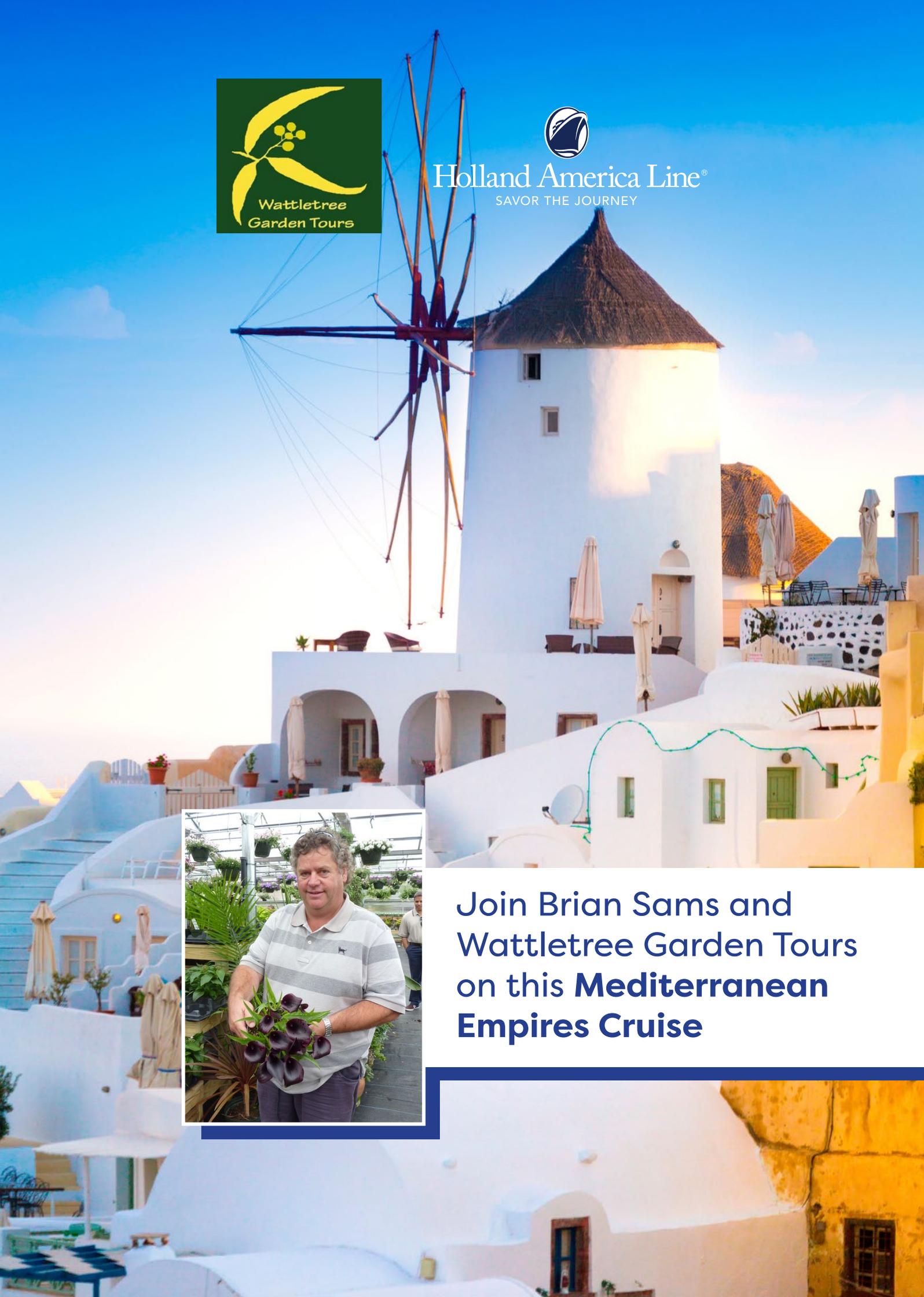




Holland America Line®
SAVOR THE JOURNEY



Join Brian Sams and
Wattletree Garden Tours
on this **Mediterranean
Empires Cruise**





MEDITERRANEAN

Stand at the rail of your ship and feel the same breezes that tousled the hair of Aristotle, Julius Caesar and Picasso. Many things began in the lands that rim the Mediterranean, from democracy to the Italian Renaissance to civilisation itself. Lean back against the sun-warmed marble of the Acropolis as you imagine the sound of ancient orators and worshipping throngs, you'll gain a newfound sense of shared history and fresh possibilities.

