A satellite-style map of Sicily, Italy, showing the island's green and brown terrain and its surrounding blue waters. The map is oriented vertically, with the top of the island at the bottom of the frame.

The charm of the cathedrals of
Palermo, Monreale and Cefalù,
the domes of the St Johan of Hermits' Church
and that of Martorana,
the splendor of the Royal Palace,
convinced the
UNESCO Commission
to enroll

**The Arab-Norman Itinerary of
Palermo, Monreale and Cefalù**

in the World Heritage List - 2015 .

"The set of buildings that forms the Arab-Norman
' Palermo site and the cathedrals of Monreale and Cefalù '
is an example of coexistence material, interaction and exchange
between different cultural components of different historical and
geographical origin. This syncretism has created an original
architectural and artistic style, of outstanding universal value,
where are admirably fused Byzantine, Islamic and Latin elements,
able from time to time to occur in unique combinations, of
exceptional artistic value and extraordinarily uniform."

(Candidature dossier for inscription on the World Heritage List-2014)

PALERMO



Cathedral - 1184

The Cathedral is considered the "history book of Palermo", because all the dominations have left their marks. Striking are the report with the beautiful porch built in 1453, which is a masterpiece of Catalan-Gothic, and the marble balustrade that surrounds the floor of the Cathedral in 1574, subsequently adorned with statues of Sicilian Saints. Of considerable interest are the royal tombs, in particular that of Frederick II and the crown belonged to Constance of Aragon.

The two and a half centuries of Arab rule (from 827 at the end of the XI century) made Palermo one of the richest and most important cities of the time: were built magnificent palaces, mosques, minarets, gardens and fountains.



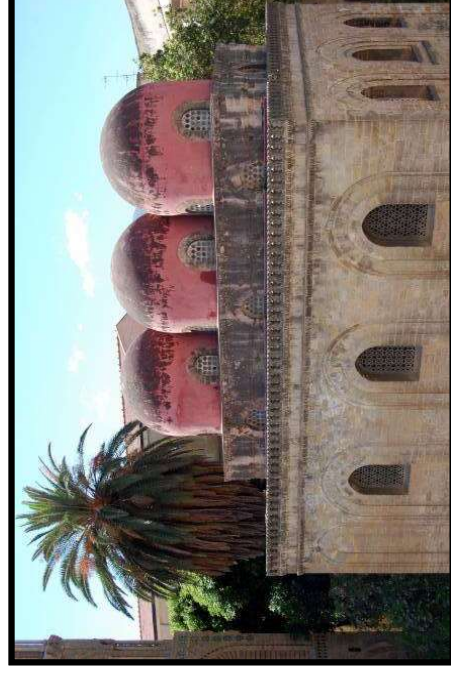
Zisa's Castle - 1165

(It was the favorite summer residence of Norman kings)



Ammiraglio' Bridge – 1125

(It was the first masonry bridge built in Europe)



Saint Cataldo's Church - 1154

Arab-Norman style, unique and exclusive of Palermo, Monreale and Cefalù, is characterized by the union of two opposite worlds: the Arab-Muslim and Norman-Catholic.



St. John of the Hermits' Church – 1130



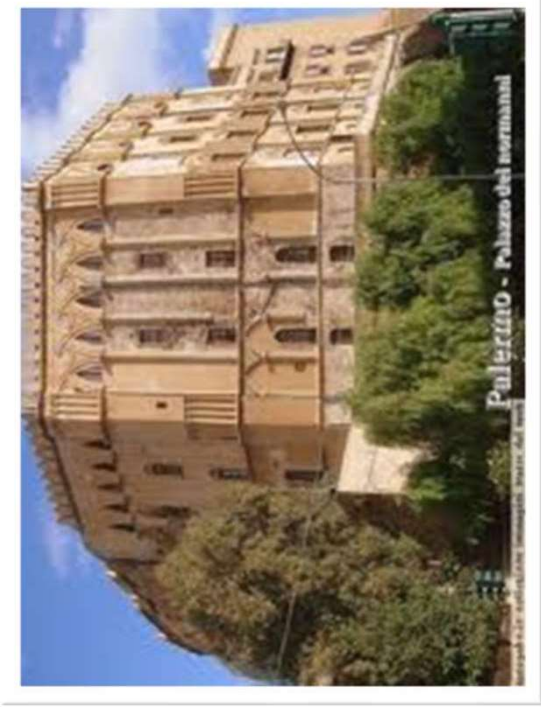
Martorana's Church - 1143

The constructive form of St. John's Church is given by a cubic structure surmounted by a dome. The combination of the square, representing the earth, and the circle, which represents the sky, can be found both in the Islamic culture and in Byzantine one.

