



UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI CATANIA
facoltà di ECONOMIA



**THE ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTING SYMPOSIUM
HELD AT THE FACULTY OF ECONOMICS – UNIVERSITY OF CATANIA
JUNE 4-6, 2009**

Conference Venue and Hotel

Conference proceedings will take place at “*Villa Citelli*” - **University of Catania** (first day, June 4th, starting with lunch), just behind the central park of Catania, and at the “*Grand Hotel Baia Verde*” (second and third day, June 5 and 6, concluding with lunch).

The conference hotel is the *Grand Hotel Baia Verde*, a charming hotel located at the borders of the city of Catania, directly on the sea. The organizers have a block of rooms being held at a special rate. The conference rate will be available for any one making reservations prior to 14th of April 2009. The conference rate (including breakfast) for a single-occupancy room is cost €114 per night, and for a double-occupancy room is €130.

To book a room please contact the hotel and indicate that you are with "The Illinois International Accounting Symposium". The organizers cover accommodation costs for one author and a discussant per accepted paper.

Hotel address:

Grand Hotel Baia Verde– http://www.baiaverde.it/default_eng.htm

Via Angelo Musco, 8/10 - 95020 Aci Castello - (Catania) – Italy

Tel. +39 095 491522 - Fax +39 095 494464

Person responsible for conference bookings:

Mario Platania: meeting@baiaverde.it

Flight information

Participants can choose to rely on the following flight companies:

- Alitalia (www.alitalia.it)
- Air One (www.flyairone.it)
- Air Malta (www.airmalta.com)
- Air Italy (www.airitaly.it)
- Air France (www.airfrance.it)
- Air Berlin (www.airberlin.com)
- Blu-express (www.blu-express.com)
- British airways (www.ba.com)
- Brussels Airline (www.brusselsairlines.com)
- Delta (www.delta.com)
- Easyjet (www.easyjet.com)
- Edelweiss-Air (www.edelweissair.ch)
- Eurofly (www.eurofly.it)
- Finn Air (www.finnair.com)
- Hapag – Lloyd (www.tuifly.com)
- Helvetic (www.helvetic.com)
- Itali-Airlines (www.Italiweb.it)
- Jetairfly (www.jetairfly.com)
- Klm (www.klm.it)
- Ltu (www.ltu.de)
- Lufthansa (www.lufthansa.it)
- Meridiana (www.meridiana.it)
- Myair (www.myair.com)
- Livingstone (www.lauda.it)
- Wind Jet (www.volawindjet.it)

For more information about how to get to Catania by airplane visit the following website:

http://www.aeroporto.catania.it/page.php?cPath=0_11&id_page=21&module=Compagnie&lang=eng

How to reach “Grand Hotel Baia Verde” from the airport

- Take the bus towards central rail station (number 457)
- Get off in “Piazza Alcalà - Borsellino”, after about 5 minutes
- Take the bus number 534 towards “Acicastello”
- Get off in front of the Hotel

How to reach “Villa Citelli” from the airport

- Take the bus towards central rail station (number 457)
- Get off in “Piazza Stesicoro” (at the intersection between Via Etnea and Corso Sicilia)
- Walk for 8 minutes to Via Tomaselli (or Tommaselli) 31 (for walking directions see the link below)

http://maps.google.com/maps?f=d&source=s_d&saddr=Piazza+stesicoro,+catania&daddr=via+tommaselli+31,+catania&geocode=&hl=en&mra=ls&dirflg=w&sl=37.586402,14.958201&ssp=0.227986,0.439453&ie=UTF8&z=16

Moving around

For moving around the city you can use public transport, which is very popular in Catania. From the Hotel you can take the Bus number 534 and get off in the center of Catania.

Catania has an extensive surface transport network. For the ticket sales the bus company (AMT) has a distribution chain made of 377 selling points in Catania. The surface ticket costs €1.00 and it is valid for 90 minutes on all lines. A daily ticket on all lines costs €2.50. Tickets should be purchased before you get on board, and should be date-stamped on the bus. Public transport operates from 6 am to 23.30, but some buses also provide a night service.

For further information on urban and non-urban transport, visit the AMT information internet desk (routes and timetable: http://www.amt.ct.it/percorsi_e_orari.htm).

