

THE MIDDLE SEA BY PRIVATE YACHT

VOYAGES ABOARD THE VARIETY VOYAGER

SARDINIA – CORSICA – SICILY – MALTA
TURKEY – GREECE – ITALY



NOBLE CALEDONIA



VARIETY VOYAGER

The Variety Voyager is a yacht which accommodates up to 72 passengers in 36 cabins. Built under the latest International SOLAS regulations and classified by the American Bureau of Shipping, the Variety Voyager guarantees guests safety with considerable comfort and elegance. If you find large resort-style vessels accommodating many thousands of passengers attractive then of course this isn't the vessel for you. However, if you prefer a more peaceful life at sea and an atmosphere more akin to a private yacht then you need look no further.

Your Cabin/Suite

The 68 metre Variety Voyager accommodates up to 72 guests in 36 cabins, 28 of the cabins are located on the Marina and Riviera decks and the eight staterooms are located on the Horizons deck. Cabins and staterooms are spacious and sizes range from 16m² to 28m². Cabins on the Marina deck feature two oversized portholes and cabins on the Riviera and Horizons decks feature large windows. All cabins have en-suite marble bathrooms, individually controlled air conditioning, a mini fridge, safety deposit box, flat screen television and DVD player. Bathrobes and toiletries are also provided.

Your Space

Public areas are spacious and finely decorated. The Main lounge is located on the Riviera deck, adjacent to the reception area and is tastefully designed and furnished. It offers ample comfortable seating and is fully equipped with an AV system for onboard lectures and presentations. On the Marina deck is the internet area and a small library offering a variety of books and magazines as well as computer stations for internet access. The contemporary Dining room seats all passengers in one sitting and has floor to ceiling windows. It extends to the adjacent open deck where meals can be taken 'al fresco'. The Sun deck is a large area of outdoor space with Balinese beds and sun loungers. Here you will also find the Horizon Bar & Lounge, an open-air area on the Upper deck offering stylish shaded seating and music in the evening. There is a spa and fitness suite located on the Marina deck offering massages, sauna and fitness equipment. The Balinese Spa Supervisor also provides hair, face and nail treatments.

Your Dining

The glass enclosed dining room seats 75 passengers and allows for spectacular views around you, while dining in an elegant environment. It extends to the adjacent open deck, also seating 50 passengers and allowing for breakfast, lunch or dinner to be taken "al fresco". Food is served at the table or a hot and cold buffet is offered which also includes an "a la minute cooking" section.



Owner's Suite



Twin Cabin Category P



Twin Cabin Category B



Sun Deck Dining



Spa



Restaurant



Sun Deck Bar

Your Life Onboard

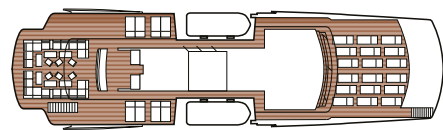
Part of the joy of a cruise aboard the Variety Voyager is its capability to dock in small ports or drop anchor in any suitable spot, unlike the large ships which can only dock in the larger ports with all the supporting infrastructure necessary to service the vessels. With a maximum of only 72 guests, our trips ashore will be a pleasure as we explore with local guides. Onboard the atmosphere is informal with ample public space to relax with a book or to join new found friends to discuss the day's events. Throughout the vessel you will find unobstructed views and the professional crew of 28 will ensure impeccable service.