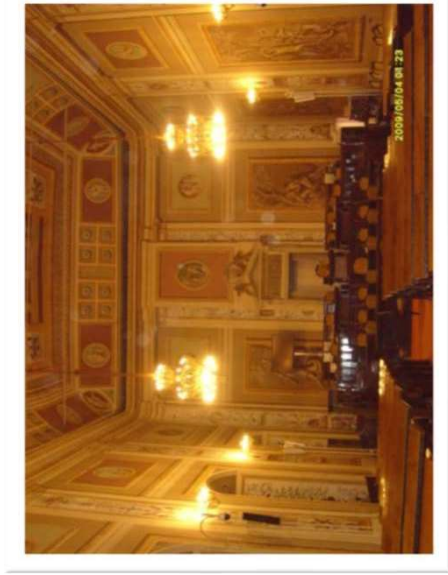
The Normans' Palace (X century)

It was the seat of the Arab Emirs.

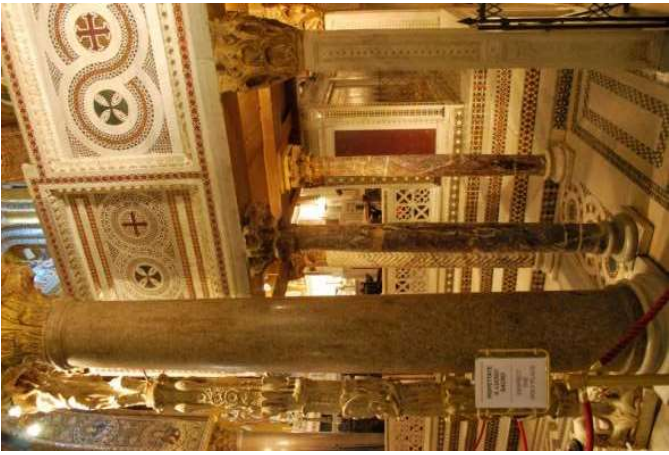
Since 1946 is the seat of the Sicilian Parliament, which is the oldest in Europe.



The Pisan Tower houses since 1791, the Astronomical Observatory where it was spotted for the first time in 1901 the planet Ceres by G. Piazz.



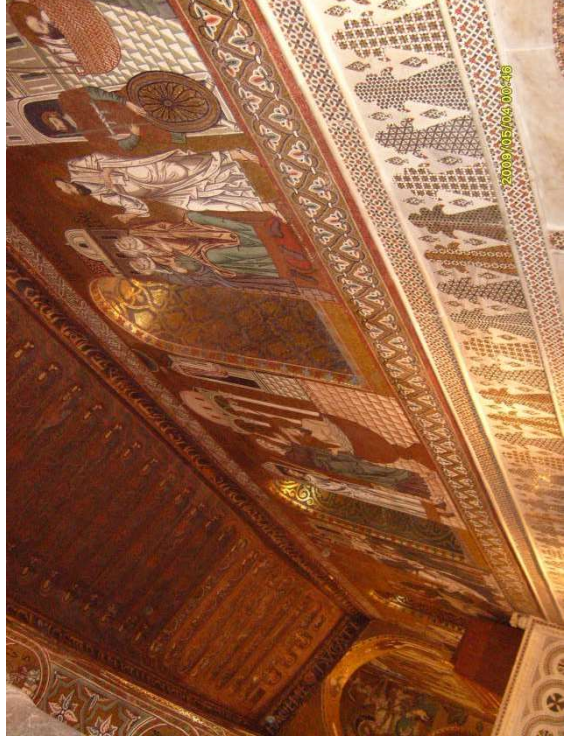
The Palatinian Chapel
is in the Norman's Palace
(1130 - 1132)



The Chapel has three naves separated by ten Egyptian granite columns.

The floor bears the same motifs and repeated Byzantine-inspired.

