

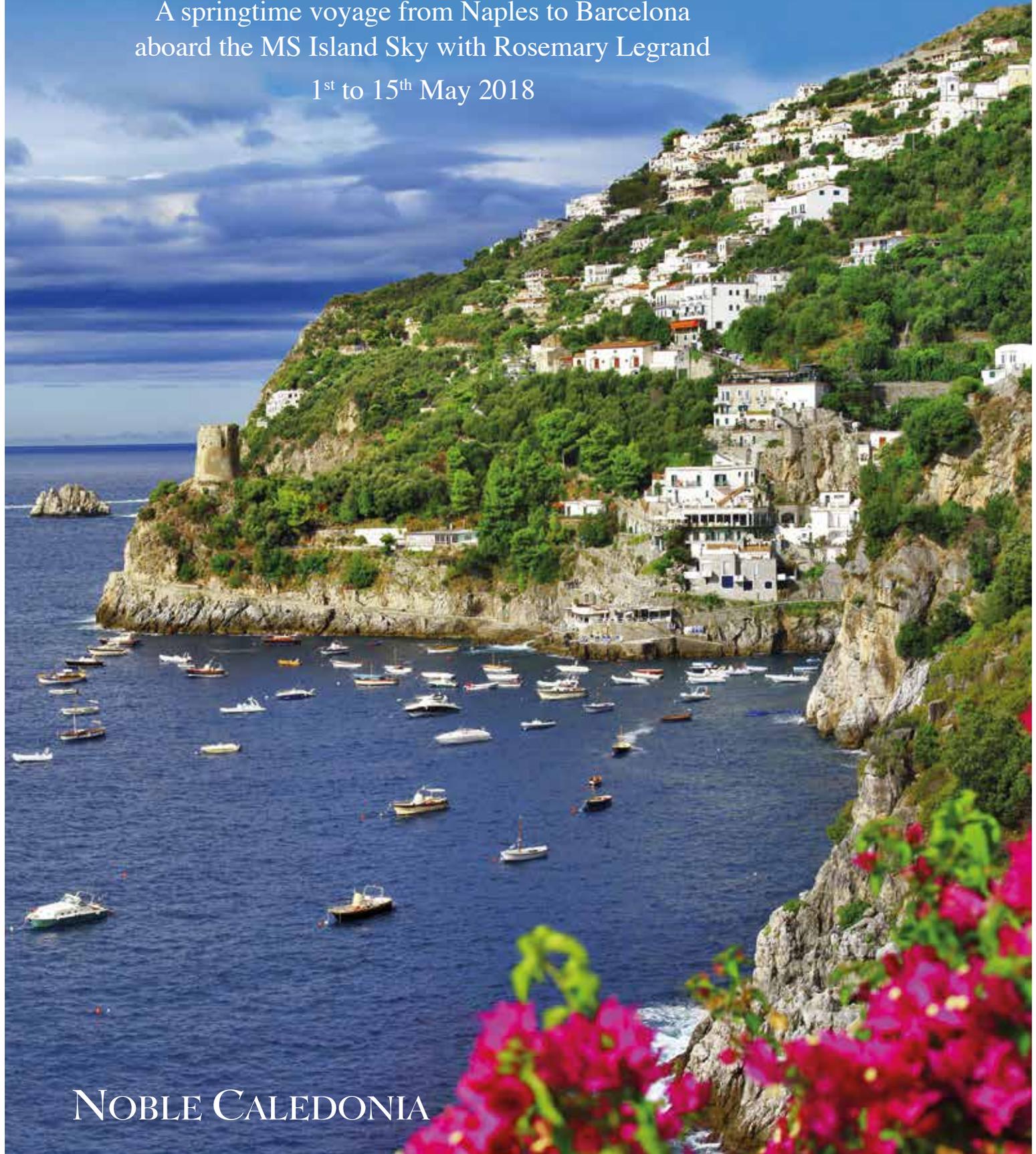
SPRING IN THE GARDENS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

A springtime voyage from Naples to Barcelona
aboard the MS Island Sky with Rosemary Legrand

1st to 15th May 2018

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£400
PER PERSON

NOBLE CALEDONIA





Our springtime journey through the Mediterranean has been planned for those who appreciate an interesting mix of history, gardens and landscapes. We will steer clear, whenever possible, of the over-crowded sites and mega resort ships, yet include some of the most interesting and beautiful places in the ancient world. It is the most perfect time of year: verdant gardens and landscapes awash with blossoms make for an idyllic journey aboard the wonderfully comfortable MS Island Sky.