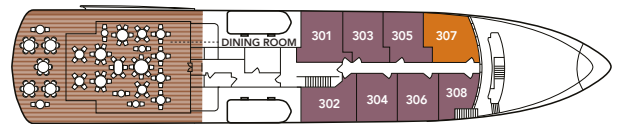
Lounge

DECK PLAN

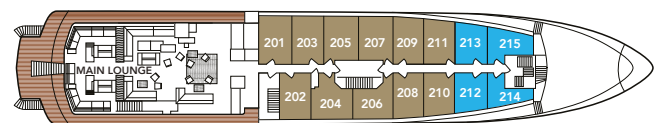
SUN DECK



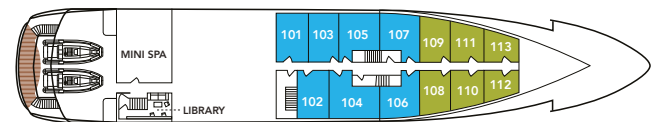
HORIZONS DECK



RIVIERA DECK



MARINA DECK



OWNER'S SUITE CATEGORY P CATEGORY A CATEGORY B CATEGORY C

NELSON & NAPOLEON – MEN OF GENIUS

A partial circumnavigation of Corsica with visits to Sardinia & Elba with Peter Warwick
8th to 16th May 2016

Join us aboard the our privately chartered yacht as we sail around Corsica, an island that played a significant role in determining the character of Napoleon Bonaparte and also figured in Nelson's Mediterranean adventures.

"On Corsica I was given life, and with that life I was also given a fierce love for this my ill-starred homeland and a fierce desire for her Independence". Words spoken by the young Napoleon in his formative years. Undisciplined in his work and very much a loner he was to become passionate about his native island and almost hero-worshipping Pascal Paoli, the great Corsican resistance fighter. On our journey we will learn about the Bonaparte family in Corsica, tracing Napoleon's early childhood offering an insight to the origins of a legend.

Nelson's involvement with Corsica starts in the winter of 1794 when he is ordered to blockade the island. The French surrender the fort of Bastia in May 1794 and the following summer months see Nelson with army support hauling and positioning ships guns on to land to attack the port of Calvi. Here Nelson is wounded and loses sight in his right eye, but a month later Calvi fort is surrendered. On our passage around the island we will follow the events that involved these two great men and also learn something of Corsica's extraordinarily rich cultural heritage. Its pre-history, Greco-Roman history, archaeology, Medieval art and sacred Baroque architecture. Corsica is a stunningly beautiful island and its best features are the coast and immediate hinterlands.

Our voyage will also include the Sardinian archipelago of Maddalena just to the south of Corsica and in particular the delightful island of La Maddalena where Napoleon experienced an early defeat and Nelson visited on three occasions, the gifts he offered to the islanders for their kindness are still on display. Lastly, we will visit the lovely island of Elba, whose charms could not hold the exiled Napoleon who escaped in 1815 and returned to Paris in triumph.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Rome, Italy. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival, transfer to the port of Civitavecchia and embark the Variety Voyager. Sail in the early evening.

Day 2 Olbia, Sardinia. In 1789 Napoleon, then a young artillery commander, was thwarted in his attempt to take the Maddalena archipelago by local Sardinian forces and in 1803 Lord Nelson arrived. The superb anchorage at La Maddalena was used by Nelson to shelter his fleet during the long blockade of Toulon from 1803 to 1805. In recognition of the kindness shown by the islanders Nelson gave some silver candle holders and a crucifix which can still be seen today in the church. From our berth in Olbia we shall travel to La Maddalena and spend the morning exploring this stunning island



well off the beaten tourist track. The afternoon will be at leisure to explore Olbia, a fetching city, the historic centre is full of boutiques, wine bars and café-rimmed piazzas.

Day 3 Bonifacio, Corsica. Be on deck as we approach Bonifacio to enjoy the remarkable view of this cliff-top town. The early history of the town is uncertain, but the Genoese conquered the settlement in the late 12th century



and because of its strategic importance overlooking the strait between Corsica and Sardinia built a citadel. This morning we will explore the winding narrow streets of this ancient town and make our way to No 4 Rue des Deux Empereurs where Napoleon lived in 1793 prior to his Maddalena expedition. The expedition was a failure and on his return to Bonifacio he narrowly escaped assassination; interesting

GUEST SPEAKER



Peter Warwick

Joining us onboard as guest speaker will be naval expert, Peter Warwick.