NIEUW AMSTERDAM

The second of Holland America Line's Signature-class ships, *Nieuw Amsterdam* celebrates historic New York City, once called Nieuw Amsterdam, with its inspired design and an art collection valued at more than \$3 million. While on board enjoy cooking classes and hands-on workshops from America's Test Kitchen. Hone your video-editing skills at a Digital Workshop powered by Windows. Dine in your choice of speciality restaurants. Or rejuvenate in the Greenhouse Spa & Salon.



EXC Explorations Central

Discover the connections that unite us across borders and cultures. Explorations Central™ (EXC™) is immersive onboard programming designed to make your journey more engaging, vivid and meaningful. From EXC Talks™ to EXC Encounters™ to a chat with your EXC Guide™, you'll feel the spirit of a region come to life.



12 Day Mediterranean Empires

Departing 3 June 2020 from Venice return onboard *Nieuw Amsterdam*



Home of the muses, centre of the classical world, Athens and the Geek Isles will enchant you, one blissful day at a time, as you cruise the sunny Aegean and Adriatic seas.

Day 1 Depart Venice (Depart: 4pm)

Venice is a floating labyrinth of reflections, with mirror and glass sights everywhere, from glorious Venetian architecture echoed in the canal waters to the marble palaces that shimmer in the sky. And although Carnivale is only held once a year, being in Venice on any day is like going to a festival with plenty of vibrant things to do and attractions to see. Locals seem to love the many sightseeing visitors who arrive each year, and Venice will openly reveal her charms even to those who are only here for a few hours, an afternoon or a magical evening.

Day 2 At Sea

Settle in and order at drink at the Sea View Bar as you watch the scenery shift before your eyes, or enjoy the world-class entertainment and enriching activities onboard.

Day 3 Katakolon (Arrive: 8am | Depart 4pm)

The port of Katakolon is the gateway to the Peloponnese, one of Greece's most intriguing and least well-known areas. Beyond the region's famous site of ancient Olympia—one of the most treasured remnants of the classical world—the Peloponnese gets little of the glory given the Greek islands and Athens.

In addition to Olympia, which is unmissable, the Peloponnese offers lesser-known but majestic and ancient sites, natural wonders and an insight into the traditional rural life that still endures in this country. Take the time to explore and see as much as possible—your efforts will be more than rewarded.

Day 4 Piraeus (Athens) (Arrive: 7am | Depart: 5pm)

No modern metropolis is more steeped in myth than Athens, Greece. From the gritty port of Piraeus—gateway to Greece's fabled isles—to the Parthenon—eternal symbol of Western civilisation—Athens has attracted adventurers and classicists for centuries. This heritage is still very much alive for modern visitors sightseeing in Athens: ancient stadiums and temples dwell alongside apartment blocks, modern performances are staged in the marble amphitheatres where Greek drama was born and millennia-old monuments are scattered in the archaeological park that circles the Acropolis.

Day 5 Cruising the Dardanelles (Cruising day) + Arrive in Istanbul (Arrive: 4pm)

On the far northwest coast of Turkey, the 60-kilometre-long Dardanelles divides the continents of Europe and Asia, and is the sole waterway between the Aegean and Marmara seas and beyond to the Black Sea.

The Dardanelles used to be called Hellespont, after Greek mythology's mortal princess, Helle, who drowned in these treacherous waters after falling off the back of the flying golden ram. These days the scenery is less dramatic than in those tales, but there are notable landmarks along the shores to see and photograph. Australians, New Zealanders and history buffs will take the most interest in the Gallipoli Peninsula on the northern shore at the mouth of the Dardanelles.

Day 6 Istanbul (Depart: 4pm)

Arriving in Istanbul, Turkey on board a ship is an unforgettable experience. The Bosphorus, dividing Europe and Asia, welcomes passengers with ocean breezes, soaring seagulls and—if you're lucky—playful dolphins that frolic en route to the port. On deck is where the views of Istanbul's best attractions await.