La Mortella Garden

Guest Speaker – Rosemary Legrand



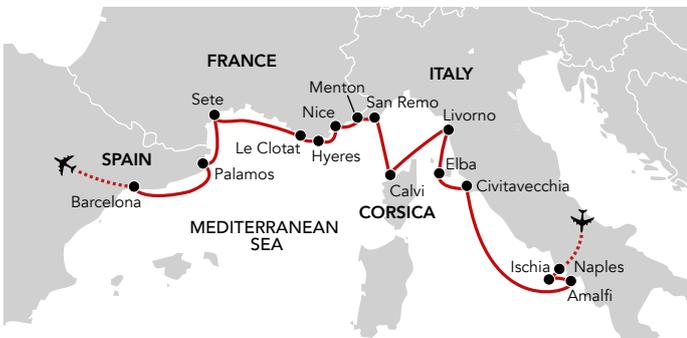
Rosemary is a former nursery owner and daughter of the late George Hyde, who was a hybridist of azaleas and rhododendrons. Many of his award winning hybrid plants can be seen at the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens at Wisley, Surrey, the de Rothschild rhododendron gardens at Exbury, Hampshire and the National Trust Gardens at Kingston Lacy in Dorset. Rosemary had the honour of presenting HM The Queen with a collection of her late Father's azaleas named after

the Queen's former Head Gardener, Fred Nutbeam, at Chelsea Flower Show in 1996. Her enjoyment of photography is used to great effect in creating the atmosphere of the gardens she discusses in her range of illustrated talks. She has travelled extensively to gardens in many parts of the world to amass a substantial library of pictures. Rosemary is an experienced public speaker and has given presentations to a wide range of organisations since 1992. She is on the RHS Speakers Register, is a NAFAS Area Speaker, and wrote a number of contributions for the book, '1001 Gardens you must see before you die' and a recent article for the Royal Horticultural Society 'Rhododendron, Camellia and Magnolia 2014 Year Book'."

Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild at Saint Jean Cap Ferrat



Pegasus Fountain, Villa Lante della Rovere, Bagnaia



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Naples, Italy. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Island Sky.

Day 2 Naples & Ischia. There will be a choice of excursions today and you may choose to take the ferry and spend the day on the garden island of Ischia. A tour of the island will focus on La Mortella, a wonderful garden designed by architect Russell Page for Lord and Lady William Walton. We will have lunch at a local restaurant before enjoying free time to explore the main town. Alternatively enjoy a day in Naples where a morning tour will take us to Herculaneum. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure in Naples.

Day 3 Amalfi. From our anchorage off Amalfi we will go ashore this morning to visit the nearby beautiful gardens of the Villa Cimbrone in Ravello. The villa was something of a Bohemian retreat in its early days and has had many illustrious former guests. Return to Amalfi and enjoy a free afternoon at leisure.

Day 4 Civitavecchia. Today we travel inland to visit two wonderful houses and gardens in Lazio. We will visit Castello Ruspoli which is owned by Princess Claudia Giada Ruspoli. Originally part of the papal estates, the castle was built in 847 AD by Benedictine monks. The garden, which still retains its original form, must be considered one of the most beautiful parterres in Italy. After lunch we continue to the beautiful gardens of Villa Lante Della Rovere. In the eyes of many, Villa Lante is the consummate example of the best period in the history of garden design: the Mannerist phase of the Italian Renaissance.

Day 5 Elba. Arrive this morning at the enchanting island of Elba, best known as Napoleon's island of exile from 1814 to 1815. Departing the island's busy capital Portoferraio we set out for a delightful drive exploring the southern region of this charming island with superb views over the coastline. The first stop will be Villa San Martino, the summer residence of Napoleon Bonaparte, which has since been transformed into a museum. Continue to Porto Azzurro, a delightful town which is dominated by an ancient Spanish fortress and a picturesque harbour,

before carrying on along the coast to the 17th century country wine farm, La Chiusa, beautifully nestled in a vineyard estate surrounded by olive trees and overlooking the ocean. Experience the estate's interesting cellar to learn how the wine is handled and produced. A delicious sampling of the local wine will be served in the garden facing the sea. Return to the MS Island Sky for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure in Portoferraio.

