

SOHO 17

10 Years of SOHO and Beyond

7 - 12 May 2006

Giardini Naxos, Italy

Conference Social Programme

The social event programme has been designed to provide participants with an opportunity to relax, and to meet each other in a less formal environment.

Sunday, May 7th 2006, 7:00 p.m.

Welcome reception at the Naxos Beach Resort

Refreshments will be served on a beach patio facing the sea giving everyone the opportunity to introduce themselves and share time with colleagues in an informal and friendly atmosphere. In case of bad weather, alternative options will be available inside the resort.

Wednesday, May 10th 2006, 2:00 p.m.

Half-day Excursion to Alcantara Gorges/Tour & Wine-tasting at Castiglione di Sicilia

Along its course, in tens of thousands of years, the river Alcantara has created a valley that constitutes a geological landscape absolutely unique in the world. The river, flowing in the black Etna basalts and eroding them for thousands of years in various stretches, has created peculiar lavic ravines, locally referred to as "gorges", with vertical walls rising steeply tens of metres. Entering the narrow but spectacular gorges in the Lardereria area, you can clearly see the result of the very slow cooling of thick lavic bodies which have generated unusual hexagonal basaltic prisms, commonly known as "columnar basalts".

This gorge can be reached on foot or by elevator and it is possible to walk along the river bed.

Then you will continue towards Castiglione di Sicilia (the area is renowned for its fine wines) where, after a guided tour of the medieval town, a wine-and food-tasting event will take place. Wines and local products will be also available for purchase from local wineries and shops. (Transfer by coach, 35 kilometres from Giardini Naxos).

Further info available at www.parks.it/parco.alcantara/Eindex.html or www.comune.castiglionedisicilia.ct.it/home.php

Thursday, May 11th 2006, 7:00 p.m.

SOHO 17 Conference Dinner

The Conference Dinner is set at the conclusion of the "SOHO reunion" on Thursday 11th May, at Hotel Villa Diodoro in Taormina, near the beautiful public gardens, with a magnificent view of Giardini Naxos Bay, Taormina and Mount Etna. Coaches will leave the hotel at 7.00 p.m. to reach Taormina. A group performing popular songs and music of southern Italy will give a concert during the dinner.

The Welcome Reception, Excursion/Tour & Wine Tasting and Conference Dinner will be free of charge for registered participants and registered accompanying persons.

Extra Tours for Accompanying Persons (not included in participation fees):

The excellent geographical position of Giardini Naxos is considered an ideal base for easy excursions to the whole territory of Sicily.

Optional tours to various tourist locations in Sicily will be organized on request by the hotel travel agency and can be purchased during the conference. Further information will be posted on the conference website or can be requested from the hotel when participants book their rooms.

