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Mark Spano Communications Completes Reimagining Sicily
***A feature-length documentary that celebrates the island nation's
true culture and contributions.***

May 4, 2016 (Chapel Hill, NC) -- After five years of research, writing, traveling, and filming, producer/director Mark Spano has completed ***Reimagining Sicily***, a feature-length documentary that takes viewers to a place far removed from the criminal element associated with this island nation. Through Spano's passion for the home of his ancestors, Director of Photography David Tyson's stunning visuals, and Fred Story's mesmerizing original score, Sicily is revealed in this film as a land of spectacular beauty and decorative excess, epic human struggle, diversity of culture and philosophy, and ancient historic sites -- all of which are as fundamental to western ideas and civilizations as Egypt, Greece, Paris, Rome, or London, yet almost entirely ignored by the public.

Until now.

And in a remarkable turn of serendipity, the completion of ***Reimagining Sicily*** occurs at the same time that the British Museum has opened "Sicily – Culture and Conquest," an exhibition of Sicily's fascinating history and extraordinarily diverse culture. http://www.britishmuseum.org/whats_on/exhibitions/sicily.aspx It also coincides with *Travel + Leisure* naming Sicily one of the Best Places to Travel in 2016 [<http://www.travelandleisure.com/slideshows/best-places-to-travel-in-2016/16>]

Of course, timing had nothing to do with the making of the film. Ancestral pride compelled Mark Spano to launch this project.

"The inspiration is pretty simple," he told the *Times of Sicily* during filming. "Throughout my whole life, on my travels, whether in the States or Europe, it didn't matter where, if I announced to someone I was Sicilian or there was some discussion about background and ethnicity, there was only a single response. Eventually that got a little tiresome."

He admits it was an ambitious undertaking since Sicily has been a crossroads of cultures for 3000 years and more invaded than any other place on earth. "But nobody had tackled the whole subject," Spano said, "detailing why Sicily is as important a destination as Greece, Egypt, Turkey, Paris, Rome, Florence, London -- the places we go when we say we are well travelled and the locations that have formed western ideas."

Reimagining Sicily celebrates this cultural melting pot's unique history, diverse culture, architecture and ancient ruins. It doing so, it takes viewers to organic farms, what fields, olive orchards, niche wineries, bakeries piled with lavish sweets, stately museums and historic sites. It follows the stylishly shod feet of *fashionistas* in Palermo and offers modern music Sicilian style. It introduces viewers to local Sicilians across the island who love their native land deeply, despite its ongoing economic challenges and its reputation as the motherland of the Italian Mafia – an earned reputation that inspires one shop owner to quip, “This isn’t a movie. This is something we confront every day.”

For more information on licensing and distribution for *Reimagining Sicily* and to preview the film contact:

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About Mark Spano Communications:

Mark Spano, President of Mark Spano Communications, Inc. has over thirty years experience in film and television production, performing arts, arts management and fundraising.

