

<b>The Treasures of South Italy &amp; Malta</b>		
<b>Day</b>	<b>Port</b>	<b>Program &amp; excursions</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>SALERNO</b>	<b>Embarkation 4 PM - Sailing to Capri</b>
	<b>CAPRI</b>	Arrival at 5.30 pm. Walking tour around the city to the Gardens of Augustus. Late in the evening we leave Capri for an overnight at sea to Sicily.
<b>2</b>	<b>LIPARI</b>	Early in the morning we reach Lipari, the largest of the Aeolian Islands. Lipari sits on red volcanic rock and looks like "a wall of bronze" according to the Greek poet Homer. Archaeological remains found here have yielded clues to civilizations which date to 1700 BC, including the Neolithic stones that sit alongside ancient tombstones, and ruins of Greek walls and Roman villas. The Spaniards found their way here in the 16th century, building the Castello (castle) and the 17 century cathedral that is perched above the harbour; All these sights will be available to see them on your morning optional sightseeing excursion. After lunch we leave Lipari for Taormina
	<b>TAORMINA</b>	This afternoon the Variety Voyager reaches Taormina. Overnight at anchor.
<b>3</b>	<b>TAORMINA</b>	This morning we go ashore for a memorable visit to Taormina, clinging to the cliffs over the sea. With endlessly winding medieval streets and secluded gardens hidden by stone walls, Taormina enchants visitors with its history and beauty. Our optional excursion features a stroll along the Corso Umberto through the Old Town, lined with piazza, duomos and palazzi such as the Palazzo Santo Stefano. Later you will take a guided tour of the ancient Greek Theatre, hewn out of a rocky mountain slope during the Hellenistic period, remodelled by the Romans. The amphitheatre offers magnificent views of the sea and is one of Sicily's largest. The afternoon is at leisure to see more of the city or even visit the Etna Volcano. Late in the evening we sail to Syracuse. Overnight at sea.
<b>4</b>	<b>SYRACUSE</b>	Today we arrive in Syracuse, one of the most and prestigious cities of the Hellenistic World, and a rival of Athens. Our morning optional excursion will bring us to the spectacular 15000-seat Greek theatre, among the most impressive to survive from antiquity, and the elliptical Roman amphitheatre, one of the largest of its kind. After a visit to the Archaeological Museum, walk the winding lanes of Syracuse's Old Town, situated on the island of Ortygia, and explore the remains of the Temple of Apollo, the Fountain of Aretusa, and the Cathedral, which incorporates the remains of the famed Temple of Athena. After lunch you can take our afternoon excursion taking you inland, into Sicily's southeast region, known for its Baroque towns. You will visit exquisitely-preserved Noto, a jewel of a town situated on a plateau surrounded by olive and almond groves. In the evening, we leave Syracuse for an overnight sailing to Malta.
<b>5</b>	<b>MALTA</b>	Malta was home to a rich prehistoric culture that created megalithic structures that are among the world's most impressive. The structures at the Tarxien and elsewhere on the island were built before Egypt's Great Pyramids. The island was later occupied by Phoenicians and Carthaginians, followed by the Romans. Our morning and afternoon optional tours will allow you to these prehistoric sites as well the historic sites of Valletta, the island's capital and a UNESCO World Heritage city. The walking tour in the afternoon will include a visit inside St. John's Cathedral to see its stunning interior and art treasures such as the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist, a masterpiece in oil by the Italian Baroque painter Caravaggio, Flemish tapestries and silver artifacts. In the evening we leave Malta behind to cross back to Sicily to reach Licata / Agrigento.
<b>6</b>	<b>LICATA / AGRIGENTO</b>	Today, we leave Licata to drive North and discover one of the most breathtaking sites in the Mediterranean, the majestic Valle dei Templi (Valley of Temples). This is a collection of sacred buildings, including two virtually intact the Temple of Concordia and the Temple of Hera of the mid 5th century BC.
	<b>CEFALU</b>	This morning we anchor in Cefalu, a quaint Sicilian city which still retains its medieval character. Your morning walking excursion will show you the famous Norman cathedral, in the apse of which is the great 12th century mosaic of Christ in all Christian art. Later in the afternoon we leave for Salerno and cruise by the Stromboli Volcano, home to one of the world's few constantly active volcanoes-it has continuously erupted for 2000 years. The view is unforgettable.
<b>8</b>	<b>SALERNO</b>	<b>Arrival in Salerno at 9 am - Disembarkation between 9 and 10 am.</b>