

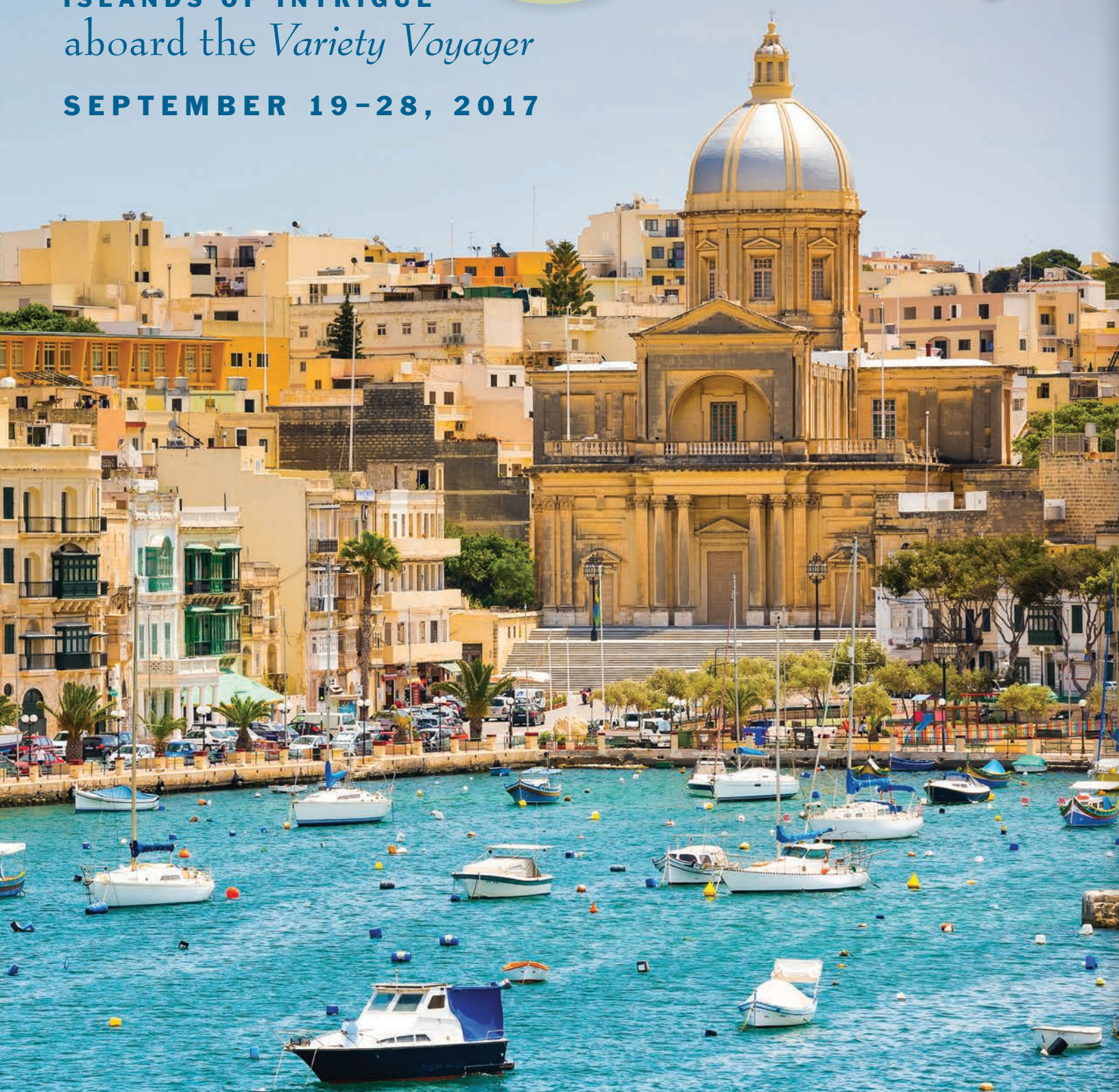
CRITERION
travel

Malta & Sicily

ISLANDS OF INTRIGUE

aboard the *Variety Voyager*

SEPTEMBER 19-28, 2017



The captivating islands

of Malta and Sicily have been influenced by a variety of cultures since antiquity. Some made significant impacts on the course of civilization; others faded into historical footnotes. But all left their mark, reflected in the numerous archaeological ruins, diverse architectural styles, and delightfully intermingled cultural traditions that have beckoned travelers for centuries.