Day 6 Livorno. We will spend the day in the Tuscan countryside and Chianti wine region. This morning we will visit the 15th century Villa Poggio Torselli built by the Machiavelli family and known as the "Queen of Chianti Villas". The gardens here are made up of parkland and a terraced Italian style garden with a verdant expanse of vineyards, olive trees, roses, cypress and lemon trees. After our visit we will enjoy a lunch of local specialities and wines at a nearby villa before returning to the MS Island Sky. Alternatively spend the morning in the lovely town of Lucca.

Day 7 Calvi. Calvi is the capital of the prosperous Balagne region of the island. Enjoy the vista of the surrounding green hills which form a natural amphitheatre and is known as the 'Garden of Corsica'. A guided tour will lead us through the alleyways and cobbled streets before continuing to the imposing citadel. This afternoon there will be an opportunity to explore the flora of Corsica with a visit to the seven hectare Parc de Saleccia.

Day 8 San Remo. This morning enjoy time to explore the twisting

labyrinth of lanes in the old town that lead up from the waterfront or maybe walk along the promenade to the gardens at Villa Ormond. This afternoon we will enjoy a choice of tours, maybe travel inland to the Medieval town of Dolceaqua which is made up of two villages connected by a Medieval humpback bridge which inspired Monet who defined it as "a jewel of lightness". Our walking tour will take us through the picturesque alleys to the Doria Castle and we will also enjoy a tasting of the village's famous Rossese red wine and olive oil in a local taverna. Alternatively take the journey to the French border and the Hanbury Gardens which were established in 1867 by Sir Thomas Hanbury as a coastal woodland garden at his property in Ventimiglia. After falling into disrepair they were restored by the University of Genoa in 1987 who maintain the 18 hectares of Mediterranean and exotic plants.

Day 9 Menton, France. Arrive this morning on the French Riviera in the small town of Menton. Spend the morning at the Val Rahmeh Botanical Gardens. Established in the late 19th century by Lord Radcliffe the garden contains subtropical and tropical plants including Sophora toromiro (a species of small trees since disappeared from Easter Island) exceptional olive trees (more than 400 years old) and collections of exotic plants. Returning to the ship for lunch you may wish to revisit the town for the afternoon or relax on board. Alternatively visit the Serre de La Madone, designed in the 1920s by Lawrence Johnston. Spread over nine hectares



Menton

the garden is divided into compartments by hedges and walls and includes plants sourced from his travels around the world.

Day 10 Nice. Drive this morning along the dramatic road to St Jean Cap Ferrat which is home to some of the most sumptuous villas on the French Riviera and where we find the Rothschild Foundation and Gardens at Villa Ile de France. We will explore the villa which houses a priceless art collection. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon either explore Nice independently or join us as we explore two of the area's finest museums in the exclusive Cimiez Hill District. We will begin with a visit to the Musee National Marc Chagall. Established by the artist himself, the collection features the most important permanent exhibition of his work. We will continue to the Musee Matisse which is housed in the 17th century Arena Villa. The exquisite collection details the great master's development from the late 19th century through to 1954.

Day 11 Hyeres. Our journey along the French Riviera continues in Hyeres, which developed as a winter destination and health resort for wealthy Britons in the 18th and 19th century with Queen Victoria giving the royal seal of approval in 1892. The pleasant climate makes it home to some wonderful gardens that we will explore on a morning tour including Castel Sainte Claire which overlooks the old town and the terraced park at Saint Bernard with wonderful views along the coast.

Day 12 Le Ciotat. Today we will anchor off the picturesque Provençal port of Le Ciotat where we have a morning free to explore independently. After lunch on board we spend the afternoon at the hilltop Medieval village of Le Castellet exploring the winding streets and enjoying a wine tasting.

