



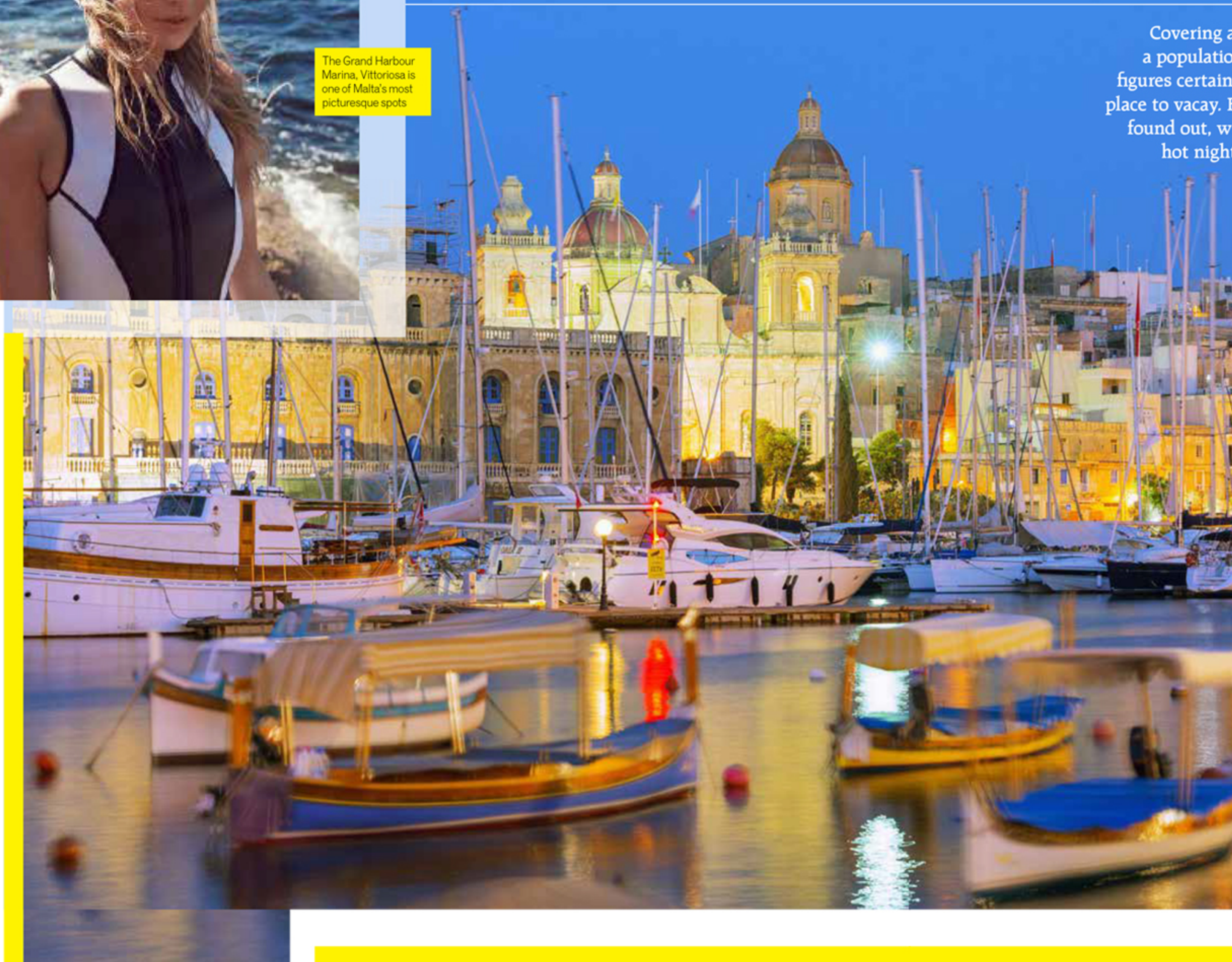
The Grand Harbour Marina, Vittoriosa is one of Malta's most picturesque spots

# MAGICAL MALTA

Covering a total of just over 315km and with a population of less than half a million, these figures certainly paint the picture of a quiet, lazy place to vacay. However, not so, as the *Grazia* girls found out, with an abundance of cultural gems, hot nightspots and luxury yacht charters...



