

UNDER SAIL ABOARD LE PONANT FROM SICILY TO THE RIVIERA IN LUXURY

Portofino, Ponza, Amalfi, Lipari... These names all evoke the eternal _dolce vita_ , suspended between the azure blue and the maquis. Old fishing villages clinging to the cliffs, candy-coloured houses and volcanic islands appear before the sparkling blue of the Tyrrhenian Sea. Aboard _Le Ponant,_ you will navigate under sail along the Ligurian, Amalfi and Sicilian coastlines to discover a mythical Italy, which gives pride of place to its way of life and history. Like Ulysses, you will be captivated by the song of these sirens, before secret coves, centuries-old lemon trees, old stones polished by the weather and small shaded cafes revealing their local delights. _" Eternity. It is the sea mingled with the sun_," according to a poem by Rimbaud. Whether you are a lover of the sea or a curious traveller, experience once again the indescribable joy of navigating under sail surrounded by the elements. Take your place aboard _Le Ponant_ , a majestic three-mast yacht with elegant lines and an interior designed by the Jean-Philippe Nuel studio to be a warm and intimate setting with a highly distinctive character. As if on your very own yacht, savour the freedom of living in the moment.



ITINERARY

Day 1 - 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.



Day 2 - 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 2 - Sailing in front of Stromboli

Like Ulysses during his Odyssey, you will have the opportunity to admire the **Stromboli** , the **capricious volcano** that looms over the Aeolian Islands. Its activity, uninterrupted for thousands of years, has earned it the nickname the "**Lighthouse of the Mediterranean** ".

Day 3 - Amalfi

The little town of Campania gives its name to the region containing the magnificent, UNESCO World Heritage listed, **Amalfi coast.** And for good reason. Located at the foot of Mount Cerreto, against a rock face of a gorge that opens onto the sea, Amalfi's absolutely splendid natural scenery alone is enough to feast your eyes on before making for the medieval streets to explore some of its history. The mix of cultural influences from the Mediterranean Rim is omnipresent here.

Day 4 - Ponza

Off the coast of Naples, the **island of Ponza** has always lived outside of time... Also known as the island of Circe, where the famous magician who captivated Ulysses was born, this magnificent rock, the result of a volcanic eruption, rises from the Tyrrhenian Sea. Faced with the wild beauty of this site, you will understand why Ulysses was in no hurry to head off for Ithaca. Its rugged coastline of rocks and white or blue-grey cliffs, sculpted by the wind and the waves, is full of sea caves that the Romans used to use for bathing. **The village of Ponza** also offers a pretty sight, with its colourful cubic houses forming a semi-circle around the tiny port.

Day 5 - 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 6 - 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 7 - 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 8 - 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.

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



YOUR SHIP: LE PONANT

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VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

Le Ponant becomes world's first sailing yacht to obtain Relais & Chateaux label After four years of regular ad hoc partnerships, PONANT and Relais & Chateaux are strengthening their ties. The three-master joins the large family of Relais & Chateaux establishments as a new member. It is the first sailing yacht in history to obtain the label and be included in its catalogue of the finest travel addresses in the world. In 2019 & 2020 Le Ponant underwent a huge revamp. Her capacity was reduced from 64 to just 32 passengers who will be served by a crew of 34. Following in the nautical tradition of three-masted sailing ships, Le Ponant will take you on a voyage of discovery. The ship provides intimacy and convivial atmosphere and the refined life on board, the welcoming charm to your cabin, the lounges and the restaurants setting are invitations to relax. Le Ponant is one of the most majestic sailing vessels in the world. With 16 spacious cabins and suites, one crew member per passenger, a dedicated chef, and authentic and exclusive experiences to be enjoyed at every stop, designed for and with you, the ship redefines the concept of luxury yachting and promises you an extraordinary experience. In addition to its tasteful and refined design by Jean-Philippe Nuel, it has many innovative and environmentally friendly amenities. Conserving the environment is one of our priorities. We have therefore chosen to invest in innovations and equipment at the cutting edge of technology, with the aim of achieving the highest standards possible in the sector. Le Ponant is the only yacht in the world with a hybrid propulsion system. This uniquely designed three-masted schooner can rely solely on its sails but also can connect to the electricity network in certain ports to limit its ecological impact. On board, we have banned the use of plastic in straws, laundry bags, cups and individual food portion packaging. Packaging is collected from our warehouses. Unavoidable plastic waste is sorted and entrusted to resource-recovery companies, who monitor its traceability until its elimination. Le Ponant is equipped with a complete desalination and wastewater treatment system. This biodegradation process works without the use of chemicals. It provides clean water and meets the highest quality standards. On board, 60% of packaging is recycled, while the rate elsewhere in the world is only 20%. The rest is 100% traced. We have on-board compactors adapted to each type of waste and are working to optimise their management on land. Under full sail, gliding over the sea with the wind, you will fall under Le Ponant's spell. Please click the following links to read more about Ponant and the other Ponant





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