


# LIGURIA, TUSCANY AND SICILY LUXURY SMALL SHIP CRUISE

Set off on a Mediterranean interlude between Liguria, Tuscany and Sicily, featuring sun-drenched landscapes and villages of timeless charm. On these shores, you will discover a refined way of life between pretty ports, lively markets and sunny terraces. Fall under the spell of these captivating landscapes, typical of the region: cliffs sculpted by the wind, golden beaches, secret bays, brightly-coloured hilltop villages, groves of centuries-old olive trees ... You will navigate along the Ligurian and Sicilian coastlines to discover a mythical Italy, which gives pride of place to its way of life and history.




## ITINERARY

Day 1 - 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 2 - Porto Venere

Located on the magnificent chiselled coast of Liguria, to the north-west of the Italian peninsula, **Portovenere** is an




unusual little fishing village. Clinging to the southernmost tip of the **Cinque Terre National park,** this charming town benefits from an exceptional location, at the mouth of the gulf of La Spezia. As soon as you set foot on land, you will be mesmerised by the pastel shades of the buildings. Via Capellini is its lively and welcoming main street, brimming with shops and restaurants. At the end of a long promenade, a steep road leads to **Doria castle.** Below, on its rocky spur, **the Church of Saint Peter** offers a splendid view of **Palmaria island.**

### Day 3 - 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 4 - Gaeta

**Gaeta** takes its name from the legend of the nanny of Aeneas. This illustrious relationship can be seen in the nobility of this old town, built on a peninsula, at the end of a headland. In Roman times, Gaeta was already a renowned seaside destination; it fell under Byzantine domination then became an autonomous duchy and an independent republic. The fortifications that surround this ancient fort remind us of this rich history, as does **the cathedral** bell tower, an elegant building of both Roman and Moor influence, decorated with ceramic in the style of bell-towers of Amalfi.

### Day 5 - Lipari, Aeolian Islands

Of the seven **Aeolian islands,** this is the largest and the most populated. Lying off the north coast of **Sicily,** in the Tyrrhenian sea, **Lipari** is one of UNESCO's marvellous World Heritage sites. Its lava stone quarries and obsidian flow of **Rocce Rosse** are indications of its volcanic nature. The town, the largest urban area in the whole archipelago, proudly houses its **citadel** and its **castle,** both rooted in Antiquity. If you head further into the centre, you'll be surprised to come across a Norman cathedral, complete with a magnificent baroque façade.

### Day 6 - Palermo, Sicily

**Palermo** is the guardian of the Sicilian soul. Many have been attracted to this city, the largest capital of the Italian islands. Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans... Palermo is a rich culmination of so many cultural influences as seen in the Moorish designs on the **cathedral,** and the Byzantine mosaics of the **Palatine chapel,** which is itself housed within the precincts of the **Norman palace.** You will fall under the spell of the palaces, **baroque splendours** that grace the town with their obsolete beauty. It is thrilling to stumble upon one of those fabulous markets, high in colour, and headily picturesque.

### Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.




# YOUR SHIP: L'AUSTRAL

| | |
|---|---|
| **YOUR SHIP:** | **L'Austral** |
| **VESSEL TYPE:** | |
| | **142 metres. Passenger Capacity:** |
| | **264 (200 in Antarctica). Built:** |
| **LENGTH:** | **2011** |
| **PASSENGER CAPACITY:** | |
| **BUILT/REFURBISHED:** | |

Luxury Expedition / Cruise Ship This superb mega-yacht with 132 cabins is the result of the expertise of the Italian Fincantieri shipyard and French sophistication, as interpreted by designer Jean-Philippe Nuel. L'Austral has a unique atmosphere, a subtle blend of luxury, intimacy and well-being. A sleek silhouette softened by elegantly smooth contours and large, arched windows opening up to the sea and the light: so many features come together to give L'Austral her distinctive shape. Precious materials, discreet elegance and a perfect balance between chic and casual, combine to make you feel as if you are on your own private yacht. A design blending tradition and innovation, where a nautical mood has been subtly recreated. Precious materials in smoothing neutral tones are brought to life with splashes of cheerful reds. So many personal touches create the spirit of a "private yacht". Suites and staterooms You can expect magnificent ocean views as 124 staterooms and suites have balconies. Individually-controlled airconditioning · Cabin layout: kingsize bed, or twin beds, communicating cabins available (children welcome) · Minibar · Flat screen satellite TV · IPod™ players · Desk with stationery · Electronic safe · French bath products · Dressing table and hairdryer · Bath robes · Satellite direct line telephone · 110/220 volts · 24hr room service · WiFi · Balcony 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 breakfasts, lunch and dinner. The Gastronomic Restaurant is situated on Le Liberte Deck and serves you French and international cuisine accompagnied by fine wine. On 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, L'Austral 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 Sothys™, 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 service. 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 Sothys™ brand, the Beauty Centre on L'Austral welcomes you for some unforgettable moments of relaxation and pampering (beauty treatments, hairdresser). Wheelchairs 3 specially adapted wheelchair cabins (Deck 3 = Superior cabin no. 307, no balcony, Deck 4 = Prestige Cabin no. 407 - with