Once you step ashore in Istanbul, you'll find the most interesting parts of the city—neighbourhoods with personalities of their own. Explore the sights of bohemian Beyoğlu: a contemporary district brimming with galleries and street art, back street bars, cafés and fashion outlets that line the busy shopping avenue—Istiklal Caddesi. Meanwhile, across the Golden Horn, Zeyrek's ancient timber houses made it a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site where people live a traditional way of life.

Day 7 Mykonos (Arrive: 12pm | Depart: 6pm)

One of the most visited of Greece's Cyclades Islands, Mykonos is also known by the lyrical name of "the island of winds." The name comes from its first ruler, Mykons, son of the god Apollo. Today, you'll see what look like the descendants of the gods lounging on Mykonos's beaches—the island is known for being a lure for the rich and beautiful and was once a favourite holiday destination of Jackie Kennedy Onassis and her entourage.

Although a mystique of money and hedonism still lingers around the island, there's lots to see, do, taste and buy in Mykonos that's accessible to us mere mortals. There's also the simple beauty of Greek windmills, whitewashed houses clinging to the hills and charming tavernas with terraces open to the sky and the sea air.

Day 8 Rhodes

(Arrive: 8am |
Depart: 6pm)

Rhodes, the largest of the Dodecanese, draws more visitors than most other Greek islands. Its capital, Rhodes Town, offers an enduring blend of history and architecture, and the island's interior is filled with lushly forested hills. To the south, Lindos, one of the most stunning villages in all of Greece, is watched over by a picture-perfect ancient ruin on the hill above.

The island owes its rich history to a good climate and a strategically valuable position between Asia and Europe. Adding to this is a fine natural port where its former main attraction, an immense statue of the sun god Helios—the Colossus of Rhodes—once stood. One of the Seven Wonders of the World, the statue made Rhodes a must-visit destination for ancient world travellers until it collapsed in an earthquake in 226 B.C.E. Even the statue's ruins were grand enough to bring curious travellers to Rhodes for another 800 years until the metal pieces were melted and sold off by an occupying army.

Day 9 Souda

(Arrive: 8am |
Depart: 5pm)

The port of Souda on the Aegean Sea is home to a Greek and NATO naval base and is located six kilometres from Chania—the second-largest city on Crete, which itself is the largest of the Greek Islands. Once you're in Chania, set your compass for the historic waterfront with its famous Venetian Harbour dating to the 14th century.

Walk along the breakwater to the restored 500-year-old lighthouse for views that are particularly photogenic from late afternoon until sunset. The atmospheric tangle of streets that is Old Town is easily explored on foot, and you can stop at one of the many outdoor cafés for a bouyatsa (custard pastry) or a glass of Cretan red wine.

Day 10 At Sea

Settle in and order a drink at the Sea View Bar as you watch the scenery shift before your eyes, or enjoy the world-class entertainment and enriching activities onboard.

Day 11 Korčula

Arrive: 8am | Depart: 4pm)

Croatia's sixth-largest island—once known as Melaina Korkyra (Black Korkyra) because its vast oak forests reminded Greek settlers of Corfu—is covered in pine trees, olive groves and vineyards. As you glide down the Strait of Pelješac, admire the peninsula's dramatic karst slopes dropping off into the Adriatic Sea and the 19 islets of the archipelago around the canal.

Korčula Old Town is the island's treasured highlight and a UNESCO World Heritage Site candidate. Its stone architecture and historic ambience reflect almost four centuries of Venetian rule, with towered gates, lion statues, magnificent palazzos and elaborate stonework peppering the charming streets. Korčula is one of the last places on earth where knightly games like the Moreška dances are still regularly performed and where medieval fraternities still keep up their centuries-old traditions. The island truly is a treasure trove of history, nature and serenity.

Day 12 Venice

(Arrive: 10am)

Enjoy a full day in this beautiful city.

Day 13 Disembark in Venice

Enjoy one last breakfast onboard Nieuw Amsterdam before you disembark to fly home or continue on your travels.



To book or for more information
visit wattletreehorticulture.com.au or call 07 4696 8033