**September 16th, 2022 – The** **Port of Taranto wins the Destination of the Year Award!**

On September 14th the Port Network Authority of the Ionian Sea had the honor to be bestowed with the Destination of the Year Award in the context of the prestigious Seatrade Cruise Awards.

The ceremony, taking place in the enchanting Museo Automovilistico of Malaga, saw the participation of the leading representatives of the cruise industry, gathered in the city of Malaga to attend the **Seatrade Cruise Med** exhibition. The judges of the Seatrade Cruise Awards – an independent panel of experts from all over the world - chose the winners from the approximately 120 applications received for the various categories presented, highlighting remarkable new innovations, technologies and projects and honouring key personalities that have made an outstanding contribution to the industry.

In the **Destination of the Year**category, the port of Taranto was a finalist along with two other shining cruise world stars, the Croatian City of Dubrovnik and the Cruise Britain Port System.

With this prestigious accolade, the port-city of Taranto strengthens its brand as a destination of excellence in front of an international audience, distinguishing itself for the exponential growth of cruise tourism in the last year, planned and carried out by the Port Network Authority of the Ionian Sea in the framework of its sustainable development strategy, with the engagement of the local stakeholders and the support of Taranto Cruise Port.

The key actor of this significant result – declares the President of the Port Network Authority of the Ionian Sea – is the local community and the cruise ecosystem, that hailed the increase of cruise calls with sparkling enthusiasm as an occasion to relaunch the area and encourage the tourism-related potential of the territory. A special round of thanks goes to the cruise lines that chose Taranto as port of call, and above all to MSC Cruises.