



# 52 PLACES TO GO IN 2020

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# SICILY

## *Sustainable rebirth and culinary heritage on a volcanic island*

Susan Wright for The New York Times

There's some rumbling on Sicily, and it's not just Mount Etna, which began erupting again in 2019. A new wave of green tourism is washing over the Mediterranean island, where nonprofit grassroots groups have begun to spearhead sustainable volunteer tourism initiatives like EtnAmbiente, which launched an app in 2019 to help locals and tourists photograph and report pollution, increasingly an islandwide problem. These initiatives grew from five concerned individuals in 2018 to a powerful network to help reduce plastics and preserve the unique landscapes and marine habitats. Sicily's Tasca d'Almerita wine family have converted a derelict farmhouse into a winery on the lower slopes of Etna to open in 2020, offering workshops and wine tastings. The family's Anna Tasca Lanza Cooking School is also launching the Food Heritage Association, a nonprofit group celebrating Sicilian ingredients. Last year saw the opening of Historic Trains of Taste, a series of scenic rail excursions that recently partnered with Slow Food Sicily to take visitors on trips to lesser-known food and wine spots. Among them is Zash, a hotel and restaurant in the heart of a local citrus grove at Etna's base that received its first Michelin star in the 2020 guidebook. Uncover Travel, a small-group tour operator (up to eight guests) specializing in Sicily, launches electric-car tours to local food producers and artists in 2020. Palermo will see more lodging accommodations, including Rocco Forte's Villa Igiea, which has committed to plastic-free amenities like straw flip-flops and boxed water, while the NH Hotel Group, a chain devoted to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, will give its Palermo property a significant refurbishment.

—ADAM HARNEY GRAHAM



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