Embark the 36-cabin *Variety Voyager* for an in-depth exploration of these two compelling islands, beginning and ending in Malta and circumnavigating Sicily. Visit Agrigento's Valley of the Temples, Taormina's Greco-Roman theater, Monreale's glittering Byzantine mosaics, and the Silvestri Crater on the flanks of snowcapped Mt. Etna. Meet with aristocrats and literati, dine in a historic palazzo, and taste nature's bounty at a rural *agroturismo*. Throughout the cruise, explore the sweeping political, strategic, and cultural history of the Mediterranean Sea during presentations by an team of expert lecturers. Ashore, expert guides will share their insights at every destination. A two night pre-trip extension in Malta is also offered.

The *Variety Voyager* is an intimate cruise ship with just 36 guest cabins, so I encourage you to reserve your space now by calling (888) 328-2089 or (650) 328-2089; or email res@criteriontravel.com.

(COVER) Malta's capital, Valletta, is a fortified city located on a hilly peninsula between two of the finest natural harbors in the Mediterranean, the Grand Harbour (pictured) and Marsamxett. **(THIS PAGE)** Founded as a Greek colony in the 6th century B.C., Agrigento is home to the remains of magnificent Doric temples that once dominated the ancient town, much of which still lies intact under the surrounding fields and orchards. **(BACK COVER)** Taormina's ancient Greek theater is renowned for both its remarkable state of preservation and the beauty of its location.



Study Leaders



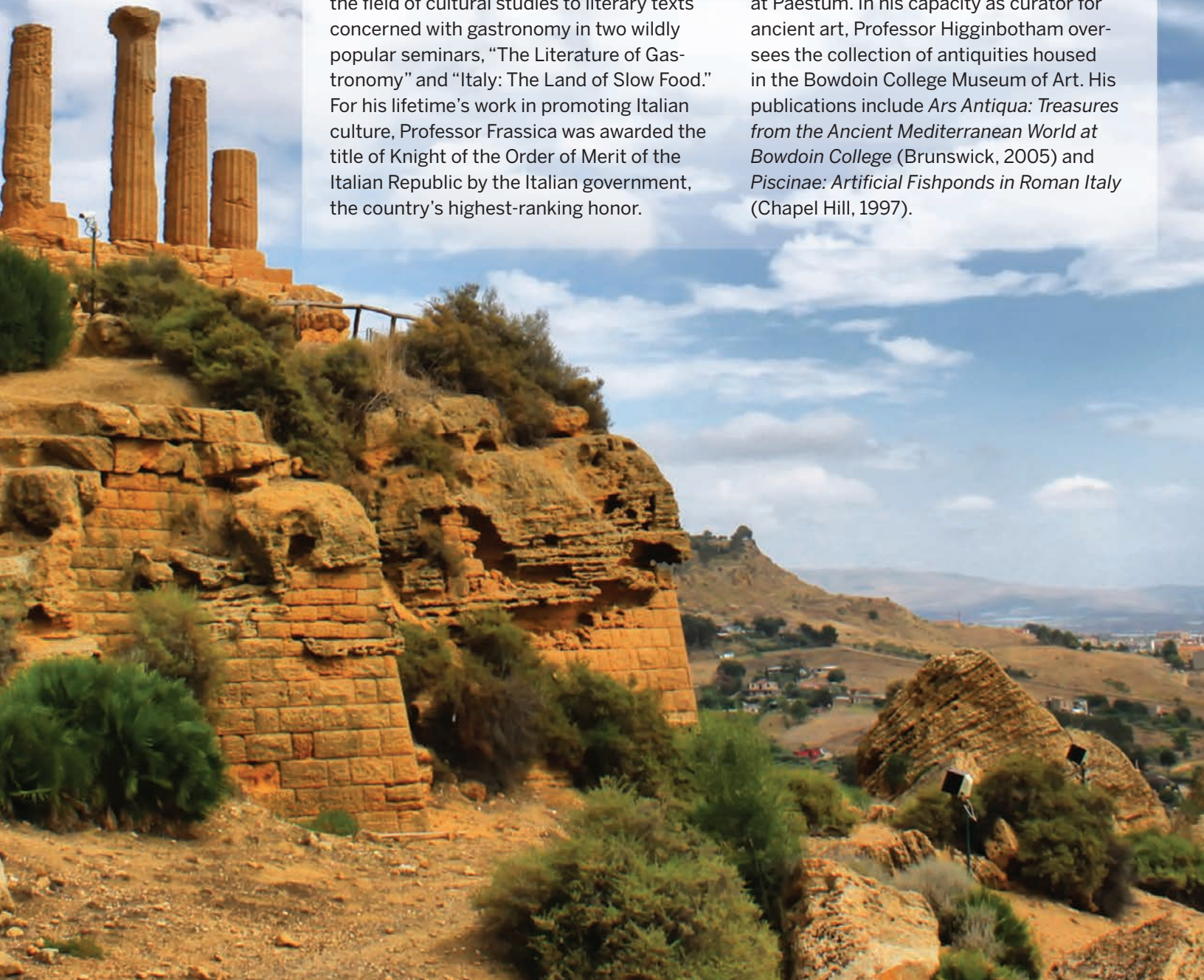
PIETRO FRASSICA, professor of Italian, associate chair of the Department of French and Italian, and former director of the interdisciplinary Program in Italian Studies, will serve as the

