



FORKANI: FORM + FUNCTION

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNER KENZA EL FORKANI ABOUT HER PROCESS P32

FINDING TRUE LUXURY IN MALTA P08

MALTA AND THE EUROPEAN PRESIDENCY P20

CHOSEN CITY: VALLETTA AS THE EUROPEAN CULTURE CAPITAL P24

LEGENDS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

'A tall ship and a star to steer her by' was all poet John Masefield asked for. If he were alive today, he probably would have exchanged the tall ship for shared ownership of a luxury Sunseeker yacht...



'...a super-efficient, less time-consuming & ultimately more cost-effective alternative to owning a luxury vessel'

Business or leisure, visiting Malta is now even more of a pleasure. Within minutes of arriving at an airport voted the World's Most Scenic in 2016, you can be standing beside the clear blue Mediterranean Sea at Birgu marina in the Grand Harbour, admiring the sleek lines of your luxurious, handcrafted Sunseeker yacht.

PURE GRANDEUR ON TAP

Captain and crew welcome you on board and a few seconds later, you're underway, stretching out on the flydeck with a cold drink in your hand and heading for one of hundreds of glorious, pre-selected destinations in Malta, Gozo or southern Sicily. It's pure grandeur on tap, flowing harmoniously from an endless source designed to offer the connoisseur of luxury an entire world of magnificence, without the time-demanding and often tiresome bonds of proprietorship.

A new world order of prosperous, perceptive seekers of splendour has led to the advent of the Mediterranean's fastest-rising provider of epic land-to-sea luxury, Azure Ultra.

MILITARY PRECISION

Azure Ultra's clients often comment on the organisation's signature attribute of military precision. Led by a former Commando-trained artilleryman, Perry Newton, it should come as no real surprise. Having spent a good chunk of his life in the 29th Commando Regiment Royal Artillery in Her Royal Majesty's Armed Forces, the Azure Ultra managing director Newton knows all about efficiency, integrity, vision and the value of time.

HAND-PICKED SPECIALISTS

'Yacht sharing saves you a huge amount of time and energy. That's the main attraction and it's a massive one. One of the reasons why I joined the army is that I don't do well on boats, so the navy was definitely out. But working closely with my team of hand-picked specialists, I was able to clearly see a big gap in the luxury yacht market for a super-efficient, less time-consuming and ultimately more cost-effective alternative to owning a luxury vessel,' said Newton.

As many Azure Ultra clients are fond of saying, there's only one thing better than owning a luxury yacht in the Mediterranean.

And that's owning part of a luxury yacht in the Mediterranean.

LIGHTNESS OF SPIRIT

Most high-end yacht owners will reel off a list of disadvantages about ownership, from cost of maintenance and crewing to berthing in suitable and convenient marinas.

What Azure Ultra's fractional ownership programme offers is truly liberating. To arrive in Malta, get driven to the marina and cruise off into the sunset with your Mediterranean itinerary already pre-planned is what freedom is all about. What's more, once your charter is over, you just step off the yacht with a lightness of spirit, a feel-good buoyancy which comes from not being burdened with the responsibilities of berthing, crew or general maintenance.

TROPICAL COCKTAILS & EXOTIC ISLANDS

While the perception of yacht owners is one of intrepid adventurers out on their boats enjoying tropical cocktails and exotic islands 365 days of the year, the reality is that most yachts spend the majority of their time in the marina. A reality that is unavoidable and astronomically costly; a proverbial albatross around the neck that doesn't make a whole lot of business sense.

With all the advantages of yacht ownership and none of the drawbacks, it's no wonder Azure Ultra's yacht ownership programme has been hailed as innovative and revolutionary. Piers Brown of Fractional Life (International Hospitality Media Limited) named Azure Ultra 'Europe's leading fractional yacht ownership programme'.

INCOMPARABLE LUXURY

Azure Ultra's winning formula is its flawless, meticulous VIP service that delivers incomparable luxury. Led by Newton and a top-class yacht management team, including captains, stewards and stewardesses, the attention to detail is on a higher plane.

'To get a clear picture of how you want to spend your time on board, Azure Ultra will have a quick chat with you or your PA, over the phone, on Skype, in person, whatever's more convenient for you,' said Azure Ultra's lead captain Roger Jacobsen.

Relaxing with family beside the flydeck barbecue, jumping into the jet rib to get up close to coastal attractions, enjoying a white-knuckle week of watersports, dining and partying with a select group of friends, or a combination of all of these, Azure Ultra's clients can cherry-pick every last aspect of the experience. Where to go. What to eat. Which brand of water, whisky or wine you prefer drinking. Whatever your vision, the Azure Ultra management team will help you bring it to life.

