

SPECIAL
OFFER – SAVE
£200
PER PERSON

SMALL SHIP CRUISING IN ITALY & GREECE

ABOARD THE 50-PASSENGER MS MONET
MAY 2022

NOBLE CALEDONIA



MS MONET

We are delighted to have chartered the MS Monet for a series of cruises in the Mediterranean in 2022. Originally built in 1970, the MS Monet was converted and launched as a passenger ship in 1998, fully renovated in 2016 and upgraded again in 2018. She is a 220 foot motor yacht accommodating a maximum of 50 guests. 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 an informal and warm atmosphere more akin to a private yacht combined with an itinerary dedicated to both discovery and relaxation then you need look no further.



Category A Cabin - 309



Category C Cabin

Your Cabin

All the cabins on board the MS Monet are designed for comfort and have a warm and inviting feel with light fabrics and wood trimmings. Cabins range in size from 9 to 22 square metres and Categories A, B & C are equipped with windows, while those in Category D have portholes. Cabins 104-107, 112, 119, 205 and 210-215 feature twin beds and all other cabins have fixed double beds. Facilities include en-suite bathroom with shower, television, minifridge, safety deposit box, air-conditioning and hairdryer.

Your Space

The public areas include a main lounge and bar with comfortable sofas on the Lumiere Deck, a restaurant located on the Parisian Deck and the Lumiere Open Deck al fresco dining area where meals can be enjoyed when weather permits. The gym can be found on the Parisian Deck and the Lumiere Sun Deck provides a delightful sun exposed space with sun loungers and a Jacuzzi, ideal for relaxation and wonderful views.

Your Dining

Located on the Parisian Deck, the glass enclosed indoor dining room seats all passengers in a single sitting with unassigned seating and allows for wonderful panoramic views of the stunning scenery as we sail. The Lumiere Open Deck provides a generous covered area where guests can enjoy meals al fresco, weather permitting. Food is served at the table or displayed on the hot and cold buffet stands. The menu is international, with a focus on local specialties. A choice of house wine, beer and soft drinks are served with lunch and dinner.



Lumiere Open Deck



Lounge



Restaurant



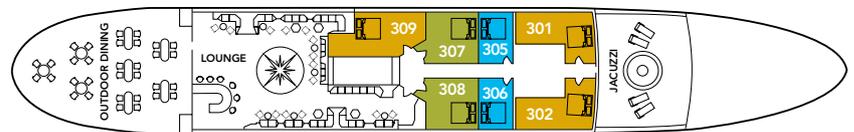
Lounge

Life On Board

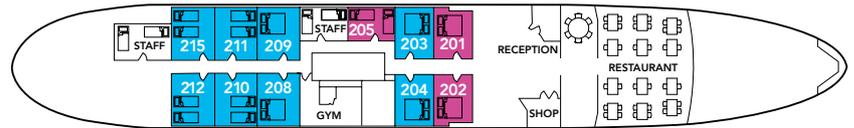
During the day, life on board focuses around the indoor lounge area, and the indoor and outdoor dining spaces, as well as the open and inviting deck areas including the Jacuzzi. These are natural gathering places and perfect for enjoying your meals al fresco, relaxing in a comfortable chair with a good book or socialising with your fellow passengers and enjoying the views.

DECK PLAN

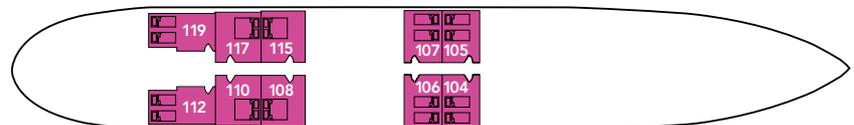
LUMIERE DECK



PARISIAN DECK



CAMILLE DECK



■ CATEGORY A
 ■ CATEGORY B
 ■ CATEGORY C
 ■ CATEGORY D



MS Monet

TREASURES OF SICILY

A circumnavigation of Sicily aboard the 50-passenger MS Monet with Guest Speaker David Stuttard – 3rd to 13th May 2022

The island of Sicily has an incredible wealth of treasures and a geography which lends itself beautifully to exploration by sea with most points of interest located close to the coast. Owing to its benevolent climate and superb strategic position Sicily has been coveted, fought over and colonised numerous times with the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Normans, Byzantines and Bourbons having all made their mark. During our circumnavigation of the island we will discover Sicily's rich heritage which is the result of so many invading civilisations.

