



SICILY

featuring

SYRACUSE

Mount Etna

Taormina

Noto



PALERMO

Piazza Armerina

Agrigento

Erice

Segesta

Cefalù



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OCTOBER 22-
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trategically situated between Europe and Africa, the island of Sicily is a cultural crossroad paved

by legendary Mediterranean civilizations. Its breathtaking natural beauty is embellished by the sun-bleached stone columns of classic Greek temples. Cobbled medieval towns and Norman fortresses cling to craggy cliffs. Vineyards and the verdant slopes of Mount Etna terrace their way down to meet the sparkling sea. Savor fresh, seasonal cuisine blended with the fruit of silvery olive groves in this great melting pot of the ancient world.

“[I] LIKE SICILY EXTREMELY—A GOOD ON-THE-BRINK FEELING—ONE HOP AND YOU’RE OUT OF EUROPE....”

– D.H. LAWRENCE, ENGLISH WRITER, 1885-1930, LETTER, 25 MARCH 1920

Above: Cathedral, Palermo

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Sicily from two prime locations, **Syracuse** and **Palermo**.
- Discover the history of storied **Mount Etna** before ascending the volcano.
- Visit beautiful **Taormina**, home to a famous Greek amphitheater.
- Wander through the baroque town of **Noto**, rebuilt after a devastating 17th-century earthquake.
- Admire the **exquisite mosaics** at a Roman villa in Piazza Armerina and at the cathedral in Monreale.
- Visit the scenic and historic towns of **Erice**, **Segesta** and **Cefalù**.
- Enjoy **specially arranged dining experiences** that showcase Sicily’s natural bounty.

Alumni Campus Abroad[®] Advantages

This program offers unique value-added features that promise you an outstanding educational experience in a very special environment:

- **Settle into Sicily** for a stay of eight nights and the opportunity to immerse yourself in the local culture and lifestyles of two locales.
- **Two first-class hotels** provide comfortable accommodations and the perfect bases from which to explore the region’s renowned landmarks and off-the-beaten-path treasures.
- **An extensive meal plan** is seasoned with traditional specialties.
- **Meet the People** during excursions and events that allow you to mingle with area residents and gain personal insight into everyday life in their community.
- **Informative educational lectures** are presented by local experts and excursions led by knowledgeable guides.
- **An experienced Campus Director** ensures attentive services for the duration of your stay.
- **All gratuities** for excursion guides and drivers are included.



*Temple of Juno,
Valley of the Temples,
archaeological area of
Agrigento*

*The coast below
Taormina is fascinating.
We enjoyed the view of
this beautiful shore,
under the loveliest of
skies, looking at the
roses and listening to the
nightingales.*

~ Johann Wolfgang von
Goethe, German poet,
Italian Journey, 1787

*The port capacious, and
secure from wind, is to
the foot of thund'ring
Etna joined. By turns a
pitchy cloud she rolls on
high: by turns hot
embers from her entrails
fly, and flakes of mount-
ing flames, that lick
the sky.*

~ Virgil, Roman poet,
circa 20 B.C.

*I had often heard
that Syracuse was the
largest of the Greek
cities, and the most
beautiful of them
all. Its fame is not unde-
served.*

~ Marcus Tullius Cicero,
Roman politician and
philosopher, 106-43 B.C.

Dear Graduates, Parents and Friends of Brown,

Buon giorno! Discover the time-honored wonders of **Sicily** on this spectacular Mediterranean adventure. Combining the convenience and value of traveling with a group with the flexibility and spontaneity of independent exploration, this journey reveals the island's treasures while still providing you with enough free time to tailor the trip to your interests.

Join our group of alumni and friends and discover the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento, the Roman villa in Piazza Armerina and the magnificence of Syracuse. Visit Noto, a town that was built in the baroque style with unique Sicilian accents. Marvel at Mount Etna and much more. Our itinerary features preferred access to popular attractions and specially arranged cultural experiences. An exclusive educational program enhances your understanding and deepens your appreciation for Sicily's distinctive sights, sounds and sensations.