Princeton Study Leader for this program. A native of Sicily, Professor Frassica earned his PhD in Italian literature in 1976, the year in which he joined the Princeton faculty. During his tenure at Princeton, he has taught seminars on the Italian Renaissance, contemporary Italian literature (Marinetti, Sciascia, Primo Levi), and the theater of Pirandello. He is the author of more than one hundred published articles and numerous books. In recent years, he has extended the field of cultural studies to literary texts concerned with gastronomy in two wildly popular seminars, "The Literature of Gastronomy" and "Italy: The Land of Slow Food." For his lifetime's work in promoting Italian culture, Professor Frassica was awarded the title of Knight of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic by the Italian government, the country's highest-ranking honor.



JAMES HIGGINBOTHAM, study leader for program cosponsor Archaeological Institute of America, is associate professor of classical archaeology at Bowdoin College. He

earned a PhD in classical art and archaeology from the University of Michigan, and his scholarly interests focus on ancient Greek and Roman colonies, as well as the social history of the late Roman Republic. In addition to teaching courses in archaeology and the classical languages, Professor Higginbotham has excavated classical sites in Greece, Israel, and Italy, where he was field director of the joint University of Michigan-Bowdoin College excavations at Paestum. In his capacity as curator for ancient art, Professor Higginbotham oversees the collection of antiquities housed in the Bowdoin College Museum of Art. His publications include *Ars Antiqua: Treasures from the Ancient Mediterranean World at Bowdoin College* (Brunswick, 2005) and *Piscinae: Artificial Fishponds in Roman Italy* (Chapel Hill, 1997).





MONREALE CLOISTER

ITINERARY

Tuesday–Wednesday, September 19–20

Home / Valletta, Malta

Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Valletta. Arrive on Wednesday and check in to the hotel. Gather for a welcome reception and dinner. GRAND HOTEL EXCELSIOR (R,D)

Thursday, September 21

Valletta (Embark)

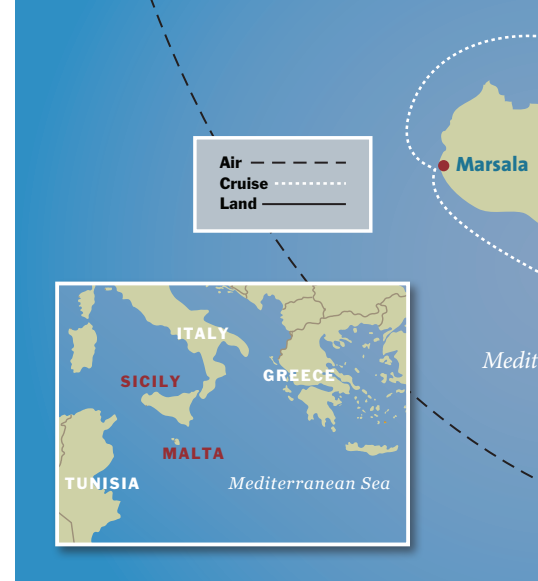
Valletta, the capital of Malta and a UNESCO World Heritage site, was built by the Knights Hospitaller Order of St. John to defend against Ottoman invasions in the 16th century. This morning take a walking tour to the Barrakka Gardens, which offers a panoramic view over the Grand Harbour. Then stroll past the new Maltese Parliament building en route to St. John's Co-Cathedral, where the tombs of more than 375 knights and officers of the Knights Hospitallers of St. John lie beneath the ornate marble floor. Lunch is on your own with free time to explore Valletta before visiting the Neolithic galleries at the National Archaeological Museum. Then enjoy a warm welcome by the Marquis de Piro family for a private visit at their Casa Rocca Piccola mansion, a family residence that provides insights into the customs and traditions of the Maltese nobility over the last 400 years. Late this afternoon, embark the *Variety Voyager*. VARIETY VOYAGER (B,D)

Friday, September 22

Licata, Sicily

After a morning of cruising, disembark in the harbor of Licata for a visit to the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento, a UNESCO World Heritage site whose classical Greek temples are well preserved. Agrigento was founded in the 6th century B.C. and became a flourishing cultural center that gave the world Empedocles, the pre-Socratic philosopher and naturalist.

VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)



Saturday, September 23

Marsala

Drive along SS188, a "secret" route for exploring Sicily's viticultural region in the western part of the island. Extensive vistas of gently rolling hills carpeted with vineyards rival the world's acclaimed grape-growing landscapes for sheer beauty. Enjoy an *agroturismo* lunch and olive oil tasting in Castelvetro, then return to the ship via Mazara del Vallo, home of Italy's largest fishing fleet and of *The Dancing Satyr*, a 3rd- or 2nd-century B.C. bronze that was discovered in 1998 off Sicily's southwestern coast by local fishermen and is now on display in the Church of Sant'Egidio.

VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)

Sunday, September 24

Palermo

The ancient capital city of Palermo features a fascinating mix of historical and cultural influences stemming from multiple waves of invaders. Marvel at its diverse architectural treasures, including the Norman-style Royal Palace and its dazzling Royal Chapel (Cappella Palatina). After lunch on your own, ascend to the Mt. Pellegrino hill town of Monreale to view the glittering mosaics in the stunning Monreale Cathedral, a national monument of Italy and one of the greatest surviving examples of Norman architecture in the world. This evening dine with Gioacchino Lanza, adopted son of the author of *The Leopard*, at his home, the Lanza Tomasi Palace. VARIETY VOYAGER (B,D)

Monday, September 25

At Sea

Enjoy a relaxing day at sea and the continuation of the educational program as the ship proceeds along the coastline of Sicily.

VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)



MT. ETNA

Tuesday, September 26

Taormina

Taormina is renowned for its cosmopolitan atmosphere, beautiful monuments, and lush gardens. Enjoy a guided tour of the 5,000-seat Greco-Roman theater, which overlooks the Ionian Sea with Mt. Etna in the background. Stroll along the lively Corso Umberto promenade before departing for lunch at a winery on the fertile slopes of Mt. Etna followed by a visit to the dormant Silvestri Crater on the flanks of the volcano. *VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)*

Wednesday, September 27

Siracusa

Once a powerful threat to the hegemony of Athens, Siracusa was founded around 734 B.C. by Greek Corinthians. Because of its strategic location, it was conquered and ruled by Romans, Saracens, Byzantines, Normans, and Ottomans, who left a combined legacy of archaeological treasures that earned the city UNESCO World Heritage status. Explore the Archaeological Park's Greek and Roman ruins before continuing to the island of Ortigia, which separates Siracusa's two harbors. Visit the island's 6th-century B.C. Temple of Apollo, Cathedral Square, and the ancient Jewish Quarter, home to the oldest mikveh (ritual bath) known to survive in Europe. Enjoy a special cheese tasting at the open-air market, followed by an afternoon *aperitivo* in a private palazzo and a viewing of a Sicilian noble's private collection of ancient Siracusan and Sicilian etchings. This evening enjoy the captain's farewell reception and dinner as the ship cruises back to Malta. *VARIETY VOYAGER (B,D)*

Thursday, September 28

Valletta, Malta (Disembark)

Disembark and transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)



FOUNTAIN OF DIANA,
SIRACUSA

OPTIONAL PRE-CRUISE EXTENSION

September 17–20, 2017

Malta

Ferry to Gozo Island, part of the Maltese archipelago, to marvel at the Bronze Age Ggantija Temples archaeological site, where the cult of the ancient Mother Goddess was celebrated. Back on Malta, enjoy the panoramic view of the entire island from M'dina, Malta's first capital; then explore the megalithic temple complex of Hagar Qim, a UNESCO

World Heritage site, and relax in the charming fishing village of Marsaxlokk. Enjoy ample free time for independent exploration.

GRAND HOTEL EXCELSIOR (2B/1L/1D).

RATES: \$990 per person, double occupancy; \$1,290 per person, single occupancy. Additional details will be provided to confirmed participants.