Conference outline

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Lunch and opening session at “*Villa Citelli*” (afternoon)

Transfer to *Grand Hotel Baia Verde* in the evening

Reception and dinner at *Grand Hotel Baia Verde*

Friday, June 5, 2009

Conference and lunch at *Grand Hotel Baia Verde* (all day)

Transfer to “*UNA*” hotel (transportation will be made available)

Reception and dinner at “*UNA*”

Transfer back to “*Grand Hotel Baia Verde*”

Saturday, June 6, 2009

Conference at Baia Verde (morning)

Lunch

More detailed information on the program will be given later on.

Please note: A dinner and tour of neighbouring historic sites will follow. The cost of the tour and dinner will be borne by the individual participant

Weather in June

June is usually the sunniest months of the year. Average temperature is 27 C (82 F).

Introduction to Sicily

With a total surface area of 25.460 sq. km, Sicily is the largest island in the Mediterranean basin. Around it lie a number of smaller islands: to the north the Aeolian islands and Ustica, to the West the Egadi, and to the south the Pelagie islands and Pantelleria, making a total surface area of 25.708 sq. km. Sicily boasts around 1.000 Km of coastline, mostly rocky in the north and sandy in the south. The landscape is varied, prevalently mountains and hilly, but with an expanse of plains around Catania. In the eastern part of the island Mount Etna (about 3.330 m) is Sicily's highest mountain, the whole of which is a protected area within a national park. Still active, it is the biggest volcano in Europe. Along the north coast, from east to west, lies a stretch of the Peloritani and the Nebrodi and Madonie Mountains, some of their peaks reaching 2,000 m. The area to the West of the river Torto has an irregular lime-stone formation, patchy or continuous, alternating with low rolling hills. Over to the east of the island, between Messina and Mount Etna, lies the easternmost tip of the Peloritani chain, very similar to the mountains of Calabria. The Southeast corner comprises a series of high plateaus made up of lava, tuff and above all limestone, and features a number of impressive gorges carved out by water erosion through the centuries. The innermost part of the island is predominantly hilly, consisting mainly of the so called Altopiano Solfifero (literally the sulphur uplands), with altitudes ranging from 500-700 m. Its summit, however, with the snow, rises to almost 1.000 m. Sicily's principal cities include the regional capital Palermo, together with the other provincial capitals Catania, Messina, Syracuse (Siracusa in Italian), Trapani, Enna, Caltanissetta, Agrigento, Ragusa. Other famous Sicilian towns include Cefalù, Taormina, Bronte, Marsala, Corleone, Castellammare del Golfo and Francavilla di Sicilia.

Introduction to Catania

The history of the city, like any other place in the Mediterranean, is made up by the sequence of cultures passing through, conquering and being conquered by the locals, all leaving their mark in

every aspect of life. It was founded by the Greek Chalsidian people in 729 b.c.. After some fierce battles the Siracusans conquered the city and ruled it for many centuries. Eventually and inevitably for the times, Catania ended in the hands of first the Romans and subsequently the Byzantines. Next, it was the turn of the Arabs , who arrived in 827 A.D., and 200 years later the Normans paid a visit. In 1169 the city suffered from a terrible earthquake, and while reconstructing it the locals had to also deal with the aspirations of first Henry the VI and subsequently the Spanish. During the Spanish rule, under Frederic III of Aragon, Catania underwent a cultural revival, symbolized by the founding of the University of Catania in 1434, then called the 'Siculorum Gymnasium'. In 1669 a violent eruption of Etna reminded people of the fickleness of life, and the locals were once more faced with the task of reconstruction. This reconstruction led to the current Baroque aspect of the city, with black lava and light-colored limestone a distinguished feature throughout. Eventually Catania became part of the Kingdom of Italy as the rest of Sicily and is now a vibrant centre of culture and economic development for the area.

The architecture of Catania is marked by the contrast between the black lava and the light limestone, the permeates the centre of the city. While the city has examples of both Roman period architecture, with their amphitheatres, thermae, etc, an the Byzantanine period with Christian churches such as La Rotunda and the Cappella Bonajuto (outstanding examples of Paleochristian art), the current character of the city was shaped after the earthquake of 1693. The reconstruction that followed gave the city its baroque nature, recognizable in the street layout and succession of beautiful churches and palaces. As a result of its splendid examples of Baroque architecture Catania was recently included by UNESCO among the eight Sicilian towns to be considered as eligible for the World Heritage List.

