

LAUNCH
OFFER - SAVE

£300
PER PERSON

VOYAGE TO VALLETTA

From the 'Eternal City' to the 'Silent City'
aboard the Variety Voyager

16th to 24th May 2016

NOBLE CALEDONIA

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.



Valletta skyline, Malta



Turquoise waters around Isla Maddalena



Ruins of the Greek temple at Selinunte



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 Sardinia 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



The 'Silent City' of Mdina, Malta



Picturesque Mgarr harbour, Gozo



Mosaic from the Roman villa of Casale



Old Sicilian church of Piazza Armerina

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 Satiro, the Piazza della Repubblica 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 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.



Fishing boats, Malta

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

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

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

| Cat | Deck | Brochure Price | Launch Offer Price |
|-----|-----------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| C | Marina | £3995 | £3695 |
| B | Marina/Riviera | £4295 | £3995 |
| A | Riviera | £4695 | £4395 |
| P | Horizons | £4995 | £4695 |
| OS | Horizons | £5295 | £4995 |
| C | Marina for sole use | £4995 | £4695 |
| B | Marina/Riviera for sole use | £5295 | £4995 |

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

Not Included: Travel insurance.

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



Twin Cabin Category P



Lounge

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 12m² to 30m². 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.

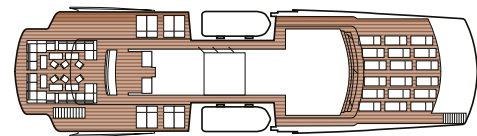
Life Onboard

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,

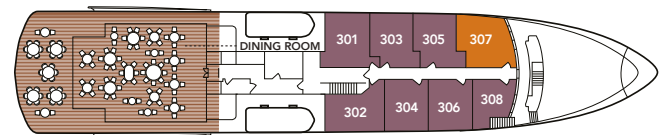
our trips ashore will be a pleasure as we explore with local guides. Onboard the atmosphere is informal with ample public space to relax with a book or to join new found friends to discuss the day's events. Throughout the vessel you will find unobstructed views and the professional crew of 28 will ensure impeccable service.

DECK PLAN

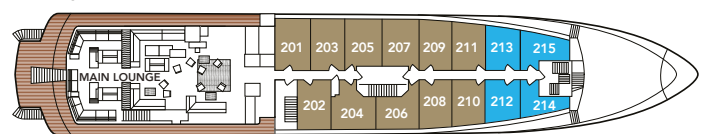
SUN DECK



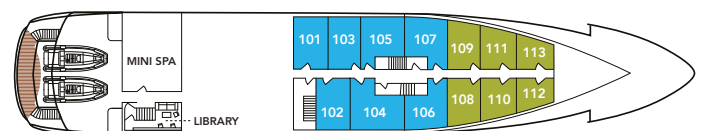
HORIZONS DECK



RIVIERA DECK



MARINA DECK



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

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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: View over the Greek Doric Temple, Segesta, Sicily