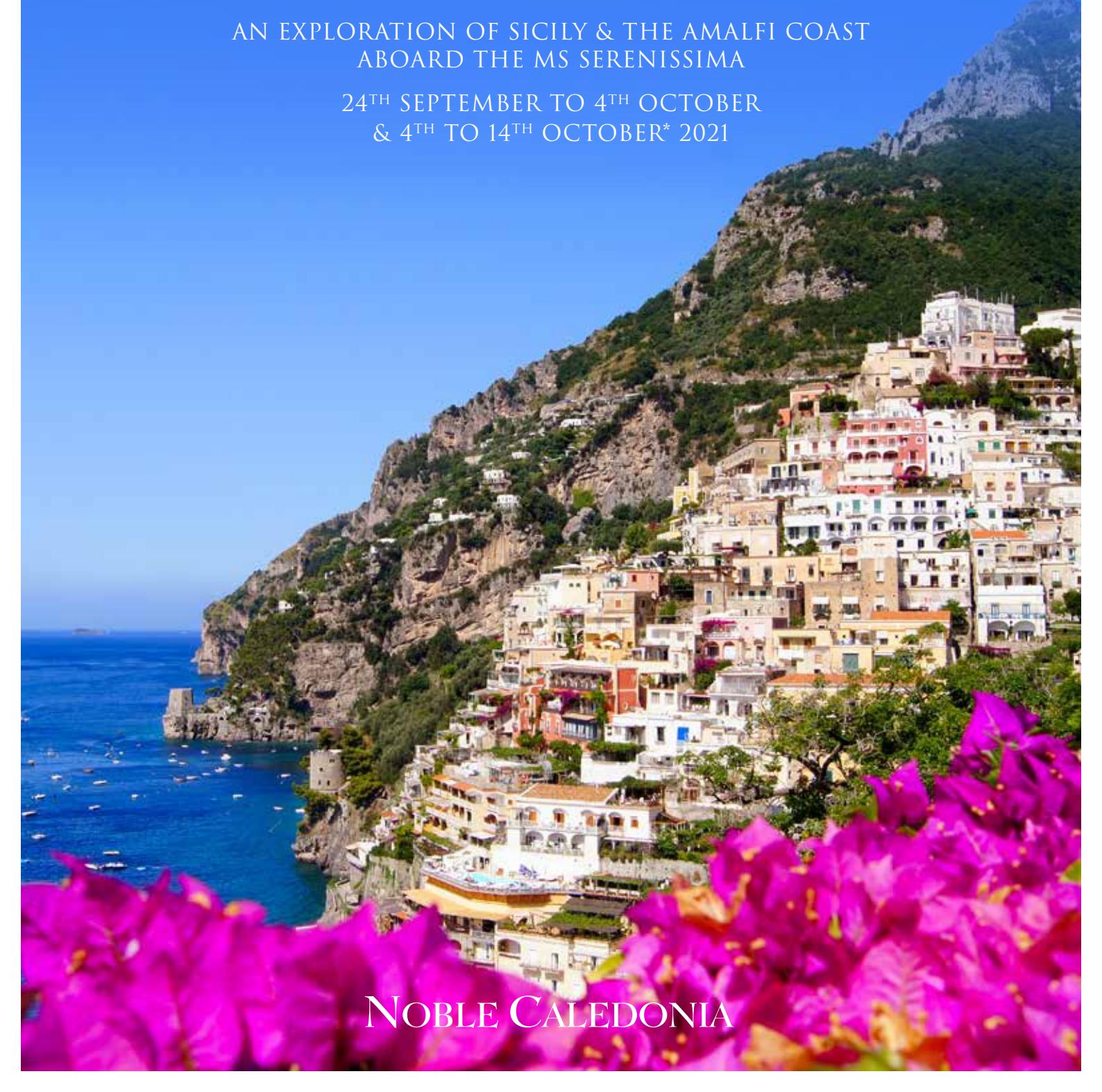


SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£200
PER PERSON

WONDERS OF SICILY & THE AMALFI COAST

AN EXPLORATION OF SICILY & THE AMALFI COAST
ABOARD THE MS SERENISSIMA

24TH SEPTEMBER TO 4TH OCTOBER
& 4TH TO 14TH OCTOBER* 2021



NOBLE CALEDONIA



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 voyage aboard the MS Serenissima 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 which we have timed for September and October when the crowds of high summer will have departed and the temperatures will be pleasant for our guided tours. We finish our voyage by sailing across to mainland Italy where we visit beautiful Positano, considered one of the prettiest towns along the Amalfi coast and the magnificent site of Herculaneum.