Peter is chairman of The 1805 Club; Chairman of the International Committee for Waterloo 200, the official body devising and coordinating the commemorations for the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo in 2015; and Chairman of Thames Alive, a new campaign to promote London's river, which includes organising major river pageants, including for The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. Peter was vice-chairman of the Official Nelson Commemorations Committee and played a key role in the planning and organisation of the Trafalgar Festival and Sea Britain 2005. Peter is one of the permanent crew of HMS Victory's Cutter, barge to the flagship of the Second Sea Lord and C-in-C Naval Home Command, based in Portsmouth. He has written articles on Nelson and naval history, and has given lectures at the National Maritime Museum, The Greenwich Foundation, Royal Naval Museum and the Royal Institution.

to ponder how different European history might have been had the attacking sailors succeeded. The afternoon is free, perhaps take a local boat ride to the Lavezzi Islands or a walk in the nearby Marine Park which offers some stunning views. Moor overnight.

Day 4 Propriano, Corsica. This morning we shall travel inland to Sartène, which has long been said to encapsulate Corsica's rugged



Ajaccio, Corsica



Bastia, Corsica



Admiral Lord Nelson



Napoleon Bonaparte



Bonifacio, Corsica

spirit. The French novelist Prosper Mérimée referred to it as the most "Corsican of Corsican towns". A Medieval fortified town of narrow, cobbled stone streets and austere, grey granite houses it is perched magnificently in the hills and offers a wonderful contrast to the glitter of the Corsican coast. On a guided tour we will visit the Piazza Porta, Church St Marie and learn about the interesting history of the town including stories of piracy and gangsters. Return to Propriano for lunch and spend the afternoon at leisure.

Day 5 Ajaccio, Corsica. Sailing in a northerly direction overnight we reach Ajaccio. The Bonaparte's arrived here in 1492 with about 100 other Genoese and Ligurian families intent on colonising this part of Corsica. We will enjoy a leisurely morning on a walking tour of the old town taking in many of the places associated with Napoleon. These will include the late 17th century Maison Bonaparte which is now a museum and Ajaccio Cathedral where it is rumoured Napoleon was born on the cathedral steps. After lunch onboard enjoy an afternoon in Palais Fesch, established by Napoleon's uncle it houses France's largest collection of Italian paintings outside the Louvre including works by Titian, Veronese, Botticelli and Bellini.

Day 6 Calvi, Corsica. Calvi like Bastia was under the control of Genoa for centuries. The massive fortified citadel built by the town's Genoese governors is the starting place for our visit. The wraparound views from its five bastions are

marvellous. Also, see the Caserne Sampiero, the seat of power for the Genoese administration and the 13th century Cathedral St-Jean Baptiste. In the afternoon there will be an opportunity to explore the flora of Corsica with a visit to the seven hectare Parc de Saleccia. Here you will see the tough plants of the maquis, pines, myrtles, figs and over 100 varieties of olive trees.

Day 7 Bastia, Corsica. This morning we reach the north east corner of Corsica and the historic port of Bastia. At the time of the French Revolutionary War in 1794 Bastia was the largest settlement on Corsica. With assistance of a Corsican force the British laid siege to the French held port and after six weeks the garrison surrendered. Commodore Nelson was to play his part in the siege with a naval blockade. Our exploration will begin in the old quarter of Terra Vecchia with a visit to the atmospheric Place St Nicolas. In 1778 Charles Bonaparte and his



Olbia, Sardinia

sons Napoleon and Joseph sailed to France from here and so began a seven year absence from the island whilst Napoleon attended the Brienne Military School. Continue on to Terra Nova for a visit to the Governors Palace which now houses the Corsican Ethnography Museum. See the collection of Revolutionary, First and Second Empire items and the Empress Josephine's crystal service from Malmaison. Afternoon free to explore this beautiful town at leisure.

