



Dear MTA Traveler,

Some of the world's most extraordinary Greek temples grace the rugged landscape of Italy's entrancing island of Sicily. Please join me next fall to discover these pearls of antiquity as we circumnavigate the largest island in the Mediterranean aboard the elegant *Sea Cloud II* on a classic cruise *National Geographic Traveler* called one of 50 "Tours of a Lifetime."

Embark our three-masted sailing yacht in Malta and first step ashore in Sicily to admire the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento. One after the other, marvels follow, from Palermo's mesmerizing Palatine Chapel in the Palace of the Norman Kings, to the Greek amphitheater in lovely Taormina, and of course the well-preserved vestiges of one of the world's most important cities of antiquity, Syracuse.

Throughout our week together, Sicily will reveal her rich and unique culture as we walk in storied cities that were once centers of the Greco-Roman, Carthaginian, and Byzantine worlds, and are received in the dazzling private *palazzi* of local nobility.

I hope you will join me on this voyage to discover the fascinating history and stunning beauty of Sicily.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim".

Jim Friedlander
Managing Director

TRAVEL HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Spend seven nights aboard *Sea Cloud II*, as we sail to ancient towns that were once centers of the Greco-Roman, Carthaginian, and Byzantine worlds
- ◆ Explore the capital city of Palermo, once the intellectual capital of southern Europe
- ◆ Visit Agrigento, whose Valley of the Temples contains some of the finest Greek ruins in the world
- ◆ See the cathedral built on the ruins of the Temple of Athena in Syracuse
- ◆ Stroll in Taormina, a romantic hilltop town laden with shops and art galleries, and tour the ancient Greek theater still used for plays and concerts





Palatine Chapel, Palermo

AT SEA

Monday, October 16

Experience the thrill of sailing aboard our fine ship, enjoying lectures and delighting in the grace and romance of a bygone era of travel.

B, L, D

TAORMINA

Tuesday, October 17

A morning walk through Taormina, with views of the dramatic, snow-capped cone of Mount Etna, takes us past shops and art galleries on our way to the ancient Greek theater, still used for plays and concerts.

B, L, D



Greek amphitheater, Taormina

SYRACUSE

Wednesday, October 18

Splendid Syracuse, the largest city in the ancient world, was a formidable rival to Athens. Discover its well-preserved theaters (where Aeschylus' plays were performed), and the cathedral built on the ruins of the Temple of Athena. By special invitation, Barone Beneventano will welcome us to his baroque *palazzo* for a tour and refreshments. This evening enjoy the captain's farewell dinner.

B, L, R, D



Valletta harbor

VALLETTA ♦ U.S. RETURN

Thursday, October 19

Disembark in Valletta and transfer to the airport for the flights home.

B

