



RANDAZZO



ACIREALE



CATANIA

SICILIAN BAROQUE

After the devastating earthquakes in 1663 and 1693, and the 1669 lava flow in Catania, most of the cities in eastern Sicily were destroyed and then rebuilt, often by the greatest architects of that epoch, in the style of the time: Baroque.

This style of abundance and magnificence characterized all of Europe during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, up until the nineteenth century, from Madrid to Vilnius, from Noto to Lisbon.

It was the unmistakable expression of an age that had emerged from medieval narrow-mindedness and was testimony to the wealth that was being generated in Europe.

Baroque architecture expresses this aspect really well through its superabundant use of materials, decorations and inlay work that highlight the architects' great projects and how decisive the large group of sculptors, painters, and skilled craftsmen working in stone, iron, and wood were.

Human nature's creative tension, along with its material and spiritual hardships, was expressed in their laborious stone inlays.

We can admire the Baroque in Sicily today in two large areas: the territories of Etna and Ibla.

The Baroque to be found in the Etna territory is characterized by the predominant use of lava stone: a dark, hard basalt that is difficult to work with. This is why the softer and more calcareous white stone from Noto was used with it for the engravings.

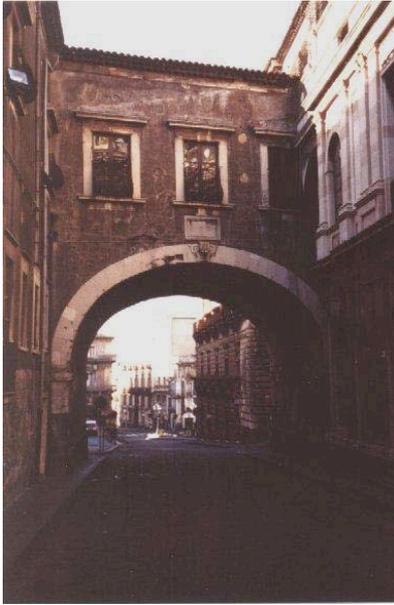
The best examples of Baroque in the Etna territory can be found in Randazzo, Acireale and above all, in Catania.

The Ibla territory, having had the soft and shiny calcareous stone from Melilli, Noto and Ispica (the old Spaccaforno) to work with, is characterized by much lighter buildings and abundant, delicate inlays.

The best examples can be found in Siracusa, Avola, Noto, Modica and Ragusa Ibla.

All these fascinating places can easily be reached from Case Perrotta in a day.

On the pages "3-5-13 days at Case Perrotta", you will find all the information you need.



CATANIA

SHORT CHRONICLE OF AN EARTHQUAKE

The end of the world arrived in Sicily as the destructive fury wiped out centuries of history. In the county of Modica, as in the rest of the Val di Noto, churches, buildings, houses and entire cities were redesigned according to the new canons dictated by the artistic movement of western culture, which between 1600 and 1700 gave birth to Baroque art.

Rebirth was then the result of the earthquake on 11th January 1693, whose last devastating tremor at 9.00 p.m. destroyed the entire Val di Noto in one single blow.

The earthquake started at 3.45 a.m. on 9th January. On the first night, according to Abbot Ferrara's written reports, the Sicilians were in a deep sleep. The moon changed colour and an hour later the first great tremor shook, announced by a rumbling noise underground like a thunderous roar. The first day of the quake claimed thousands of lives. But it was the third day that was to be the most apocalyptic. The earth opened up in great rifts, the sea withdrew and then flowed back again, animals were flung into the air by the quake's force. This is how the event was described and recorded according to the eyewitness accounts of the time.



SIRACUSA

In Modica 3,400 people out of 18,203 inhabitants died, in Ragusa 5,000 people lost their lives out of 9,946 inhabitants, Vittoria's death toll was 200 out of 3,950, in Scicli there were 2,000 victims out of a total of 9,382 inhabitants, in Spaccaforno (today called Ispica) 2,200 inhabitants out of 7,987 died, in Giarratana 541 people out of 2,981 inhabitants lost their lives and finally, in Monterosso Almo 232 people died out of 2,340. The painful tragedy was a page of history that did not end that night.

It is not by chance that Johann Wolfgang Goethe wrote that the image of the soul could be found above all in art. Indeed, it was this that lay at the root of his love for the Sicily that was rebuilt. The soul of those people who experienced this tragedy would be found again in the architecture and style of the Baroque cities. The memory of that night is also held in the splendid opulence of the Baroque decorations. It is the spirit of mankind, struck by an event capable of wiping out so many signs of age-old civilizations in a few minutes.



NOTO



MODICA