From magnificent Doric temples to great Byzantine cathedrals and bizarrely styled villas, there is so much to explore during our voyage. We will visit the Roman mosaics of Villa Romana del Casale, the Valle dei Templi, the superbly well-preserved Greek temples of Segesta and the Norman Royal Palace and Palatine Chapel in Palermo, the Byzantine Monreale Cathedral and the stunning Greek theatre at Taormina. With a maximum of just 50 guests our trips ashore will be relaxed and our local guides and Guest Speaker will contribute greatly to your enjoyment and understanding of Sicily.



Guest Speaker



David Stuttard

David took an MA in Classics from St. Andrews University. He subsequently taught Classics for eleven years in Edinburgh, St. Andrews and York. David is a prolific author of books on classical history and literature. In 1993, David founded the theatre company, Actors of Dionysus (aod), to perform productions of Greek drama throughout the

UK and beyond. An accredited lecturer for The Arts Society, David is an energetic champion of classics and writes for publications such as *Minerva*, *The British Museum Magazine* and *The Wall Street Journal*. David has served on the Council of the Roman Society and regularly chairs programmes of lectures on Greek tragedy. He speaks at a wide range of venues including The British Museum and The Ashmolean Museum, events including literary festivals such as Oxford and Cheltenham and forum discussions. In October 2018, David was elected a Fellow of Goodenough College, London.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Valletta, Malta. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Monet and embark. We will sail later in the evening.

Day 2 Licata for Piazza Armerina, Sicily. From the port of Licata we travel inland to what is regarded as the finest Roman site in Sicily, the Imperial 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. Our return drive takes us through the province of Caltanissetta, recognised today as one of the best winemaking regions in Italy thanks above all to its production of high quality, prestigious red wines including Nero D'Avola. On our journey back we will stop at one of the vineyards and enjoy a chance to sample some wine over a Sicilian lunch, before returning to the MS Monet and sailing in the late afternoon. Arrive this evening in Porto Empedocle where we moor overnight.

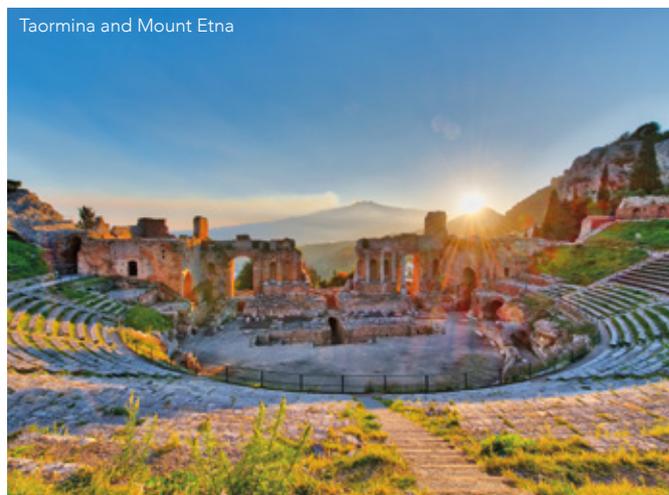
Day 3 Agrigento & Valley of the Temples. Although handsome in its own right and awash with Medieval atmosphere, Agrigento is not our main reason for calling at the southern port of Porto Empedocle. Close by is the Valley of the Temples, a series of Doric temples and the most captivating of Sicilian Greek remains, a grouping unique outside Greece. Surrounded in greenery of olive and almond trees, admire the Temple of Hera, the Temple of Concord, the Dioscuri Temple, the Temple of Olympic Jove and the Temple of Hercules. There will be a choice to visit the Valley of the Temples and the Museum or just the Valley of the Temples. After lunch on board the afternoon is free to explore Agrigento independently and shuttles will run from the port to the town.