This journey to Sicily is an unforgettable program at an unbeatable value. We will share this departure with alumni and friends from the University of Pennsylvania. **Space is limited, so I encourage you to make your reservations today.**

Sincerely,

Beth Goldman Galer '88
Director of the Alumni Travel Program



**Faculty Lecturer
Larry Silver, Farquhar Professor of Art
History at the University of Pennsylvania**

Larry Silver (Ph.D. Harvard) came to Penn in 1997 after prior teaching at Berkeley and Northwestern, where he traveled with the Alumni Associations of those universities numerous times in both Europe and Asia. He has also been a four-time faculty member on Semester at Sea, sponsored by the University of Virginia. In addition, he has been a committed participant in adult education through the MLA program in Penn's College of Liberal and Professional Studies. Author of a global art history textbook, he is a specialist in old master paintings and prints of Europe and delights in visits to historical architectural and archaeological sites.

Great epochs of Greek, Roman, Arab and Norman civilizations have flourished on Sicily, resulting in a blend of architectural styles and archaeological treasures. Explore entrancing Sicily and discover its rich history, culture and cuisine.



DAY ONE

Depart your gateway city for **Catania, Sicily**, aboard scheduled jet service. (*Provided for Air Program participants only.*)

SYRACUSE

DAY TWO SYRACUSE

Upon arrival, transfer by deluxe motor coach to **Syracuse** and the *Hotel des Etrangers et Miramare* on Syracuse's island of Ortygia. (*Provided for Air Program participants only.*)

Join an orientation walk led by your Campus Director around the Old Town, as Ortygia is locally known.

Tonight, gather with fellow travelers for a *Welcome Reception and Dinner* in the hotel.

DAY THREE SYRACUSE

Educational Focus: *A Country Within a Country.* Strategically located between Europe and Africa, Sicily has long been the crossroad of many civilizations. As a result, Sicily's culture and history are unique from the Italian mainland.

Excursion: *Magnificent Syracuse.*

Explore the Old Town, a showcase of architecture between the medieval and baroque eras, and the Piazza del Duomo, one of Sicily's most elegant squares. Continue to Archaeological Park to see the ancient ruins.

Independent Exploration: Lunch and the afternoon are at your leisure.

Local Flavor: Dinner is served at a family-owned trattoria.

DAY FOUR MOUNT ETNA & TAORMINA

Educational Focus and Excursion: *The Friendly Giant.* Mount Etna, one of the world's most active volcanoes, is the

tallest in Europe, rising 10,958 feet above sea level. Etna is known as the "friendly giant" because people are rarely harmed during its eruptions. Ascend Etna to a vantage point where several of the volcano's craters can be viewed.

Local Flavor: *An Italian Lemon Farm.*

The soil around Mount Etna is very fertile. Enjoy lunch at a farmhouse restaurant on the slope of the volcano. Learn about the workings of the farm, which grows lemons used in making *limoncello*.

Excursion: *Taormina.* Settled by the Greeks in the sixth century B.C., Taormina blossomed in the Middle Ages and is home to 14th- and 15th-century palaces. Taormina's most famous monument is a Greek theater, rebuilt by the Romans in about A.D. 200. The theater still is used today because of its near-perfect acoustics.

DAY FIVE NOTO

Excursion: *Noto.* In 1693, an earthquake ravaged about 60 towns in the southeastern corner of Sicily. Noto, rebuilt six miles away from its original location, became one of a group of towns noted for its Sicilian baroque architecture. Local architects combined traditional Sicilian elements with the fashionable baroque architecture of the time to create a unique style.

Independent Exploration: The afternoon and evening are at your leisure.

PALERMO

DAY SIX PIAZZA ARMERINA & AGRIGENTO

This morning, depart for **Palermo** and the *Excelsior Hilton Palermo*.



UNESCO

Syracuse (2005), the **Late Baroque Town of Noto** (2002), the **Romana Villa del Casale** (1997) and the **Archaeological Area of Agrigento** (1997) are UNESCO *World Heritage List* sites featured in this program. These sites are distinguished due to universal scenic, historic, artistic or scientific value.

Excursion: Roman Mosaics and Greek Temples.

The Villa Romana del Casale, a fourth-century country house near Piazza Armerina, is home to some of the best mosaics of the Roman Empire. The monuments in Agrigento's Valley of the Temples were built in the late sixth century B.C. The Temple of Concord is one of the most spectacular surviving Doric temples.

Local Flavor: Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant during this excursion.

