

FROM SPRINGTIME ALONG THE MEDITERRANEAN TO LEGENDARY SHORES

Between Catalonia and the French Riviera , the Mediterranean coastline unfolds like a living and breathing painting in which the light enhances the shores punctuated with secret coves and stunning beaches. From the vineyards of Languedoc to the craggy calanques of Provence , fall under the spell of these stone villages with shaded little streets, these ports nestling between pine trees and olive trees, these markets where the fragrance of citrus fruits blends with the scent of the sea. In the spring, away from the hustle and bustle of summer, the C ote d'Azur, bathed in sun, will reveal its discreet glamour and timeless elegance. Then Corsica will appear on the horizon, with its mountains and coves, its dense forests and wild calanques, all invitations to discovery and contemplation. Enjoy the gentle Mediterranean spring during this break between the C ote d'Azur, the Italian Riviera, the island of Elba and Corsica: an itinerary combining glamour, nature and traditions. On these shores, you will discover a refined way of life between pretty ports, lively markets and sunny terraces. Monaco , a setting of luxury and prestige where the jet-set rubs shoulders with princely history, will appeal to you with its unique atmosphere, while Portofino , a small jewel of the Italian Riviera, will plunge you into the Italian _dolce vita_. Throughout this journey, the Mediterranean will reveal vibrant landscapes clinging to the turquoise waters: cliffs sculpted by the wind, golden beaches, secret coves, brightly-coloured cliffside villages, groves of centuries-old olive trees... An elegant and restorative interlude, in the heart of the Mediterranean. Set off to discover the legendary shores of Italy , along the Adriatic, Ionian and Tyrrhenian Seas, via Sicily and with a break at the Croatian island pearl of Hvar. At sea, spectacular landscapes unfold between the deep blue sea, lush hills, secret coves and cliffside villages. Each port of call reveals a facet of this mythical land, at the crossroads of multiple influences: ancient sites bearing witness to a glorious past, treasures of Baroque and Renaissance architecture, sunny squares inviting you to partake in _la dolce vita_ , local flavours... A unique journey featuring a harmonious blend of thousand-year history, living traditions and Mediterranean panoramas of



rare beauty.

ITINERARY

Day 6 - Nice

Capital of the Cote d'Azur, Nice is surrounded by an amphitheatre of hills and mountains that protects it from the wind. You will probably want to explore the Promenade des Anglais, where you can sit on one of the famous blue chairs laid out opposite the baie des Anges. The Chateau hill is also a very pleasent place to walk. This is the entrance to the old city, with its bustling markets and regional products along the main street, the Cours Saleya.

Day 7 - Monaco



The mere mention of the name Monaco elicits admiration and awakens the imagination. Inaccessible, privileged, well-preserved and envied are just a few words to describe this miniscule state. Sculpted by the waves, the Rock of Monaco is an audacious promontory, home of the princes and the Principality's treasures. Ruled by the Grimaldi family since the 13th century, Monaco is a haven of order, luxury and calm that attracts not only the world's greatest fortunes, but also travellers seeking well-being, a change of scenery, or chasing their dreams.

Day 8 - Portofino

Close to the Cinque Terre, Portofino is the jewel of the Ligurian Riviera. This "small village that stretches like a half moon around a silent basin", described by Guy de Maupassant, is today a pretty, lively little port that has managed to preserve the authenticity of its maritime traditions, which have been recognised since Ancient times. Built in the hollow of a small natural cove sheltered by the pine forest, the village is at the heart of a protected maritime reserve. The shimmering colours of its house fronts and the exceptional location of this village have inspired many authors and artists. You will also see the Portofino lighthouse, immaculate in its green setting. Perched on the Punta del Capo, it watches over the peninsula and its postcard setting.

Day 9 - Portoferraio, Elba

In the elbow of a creek on the northern coastline of Elba Island, a small corner of paradise awaits in the form of Portoferraio. As you approach its coastlines, you will make out the powerful and majestic contours of its Medici fortresses. Napoleon Bonaparte spent many of his 300 days in exile here. The Palazzina dei Mulini, his first imperial residence, whose gardens offer outstanding views of the sea, is a must-see. Historical treasures are followed by another kind of treasure, namely white sand beaches, and equally tempting local specialities including gurguglione and rice with cuttlefish ink.