Day 4 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 409 BC, 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 ship for lunch and enjoy a free afternoon in the old town.

Day 5 Trapani. Trapani was the landing point for Peter of Aragon in

1282 to start the Spanish occupation of Sicily and is our base for the day. Enjoy a choice of excursions this morning. Discover the nearby hilltop town of Erice, famed in antiquity for its temple dedicated to the goddess of love, the Phoenician Astarte, Greek Aphrodite or Roman Venus. A cable car will take us to this stunning site high above the sea and to the beautifully preserved Medieval town characterised by its steep, winding cobblestone streets and beautiful courtyards. Alternatively travel inland to explore Segesta, one of the grandest Doric monuments to survive. See the unfinished temple dating from 424 BC as well as the theatre from which you can enjoy excellent views of the countryside and distant coastline. Both tours will then enjoy a delicious Sicilian lunch at a nearby Olive Farm. We return to the ship later in the afternoon and there will be some free time to wander around Trapani at leisure as we plan to sail later in the evening.





Taormina



Castello di Venere, Erice



Palermo Cathedral



Cefalu



Agrigento

Day 6 Palermo. Arrive this morning in the Sicilian capital of Palermo. After breakfast we will explore the city, famous for its jumbled and picturesque streets punctuated with ornate Baroque churches, domed Arab mosques and the glittering Byzantine mosaics that reveal a unique and diverse heritage. We visit the impressive 12th century cathedral which houses the royal tombs of Henri VI and King Ruggiero. Return to the MS Monet for lunch and this afternoon either enjoy some time to explore independently or join an excursion to Monreale Cathedral, said to be the most beautiful Norman Church in Italy, designed and completed by William the Good in 1174. With its thick walls and powerful towers, the exterior looks like an austere fortress yet it is the interior of this great cathedral which is its crowning glory. Here the large nave, with its side aisles and grey granite columns set off the exquisite Byzantine mosaics on the walls above the arches. We remain in port overnight.

Day 7 Cefalu. Enjoy a relaxing morning as we cruise the short distance to reach the port of Termini Imerese from where we drive along the coast to visit the picturesque fishing village of Cefalu. The village exudes typical Sicilian charm and we will see the Gothic-Norman style cathedral and Medieval Wash House on a walking

tour before enjoying some free time to stroll among the narrow streets perhaps tasting the famous Sicilian ice creams and cakes.

Day 8 Messina. From the nearby port of Messina we will visit Taormina, a walled town lying in the shadow of Mount Etna, Europe's highest volcano. The town has been a popular tourist destination since the 19th century and our guided tour will include walking the characteristic alleys before visiting the 15th century Palazzo Corvaja and the impressive Greek Theatre from where there are marvellous views over the town and coast. For those who wish to enjoy longer here you will be able to take lunch independently in one of the local restaurants and spend an afternoon exploring Taormina at leisure before our coach returns to Messina. Alternatively, return to the MS Monet for lunch and enjoy some free time in Messina before we sail this evening.

Day 9 Syracuse. Syracuse was founded by the Greeks in 734 BC and by the 5th century was a political and military power throughout the Mediterranean and rivalled Athens as the largest and most beautiful city in the Greek world. This morning we will visit the Neapolis Archaeological Park where we will find a well-preserved Greek theatre with seats carved from limestone. Paradise Quarry,

now an attractive garden and orange grove, was the primary source of that limestone and is the site of the curious 'Ear of Dionysius', a vast grotto with an amplifying resonance. We will continue to explore Ortigia old town where we will find the Temple of Apollo, considered to be Sicily's most ancient Doric temple and the Baroque cathedral, erected over the remains of the Temple of Minerva. Enjoy an afternoon and evening at leisure to explore from our central berth as we moor overnight.

Day 10 Catania. Spend the morning at sea arriving into Catania over lunch. The architecture here is particularly impressive but a little

forbidding being mainly constructed from black lava stone from Mount Etna. On an afternoon walking tour we will see the magnificent Piazza del Duomo which is a World Heritage Site, St Agatha's Cathedral and the imposing 13th century Castello Ursino. Alternatively join a tour to the slopes of Mount Etna, Europe's largest active volcano. Our drive will take us past scenic countryside, small towns and vineyards before arriving at the Silvestri Craters that were created in the eruption of 1892.

