

Press release – 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
For immediate release

**Architecture tours with the experts**  
*Gothic architecture in France; Romans and Greeks in Sicily; Palladio in the Veneto*

**Sicily - Conquests and Cultures**

Sicily combines a matchless cluster of Greek temples, flamboyant Baroque palaces and the world's best preserved floor mosaics at the villa of Piazza Armerina. Our 9-day itinerary explores the most significant sites on this dramatic island, with expert art historian Dr Luca Leoncini uncovering its complex and fascinating history.

From £1,795 (pp, two sharing) includes 3- and 4-star hotels, one dinner, private coach travel, admissions and the lecturer's talks. Departs 12 May 2019.

**Gothic Splendour in France – the great cathedrals of the High Middle Ages**

Study the awe-inspiring splendour – and daring slenderness – of northern France's Gothic cathedrals, in the company of Dr Richard Plant, an architectural historian specialising in the Middle Ages. This carefully-planned itinerary traces the period's development, from Saint-Denis in Paris to the High Gothic triumph at Amiens.

From £1,185 (pp, two sharing) includes 3- and 4-star hotels, one dinner, private coach travel, all admissions and the lecturer's talks. Departs 23 May 2019.

**Villas of the Veneto - Palladian Country Houses of the Venetian elite**

Andrea Palladio – an architect of exceptional talent – emerged in 16<sup>th</sup> century Vicenza just as the wealthy Venetian merchants were investing heavily in their country estates, and Palladio's work chimed perfectly with their Renaissance tastes, incorporating classical motifs and a sophisticated sense of proportion. This 5-day itinerary visits many of the most important and influential, with Italian Renaissance specialist Dr Michael Douglas-Scott providing talks and insights.

From £1,160 (pp, two sharing) includes 4-star hotel in Vicenza, one dinner, private coach travel, all admissions and the lecturer's talks. Departs 6 June 2019.

For further information and to book, please call **020 3370 1988** or visit **[www.culturaltravel.co.uk](http://www.culturaltravel.co.uk)**

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For further information please contact Liz Brown at [press@culturaltravel.co.uk](mailto:press@culturaltravel.co.uk) or 020 3370 1988.

**Notes to editors:**

The Cultural Travel Company offers exceptional cultural travel experiences at affordable prices. Accompanied by first-rate speakers, we explore many of the cultural highlights of Europe and the UK. Art, architecture, archaeology, history and music are all on the menu, and on each carefully-paced itinerary there's a mix of guided tours, lively lectures, group dinners and free time.

We set up The Cultural Travel Company to deliver inspiring trips, art journeys, and historical learning at reasonable prices. We have achieved fantastic value for money by focusing on the core ingredients, using sensible hotels, cutting the frills and allowing greater freedom than is usual on this sort of trip.

The Cultural Travel Company is a division of Martin Randall Travel, Britain's largest and most innovative specialist in cultural tours. For nearly 30 years Martin Randall Travel have offered immaculately-planned tours across the globe. We draw on the same experience and expertise and share their unrivalled pool of speakers.