Educational Focus: Sicily in World War II.

Examine the events of Operation Husky, the World War II battle in which more than 160,000 Allied troops landed on Sicily's southeastern beaches.

DAY SEVEN

PALERMO

Educational Focus: *The Cosa Nostra.*

Discuss Sicily's strong families, its infamous Mafia culture and *omerta*, the code of silence.

Excursion: Palermo, the Sicilian Capital.

Palermo's Cathedral is a harmonious blend of Gothic, Moorish and Norman architecture. See the Palatine Chapel in the Norman Palace; its resplendent mosaics combine Islamic motifs and Christian iconography. The Islamic-influenced domes of St. John of the Hermits, a 12th-century Norman church, are built on the grounds of a mosque. A tour of a market reveals the bounty of the land and sea.

Local Flavor: Enjoy lunch at a restaurant in Palermo.

Excursion: The Mosaics of Monreale.

Like many of Sicily's churches, the Santa Maria la Nuova is composed of many architectural styles. However, most people come to look at its mosaics, which cover 68,243 square feet (6,340 square meters).

DAY EIGHT

ERICE & SEGESTA

Excursion: Elymian Erice. Erice's Duomo is a Romanesque masterpiece. The town also features two medieval castles.

Cultural Event: Olive Farm—Meet the People. Enjoy lunch at an olive farm. This family operation produces award-winning



Far left:
Fonte Aretusa, a 1,000-year-old fresh water spring, Ortygia, Syracuse
Center (upper): *Noto Center*
Center (lower): *Detail of mosaic, Romana Villa del Casale*
Left: *Palermo*

organic olive oil, and a member of the family will lead a guided tour of the facilities and explain the process of making olive oil.

Excursion: Segesta. Ancient Segesta is home to a Doric temple, spectacular though unfinished, and an amphitheater carved into the rock of Mount Barbaro.

DAY NINE CEFALÙ

Educational Focus: Contemporary Sicily. Discuss Sicily's current issues and examine its geopolitical role within Italy and the European Union.

Excursion: Cefalù. Cefalù, a pretty fishing village, is anchored between the Tyrrhenian Sea and a limestone promontory. Its highlights include a 12th-century Romanesque cathedral regarded as one of the greatest churches in southern Europe. Flanked by two towers, the interior houses remarkable remnants of Byzantine mosaics.

Independent Exploration: The afternoon is at leisure.

Tonight, gather with fellow travelers for a *Farewell Reception and Dinner* and *Graduation Ceremony* in the hotel.

DAY TEN

Transfer by motor coach from the hotel to the airport in Catania for the flight to Germany, where you'll overnight at a deluxe hotel. *(Provided for Air Program participants only.)*

DAY ELEVEN

Embark the return trans-Atlantic flight to your gateway city. *(Provided for Air Program participants only.)*

NOTE: *Itinerary and flight schedule(s) may change due to local conditions. Many excursions in this program involve an element of walking as some of the finest attractions are located in areas not closely accessible by motor coach.*

INCLUDED FEATURES

Accommodations

- **Four nights** in **Syracuse** at the first-class **Hotel des Etrangers et Miramare**.
- **Four nights** in **Palermo** at the first-class **Excelsior Hilton Palermo**.

Meals

- **Enjoy an extensive meal program**, including eight breakfasts, four lunches and four dinners, in addition to in-flight dining service. Tea or coffee is included with all meals, plus wine with dinner. Take advantage of leisure time to try the local cuisine independently.
- Sample **authentic regional specialties** at featured **local restaurants**.
- Attend a special **Welcome Reception and Dinner**.
- Gather for a **Farewell Reception and Graduation Ceremony** followed by a **Farewell Dinner** in the hotel.

Your Exciting Travel Program

(For full details please refer to the Day-by-Day Itinerary.)

- **Informative educational programs**, presented by **local experts**, will enhance your insight into the region.
- **All excursions:**
 - Enjoy a walking tour of **Syracuse**.
 - Journey up **Mount Etna**.
 - Stroll through lovely **Taormina**.
 - Wander through historic **Noto**.
 - Marvel at the Roman villa in **Piazza Armerina**.
 - Visit the temples of **Agrigento**.
 - Discover the capital of **Palermo**.
 - Explore **Erice** and **Segesta**.
 - Journey to **Cefalù**.