Day 11 Catania to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for the scheduled flight to London.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £200 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
D	Twin/Double with portholes on Camille/Parisien Deck	£4395	£4195
C	Twin/Double with windows on Parisien/Lumiere Deck	£4595	£4395
B	Superior Double with windows of Lumiere Deck	£4895	£4695
A	Deluxe Twin with windows on Lumiere Deck	£5195	£4995
D	Twin/Double with portholes on Camille/Parisien Deck for sole use	£5795	£5595

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 10 nights aboard the MS Monet on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch & dinner on board • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance.

TIMELESS MEDITERRANEAN

A voyage from Sicily to Greece aboard the 50-passenger MS Monet

13th to 23rd May 2022

Join us for this relaxing and informative voyage as we explore the Mediterranean and all its wonders as we cruise to some of the most fascinating sites of the ancient world along with idyllic villages and coastal ports. The itinerary has been devised to include a rich collection of archaeological, historical and beautiful sites in Sicily and along the shores of Italy where we have included a visit to a Calabrian vineyard to sample the delicious local food and wine. We will also visit the marvellous site of Butrint in Albania where settlement can be traced back to the 8th century BC and in Greece we will explore a magnificent array of ancient ruins including the sporting history of Olympia and the sacred site of Delphi. Finally, ensure you are on deck when we transit the Corinth Canal which, whilst only built in the 19th century, was conceived as long ago as the 7th century BC, a wonderful end to our cruise and only possible on a small ship such as the 50-passenger MS Monet.

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 places that are perfectly suited for our private yacht. We have also included ample time at leisure for some independent exploration. By the end of the voyage you will have seen and learnt so much and exploring in small groups with excellent guides, our trips ashore will be a pleasure.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Catania, Sicily.

Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Monet. Embark and sail this evening.

Day 2 Syracuse. Wake up this morning in Syracuse, one of the main cities of the ancient "Magna Graecia" (the Great Greece) founded by the Greeks in 734 BC. By the 5th century Syracuse was a political and military power throughout the Mediterranean and rivalled Athens as the largest and most beautiful city in the Greek world. After breakfast we will visit the Neapolis Archaeological Park where we find a well-preserved Greek theatre with seats carved from limestone. Paradise Quarry, now an attractive garden and orange grove, was the

primary source of that limestone and is the site of the curious 'Ear of Dionysius', a vast grotto with an amplifying resonance. We will continue to explore Ortigia old town where we will find the Temple of Apollo, considered to be Sicily's most ancient Doric temple and the Baroque cathedral, erected over the remains of the Temple of Minerva. There will be free time this afternoon to explore from our central berth before we sail this evening.

Day 3 Croton, Italy. After a morning at sea we arrive in Calabria and the port of Croton which is on the site of the ancient Greek City of Kroton. Whilst little remains of the Greek city, it was one of the most important settlements of Magna Graecia, where Pythagoras set up

a school in 530 BC and whose athletes were very successful at the Olympic Games. We will take a scenic drive inland this afternoon to Santa Severina, one of Italy's prettiest towns overlooking the Neto River valley. We will explore the majestic Carafa Castle which was built by the Normans in 1076 and is surrounded by strong, crenellated walls with a moat on three sides and containing intricate underground labyrinths and stables, with the remains of Medieval frescoes. Also see the cathedral, the beautiful Byzantine baptistry and wander the town's tangled streets. On our return to the ship we will stop at one of the vineyards that produces the famous Calabrian wine, Ciro, for a tasting accompanied by typical Calabrian food.

Day 4 Taranto. This morning we drive into the Apulian countryside which is scattered with 'Trulli', limestone dwellings built with dome or conical roofs. We will enjoy a pleasant walk in Alberobello, a fairytale trulli village and a UNESCO World Heritage Site and see the St Anthony Church also built in trullo style. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon is free to return to the old town to explore independently.