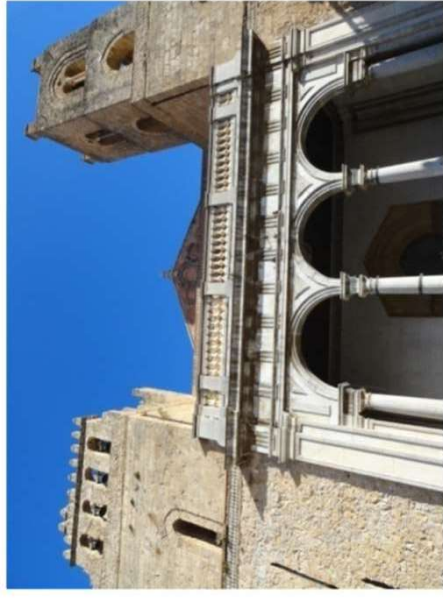
The wooden ceiling is rich in stalactites, with Islamic style paintings with two star-shaped boxes of large files with eight points with geometric decorations and characters of ancient Arabic script.



The Monreale's Cathedral



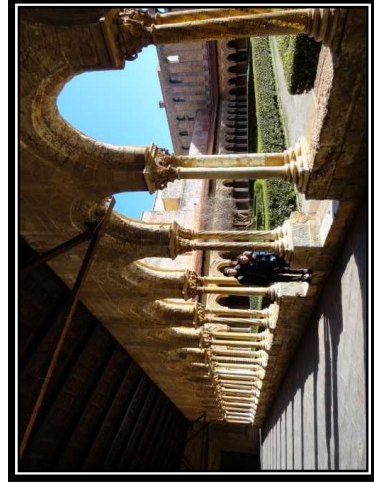
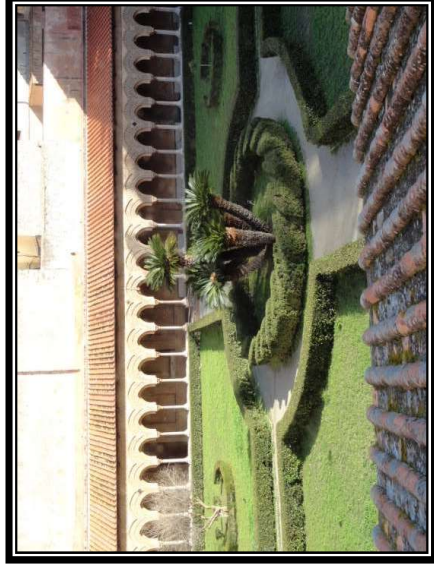
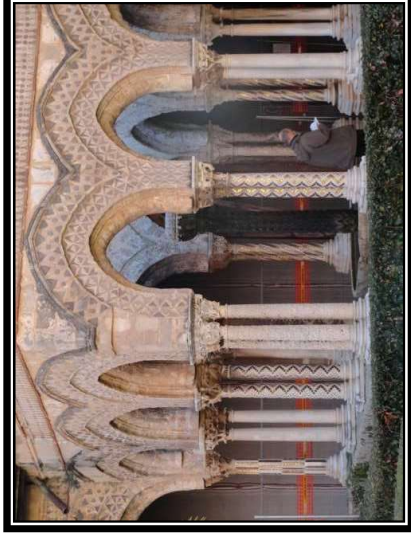
Established in 1174 at the behest of the Norman King William II, it is a fine example of Byzantine architecture.



The Cloister of Monreale

It is a Romanesque building, with a square plan, with a porch to double nut arches on twin columns, which have carved ornamentations arabesque or with mosaic inlays.

This columns are all different.



In a corner there is a fountain whose water flows from a richly carved column in the form of stylized palm stem.



The Cefalù's Cathedral and its Cloister



The prospect is characterized by two bell towers with four rows of windows. The interior of the basilica has three aisles divided by 16 columns with variously figured capitals.

The building was founded in 1131 by King Roger.



The aisles have a wooden roof. The apse, the presbytery walls and the ceiling are covered with mosaics. According to the Byzantine iconography, elongated figures are arranged in a procession following the principles of the liturgical hierarchy.



PALERMO, MONREALE AND CEFALÙ

ARE WAITING FOR

YOU!