Explore the small alleyways and winding flower-filled streets of the island in the Mediterranean



**THERE'S A REASON WHY** 1.6 million tourists visit this island each year, and it's not just to sit back, sunbathe and swim. There is a lot to see and do in Malta – thought to be named by the Ancient Greeks after the word *melite*, meaning “honey sweet.” There's an abundance of archeological and cultural treasures and stunning scenery to explore, so pack your latest kicks with you. Yet with that being said, also don't forget your stilettos, as the island lights up at night with the hottest clubs, bars and restaurants open until the wee hours of the morning. And just remember, sun worshippers – bring sunscreen!

## Where to shop

### VALLETTA

For those looking to shop the day away, the City of Valletta is the fashionista capital of Malta – and, coincidentally, is the actual capital of the country. The most popular spots to shop are along Republic Street and Merchants Street, and close by, you'll find *Grazia's* favourite boutique – Blush & Panic – a delightful clothes store selling exquisite vintage and vintage-inspired womenswear, as well as quirky pieces of costume jewellery. Markets are also in abundance around Malta, and Valletta's – named the Monti – is hard to beat. It sells mainly clothes, shoes, watches and jewellery, and bric-a-brac.

## Where to discover

There are countless archaeological sites scattered throughout Malta and its surrounding islands, which makes the island not only a place to sunbathe, but be the ultimate tourist as well. One of the highlights is the Hypogeum – an intricate, winding labyrinth of underground chambers – large monuments, Bronze Age dolmens, and many temples, which are now categorised as UNESCO World Heritage sites. Across from Valletta, with its golden-stone fortresses and stunning 16th-century mansions, lies Vittoriosa, and a walk down the beautiful alleyways, scattered with flowers in bloom will have you feeling that holiday vibe.

### AZURE ULTRA'S LAND AND SEA EXPERIENCE

For UAE residents looking for absolute bliss while vacaying in this island paradise, treat yourself to a land and sea experience – a bespoke luxury yacht charter coupled with five-star accommodation at the Radisson Blu. This boutique services starts with a cruise around the sparkling waters of the Maltese archipelago on your very own private yacht, while sipping on a mocktail in your Mykonos-worthy swimwear – or even enjoying some of the watersports the yacht has to offer, like power diving and water skiing – and taking in the sights of the coastline and in the crystal clear waters. On board, there's a full captain and stewardess service to





## Where to stay

### CORINTHIA HOTEL ST GEORGE'S BAY

If staying at sea does not float your boat – excuse the pun – then delight in all that the Corinthia Hotel St George's Bay has to offer. Located on the water's edge, and with stunning views of the Mediterranean, sample molecular mocktails at the resort's Caviar and Bar restaurant, delve into a delicious buffet at Fra Martino, or dine in the White Olive Restaurant and Lounge. Here, *Grazia* recommends opting for a selection of mixed seafood – it's fresh, delicious and, with the side of salads and chips, filling!

For the ultimate in relaxation, book in at the Apollo Day Spa, which offers a wide selection of beauty and relaxation therapies, including scrubs, wraps, massages and facials. Our favourite? The new Ayurveda offering – the popular treatment promising to restore the balance of the mind and body, and above all, relax you. Or, for the adventurous and upbeat, head out on the waters for a high-octane water sports adventure – jet-skiing, anyone? 🌊

