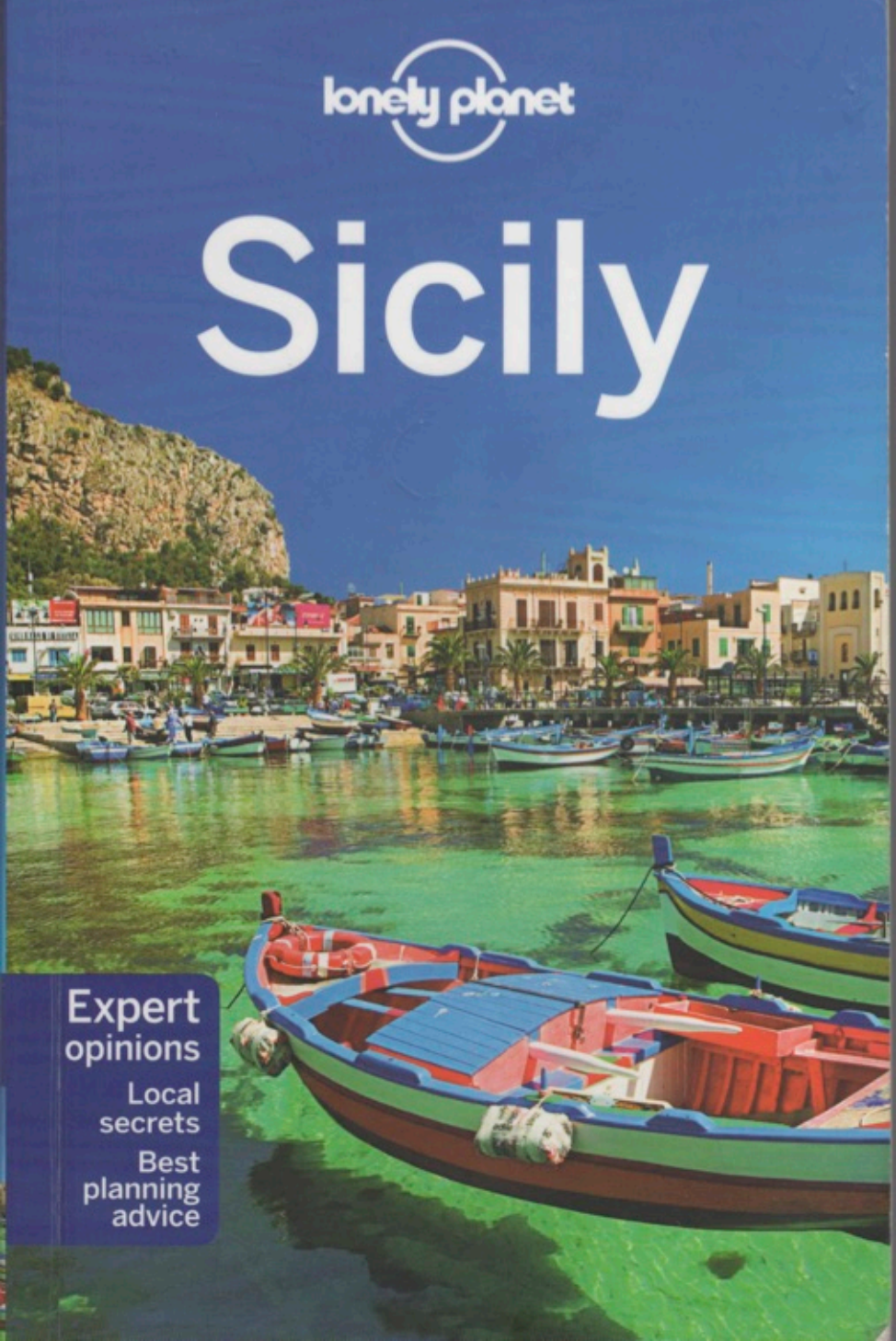




lonely planet

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PALERMO

In recent years Palermo has seen a dramatic increase in its supply of B&Bs, providing an alternative to the city's more established hotels. The fact that this is a big, busy city means that most hotel rooms come complete with street noise. It's also worth noting that many options occupy floors in historic *palazzi*, where stairs rather than lifts provide the only access.