Day 5 Otranto for Lecce. From the port of Otranto we will drive to Lecce, often referred to as 'The Florence of the South' with its majestic collection of Baroque architecture. A guided walk 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. Return to the ship for lunch and spend the afternoon exploring at leisure. A wander ashore brings you to the town ramparts, stroll through the gate and discover tranquil streets and alleys with views over the harbour as well as a 15th century Aragonese Castle. A highlight is the wonderful 11th century cathedral with its mosaic floor created by the monk, Pantaleone, between 1163 and 1165. You can also see the Chapel of the Dead which shows the bones and skulls of 813 martyrs killed by the invading Turks in 1480. We sail late for anyone wishing to take an after dinner stroll.

Day 6 Sarande, Albania. Arriving in Albania, we will discover the ancient city of Butrint, a UNESCO World





Delphi



Corfu Town



Lecce



Corinth Canal



Nikopolis

Heritage Site. On a guided morning tour explore the ruins that feature the remains of many eras and cultures. From the Hellenistic period there are temples, the promenade and the 4th century BC theatre. From the Roman era are the public baths, gymnasium and fountains. From the Byzantine era we see chapels and the large Basilica of St Peter and St Paul, whilst the Venetians are represented by a watchtower and a small castle with commanding views over the Straits of Corfu. Return to the MS Monet for lunch and spend a relaxing afternoon at sea while we sail the short distance to Corfu, we will moor here in the late afternoon with the chance to go ashore for an evening stroll.

Day 7 Corfu, Greece. Today we explore the island of Corfu, one of the most richly endowed of all the Greek Isles. Praised by Homer in 'The Odyssey' and selected by Shakespeare as the setting for 'The Tempest', the island retains evidence of cultural heritage from each of its past rulers - Byzantium, Venice, France, Russia and Great Britain. Our guided tour will include the famous Byzantine Monastery of the Virgin at Paleokastritsa which is still inhabited by a community of monks. The small museum houses some priceless Byzantine icons. Spend some time in the serene monastery gardens that afford a splendid view over the turquoise waters of the bay. Continue to Mon

Repos Palace, the summer residence of the British Governors of Corfu which now houses a museum including many Ionian treasures and is surrounded by a large park. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon is free to explore Corfu Town.

Day 8 Preveza. We arrive to the Greek mainland and from the port of Preveza we will head for the little known ancient city of Nicopolis, one of the largest and most important sites in the whole of Greece. Built by the Roman Emperor Octavianus Augustus following his victory at Aktium in 31 BC over Antony and Cleopatra, inside its extensive walls are the Odeum, the theatre, the Nymphaeum and the monument to Augustus. Later the city flourished in the early Christian period as the seat of the archbishop of old Epiros but earthquakes and invading Goths and Vandals led to its demise. Spend the afternoon exploring Preveza at leisure.

Day 9 Katakolon for Olympia. After a morning at sea arrive at Katakolon, our base for our afternoon excursion to Olympia. The fame of Olympia rests upon the Olympic Games. During the celebrations that accompanied the Games, competitors, while not forgetting that they were Athenians, Spartans or from other city states, remembered that they were Greeks

and regarded an Olympic victory as the highest honour. We will see the gymnasium, the stadium and the palestra or wrestling school. We will also explore the Altis, or sacred precinct of Zeus, which houses structures including the Temple of Zeus, one of the largest temples on the Greek mainland and the Archaeological Museum which houses some fine sculptures and artefacts from the site.

Day 10 Itea for Delphi. From our berth in Itea we drive to the sacred site of Delphi, one of Greece's most important sites of antiquity. The hillside ruins, overlooking the mountains, are exceptional and we will explore the Sanctuary of Apollo,

site of the sacred Delphic Oracle and walk along Delphi's Sacred Way, visiting the Treasury of the Athenians and the 5000 seat theatre dating from the 4th century BC. We depart over lunch and cruise down the Gulf of Corinth. Be on deck later this afternoon as we transit the Corinth Canal, completed in 1893 and only 6.4 kilometres long and 21.5 metres wide, it is only small ships like our MS Monet which can now make this journey. We will dock in the port of Piraeus in the late evening.

Day 11 Athens to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for the scheduled flight to London.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

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Cover image: Delphi.