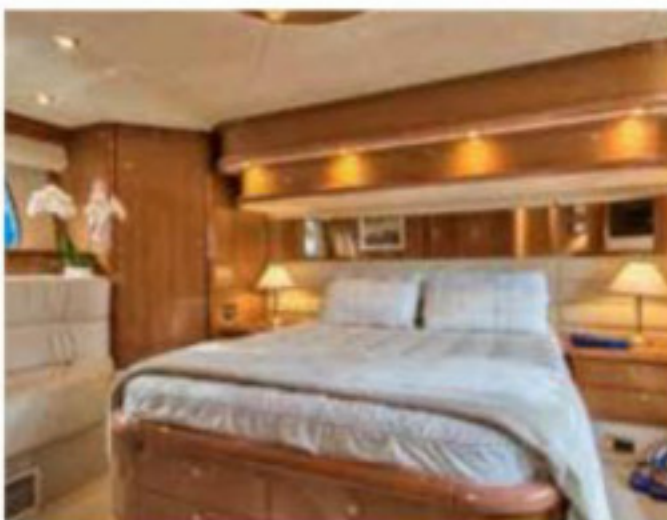
FRESHEST SEAFOOD

'Based on your objectives, we'll provide you with a choice of beaches, attractions, marinas, cities and villages. It doesn't end there, because we can also arrange the freshest seafood and seasonal produce from local Mediterranean markets, including specialist chefs who will recommend complementary wines,' Jacobsen concluded.

The multi-skilled crews are also rotated depending on the needs of the client, with Azure Ultra able to bring in massage experts, water-sports whizzes or simply people who are great with kids. Friendly and relaxed or discreet and silent, even the crew's level of involvement can be tailored. What's more, with a high level of privacy guaranteed, Azure Ultra's Sunseeker yachts are conducive to good business.

GENUINE WOW FACTOR FOR BUSINESS MEETINGS

Finding a venue with a genuine wow factor for business meetings or small corporate events can be challenging, but Azure Ultra's Sunseekers are a perfect fit for the role. With fully equipped bars, spacious on-deck meeting facilities, including full-width staterooms, VIP double cabins, overhead flybridges, split-level saloons, ice-making machines and outside grills, plus exclusive catering from award-winning gourmet



restaurants, Sunseekers represent the perfect environment for impressing key clients or stakeholders.

EXPERTLY HAND-BUILT

The word yacht comes from the early modern Dutch word *jaghte*, from *jaghtschip*, which means 'hunting ship', or 'fast pirate ship' in colloquial Dutch. Expertly hand-built and hand-crafted in Dorset, UK, by master artisans, Sunseeker yachts live up to their buccaneering origin, possessing a poised, sleek look that exudes predatory power and exhilarating speed.

GLOBAL ALLIANCE

Another ace in the Azure Ultra deck is the ability to match the level of quality of the on-board experience, with the Azure range of member-exclusive lifestyle products.

Members can unwind in 5-star resorts from Tenerife to Thailand, or go on gastronomic journeys from Devon to Dubai, as Azure Ultra is linked to a global alliance of luxury fractional ownership products (including a soon-to-be-launched exotic car club) and has forged working partnerships with Michelin-star restaurants, world-renowned health spas, cutting-edge experiential organisations and many more.

CONNOISSEURS OF LUXURY

Azure Ultra's star is rising alongside that of Malta's, as the island's reputation and international profile grows exponentially, attracting even more affluent visitors year on year.

Azure Ultra's own targeted marketing campaigns have already attracted Europeans of different nationalities, including exacting connoisseurs of luxury from the Middle East.

'It is a source of great satisfaction that each new buyer is now a long-term visitor to Malta, as well as a very satisfied part-owner of a luxury yacht berthed at the prestigious Grand Harbour Marina,' concluded Newton.

Azure Ultra. An uncommonly brilliant way in which to explore a world of luxury.

**WHY NOT TRY AN AZURE ULTRA
TASTER PACKAGE? GIVE THE TEAM A CALL
ON +356 2356 1839 OR EMAIL
CHARTERS@AZUREULTRA.COM AND ENJOY
A MEMORABLE DAY OUT ON THE MED.**

TIME TO TREASURE

+356 2356 1839 / CHARTERS@AZUREULTRA.COM



AZURE ULTRA

FINDING TRUE LUXURY IN MALTA

"Luxury is, in fact, all about the experience of having something done, the way you want it, within a timeframe that suits you, utilising the very best materials, techniques or knowledge."



Schlossberg linen, available at Boris Arcidiacono

The dictionary definition of luxury is one I have come across time and again: "a state of great comfort or elegance, especially when involving great expense." On the surface of it, that definition is laden with superficiality and pomposity. However, my view of luxury is something far more sophisticated, refined and virtuous. When tappintomalta.com co-founders, Isabel Tapp and George Turns set out to create a platform to promote luxury lifestyle in Malta, they too set the same standard to the definition of luxury. Luxury is, in fact, all about the

experience of having something done exactly the way you want it, within a timeframe that suits you, utilising the very best materials, services, techniques and knowledge. It is true that this may involve a great expense, but very often, what goes into creating a luxury product or service justifies a higher price tag. Today, Malta is fortunate to have access to some true luxury brands and high-end service providers catering to the exacting standards of discerning locals and expats alike. Whether it is home, work, leisure or service, the island is

flourishing with local and international names and brands that live up to our definition of luxury. The Maltese are renowned for being exceptionally house proud; It is no coincidence, therefore, that Malta now boasts its fair share of home furnishing and home decoration stores. From multi-story showrooms to more boutique affairs, from custom made to prefabricated, the range available in home décor is truly astounding. There are some names that stand out in their own field of specialisation.