Guest Speakers

Dr Steve Kershaw – 24th September 2021 Departure



Dr Steve Kershaw is a tutor in Classics for Oxford University Department for Continuing Education, an accredited lecturer for The Arts Society (ex- NADFAS), and lectures for the Victoria and Albert Museum's Early Medieval: 300 - 1250 and The Classical World and Classical Revivals courses. His publications include, A Brief Guide to Classical Civilization, A Brief History of the Roman Empire and Barbarians: Rebellion and Resistance to Rome. Steve is the author and tutor for Oxford University's online courses in Greek Mythology, The Fall of Rome, and Minoans and Mycenaeans. In 2016 he appeared as an Expert Contributor to The History Channel's 'Barbarians Rising' series, and he has travelled widely in the world of the Greeks and Romans, both physically and intellectually. Steve is also an honors graduate of the Musicians Institute in Los Angeles, and is regarded as one of the finest jazz double bass players in the UK.

David Stuttard – 4th October 2021 Departure



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 to Malta. On arrival transfer to the MS Serenissima and enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening.

Day 2 Porto Empedocle, Sicily.

This morning we will explore the Valle dei Templi, 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 Concordia, the Dioscuri Temple, the Temple of Olympic Jove and the Temple of Hercules. There will be the option 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.

Day 3 Licata for Piazza Armerina.

From the port of Licata we travel inland to what is regarded as the

Naples



Ragusa



Temple of Concordia, Agrigento



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. We will break our journey at one of these vineyards and enjoy a chance to sample some wine over a Sicilian lunch.

Day 4 Noto & Ragusa. From our berth in Pozzallo we will explore the Baroque villages of Noto and Ragusa. Built in 1703 Noto is a picturesque city located on the terraced slopes of Mount Iblei among olive groves and almond trees. A quiet walk along the central streets will reveal the 18th century Palazzo Ducezio and some Baroque churches: San Francesco Immacolata, the cathedral, San Carlo, Santa Chiara and the imposing Palazzo Nicolaci di Villadorata, built in 1737. We return to the MS Serenissima for lunch and this afternoon continue to charming Ragusa. It has been included in the UNESCO World Heritage list for its artistic architectural heritage with its Baroque palaces, churches, squares, stairways and winding narrow streets, all of which create an evocative and ancient atmosphere. We will discover the wonderful Ragusa Ibla: the "Pearl of the Baroque", the gardens, the

magnificent palaces, the splendid church of San Giuseppe and the Dome of San Giorgio, built in the 18th century on the site where an older church stood before the earthquake of 1693.

Day 5 Syracuse. Syracuse was founded by the Greeks in 734 BC and by the 5th century was a political and military power throughout the Mediterranean which rivalled Athens as the largest and most beautiful city in the Greek world. This morning 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. Continuing to explore the island of Ortigia 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. The afternoon is free to explore independently before meeting this evening for a private concert in one of the town's palazzos accompanied by local food and wine.

Day 6 Messina for Taormina. 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 exploring 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. Those who wish to spend longer here will be able to take lunch independently in one of the local restaurants and spend an afternoon exploring at leisure before our coach returns to Messina. Alternatively, return to the ship for lunch and enjoy free time in Messina before we sail this evening.

Day 7 Lipari & Stromboli, Aeolian Islands. We anchor off the picturesque island of Lipari situated in the Aeolian Islands off the north coast of Sicily. Here we will find an amazing collection of ruins from the prehistoric through to the Roman period. Lipari town is a thriving little place prettily located between two harbours. After landing by Zodiac, our morning tour includes a visit to the upper town set within fortress walls and a drive around the volcano followed by a visit to the Archaeological Museum with its impressive relics from nearby excavations. Maybe stay in town for lunch before we sail in the late afternoon. Enjoy dinner anchored off the volcanic island of Stromboli. Please note that we will be at anchor today and will use the vessel's Zodiacs to transfer ashore.

Day 8 Palermo, Sicily. 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 ship 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.