The spectacular Piazza Duomo, with the famous elephant affectionately known to the locals as 'u liotru' at its centre (the symbol of the city), the Cathedral, the Palace of the Elephants and the Amenano fountain are all sites not to be missed. Other sights include: the Ursino Castle, commissioned by Frederick II of Swabia around 1250; the Benedictine Monastery, which ranks second in Europe for size and beauty, along with the church of San Nicolà d'Arena; the university building; the Bellini theatre; the splendid Baroque churches in the historic centre; the Roman theatre, the Odeon and the amphitheatre; the Rotonda thermal baths; the lush park of the Villa Bellini; the Bellini Museum; the house of Verga and the Achelliane thermal baths.

The festival of Sant'Agata, consistently attended for the past five centuries, is undoubtedly the most important religious event in Catania. The festival takes place every February, between the 3rd and the 5th, and is a heady mix of religious fervor, folklore, and a good excuse to see and to be seen out and about in Catania. The focal point of the festival is a procession with the bust of Sant'Agata

richly decorated and carried by devotees of Sant'Agata - the most exciting point for them is going up the Via San Giuliano - there the road is steep so the devotees must run all the way in order to manage the pull the heavy statue. The candle carriers, traditionally representatives of the guilds of craftsmen, grocers, fishers, butchers, bakers add to the atmosphere of the procession with their huge candles. In fact, the candle leave so much wax in the streets that it is a task in itself to clean them the following day so as to prevent road accidents.

When it comes to food Catania is probably one of the luckiest places on earth. It is a port city with a huge fish market and the centre of the most agriculturally rich area of Sicily. This means that the basics of fish, meat, olive oil, vegetable, herbs and fruit are always fresh and plentiful! The Catania fish market - as old as the city itself - is famous in the entire Med for the variety and freshness. It spreads out around Piazza Pardo (near the Cathedral). In addition to the fresh fish stalls, there is also dried fruit, bottles of extra virgin olive oil and red wine made on the foothills of Mount Etna, bags of dried pulses for tasty, local recipe soups and lots more too. A typical dish is the pasta a la Norma, which is claimed to have been created in homage to the Bellini opera, Norma.

Outside Catania: places worth visiting

Taormina: has remnants of its Greek and Roman past, a medieval quarter and castle ruins, and modern shops and restaurants. Perched on the side of Monte Tauro, the town offers fantastic views of the coast and Mt. Etna volcano as well as good hiking paths. Below the town are excellent beaches where you can swim in the clear sea water. Taormina's top sights and attractions are: Greek Theater, Medieval Quarter, Corso Umberto, Piazza Vittorio Emanuele, Piazza del Duomo, Regional Archaeological Museum, Medieval Castle and Madonna della Rocca. For more information you can visit the official website (<http://www.taormina.it/>).

Siracusa: Located near the southeastern corner of Sicily on the Ionian coast, Siracusa (Syracuse) is built on an ancient Greek settlement founded by Corinthians in 734 BC, displacing the Sicels and indigenous Sicanians. More than any other modern city in Sicily, Syracuse manifests a visible continuity from its ancient Greek past, both historical and mythological. Its older quarter is an island, Ortegia. Ortegia is known for, among many other things, the freshwater Spring of Arethusa. When Artemis changed Arethusa into a spring of water to escape the river god Alpheus, it was here that the transformed maiden emerged. On a more factual note, Syracuse was the city of Archimedes, Pindar and Aeschylus. It was the most important city in Magna Graecia, with a population of around 300,000, and for a time rivaled Athens as the most important city of the Greek world. Located in Ortegia, the Temple of Apollo, or Artemis, is probably the oldest Greek temple in Sicily built in the

Doric style, dating from around 565 BC. This is thought to be the oldest Greek temple outside present-day Greece. Unfortunately, only its remains can be seen in Piazza Pancali. Nearby, in Piazza Duomo, the 5th century BC temple known as the Athenaion (and also part of the Temple of Minerva) forms a side of the cathedral. This is one of the few surviving examples in the former Magna Graecia of a temple being turned into a church, though in Rome examples abound. A medieval church at Taormina was also built on the site of an ancient temple, though not in precisely this manner. Closer to the Sea, the Spring of Arethusa, which takes the form of a large round fountain, is reached either from the Foro Italico or Via Capodieci. Among Ortigia's medieval relics is Maniace's Castle, named for the able Byzantine general (George Maniace) who occupied part of the Ionian coast of Sicily during the 1030s. Most of the medieval structure was actually built during the reign of Frederick II two centuries later, though the fortress has been extensively modified in successive centuries. For more information visit the official website.