Many Included Extras

- Consultation services of a dedicated **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Services of a professional **Campus Director** and **expert English-speaking local guides** throughout your stay.
- **Tipping** of all guides and drivers.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist you in your planning.
- Complimentary travel wallet.



Cathedral, Piazza del Duomo, Syracuse

ACCOMMODATIONS



HOTEL DES ETRANGERS ET MIRAMARE

SYRACUSE

The seaside *Hotel des Etrangers et Miramare* sits on the historic island of Ortygia and is close to the center of the city. Enjoy dining and panoramic views in the rooftop restaurant, and meet friends in the lounge. Elegantly decorated guest rooms feature every comfort, including air conditioning, cable and satellite television, a minibar, hair dryer, direct-dial telephone and Internet access.

EXCELSIOR HILTON PALERMO

PALERMO

The *Excelsior Hilton Palermo*, built in 1891 for the National Exposition of Palermo, is steps from the historic center of the city. The hotel, which recently underwent a complete renovation, has a fitness center and guests have access to a nearby spa. The hotel also has a restaurant and lounge. Each well-appointed guest room has air conditioning, satellite television, a minibar, hair dryer and wireless Internet access.

Reserve your trip to Sicily today!

For Office Use Only: B #: _____ Date: _____
Trip #: 16-19241 PSR: _____

Send to: Sicily
Brown Travelers
c/o AHI Travel
6400 Shafer Court
Rosemont, IL 60018

Please contact AHI Travel at **800-323-7373** with questions regarding this trip.

Full Legal Name (as it appears on passport)

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Title First Middle Last Class/Parent Year

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City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Home: (_____) _____

Office: (_____) _____

E-mail: _____

Yes, please e-mail me information about special Brown University travel opportunities.

Sharing with _____ (Form sent separately.)

Name(s) you would like on your name badge(s):

(1) _____

(2) _____

I/we authorize you to make my/our reservations as follows:

Land Program

- I/we will make my/our own air arrangements and transfers.
- Please call me/us to discuss my/our air options.
- I prefer single accommodations at an additional \$425 (limited availability).
- I request assistance in securing a roommate but will accept a single, if one is available at this time, and pay the single supplement. Should a roommate be found, I understand the supplement will no longer apply.

Land and Air Program

I/we reserve the Land Program and request the Air Program to/from Catania, Sicily, to depart from:

Departure City

Please send me information on upgrading my flights.

*Please note: Air prices will be sent with your Reservation Confirmation, which will be sent to you upon receipt of your reservation. Air schedule will be sent to you at approximately 90 days before departure. International flight arrangements can be canceled with **no obligation up to 75 days before departure.***

Reservations are subject to availability and processed on a first come, first served basis. Reservations to be paid in full by August 8, 2010 (75 days prior to departure). Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by personal check, MasterCard or Visa. Make checks payable to AHI International.

Enclosed is a deposit of _____ (\$600 per person required)
to reserve _____ place(s).

- Accept my check made payable to **AHI International**.
- Charge my deposit to: MasterCard Visa Expires _____/_____/_____

Card # _____

(Signature as it appears on credit card)

Please note: Any payment to AHI International constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out herein, including but not limited to the Cancellation terms.

Need pre- or post-trip assistance? *

If you are interested in making independent travel arrangements before and/or after this program, please contact **AHI Travel** at **800-323-7373** no later than **60 days prior to departure** and they will be happy to assist you with your reservations.

* A nonrefundable service fee and additional air/land charges based on reservations apply.

LAND PROGRAM

October 23-November 1, 2010

Full Price

\$3,445

Brown Travelers Savings

\$250

Special Price

\$3,195*

***Special Brown Travelers Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.**

VAT is an additional \$125 per person.

*All prices quoted are per person, based on double occupancy (unless otherwise stated).
Single accommodations are an additional \$425 (limited availability).*

AIR PROGRAM

October 22-
November 1, 2010

For your convenience, AHI offers a flexible Air Program featuring special air fares available at an additional cost in conjunction with the Land Program.