Day 9 Amalfi & Positano, Italy. From our anchorage in Amalfi we will board local boats and take a cruise to Positano considered one of the prettiest towns along the coast where white Moorish style houses cling to the slopes around a small sparkling bay. Spend some time exploring the streets and browsing in some of Positano's boutiques that sell the casual, locally made cotton clothing the town is noted for. We return to our private boat and transfer back to Amalfi. Flanked by an old Saracen tower and a 12th century Capuchin monastery, Amalfi boasts a splendid cathedral dating from the 11th century that is covered with geometrical designs in coloured stones. We will visit St Andrew's



Palermo



Lipari

Cathedral and the Basilica of the Crucifix dating back to 596 AD. We will also have some free time to stroll along the impressive marina and discover the picturesque shops and cafes.

Day 10 Naples. Spend the morning at sea as we cruise round the Sorrentine Peninsula and into the Bay of Naples seeing the Norman castle that protects Naples port and the backdrop of Vesuvius in the distance. An afternoon tour will take us to Herculaneum, this wealthy Roman town was completely submerged by volcanic mud following the 79 AD eruption of Vesuvius. Since its rediscovery in 1709, excavations

have revealed beautiful public baths, villas and gardens of noble families, decorated with murals and floor mosaics, and the remains of a theatre. Return to the ship for dinner as we remain overnight in Naples.

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

**Please note that the 4th October departure operates from Naples to Valletta in the reverse direction to that shown. A full itinerary can be viewed at www.noble-caledonia.co.uk*

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
2	Standard Stateroom	£4595	£4395
3	Classic Stateroom	£4795	£4595
4	Superior Stateroom	£5195	£4995
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£5695	£5495
6	Junior Suite	£6295	£6095
7	Owner's Suite	£7195	£6995
8	Serenissima Suite	£7195	£6995
10	Standard Single	£5895	£5695

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 10 nights aboard the MS Serenissima on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port & Airport Taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Malta Extension

22nd to 24th September & 14th to 16th October* 2021



Valletta



Mdina

If you would like to spend some time in Malta we are offering a two night stay providing the chance to explore Valletta and the surrounding area.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Valletta, Malta. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to our hotel and check in for our two night stay. After some time at leisure we will meet for dinner this evening. (D)

Day 2 Valletta. Enjoy a morning walking tour 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. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. (B)

Day 3 Valletta. This morning we will tour the city of Mdina. Originally this city was given the name of "Città Nobile" and is 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. We enjoy a local lunch before transferring to the MS Serenissima moored in Valletta. (B, L)

** Please note that the 14th October extension is post-cruise in conjunction with the 4th October cruise. A full itinerary can be viewed at www.noble-caledonia.co.uk*

PRICES PER PERSON

- Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£695**

Single: **£945**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation, meals as indicated (B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner), tours as described, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.
Not Included: Travel insurance.

MS SERENISSIMA



Harald Jarl Lounge



Venice Restaurant



Andrea Lounge

The charming MS Serenissima began her career as the Harald Jarl, cruising the Norwegian coastline and fjords. Since 2003, when she was extensively renovated, she has been operating as a classic cruise ship. Previously known as the MS Andrea, she was upgraded again in 2013 and started her new life as the MS Serenissima. With her small size she can navigate into small, remote ports inaccessible to the big cruise ships and appears an impressive sight when moored. With her fleet of Zodiacs, she is capable of both destination and expedition cruising.

Your Cabin/Suite

Accommodating no more than 95 passengers, there are eight different grades of cabins arranged over five decks, and all feature either windows or portholes. The cabins are attractively designed for comfort and convenience. All cabins are fully air conditioned with an en-suite bathroom with shower (please note cabins 601 - 605 and 507 have a bath with shower attachment) and a selection of toiletries in addition to a hairdryer, robes and slippers. All cabins come equipped with telephone, flat screen television, safety deposit box and other thoughtful appointments. Refillable water bottles are available in all cabins for use on board. Due to the very nature of the ship, the cabins vary in shape and size, adding to the vessel's overall charm.