Day 13 Sete. Enjoy a full day tour to the fortified city of Carcassonne which is for most the perfect idea of a Medieval castle. There will be a guided walking tour and free time before returning to the ship with lunch en-route. Alternatively, spend the morning at La Bambouseraie, a private botanical garden founded in 1856 by keen botanist Eugene Mazel and featuring exotic and rare plants, huge oak and cypress trees, giant bamboos and magnolias and Victorian greenhouses. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure.

Day 14 Palamos, Spain. Our first call in Spain will be on the Costa Brava and the old fishing port of Palamos. This morning we will head out to the 17 hectare Cap Rog Botanical Gardens situated on the cliffs with wonderful views of the coastline. The terraced gardens contain over 1000 botanical species and spread from the house on the cliffs down to the sea.

Day 15 Barcelona to London. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Pre-Cruise Extension

Grand Hotel Villa Tuscolana

27th April to 1st May 2018



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Frascati. Fly by scheduled flight to Rome. On arrival transfer to our hotel for a four night stay. Settle into your room before meeting for dinner tonight.

Day 2 Villa Landriana. After breakfast we head for the city of Ardea to visit the magnificent Gardens of Landriana which are considered one of the most impressive gardens in Italy. Created in 1956, the 10 hectares of garden space were created by an English landscape designer named Russell Page who divided the garden into 32 different "rooms" with specific characteristics, such as the valley of ancient roses, the orange garden and the blue lawn. Return to the hotel for a free afternoon before meeting tonight for dinner.

Day 3 Tivoli. Today we visit two magnificent villas in Tivoli. The Villa Adriana is an exceptional complex of classical buildings created in the 2nd century A.D. by the Roman Emperor Hadrian. We will have time to enjoy some lunch in the town of Tivoli before we continue to Villa d'Este, masterpiece of the Italian Garden and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Return to the hotel this afternoon and enjoy a free evening.

Day 4 Frascati. Enjoy a full day at leisure. We will meet tonight for dinner.

Day 5 Frascati to Naples. After a leisurely breakfast in the hotel we will check-out and drive to the MS Island Sky, stopping en-route for lunch.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£765**; Single: **£995**

Price Includes: Four nights accommodation at the Grand Hotel Villa Tuscolana on a bed and breakfast basis, dinner on days 1, 2 and 4, lunches on days 2, 3 and 5, excursions, Tour Manager, gratuities.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £400 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Magellan	Standard Forward	£6295	£5895
Magellan	Standard	£6495	£6095
Columbus	Superior	£6695	£6295
Marco Polo	Premium	£6995	£6595
Marco Polo	Corner	£7395	£6995
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£8795	£8395
Explorer	Owner's Balcony	£8995	£8595
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£6895	£6495
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£7295	£6895

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 14 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, shore excursions, gratuities, onboard team including Guest Speaker, transfers, port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Ship to Shore: Please note that we will be at anchor at the following ports and will use local boats/Zodiacs to tender ashore: Amalfi, San Remo, Menton, Hyeres and La Ciotat.



MS Island Sky

The much loved MS Island Sky is one of the finest small ships in the world. With a maximum passenger capacity of only 114, a vessel of her size is capable of carrying many more but instead the MS Island Sky has the benefit of unusually large suites, luxuriously appointed public areas and spacious outside decks.



Superior Suite



Dining on deck



The Club

Onboard there is a high ratio of crew to passengers. Our friendly crew of 75 are mainly Filipino and Eastern European and our Scandinavian captains are experienced mariners, having been in service aboard large 2000 plus passenger vessels and who now prefer a less frantic life aboard a small ship. If, like them and us, you prefer a more peaceful life at sea, you will find the MS Island Sky the perfect ship. When choosing the vessel for your next voyage of discovery, you can select a ship with endless entertainment and impersonal service or come with us where peace, high quality service and attention to detail are the order of the day.

There will be no organised entertainment, fancy dress, deck games or any of the usual big ship experiences. The atmosphere onboard is more akin to a private yacht or country hotel. A little music in the lounge or bar after dinner, informative port briefings

and presentations from our expedition team and of course good food which may be enjoyed leisurely in the attractive dining room, all contribute to making any voyage aboard the MS Island Sky a memorable experience. After a day ashore you will return to the comfort and peace of a well run and exceedingly comfortable ship.

