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A TRAVELER'S LIFE LIST

by **PATRICIA SCHULTZ**

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

anchovies, mountains of fresh herbs, plump tomatoes, and glistening olives. Or take a seat overlooking the sprawling market at Shanghai, a bare-bones trattoria where fresh fish and greens are hauled up in baskets from the stalls below. Forgo the chaos for Piccolo Napoli, where the freshest seafood is simply grilled amid more formal surroundings.

The rambling 17th-century palazzo that was home to Prince Giuseppe Tomasi Lampadusa, author of *The Leopard*, is now the inviting Butera 28. The prince's adoptive son and daughter-in-law, the Duke and Duchess of Palma, house guests in nine spacious and comfortable apartments, host dinners, and arrange city tours and cooking lessons. In the heart of the old town, the six-room BB22 infuses an old palazzo with modern flair. The graceful Villa Igia, an Art Nouveau

doyenne-turned-hotel, on the bay 2 miles north of the city center, soothes guests with lush seaside gardens and old-world guest rooms awash in Sicilian charm.

VISITOR INFO: www.palermotourism.com. **PALAZZO DEI NORMANNI** and **CAPPELLA PALATINA:** Tel 39/091-705-1111. **TRATTORIA SHANGHAI:** Tel 39/091-589-7025. *Cost:* dinner \$30. **PICCOLO NAPOLI:** Tel 39/091-320-431. *Cost:* dinner \$50. **BUTERA 28:** Tel 39/0333-316-5432; www.butera28.com. *Cost:* double occupancy apartments from \$70. **BB22:** Tel 39/091-611-1610; www.bb22.it. *Cost:* from \$165. **VILLA IGIA:** Tel 39/091-631-2111; in the U.S., 888-414-2018; www.hotelvillagigia.palermo.com. *Cost:* from \$200 (off-peak), from \$330 (peak). **BEST TIMES:** Holy Week (week before Easter); around Jul 15 for processions and celebrations honoring patron St. Rosalia.

Splendid Monuments of the Ancient World

SICILY'S GREEK TEMPLES

Sicily, Italy

The Greek colonists who began arriving on the coastal areas of the southern Italian peninsula and the island of Sicily in the 8th century B.C. brought with them their Hellenic politics and culture and expanded their

civilization to include what became known as Magna Graecia. At the southeastern tip of Sicily, in Siracusa, which once rivaled Athens in power and splendor, a Greek presence remains in the amazingly well-preserved Teatro Greco, which stages classic plays each summer. Other important landmarks are preserved in the nearby Parco Archeologico.

On the small island of Ortigia, in Siracusa's harbor, the Baroque Duomo incorporates the thick columns of an ancient temple of Athena. Checking into the nearby elegant, century-old Grand Hotel Ortigia puts guests amid water-side promenades, medieval lanes, and palazzo-rimmed piazzas—and close to Don Camillo,

serving some of Sicily's most delicious seafood.

In Agrigento, the Greeks erected a string of golden-stone Doric temples along a ridge above the Valle dei Templi (Valley of Temples), one of the best-preserved concentrations of early Greek architecture outside Greece. Thirty-four exterior columns still surround the Tempio della Concordia (Temple of Concord), built around 430 B.C. The gargantuan, and entirely ruined, Tempio di Giove is one of the largest Greek temples ever built. In the summer months, evening tours are conducted of the illuminated temples, or you can view them in comfort from many of the rooms of the