Day 8 Portoferraio, Elba. Arrive in the island's capital of Portoferraio this morning. Inhabited from the Iron Age, this modestly sized island is a delightful place to spend a day. Banished here in 1814 following his disastrous Russian campaign and his failure at the Battle of Leipzig, Napoleon spent less than a year on the island. His stay may have been brief, but his accomplishments

many in improving the lot of the islanders, so much so that some 200 years later they still say a Mass each May for his soul. Our visits ashore will include the Villa dei Mulini, perched up on the bastions between the town's defensive forts where Napoleon lived and Villa Napoleonica di San Martino his summer palace. See the Egyptian Room, decorated with hieroglyphs, pyramids and a large zodiac painted on the ceiling to commemorate his campaigns in Egypt. As we sail towards the Italian mainland, enjoying our farewell dinner onboard we can raise our glasses to the memories of two of the greatest figures in European history.

Day 9 Rome, Italy to London. Disembark this morning in Civitavecchia and drive to Rome for the return scheduled flight to London.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £300 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY			
Cat	Deck	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
C	Marina	£3995	£3695
B	Marina/Riviera	£4295	£3995
A	Riviera	£4695	£4395
P	Horizons	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
OS	Horizons	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
C	Marina for sole use	£5995	£5695
B	Marina/Riviera for sole use	£6295	£5995

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 8 nights aboard the Variety Voyager on full board with house wine with lunch and dinner onboard, shore excursions, services of a cruise director, gratuities, guest speaker, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

NB. Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability.

VOYAGE TO VALLETTA

From the 'Eternal City' to the 'Silent City'
16th to 24th May 2016

Here is a rare opportunity to visit both Sardinia and Sicily, the Mediterranean's two largest islands combined with time to explore some of Malta's wonders from the comfort of the private yacht, the Variety Voyager. This is not an itinerary which a large cruise ship could operate but one which is ideal for our 72-passenger vessel. All three islands feature a magnificent array of ancient ruins and attractive towns and villages which we will visit during our guided excursions whilst we have also allowed for ample time to explore independently.

With comfortable temperatures and relatively crowd free sites, May is the perfect time to discover these islands and in addition we have the added benefit of excellent local guides along the way and a knowledgeable onboard guest speaker who will bring to life all we see.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Rome, Italy.

Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the Variety Voyager in Civitavecchia. Enjoy a welcome drink and dinner as we sail this evening to Sardinia.

Day 2 Isla Maddalena & Olbia, Sardinia. In 1789 Napoleon, then a young artillery commander was thwarted in his attempt to take the Maddalena archipelago by local Sardinian forces and in 1803 Lord Nelson arrived. The superb anchorage at La Maddalena was used by Nelson to shelter his fleet during the long blockade of Toulon from 1803 to 1805. In recognition of the kindness shown by the islanders Nelson gave some silver candle holders and a crucifix which can still be seen today in the church. From our berth in Olbia we shall travel to La Maddalena by local boats from the port of Palau and spend



the morning exploring this pretty island well off the beaten tourist track. The afternoon will be at leisure to explore Olbia, a fetching city with a historic centre full of boutiques, wine bars and cafe-rimmed piazzas.

Day 3 Cagliari, Sardinia. This morning enjoy a walking tour of Cagliari, an ancient city which dates back to the Phoenicians and Romans. Rome left its mark in the grandiose Amphitheatre, with its auditorium hewn out of the rock, Pisa left the splendid 13th century Elephant Tower and the Tower of San Pancrazio. The Aragonese and the Spaniards gave the town its walls, ramparts and fine buildings. Enjoy a stroll around the old town with its narrow streets running along a steep hillside. See the terraced Piazza del Palazzo and the 14th century Cathedral of St Cecilia. Alternatively travel inland to Serdiana where we enjoy a wine tasting at one of the local vineyards accompanied by Sardinian bread, meats and cheeses. Return to the ship for lunch and a relaxing afternoon at sea as we sail to Sicily.

Day 4 Trapani, Sicily. Trapani was the landing point for Peter of Aragon in 1282 to start the Spanish occupation of Sicily and is our base for a day of exploration today. We will travel inland to Segesta which was one of the most important towns of western Sicily and one of the islands most magical ancient sites. Here we can see one of the grandest Doric monuments to survive, the unfinished temple dating from 424 B.C. which sits atop a hill from where you can enjoy excellent views of the countryside and distant coastline. We will continue to the nearby town of Erice, famed in antiquity for its temple dedicated to the goddess of love, the Phoenician

Astarte, Greek Aphrodite or Roman Venus. Our guided tour will take us to this stunning site high above the sea and to the beautifully preserved Medieval town.

