

lonely planet

# Southern Italy



**Hammam**

BATHHOUSE

(☎ 091 32 07 83; www.hammam.pa.it; Via Torreaarsa 1/d; admission €40; ☉ women only 2-9pm Mon & Wed, 11am-9pm Fri, couples only 2-8pm Thu, men only 2-8pm Tue, 10am-8pm Sat) For a sybaritic experience, head to this luxurious marble-lined Moorish bathhouse, where you can indulge in a vigorous scrub-down, a steamy sauna and many different types of massages and therapies. There's a one-off charge (€10) for slippers and a hand glove.

## 🌟 Festivals & Events

**Festa di Santa Rosalia**

RELIGIOUS

(U Fistinu) In mid-July, Palermo's biggest annual festival celebrates the patron saint of the city, Santa Rosalia, with fireworks, parades and four days of partying.

## 🛏 Sleeping

Most budget options can be found around Via Maqueda and Via Roma in the vicinity of the train station. Midrange and top-end hotels are concentrated further north. Parking usually costs an extra €10 to €15 per day.

**B&B Amélie**

B&amp;B €

(☎ 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.

**Palazzo Pantaleo**

B&amp;B €

(☎ 091 32 54 71; www.palazzopantaleo.it; Via Ruggero Settimo 74h; s/d/ste €80/100/140; 📞📺) Offering unbeatable comfort and a 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, soundproofed windows and modern bathroom fixtures. There's also one spacious suite.

**Butera 28**

APARTMENT €

(☎ 333 3165432; www.butera28.it; Via Butera 28; apt per day €60-180, per week €380-1150; 📞📺) Delightful owner, Nicoletta, rents 11 com-

fortable apartments in her elegant *palazzo* near Piazza della Kalsa. Units range in size from 30 to 180 sq m, most sleeping a family of four or more. Four apartments face the sea (number 9 is especially nice), most have laundry facilities, and all have well-equipped kitchens. Nicoletta also offers fabulous **cooking classes** (www.cookingwiththeduchess.com).

**Hotel Orientale**

HOTEL €

(☎ 091 616 57 27; www.albergoorientale.191.it; Via Maqueda 26; s €30, d €40-50, tr €50-60; 📞📺) The grand marble stairway and arcaded courtyard of this *palazzo*, complete with rusty bicycles, stray cats and strung-up washing, is an evocative introduction to one of Palermo's most atmospherically faded budget hotels. Breakfast is served under the lovely frescoed ceiling in the library. Room 8 overlooks the tail end of the Ballaró market, close enough to hear vendors singing in the morning.

**A Casa di Amici**

HOSTEL €

(☎ 091 58 48 84; www.acasadiamici.com; Via Volturmo 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 bath and terrace. Multilingual owner Claudia provides helpful maps, information displays, and advice.

**B&B Panormus**

B&amp;B €

(☎ 091 617 58 26; www.bbpanormus.com; Via Roma 72; s €43-65, d €55-100; 📞📺) A convenient location near the train station, coupled with attractive Liberty-style rooms, make this one of Palermo's most popular B&Bs. Each of the five impeccably clean units has its own private bathroom down the passageway.

**Hotel Principe**

di Villafranca

BOUTIQUE HOTEL €€

(☎ 091 611 85 23; www.principedivillafranca.it; Via Turrisi Colonna 4; d €108-297; 📞📞📺) Furnished with fine linens and antiques, this sophisticated hotel is just west of Viale della Libertá in one of Palermo's most peaceful, exclusive neighbourhoods. Public spaces include a cosy sitting area with library, fireplace and displays of local designers' work; among the comfortable, high-ceilinged rooms, junior suite 105 stands out, decorated