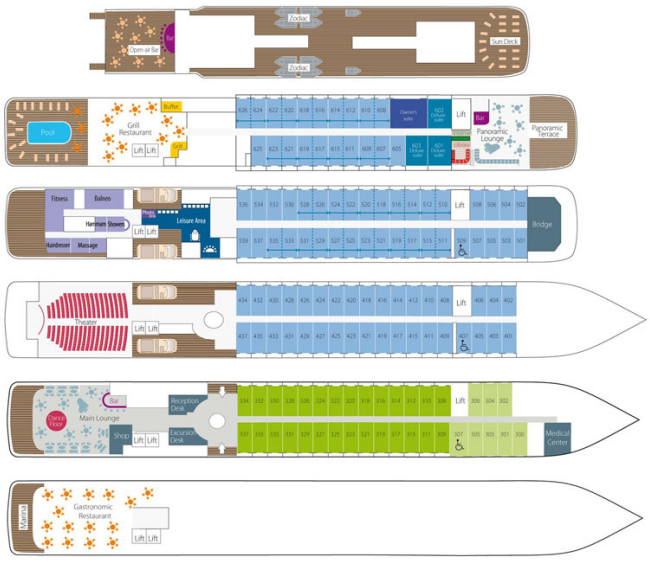
balcony and Deck 5 = Prestige Cabin no 509, with balcony) and lifts to all decks/areas. Details Please click the following links to read more about Ponant and the other Ponant



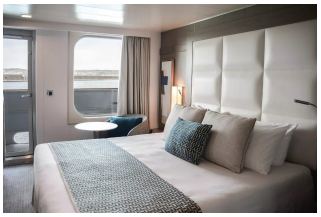
cruise ships.



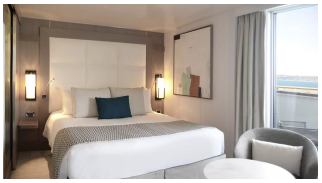

# INSIDE YOUR SHIP



Deluxe Stateroom



Deluxe Suite



Owner's Suite



Prestige Stateroom Deck 4



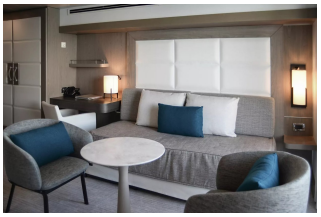
Prestige Stateroom Deck 5



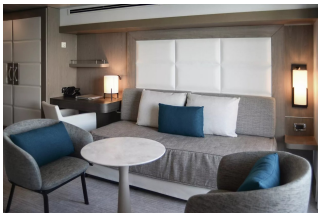
Prestige Stateroom Deck 6



Prestige Suite Deck 5



Prestige Suite Deck 6



The Small Cruise Ship Collection
www.small-cruise-ships.com

**01432 507 280** (within UK)

info@small-cruise-ships.com | **small-cruise-ships.com**




Superior Stateroom






# PRICING

**10-Jun-2028 to 15-Jun-2028**

| | |
|---|---|
| Owner's Suite | £9535 GBP pp |
| Prestige Suite Deck 6 | £6225 GBP pp |
| Prestige Suite Deck 5 | £6075 GBP pp |
| Prestige Stateroom Deck 6 | £3465 GBP pp |
| Deluxe Stateroom | £2985 GBP pp |
| Deluxe Suite | £5495 GBP pp |
| Prestige Stateroom Deck 4 | £3135 GBP pp |
| Prestige Stateroom Deck 5 | £3285 GBP pp |
| Superior Stateroom | £2835 GBP pp |