AHI has designated specific Group Air Schedules for this departure utilizing round-trip, scheduled jet service from North America to **Catania, Sicily**, including a connection and return overnight in **Munich, Germany**. Those passengers participating on these flights will enjoy motor coach transfers between the arrival/departure airport abroad and the hotels, including baggage handling. Prices are dependent upon dates, air routes and class of service chosen and will be reflected on your *Reservation Confirmation*, which will be sent to you upon receipt of your reservation. Air schedules will be sent with your *Final Invoice* approximately 90 days before departure. Air prices quoted to you will include all domestic and foreign governmental airport departure taxes and fees and any applicable fuel surcharges. AHI ticketed passengers will also receive **Automatic \$250,000 Flight Insurance**, subject to policy terms.

NEW ULTIMATE FLEXIBILITY-The AHI Travel Passenger Protection Plan now offers a low-cost **Any Reason Cancellation** feature. Book worry free!

NOT INCLUDED-Fees for passports and, if applicable, visas; personal gratuities; laundry and dry cleaning; excursions, wines, liquors, mineral waters and meals not mentioned in this brochure under included features; travel insurance; all items of a strictly personal nature.

MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL-The right is retained to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of AHI Travel, is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip, subject only to the requirement that the portion of the total amount paid which corresponds to the unused services and accommodations be refunded. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

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CANCELLATION-In addition to airline cancellation penalties, all cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a \$250 per person cancellation fee. Cancellation from 120 days to 75 days prior to departure will result in forfeiture of 10% of the entire cost of the trip per person; 75 days to 30 days, 50% of the trip cost per person; cancellation from 29 days up to the time of departure will result in 100% forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. **TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE. AN APPLICATION WILL BE SENT AFTER YOU RESERVE.** All cancellations must be submitted in writing to AHI International Corporation.

BAGGAGE-Baggage restrictions vary according to the airline policy and the class of service flown. Details will be provided with your pre-departure information. Baggage allowances are subject to change by the carrier without notice. Excess baggage charges for additional or oversized/overweight pieces are expensive and not included in your trip price; plan your wardrobe accordingly. Transport of baggage and personal effects is at the owner's risk throughout the travel program.

RESPONSIBILITY-AHI Travel, Brown University and the Brown Alumni Association act only as agents for the suppliers of travel conveyance, transport, accommodations or other service and have no responsibility for any delays, delayed departure or arrival, missed carrier connections, loss, death, damage or injury to person or property, or accident, mechanical defect, failure or negligence of any nature howsoever caused in connection with any accommodations, transportation or other services or for any substitution of hotels or of common carrier equipment, with or without notice, or for any additional expenses occasioned thereby. Dates, Program Details and Tour costs, although given in good faith and **BASED ON TARIFFS, EXCHANGE RATES** and other information **CURRENT AT THE TIME OF PRINTING, ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT OR BEFORE THE TIME OF DEPARTURE.** No revisions of the printed itinerary or its included features are anticipated; however, the right is reserved to make any changes, with or without notice, that might become necessary, with the mutual understanding that any additional expenses will be paid by the individual passenger. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. If the entire program is canceled for any reason, participants shall have no claim other than for a full refund. By forwarding the deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she has no physical, mental or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for himself/herself or other passengers and accepts the terms of this contract. The airlines and other transportation companies concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event, during the time passengers are not on board their conveyances. The passage contract in use, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the company(ies) and the passenger and/or purchaser of this trip.

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Top to bottom:

Taormina

*Intricately hand-painted
Sicilian cart*

Market, Palermo

Cover photos:

*View of Mount Etna
from the ancient Greek
Theater in Taormina*

Cefalù



A word about your Tour Operator

Since 1962, the experienced, professional staff at **AHI Travel** has offered a high level of service in deluxe, innovative travel programs sponsored by universities and alumni associations.

In AHI Travel's care, you can rely on:

- **An exceptional travel value.** It would be impossible for an independent traveler to arrange all of these unique experiences, inclusions and services at a comparable price.
- **Unique access to local sites.** Take advantage of their 47 years of travel experience to gain preferred entrance to popular sites and to uncover the region's hidden treasures.
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- **Safety and security.** In a country where you might not know the language or culture, their professional staff is on hand to ease your way and get you any help you need.
- **Full endorsement by the USTOA.** This professional association safeguards consumers' deposits and payments with a \$1 Million *Traveler's Assistance Program*.



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and save \$500 per couple!**