Day 10 - Bonifacio, Corsica

The spectacular town of Bonifacio located on the very tip of southern Corsica, clings to a narrow promontory of white rock overhanging the turquoise waters of the Mediterranean. You can admire its limestone cliffs hewn out by the wind, before setting off on a cultural tour of its cultural treasures. From the little paved streets in the ancient Haute Ville, to the promenade on the open-air medieval chemin de ronde, this stunning town will take you on a journey back in time. Frequented or secluded, there are numerous beaches to choose from, all in keeping with the high standards of the "Île de Beaute".

Day 11 - Civitavecchia (Roma)

Built on an Etruscan site, between the Tyrrhenian sea and the Monti della Tolfa, Civitavecchia respires the dolce vita. This very modern and easy going town combines art and history with panache. You can also visit superb historical sites like Fort Michelangelo or the Cathedral of Saint Francis of Assisi. Just 80 kilometres from Rome, the town is a beautiful first step to the Italian capital.

Day 12 - Salerno

Generating a veritable explosion of intense emotions, the province of Salerno fascinates and enchants travellers. Its fascinating history will lead you to the extraordinary archaeological site of Pompeii, whose sprawling ruins provide a grandiose and moving vision of what a Roman city looked like in Imperial times. The city which was frozen in time under the



ashes from the eruption of Mont Vesuvius offers you its peerless historical and cultural wealth, as well as the unique beauty of its location, which has earned it classification as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Day 13 - Taormina, Sicily

Located on Sicily's eastern coast, in the province of Messina, the seaside town of Taormina is Sicily's Saint-Tropez, boasting heritage sites, secluded beaches and luxury shopping. You can visit its medieval centre, suspended 300 metres above sea level, where terraces offer a spectacular view of the Mediterranean Sea. Another vestige from its past are the ruins of the Greco-Roman theatre. This extremely well-preserved site attracts visitors who are fascinated by the natural beauty of the area which overlooks a turquoise bay.

Day 14 - Syracuse, Sicily

Its undulating rocky coastline, the endless sandy beaches, the menacing form of Mount Etna which surveys its island like a patriarch, the flowery gardens on the hillside... Sicily lays out its varied landscapes like a shopkeeper displays his wares. Described by Cicero as "the most beautiful city in the world", Syracuse was one of the most prestigious cities in Sicily and at her height was even a rival for Athens. A central city of Ancient Greece, it was home to a succession of civilisations, each of which has left their mark. The blend of Arabic, Roman, Norman, Byzantine and Spanish cultures makes Syracuse a town that is extraordinarily rich in fragrances, colours and flavours.

Day 15 - Gallipoli

Gallipoli, which comes from the Greek kalle polis, meaning beautiful town, is very aptly named. Located on the heel of the boot, the town known as "the pearl of Puglia" has many attractions. The whiteness of its façades recalls its Greek origins while its architecture echoes its multiple influences. Its old town, perched on a limestone island, concentrates the cultural heritage of this city with a thousand faces, alternately a Roman colony, then Byzantine, the property of the Popes, Norman, under the rule of Taranto... By itself, it tells the story of the different civilisations of the Mediterranean Sea.

Day 16 - Monopoli

Perched on the Adriatic coast in Puglia, the charming small town of Monopoli blends history and authenticity. Protected by its fortified walls along the seafront and its castle, in the shade of the cathedral's elegant bell tower, the town is bustling with fishermen who come to repair their nets or unload the day's catch. But it is also the gateway to the village of Alberobello, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Alberobello is famous worldwide for its traditional dry stone huts called trulli. These dwellings with whitewashed walls and conical, domed or pyramid-shaped roofs are built without any mortar, using a construction technique inherited from prehistoric times.

Day 17 - Hvar

Off the coast of Split, Hvar will surprise you by its traditions that have not changed since Antiquity. The country's oldest town, Stari Grad, is here on this Dalmatian Island. The town nestles by a cove on the north-west coast, surrounded by dry stone wall structures on the Stari Grad plains. These have been designated a UNESCO World Heritage site because they were built in the time of the Ancient Greeks. From these parcels of land come wines and olive oil manufactured manually. In the upper part of town, it is possible to discover hams and cheeses made by local producers.



