via Vittorio Emanuele II  
Via Zuccarelli

A4 B4 C3 D3 Viale della Regione  
B4 Viale M Regina

A4 Viale Mario Rapisardi  
B2 Viale XX Settembre

A2  
C2 D2