HAGAR QIM



Variety Voyager

The yacht *Variety Voyager*, launched in 2012, is an intimate vessel with just 36 cabins, designed to host small exclusive charters. Cabins range in size from 129 to 292 sq. ft. and are comfortably furnished. They feature en suite facilities, individually controlled air-conditioning, and TV/DVD. Throughout the ship, guests enjoy unobstructed views of the ocean and the ports visited, and the services of a friendly crew of 28. There are opportunities to dine both inside and al fresco, and complimentary beer and wine are served with lunch and dinner. Public areas include a partly shaded sundeck, lounge and bar, library, and mini-spa with massage room, sauna, steam room, and fitness equipment. There is an Internet Corner and access to 24-hour Wi-Fi in the lounge.



CATEGORY P CABIN



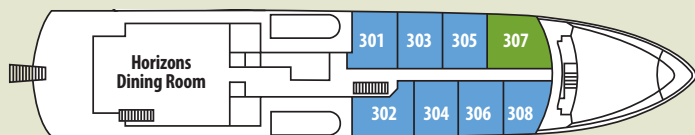
CATEGORY B CABIN



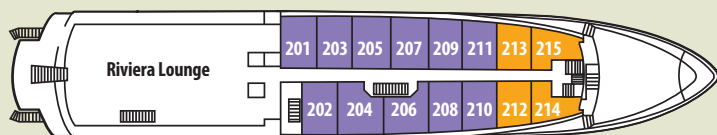
DINING ROOM

PROGRAM RATES, per person

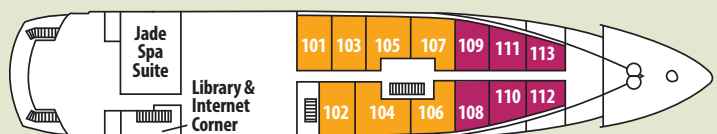
CATEGORY/DECK	DOUBLE	SINGLE
C MARINA DECK 129-145 sq. ft. depending on location, twin portholes, twin beds or queen bed, shower.	\$7,490	\$11,990
B MARINA DECK & RIVIERA DECK 145-216 sq. ft. depending on location, twin portholes (Marina Deck) or double windows (Riviera Deck), twin beds or queen bed (7 of the 11 cabins offer flexible bedding configuration), shower.	\$8,490	\$13,590
A RIVIERA DECK 151-195 sq. ft. depending on location, double windows, twin beds or queen bed (9 of the 11 cabins offer flexible bedding configuration), shower.	\$9,990	\$15,990
P HORIZONS DECK 227-248 sq. ft. depending on location, double windows, twin beds or queen bed (all cabins offer flexible bedding configuration and 4 of the 7 include an extra sofa bed), shower.	\$10,990	—
O HORIZONS DECK Owner's Suite 292 sq. ft., four windows, twin beds or queen bed (flexible bedding configuration), shower.	\$12,990	—



HORIZONS DECK



RIVIERA DECK



MARINA DECK

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE

- All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary
- Scheduled transfers on group arrival and departure days
- Baggage handling
- Entrance fees and port charges
- Gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides, drivers, and shipboard personnel
- Welcome and farewell wine receptions
- Wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner aboard the *Variety Voyager*
- Bottled water on motor coaches
- Professional tour manager

AIR ARRANGEMENTS Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., is our preferred provider for airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 877-376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. PLEASE NOTE: U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Round-trip economy-class airfare between New York and Valletta, Malta, is approximately \$700 per person as of August 2016 and is subject to change without notice. Information about making flight arrangements will be sent to all participants.

WHAT TO EXPECT During September the weather is generally mild in this part of the Mediterranean. Average temperatures range from the low to mid-70s F, with occasional rain showers. This is a moderately strenuous program that is at times physically demanding and busy. Daily programs can involve up to one mile of walking, often on uneven terrain and where stairs are unavailable or do not have handrails. Participants must be physically fit and in active good health.

A NOTE ABOUT COSTS Program rates are based upon current taxes, tariffs, fuel prices, currency values, and a minimum number of participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the published rates, they are subject to change (for example, due to increases in fuel prices). If there are significant changes, we will notify participants in advance of departure.

GROUP SIZE This program is limited to 63 participants, including travelers from the Archaeological Institute of America and Princeton University.