Day 5 Mazara del Vallo. Founded in the 9th century BC by the Phoenicians, Mazara del Vallo was used as a strategic location for their trans-Mediterranean trading interests. Mazara soon became part of Magna Graecia, when it served as a port for the nearby city of Selinunte and by the 9th century was the island's second city behind Palermo. It is the impressive remains of the ancient city of Selinunte which is our destination this morning. Once one of the most eminent cities of Magna Graecia it was ransacked by the Carthaginians, led by Hannibal, who sent 100,000 soldiers to attack in 409BC, massacring thousands of the inhabitants with the remainder being taken into slavery. The city was destroyed and forgotten until 1823 when excavations began. Situated on a high plain overlooking the sea it is a lovely place to walk and our guided tour will explore the acropolis, the eastern temples and the ancient city. Return to the vessel for lunch and this afternoon is free to explore Mazara del Vallo at leisure, maybe visit the Museo del Satrio, the Piazza della Republicca or explore the historic Casbah, a multicultural maze of narrow streets.

Day 6 Piazza Armerina. From the port of Gela we travel inland to what is regarded as the finest Roman site on Sicily, the Imperial





The 'Silent City' of Mdina, Malta



Picturesque Mgarr harbour, Gozo



Mosaic from the Roman villa of Casale

Roman Villa of Casale, which is located close to Piazza Armerina amidst wooded rolling countryside. This huge villa was built in the 3rd century and has some stunning floor mosaics. We will explore the Medieval centre of Piazza Armerina with its Aragonese Castle and the Romanesque Church of Sant' Andrea. Our return drive to Gela takes us through the province of Caltanissetta, recognised today as one of the best wine making regions in Italy thanks above all to its production of high quality, prestigious red wines including Nero D'Avola. We will break our journey at one of these vineyards and enjoy a chance to sample some wine over a Sicilian lunch. Return to the Variety Voyager in the late afternoon and sail tonight.

Day 7 Gozo, Malta. Arrive this morning at the Maltese island of Gozo, thought to be



Piazza Armerina

the Calypso Isles of Homer's Odyssey and a lovely place to spend a day. On a morning drive we will visit the Ggantija Temples in Xaghra. Dating back to 3,600 BC, the temples, which are now recognised as a World Heritage Site, are one of the most significant archaeological finds in Malta. Continue to Our Lady of Victories Church, one of the most richly embellished places of worship on the island which was elevated to the rank of a minor Basilica in 1967. We return to the ship for lunch and the afternoon is free to explore at your own pace. Shuttle buses will run to the capital of Victoria where you can take your time to walk the walls or through the narrow streets of this small picturesque city. You may choose to visit the citadel with bastions which date from the 17th century or see the lavish St George's Basilica and Gozo Cathedral, dedicated to Our Lady of the Assumption. Alternatively enjoy time in the local market as the island is renowned for its woollen goods and hand-made lace.

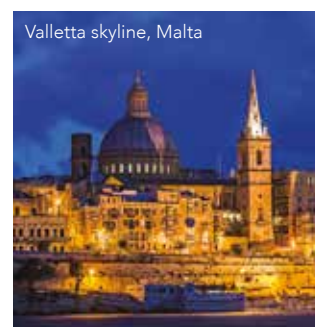
Day 8 Valletta. Awake this morning in the grand harbour of Valletta, the 16th century 'Fortress City' built by the knights of St. John. Our morning tour will include the highlights of Valletta with its stunning views across the harbour from the Barakka Gardens. We will explore Merchants Street containing the surviving auberges built by the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, together with the palace where Napoleon Bonaparte is believed

