



Palermo's Nuovo Gate marks the ancient edge of the city. It opens onto the road to Monreale and its mosaic filled duomo.

*Discovering  
the earthy  
beauty  
of*  
**SICILY**



It is no surprise that an island as blessed, cursed and fought over by the gods as this one has been would find humans smitten as well. Covered by fertile ground born from the rage of molton magma and caressed by tropical air, Sicily has been sought after by more civilizations than most of history can recall. What follows are the painted impressions of one visitor who captured them as he traveled.



From **Palermo's** narrow streets and twisting alleys in the oldest part of the city to the grandeur of the Teatro Massimo Opera House, the city vibrates in the clash between ancient, classic and a most contemporary life.





In **Palermo's** Piazza Bellini, San Domenico's austere facade belies this church's wildly baroque marble interior which may echo in turn with the sound of popular or sacramental music.

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The sturdy Norman lines of **Cefalu's** Cathedral are softened by palm trees and tourist's shirts filling the city hall piazza before it.





**Agrigento's** glowing buildings float softly in the waning afternoon light, an ethereal vision high above its seaside. Daylight on its port reveals piled nets and brightly painted boats awaiting a turn in the hands of local fishermen.



A wind blown drizzle polished small boats that **Letojanni** fishermen have pulled high and away from its dingy sand and turbulent water.

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The ochre remnants of Hera's Temple in **Agrigento's** Valley of Temples command an imposing view and lead a line of similar Greek ruins stepping across the valley.





Beautiful  
**Taormina**,  
secure from  
invading armies in  
the heights above  
the sea, exudes a  
charm that could  
well have been the  
original siren song  
Ulysses struggled  
against. It still  
sparkles in the sun  
and smiles in the  
rain, changing like a  
chameleon at the  
whims of the wind.





Unusually heavy rains blow in from the sea drenching **Taormina's** steep hillsides and muting the bright terra cotta roofs and buildings tucked at their feet.



### **MICHAEL KILLELEA**

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