ANTHONY
MELCHIORRI

We sit down with travel and hospitality expert, Managing Director/founder of Argeo Hospitality, and host of Travel Channel's *Hotel Impossible,* Anthony Melchiorri to ask:

Q: **What is your favorite destination and why?**
For a quick visit, it's gotta be Coney Island in Brooklyn. It has the best pizza place: Totonno's; it's the home of the original roller coaster; it has the Ford Amphitheater; and it's the home of the original and best Nathan's Hot Dogs. I "vacation" there three to four times a year because I live so close, and as a native to the area, it's never really left my bloodstream.

For a longer stay, my pick is Scandinavia. I was doing an ice hotel special for the Travel Channel and I realized three things: 1. The Finns aren't big on words or handshakes — like Brooklynites, they tell you how it is. 2. Sweden is clean and just a generally happy place. 3. Norway is a very outdoors-focused, athletic and family-oriented country. If I ever moved away from the U.S., I'd probably move there.

Q: **Where haven't you traveled that you would like to go?**
Japan. I just want to be Japanese for a solid year! I want to watch, learn and fully immerse myself, 100%, in the language, customs, culture, restaurants, temples and everything the nation has to offer.

Q: **What's the most unusual gift you've brought home from your travels?**
A wood carved bust of my head donated by a fan. I'm not kidding.

Q: **Where do you like to go when you want to relax and chill?**
If I am alone and want to relax, you'd find me at a poker table at the Venetian in Las Vegas. If I'm with my family, we would either be enjoying the sun in a two-bedroom condo at the end of a long beach in Turks and Caicos, or at my family's epicenter just outside Rome in Civitavecchia.

Q: **If you could take one trip anywhere, where you go?**
I would take a year-long, around-the-world cruise — but with a catch; I wouldn't want to know the destinations nor would I want to know the itinerary.

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