to have stayed in 1798. Our final stop will be at St John's Cathedral. The barrel vault of the cathedral is painted with scenes from the life of St. John and the floor is inlaid with the glittering tombs of 400 Knights. Chapels round the sides belong to the different 'tongues' of the Order, and in the oratory is Caravaggio's intensely moving picture, 'The Beheading of St. John. Return to the vessel for lunch and this afternoon you can choose to either relax onboard, return to Valletta or join a tour to Mdina. Originally, this city, was given the name of "Citta Nobile" and now known as the "Silent City" at the heart of the island. Mdina is Phoenician in origin and was the fortified capital of the island, before the arrival of the Knights. Within its powerful encircling walls, the city towers

on a steep hill in the centre of the island and it is where for centuries the Maltese noble families have resided and still do so today.

Day 9 Malta to London.

Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.



Valletta skyline, Malta

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £300 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

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A	Riviera	£4695	£4395
P	Horizons	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
OS	Horizons	£5295	£4995
C	Marina for sole use	£4995	£4695
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Not Included: Travel insurance.

NB. Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability.

FROM THE GOLDEN HORN TO POMPEII

A voyage between Istanbul and Rome
3rd to 15th September 2016

Join us for this relaxing and informative voyage as we explore the Eastern Mediterranean and all its wonders. The Variety Voyager is perfect for this journey of discovery as we cruise to some of the most fascinating sites of the ancient world along with idyllic villages and coastal ports. With just 72 passengers, we can disembark with ease and explore ashore in small groups. We have devised what we believe to be a very special itinerary between two of the Mediterranean's greatest cities, visiting a rich collection of archaeological, historical and beautiful sites on the Greek islands, Sicily and the shores of Italy which are seldom reached by the usual cruise ships.

This heady mix of islands and ports is certainly one of our most fascinating itineraries combining as it does some 'must see' sites together with little known and rarely visited places that are perfectly suited for our private yacht. The itinerary has been planned to ensure the balance is just right between exploring ashore, relaxing onboard and with some time at leisure on some of the picturesque Greek islands for individual exploration. Whether you are interested in ancient history or simply enjoy cruising amongst stunning scenery, this voyage has a lot to offer.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Istanbul, Turkey. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and embark the Variety Voyager. Sail in the early evening.

Day 2 Canakkale. This morning we call into Canakkale where there will be a choice of two excursions. Choose from a visit to Troy, where ongoing archaeological excavations have revealed nine different layers of cities superimposed in rings on a massive mound rising above the Plain of Ilium. It was to one of these cities, as legend has it, that the Greeks fought the Trojans as told by Homer in the Iliad. Our tour follows the excavations made by Heinrich Schliemann, the archaeologist who discovered

Troy and "Priam's Treasure", the jewels that, Schliemann claimed, were worn by Helen of Troy. We will walk the walls that held Helen of Troy and look down at the plain where Achilles dragged the dead body of Hector. Alternatively join an excursion to the Gallipoli Peninsula to see the World War I memorials which commemorate the famous Battle of Gallipoli.

Day 3 Thessaloniki, Greece. This morning we will call into Thessaloniki and explore the Vergina Royal Tombs Museum, which displays the superb decorated facades of the temple-like tombs of King Philip II and a young prince (thought to be



Alexander IV), the treasures found within them and a reconstruction of the Great Mound that originally marked the site of the Royal Tombs. The tombs were discovered in 1977-78 by the archaeologist Manolis Andronikos. Until their discovery they were covered by a protective tumulus 13 metres high and 110 metres across. In 1993 an underground building was constructed to enclose and protect them once again. This afternoon is at leisure to explore Thessaloniki independently, perhaps visit one of the many museums the town has to offer.

streets. It is built on two small hills, dominated by the large 19th century churches of Trion Ierarchon and Panagia Limnia, which offer excellent views of the bustling harbour below. The main street winds up between the two hills to the old quarter of Limnia, a quiet neighbourhood of restored sea captains' houses, covered with trailing bougainvillea and trellised vines. The town has twin harbours, separated by Bourtzis islet, which is reached by a narrow causeway. Behind the harbour is the Papadiamantis Museum, former home of the locally born novelist, whose name it takes. Although tiny, the museum shows the simplicity of local island life prior to the "invasion" of tourism. This afternoon relax onboard or explore the town further at leisure.