Your Space

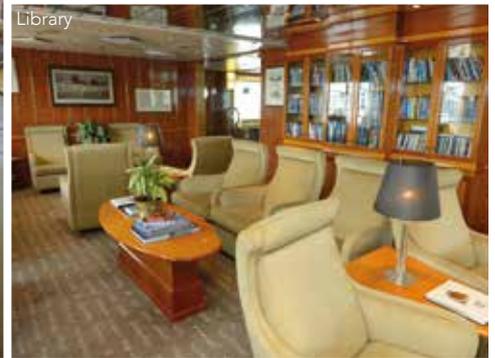
The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large lounge where daily briefings and talks will be provided throughout the voyage and an elegant bar where a pianist plays periodically throughout the day. The onboard library is the perfect place to relax with a book. Daily newspapers and magazines are placed in the library depending on local availability. Outside there is a rear sun deck, a bar and comfortable deck furniture for sun bathing or relaxing with a book. On the top deck there is a further observation and sun deck.



Deluxe Balcony Suite



Restaurant



Library

Your Dining

Another benefit of a small ship is the quality of the cuisine. With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the galley is able to provide delicious meals. Where possible and when it meets his high standards, the chef will obtain local produce in markets. In the main elegant dining room, breakfast is served buffet-style, with certain items cooked to order and lunch and dinner is à la carte. When weather permits, breakfast and a buffet-style lunch are also served on deck. To enhance your dining experience even further a selection of wines are included with lunch and dinner. Afternoon tea is served in the lounge and tea and coffee are available 24 hours.

considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring marble-topped vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower, large wardrobes, dressing table with large mirror and stool and excellent storage. There is a mini-fridge, flat screen television with inbuilt DVD/CD player and a telephone in each suite. Bottled water, Molton Brown toiletries, towelling dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Other facilities include a programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted toiletries and air-conditioning and heating.

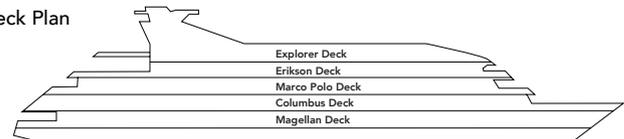


Friendly Staff

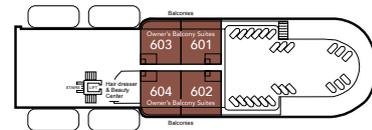
Your Suite

Onboard there are 57 exceptionally spacious and well designed suites. All feature a sitting room area and some have private balconies. The feeling of luxury is enhanced by the wood panelling and brass, which predominates throughout the vessel conveying the atmosphere of a private yacht. The passenger accommodation is arranged over five decks and all suites have outside views. Each affords

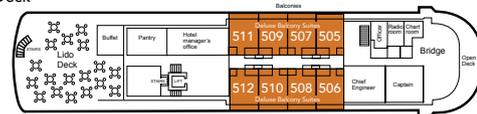
Deck Plan



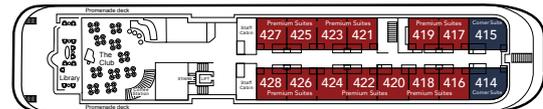
Explorer Deck



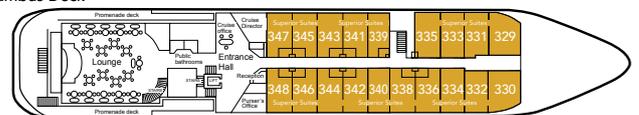
Erikson Deck



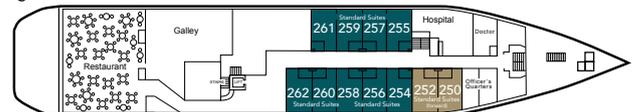
Marco Polo Deck



Columbus Deck



Magellan Deck



- Standard Suites (Forward)
- Premium Suites
- Deluxe Balcony Suites
- Standard Suites
- Corner Suites
- Owner's Balcony Suites
- Superior Suites

NOBLE CALEDONIA

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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
 Cover image: Amalfi Coastline..