If you are in the market for anything sleep-related, the place to go is Boris Arcidiacono. For generations, synonymous with quality, style and excellence, Boris Arcidiacono is the leading catalyst for "The Sleep Culture" in the Maltese islands. From the best bed and mattress manufacturers offering the ultimate in comfort, to ergonomic pillows and breathable quilts, they offer everything one could possibly need to ensure a good night's sleep. All this bed expertise is complemented by some of the most prestigious brands in bed linen offering the finest materials, creative design and endless possibilities for customisation. For great furniture, there are some equally prestigious names that are intrinsically linked to a culture of service entrenched in family legacies that go back generations. FORM is one of the names in Malta that represents a culture of service tied in with tradition and

reputation. Starting out in bedding and sofa manufacturing, their product ranges now represent some of the best European brands. The wardrobe solutions, glass-fronted furniture, sumptuous fabric collections and selection of classic furniture pieces are all complemented by FORM's undisputed reputation for great, personal service. If its cutting edge design you are after, Brands International are a clear contender. As representatives for Danish design house BoConcept, their collections offer fresh contemporary living solutions permeated with Scandinavian cool. Brands International also represent some of the most innovative flooring solutions from Germany and a collection of uniquely customisable Italian kitchens. No interior can be complete without the right lighting; indeed, the right lighting is what creates the perfect atmosphere whether at home or in the office. For

real expertise in lighting design, Elektra offers over 30 years' experience in the sector. Working with high-end lighting brands, they not only light up homes, but have also been entrusted with some of the most prestigious commercial and public lighting projects throughout the Maltese Islands. Their lighting design services help you to get it right from the first step of planning a home or office environment. Design has now permeated every aspect of our lives, with office space no exception. Dex Workspaces together with their partner brands, are dedicated to creating modern, comfortable and innovative work environments. Through their design and project management services they have delivered some of the most cutting edge workplace projects in Malta to date. Malta also boasts its own home grown brands that have evolved from pure artisanal crafts into real contenders

Wardrobe by Jesse, available at FORM



in the creation of beautiful decorative items. Mdina Glass have demonstrated continuous innovation in their techniques and the range of products available. Their handcrafted glassware marries design and functionality. Every piece is handmade and therefore, unique. Some of their bespoke commissions have made it beyond our shores to adorn homes around the world.

Luxury also lies in the professionalism shown by service providers. When it comes to stellar service, discretion and professionalism are paramount and this is especially true for Dacoby, a leader in private, chauffeur-driven transportation in Malta. The use of a superior fleet of vehicles and the careful selection of the most professional chauffeurs, ensures that Dacoby's customers always receive outstanding service and the best comfort. With one of the most advantageous taxation systems in Europe and a stable

business environment, Malta is booming as a hub for business and investment opportunities. WDM International is a full-service firm, offering a multidisciplinary service ranging from tax and legal advice to audit and business advisory. Through WDM Lex Advisory and Dr. Jonathan De Giovanni, Private Clients Partner at the Firm, WDM International has been accredited as Approved Agents by Identity Malta, the Agency responsible for administering the various citizenship and residence programmes in Malta.

Any stay in Malta, whether short term or with a view to relocation, must include time for relaxation. Malta has its fair share of entertainment venues, eateries and night spots to guarantee a fun and relaxing time. For a true flavour of Malta, the best place to wind down is on the water; and to do this in total luxury, the answer is Azure Ultra. As

Malta's premier luxury yacht charter provider, they are acclaimed for their exciting range of tailor-made bespoke offerings aboard sumptuous Sunseeker yachts. Assisted by knowledgeable yacht concierges, guests can craft unique experiences to suit their personal tastes. Travel connections to and from Malta are excellent, with most European cities no more than 3 hours away. Bianchi Travel offer advice and consultancy on the best routes and options available. They pride themselves on being reliable and flexible partners, catering to the travel needs of business and leisure travellers alike. Their service minded staff are always prepared to go that extra mile to ensure a smooth journey, whatever the destination.

These are just some of the names that fit our definition of true luxury in Malta.

Luxury charters, by Azure Ultra



Nero Lattice Lanterns, by Mdina Glass



Tappintomalta.com is Malta's only luxury digital platform and provides the latest information on Malta's high-end brands, services, lifestyle, culture, events, food and drink, design, fashion and travel.

For more information visit:
www.tappintomalta.com