Day 4 Skiathos. The picturesque island of Skiathos is our port of call today where we will enjoy a walking tour of the town, a charming place with its red-tiled roofs and maze of cobbled back



The Greek Theatre overlooking Mount Etna, Taormina



Day 5 Delos & Mykonos. The smallest of the Cyclades, Delos was once the political and religious centre for the whole Aegean. Birthplace of Apollo and Artemis, it boasted an oracle second only to that of Delphi. This morning we will explore the magnificent archaeological site including the marble sanctuary of Apollo. During lunch we set sail for nearby Mykonos, which with its lively cafes and shops is the perfect contrast for an afternoon at leisure. *Please note that whilst in Delos we will be at anchor and will use the Zodiacs to access the island.*

Day 6 Gythion. From our berth in picturesque Gythion today, we head north towards Sparta, the

capital of Laconia and a prominent city state in ancient Greece. However our destination this morning is Mystras a remarkably intact Byzantine town that once housed a population of 20,000 people. Here we visit the Cathedral of Agios Dimitrios. On the floor of the church is the two headed eagle, the symbol of the Palaeologos Dynasty, carved into a plaque and according to tradition, this is where Constantine XII stepped when he was crowned king. Strolling through the narrow lanes of the dead city, we will also visit the Church of Agia Sophia, the Palace of the Despots and the Monastery of Pantanassa, with its brilliant frescoes. After lunch in a local

restaurant we continue to the fascinating Diros Caves before making our way back to the Variety Voyager.

Day 7 Pylos. This morning we will call into the home of Nestor, the wise king of Pylos who fought for the Greeks at Troy and advised Odysseus's son, Telemachus, on how best to deal with the evil suitors chasing his mother, Penelope. From our berth in Navarino Bay, we will drive through the enchanting countryside to Methoni, one of the most impressive Medieval fortresses in Greece. The Venetians built Methoni on the Ionian Sea and Koroni on the Gulf of Messenia in the 13th century

to safeguard their newly acquired Greek Empire. Also visit the castle of Neokastro which today houses the Centre for Underwater Archaeological Studies.

Day 8 Preveza. On our morning tour we learn of the Battle of Nicopolis in 31 B.C. in which the army of 100,000 led by Antony and Cleopatra were defeated by Octavian who marked his victory by building a great city. Amongst the ruins is one of the largest and best preserved Roman theatres in the Eastern Mediterranean. We return to the vessel for lunch and have the afternoon to explore this pretty yacht lined harbour town and nearby beaches.



Church of Agia Sophia, Mystras



Ancient Troy



The avenue of stone lions, Delos



Church of St Matteo, Lecce



Day 9 Otranto, Italy. From the port of Otranto we will drive to Lecce, often referred to as 'The Florence of the South' with its amazing collection of Baroque architecture including an abundance of churches and noble palaces decorated with the "Leccese stone", a chalky stone ranging in colours which became the local style due to its ease to work with. A guided tour will include a visit to the beautifully decorated Santa Croce Basilica and Piazza Duomo, considered one of the finest and most impressive squares in southern Italy. After the tour, there will be an exclusive, private visit to the 15th century Palazzo Tamborino-Cezzi. The owner of the palazzo will personally take us on a tour, sharing interesting stories and anecdotes regarding his

family and the palazzo itself. Enjoy a light lunch of local specialities before a concert of traditional music of the Salento region called La Pizzica, a popular Italian folk dance, originally from the Salento peninsula which later spread throughout the Puglia region.

Day 10 Crotona. This morning drive inland to Santa Severina, a pretty town overlooking the Neto River valley. It is renowned for its wonderful Carrafa castle-fortress, surrounded by genteel dwellings, churches and tangled streets. After our guided tour of the town there will be the opportunity to taste the famous Ciro wine and sample the local cuisine: olive oil, local cold cuts and a selection of cheese before returning to the Variety Voyager.