Your Dining

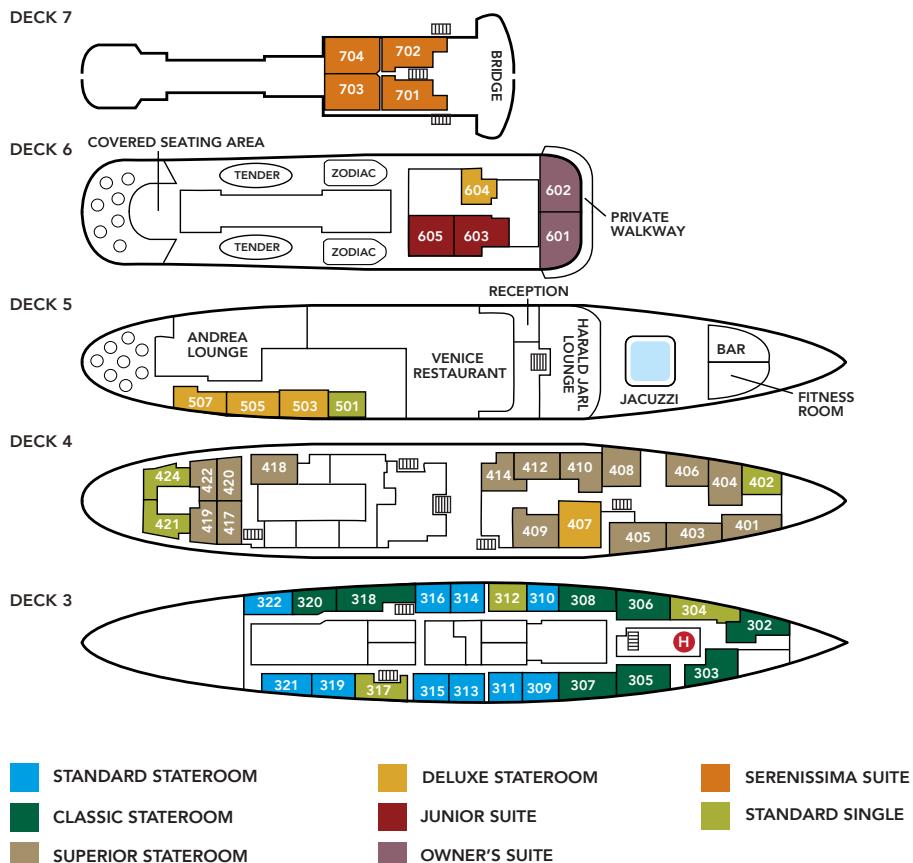
The free seating Venice Restaurant accommodates all guests in one sitting and, with its Deck 5 location, all of the tables benefit from great views. The picture windows also make the restaurant wonderfully light and airy. Breakfast is served buffet-style with cooked dishes available and eggs to order by the ship's accomplished chef. Lunch is also served buffet-style

with hot and cold dishes available. Dinner is served à la carte and is four courses, except at the Captain's Dinner, which is a six course affair. Where possible, local produce is sourced for an authentic dining experience. A choice of red or white wine, beer and soft drinks is included at lunch and dinner. In good weather there are al fresco dining facilities available and tea and coffee are available around the clock in the Andrea Lounge.

Your Space

The facilities on board include two lounges – the larger Andrea Lounge is comfortable and spacious and the smaller Harald Jarl Lounge is more intimate. There is also a small library and Wi-Fi is available at an extra cost throughout the vessel. The outside areas really are something special. A spacious observation deck allows 360 degree views of the passing scenery. From here, step down to the lido area with Jacuzzi and outside bar. The covered seating area at the back of Deck 6 is ideal for relaxing with a drink in hand. Perhaps, one of the best known and loved features of this vessel is its unique style. During the major refit in Sweden the then owners commissioned Swedish interior designers to create a country house style which has recently been updated with some Art Deco styling which works particularly well on a vessel of this vintage, providing intimacy and a classic nautical sensibility often lacking in larger vessels.

MS SERENISSIMA DECK PLAN & CABINS



SERENISSIMA SUITE
(25 square metres)



OWNER'S SUITE
(22 square metres)



JUNIOR SUITE
(21 square metres)

NB. Please note cabin sizes vary in each category and measurements shown are approximate.



DELUXE STATEROOM
(15 to 25 square metres)



SUPERIOR STATEROOM
(11.5 to 18 square metres)



CLASSIC STATEROOM
(14 to 19 square metres)



STANDARD STATEROOM
(10 to 11.5 square metres)



STANDARD SINGLE
(7 to 12.5 square metres)



Lido Deck



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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: Postiano, Amalfi Coast.