Palazzo Pantaleo

B&B €

(Map p64; ☎091 32 54 71; www.palazzopantaleo.it; Via Ruggero Settimo 74h; s/d/ste €80/100/140; ☎☎) Offering unbeatable comfort and convenient location, Giuseppe Scaccianocce's cheerful B&B occupies the top floor of an old *palazzo* half a block from Piazza Politeama, hidden from the busy street in a quiet courtyard with free parking. The five rooms feature high ceilings, marble, tile or wooden floors, soundproof windows and modern bathroom fixtures. There's also one spacious suite.

B&B Amélie

B&B €

(Map p64; ☎091 33 59 20; www.bb-amelie.it; Via Principe di Belmonte 94; s €40-60, d €60-80, tr €90-100; ☎☎☎) On a pedestrianised New City street a stone's throw from Teatro Politeama, the affable, multilingual Angela has converted her grandmother's spacious 6th floor flat into a cheery B&B. Rooms are colourfully decorated, and the corner triple has a sunny terrace. Angela, a native Palermitan, generously shares her local knowledge and serves a tasty breakfast featuring homemade cakes and jams.

People with allergies needn't worry about the cat on the logo; the place is spotless, with no pets or fur in sight!

Butera 28

APARTMENT €

(Map p58; ☎333 3165432; www.butera28.it; Via Butera 28; apt per day €60-180, per week €380-1150; ☎☎) Delightful multilingual owner Nicoletta rents 11 comfortable apartments in her elegant *palazzo* near Piazza della Kalsa. Units range in size from 30 to 180 sq metres, most sleeping a family of four or more. Four apartments face the sea (No 9 is especially nice), most have laundry facilities and all have well-equipped kitchens. Nicoletta also offers fabulous cooking classes.

Hotel Orientale

HOTEL €

(Map p58; ☎091 616 57 27; www.albergoorientale191.it; Via Maqueda 26; s €30, d €40-50, tr €50-60; ☎☎) This *palazzo*'s grand marble

stairway and arcaded courtyard, complete with rusty bicycles, stray cats and strong up washing, is an evocative introduction to one of Palermo's most atmospherically budget hotels. Breakfast is served under the lovely frescoed ceiling in the library. Room 9 overlooks the tail end of the Ballarò market close enough to hear vendors singing in the morning.

B&B Novecento

B&B €

(Map p58; ☎091 976 11 94; www.bed-breakfast-palermo.com; Via Roma 62; s €45-65, d €50-80; ☎☎) Convenient to the train station, this welcoming B&B on the 5th floor of a Via Roma *palazzo* wins guests over with the warm hospitality of owners Elisa and Dario and a breakfast emphasizing homemade bread and organic ingredients. Each room has its own private exterior bathroom just across the hall.

A Casa di Amici

HOSTEL €

(Map p54; ☎091 58 48 84; www.acasadiamici.com; Via Volturro 6; dm €19-23, d €65, without bathroom d €40; ☎☎☎) In a renovated 19th-century *palazzo*, this artsy, hostel-type place behind Teatro Massimo has four colourful rooms sleeping two to four, with shared bathrooms and a guest kitchen. Two annexes, including one on Via Dante (opened in 2013), offer additional rooms, including one family-friendly unit with private bathroom and terrace. Multilingual owner Claudia provides helpful maps, information displays and advice.

Ai Cartari

B&B €

(Map p58; ☎091 611 63 72; www.aicartari.com; Via Alessandro Paternostro 62; d €80-120; ☎☎) Live like a Palermitan in one of these two nicely decorated suites (each of which sleeps up to five people). Your front door opens on to the cute Piazza San Francesco d'Assisi, and Palermo's most famous *focacceria*, Antica Focacceria di San Francesco, is just on your doorstep. Minimum two-night stay.

BB22

B&B €€

(Map p58; ☎335 790 87 33; www.bb22.it; Largo Cavalieri di Malta 22; s €100-140, d €140-210; ☎☎☎) A B&B in name only, Palermo's most gorgeous small hotel is a little palace of luxury, with welcoming hosts, elegant and stylish rooms, silky quilts, quirky designer lamps, plasma TVs and firm beds. It's all tucked away on a tiny back street in the midst of the Vucciria neighbourhood.

As good as the regular rooms are, it's the suite that wins our undying affection. The