Day 11 Messina, Sicily. From the nearby port of Messina this morning we will visit Taormina, a walled town lying in the shadow of Mount Etna, Europe's highest volcano, and one of the most beautiful villages in Sicily. During our walking tour we will explore the atmospheric alleys and admire the 15th century Palazzo Corvaja, indicative of the architectural style of the period and adorned with classical double windows. Also visit the impressive Greek theatre which was built in the third century B.C. and enjoy some free time to explore independently before returning to the vessel. We will set sail for Castellamare di Stabia

during lunch and spend a relaxing afternoon onboard.

Day 12 Castellamare di Stabia, Italy. From our berth at Castellamare di Stabia we will visit Pompeii this morning, surely one of Europe's most compelling archaeological sites. We will walk the streets of the ancient Roman city which was buried under a layer of burning pumice stone during the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD79.

Day 13 Rome to London. Disembark this morning in Civitavecchia and drive to Rome for the return scheduled flight to London.



Pompeii

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

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B	Marina/Riviera	£6995	£6495
A	Riviera	£7195	£6695
P	Horizons	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
OS	Horizons	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
C	Marina for sole use	£9795	£9295
B	Marina/Riviera for sole use	£9995	£9495

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 12 nights aboard the Variety Voyager on full board basis with house wine with lunch and dinner onboard, shore excursions, services of a cruise director, gratuities, guest speaker, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.

NB. Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability.



Pretty coastline of Skiathos



Sunset at Le Castella castle, Crotona

POST-CRUISE EXTENSION

Medieval Viterbo & the Eternal City

15th to 20th September 2016

Day 1 Civitavecchia to Civita Castellana. Disembark after breakfast and enjoy a leisurely drive through the Lazio countryside to Civita Castellana. Enroute we will visit Tarquinia, an ancient town set in the hills, with a magnificent necropolis and extraordinary frescoed tombs and learn about the mysterious Etruscan civilisation. Enjoy lunch in a local farm house serving specialities from the region before we make our way to the Hotel Relais Falisco for our three night stay. Spend the remainder of the afternoon at leisure before dinner.



Viterbo

Day 2 Viterbo. Spend the morning at leisure, explore the surrounding area or simply relax at the hotel. This afternoon visit Viterbo, one of the best preserved Medieval towns in central Italy and renowned for its many Renaissance squares and fountains. Known as the City of Popes, it was founded by the Etruscans, eventually taken over by Rome and in the 13th century became the residence of the popes. Dinner tonight will be served in a local restaurant before we return to the hotel.

Day 3 Villa Lante. This morning we will visit the gardens of Villa Lante, considered by many to be one of the finest examples of Mannerist Italian garden design. It was designed for Cardinal Gambara in the 16th century, who had a modern taste for outdoor living and eating al fresco. Return to your hotel and spend the remainder of the day at leisure. Dinner tonight will be served in the hotel.



Villa Lante

Day 4 Civita Castellana to Lake Bracciano to Rome. Check-out after breakfast and drive to Lake Bracciano and the town of Bracciano. Despite its proximity to Rome mass tourism has yet to discover Lake Bracciano. Spend the morning enjoying the unspoilt countryside around the lake and visit the Castello Orsini-Odescalchi, which dominates the skyline over the village. After lunch in a local restaurant drive to the Rome Marriott Grand Hotel Flora for our two night stay.

Day 5 Rome. This morning, from our centrally located hotel, enjoy a walking/ orientation tour of Rome. The remainder of the day is at leisure to explore this fascinating city as you wish.

Day 6 Rome to London. Check-out after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our return flight to London.

Prices per person based on double occupancy

Twin: £1195; Single: £1695

Price Includes: Three nights accommodation at Hotel Relais Falisco, two nights at Rome Marriott Grand Hotel Flora, breakfast daily, lunch on days 1 & 4, dinner on days 1- 4, shore excursions, services of a Tour Manager, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance, gratuities.



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Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
Cover image: Cristal waters of Otranto in Puglia, Italy