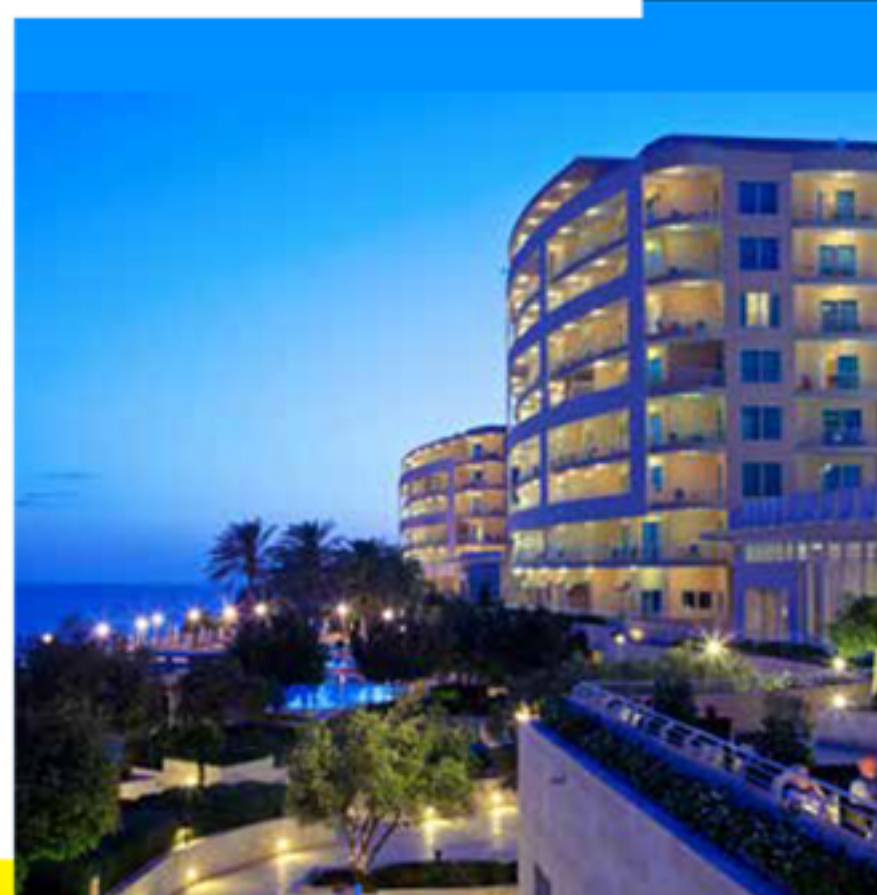
## WHAT TO PACK



*Azure Ultra's land and sea escape is a great option for those wanting to spend time on a luxe yacht and also in a five-star resort*



## AZURE ULTRA'S OFFERINGS



## GRAZIA WEEK IN WEEK OUT

wait on your vacay needs – need we say more? From cool refreshments in the sun, to delicious fine-dining food options for dinner – almost everything is on the yacht. Yet what is so special about this experience is the fact – while Malta is absolutely superb – it's easy to ask your friendly captain to pull up the anchor and sail to another island for the day. Sicily... Gozo... Ah, the life! But remember – the captain does know best, so let him sail to untouched gems – places you can snorkel, kayak and paddleboard in absolute solitude.

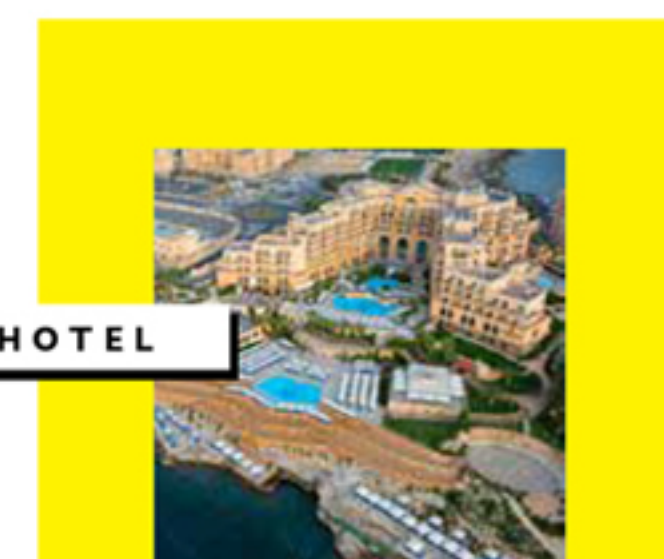
When you've had enough of sailing the deep blue sea, Azure has teamed with the five-star property Radisson Blue Resort & Spa, Malta Golden Sands, to provide staying in one of the property's Heavenly Suites. Overlooking the island's most popular beach, enjoy superior service, water activities and an extensive offering at the in-house spa.

## Where to eat

Food and a great night out are both integral parts of Maltese society, and the stunning island prides itself on offering a cosmopolitan range of cuisines and mocktails for the tourist and local alike. So where should you sip and nibble?



## CORINTHIA HOTEL



*Corinthia Hotel in St George's Bay provides five-star service, facilities and dining.*

### CAFFE CORDINA

The most iconic café in Valletta is in the heart of the town centre. Sip on an espresso, slurp up delicious pasta, and sample some of the best chocolate ice-cream you've ever tasted while watching the world go by. Book a table on a Thursday night, as some of Malta's best jazz artists play great live sets so you can tap your feet under the table.

### CAFÉ SOCIETY

Café Society is new to the culinary and party scene, yet has created a stir on St John's Street, Valletta. The casual dining venue, which turns into a cool club when the sun goes down, has a clientele that sees a mix of artists, musicians, writers and, really, all creatives.

### THE DE MONDION RESTAURANT

Set atop the Mdina's bastions and within the Xara Palace Relais & Châteaux, this unique fine-dining restaurant is for those who want absolute culinary opulence. The grilled milk fed veal tenderloin is delicious, and the orange and grand marnier soufflé is a treat you must sample.