Day 18 - Ancona

Situated on the promontory of Monte Conero, Ancona, the capital of the Marche region, offers visitors all the charm of a typical Italian historical city. Founded by the Greeks in 390 BC and conquered by Julius Caesar in 49 BC, Ancona has a long history that was very much shaped by its harbour, a hub attracting different populations and cultures. When your ship calls here, take the time to discover the city's many buildings, such as the cathedral dedicated to Judas Cyriacus and its façade made of white and pink marble, the Arch of Trajan, which is considered to be the port's main embellishment, or the 15th century mansion where the painter Raphael was raised.

Day 19 - Venice

Proud and eternal, Venice has reigned on its lagoon ever since the 6th century. You may think you know this city before even setting foot here. You will inevitably fall in love with the charm of the innumerable treasures of the Serenissima: Saint Mark's square, the basilica, Doges palace, the Grand Canal and the gondolas. Yet, secret Venice is also waiting for you to explore its little interlacing streets and canals, to ramble through its squares and to push open the doors of its churches. The city's extraordinary heritage shouldn't stop you from enjoying a glass of Spritz and a few tramezzini.

Please note:

This itinerary is made up of three back to back cruises, which are available as individual itineraries.



YOUR SHIP: LE BOREAL

YOUR SHIP: Le Boreal

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH: 142 metres. Passenger Capacity: 264 (in twin cabins, just 200 in Antarctica). Built: 2011

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

Luxury Expedition / Cruise Ship A superb mega-yacht with 132 cabins, she is the fruit of the expertise of the Italian Fincantieri shipyard and French sophistication, as interpreted by designer Jean-Philippe Nuel. Le Boreal creates a unique atmosphere, a subtle blend of luxury, intimacy and well-being. The best materials, discreet elegance and a tasteful decor combined with exterior and interior lines to reflect a nautical mood. On board, soothing neutral tones are enlivened by splashes of red, our signature theme linking tradition and innovation to create personal touches in the spirit of a "private yacht". Cuisine Loyal to the great French tradition, the haute cuisine on board is worthy of the finest restaurants, where discreet, attentive service is the hallmark. Choose from two restaurants for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The Gastronomic Restaurant is situated on Le Liberte Deck and serves you French and international cuisine accompagnied by fine wine. In the Grill Restaurant, you have the opportuniny to eat outside and enjoy buffet lunch and themed dinner. Life On Board Whether you want to join other guests in the theatre or games area (Wii™ consoles, etc), or relax on your own in a quiet corner of the library, Le Boreal has been designed to meet the needs of every guest. Everything has been done to preserve the independence of each guest to suit their personal tastes: lounges for lectures and shows, a spa in partnership with Carita™, but also more intimate spaces such as the library and internet corner. Comfortable cabins, nearly all with private balcony, are available for families either as triples or as communicating cabins. There is also a games area with Wii™ consoles, children's menus, and a baby-sitting ser vice. Just as if you were on a private yacht, your time is your own to do as you please. Fitted with the latest equipment (Kinesis Wall, running machine) and in partnership with the famous Carita™ brand, the Beauty Centre on Le Boreal welcomes you for some relaxation and pampering (beauty treatments, hairdresser, hammam, balneotherapy). Wheelchairs 3 specially adapted wheelchair cabins (Deck 3 = Superior cabin no. 307, no balcony, Deck 4 = Prestige Cabin no. 407 - with balcony and Deck 5 = Prestige Cabin no 509, with balcony) and lifts to all decks/areas. Please click the following links to read more about Ponant and the other Ponant





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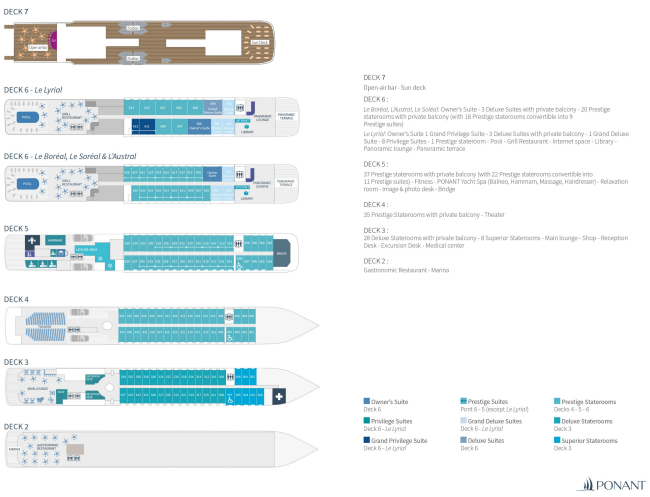
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