

6th annual Piano Festival at Sea

From **7/6/2021**
to **14/6/2021**

Ship: **LE BOUGAINVILLE**

From **Civitavecchia (Rome)**
to **Palermo, Sicily**



In partnership with **RADIO CLASSIQUE**, with the exceptional presence of **Alain Duault**.

Set sail with **PONANT** to discover the treasures of the **Amalfi coast, Sicily** and **Malta**, on an itinerary connecting Civitavecchia and Palermo.

During this **8-day** cruise aboard our luxury expedition ship *Le Bougainville*, you will be able to explore mythical places at the crossroads of Eastern and Western civilisations.

Your ship will first call at **Sorrento**, a wonderful town on the top of steep cliffs that offer stunning views on the gulf of Naples. Further South, along the coastline, **Amalfi** and the little villages hidden nearby perched between sky and sea, are true treasures and UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

You will discover the amazing sight of the **Stromboli volcano**, an active volcano whose crater regularly erupts with lava flows, before reaching **Lipari**, the capital of the Aeolian volcanic archipelago, particularly known for its many natural and architectural gems.

After calling at beautiful **Catania** whose Late Baroque style monuments spread to the foot of Mount Etna, you will take the sea once again to discover **Valletta**, former stronghold of the Knights of the Order of Malta. This capital, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, is home to many historical sites: St John's Cathedral, the Grandmaster's Palace and the churches of Our Lady of Victory, St Catherine and il Gesù.

Then, you will set sail for **Syracuse**, one of the most prestigious Sicilian cities, whose monuments are listed as a **UNESCO World Heritage**.

Your cruise will end in **Palermo**, the capital of Sicily, where you will be able to visit emblematic landmarks such as the 12th-century cathedral.



The information in this document is valid as of 10/2/2021

6th annual Piano Festival at Sea

YOUR STOPOVERS :

CIVITAVECCHIA (ROME)

Embarkation 7/6/2021 from 16h00 to 17h00

Departure 7/6/2021 at 18h00

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.

SORRENTO

Arrival 8/6/2021 midday

Departure 8/6/2021 late afternoon

Perched on the cliffs that plunge into the deep blue of the Mediterranean, **Sorrento** is ideally located on a peninsula between the **Gulf of Naples** and the Amalfi Coast. Its peaceful alleyways, villas, hotels and **gentle way of life** have been charming visitors and the greatest authors since the 19th century, from Byron and Tolstoy to Dickens and Goethe. As you enjoy a walk in this **romantic atmosphere**, you will discover the mediaeval cloister of Saint-Francis Church and a magnificent panorama over the Gulf of Naples and **Mount Vesuvius**. Sorrento is surrounded by groves of **oranges** and **lemons**, flavours that can be enjoyed in particular in the form of a sweet liqueur, *limoncello*.

AMALFI

Arrival 9/6/2021 early morning

Departure 9/6/2021 late afternoon

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.

LIPARI, AEOLIAN ISLANDS

Arrival 10/6/2021 midday

Departure 10/6/2021 late afternoon

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.

CATANIA, SICILY

Arrival 11/6/2021 early morning

Departure 11/6/2021 late afternoon

Sicily's second city **Catania** is dominated by the majestic silhouette of **Mount Etna**. Nourishing and devastating at the same time, this giant crowned with smoke rings brought about the destruction of the city at the end of the 17th century. Catania was then rebuilt in the late Baroque style, and the many monuments of this epoch have earned its status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The baroque churches of the harmonious **Via dei Crociferi** perfectly illustrate the riches of this architectural heritage. During your stop, be sure to visit **Saint Agatha Cathedral** with its apses made of lava stones, and its square decorated with a fountain of the Elephant, the animal which allegedly has the power to calm the fury of Mount Etna ...

VALLETTA

Arrival 12/6/2021 early morning

Departure 12/6/2021 late afternoon

The whole of the Maltese capital Valletta is **UNESCO World Heritage** listed and occupies a peninsula in the north-east of the island. From the fountain of Tritons to Saint-Elme fort, there are as many majestic streets as there are narrow staircase vennels to explore. The painted loggia and carved corbels on the tall houses will accompany you in your explorations, and you'll rarely be bothered by traffic. You can visit the Grandmasters palace decorated with coats of arms and frescoes. **Saint-John's cathedral** and the ramparts which have guarded the city since the 16th century are also among the most emblematic sites of the city. Arranged in terraces, the **Barrakka Gardens** will punctuate your promenade with a green and floral experience.

SYRACUSE, SICILY

Arrival 13/6/2021 midday

Departure 13/6/2021 late afternoon

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.

PALERMO, SICILY

Arrival 14/6/2021 early morning

Disembarkation 14/6/2021 at 09h00

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.