LOUNGE

General Information

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT

INCLUDE U.S. domestic and international airfare ■ Passport and visa expenses ■ Medical expenses and immunizations ■ Airport transfers except as noted as included ■ Travel insurance ■ Deviations from the scheduled tour ■ Excess-baggage charges ■ Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals ■ Liquor or soft drinks except as noted ■ Laundry or dry cleaning ■ Room service ■ Telephone, fax, Internet, and email charges ■ Other items of a personal nature

INSURANCE Travel insurance for trip cancellation and interruption, medical problems, baggage loss and delay, etc., is highly recommended. Trip cancellation policies that apply to this expedition are included in this brochure. Information about travel insurance will be sent to confirmed participants.

Terms & Conditions

Complete Terms and Conditions including Statement of Responsibility will be made available to you at time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed "Agreement, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Release" is required from each applicant prior to participation on the tour.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve space on this program. You may complete the reservation form included in this brochure and mail it with your check or credit card information to Criterion Travel, 145 Forest Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301. Or you may fax the completed reservation form to (650) 560-6400. If you have questions, please call (888) 328-2089 or email

res@criteriontravel.com. Final payment deadline is May 22, 2017. For those who register after May 22, 2017, full payment is due upon registration.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Upon payment of the \$1,000 per person deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be in effect until they are received in writing and confirmed by Criterion Travel. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person administration fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of reservation; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. Cancellations after final payment deadline of May 22, 2017: All payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. Note: Criterion Travel accepts no liability for any airline cancellation penalties incurred with the purchase of nonrefundable tickets.

ITINERARY CHANGES The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by Criterion Travel. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, Criterion Travel reserves the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.

California Seller of Travel Program
CST #2088800-40

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CAPPELLA PALATINA,
PALERMO

RESERVATION FORM

Malta & Sicily: Islands of Intrigue

Aboard the *Variety Voyager* **SEPTEMBER 19-28, 2017**

To reserve a place, please complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel, to: Criterion Travel, 145 Forest Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301. For more information or to reserve by phone, please call (888) 328-2089 or (650) 328-2089; or email res@criteriontravel.com. You may also fax the completed reservation form to (650) 560-6400.

PAYMENT

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person, made payable to **Criterion Travel**) for _____ place(s) on *Malta & Sicily* OR
Please charge my deposit to: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AmEx ☐ Discover

CREDIT CARD NUMBER

EXP. DATE

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE

SECURITY CODE

I/we understand that final payment is due May 22, 2017, 120 days prior to departure. Registrations after May 22, 2017: full payment is due.

NAME #1 (as on passport)

DATE OF BIRTH

NAME #2 (as on passport)

DATE OF BIRTH

STREET ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

HOME PHONE

WORK PHONE

FAX

EMAIL

SINGLE TRAVELERS

If this is a reservation for one person, please indicate:

☐ I prefer to have single accommodations.

☐ I plan to share accommodations with _____

☐ I'd like to know about roommates. I am a ☐ Non-smoker / ☐ Smoker.

I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of May 22, 2017, I will pay the single rate.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Cabin category preference: 1st _____ 2nd _____

Bed preference on ship: ☐ Twin beds joined as double ☐ Twin beds separate

Bed preference at hotel (not guaranteed): ☐ Two beds ☐ One bed

I/we have read the tour information and agree to the Terms & Conditions therein.

SIGNATURE

DATE

SIGNATURE

DATE



LES GAVROCHES
(STREET BOYS),
UPPER BARRAKKA
GARDENS

CRITERION
travel

Malta & Sicily

ISLANDS OF INTRIGUE

aboard the *Variety Voyager*

SEPTEMBER 19-28, 2017



HIGHLIGHTS

VIEW the dramatic Silvestri Crater on the flanks of snowcapped Sicily's Mt. Etna (elev. 6,234 feet) and enjoy lunch at a winery on the volcano's lush slopes.

EXPLORE Agrigento's Valle Dei Templi, a UNESCO World Heritage site where relics of classical Greece are among the best preserved in the world.

VISIT the treasures of Valletta, a UNESCO World Heritage site with monumental ramparts, the ornate Co-Cathedral's marble Crusader tombs, and the National Archaeological Museum's Neolithic galleries.

ENJOY signature regional cuisine throughout the program, both on board the ship and ashore: *orecchiette* and *farfalle*, flavorful wines, olive oils, and cheese, and unmistakably Sicilian cream-filled cannoli.

MARVEL at the Greek bronze statue *The Dancing Satyr*, discovered by fishermen off Sicily's southwestern coast, and Monreale's 12th-century cathedral, one of the greatest surviving examples of Norman architecture in the world.