



### CENTRE OF ATTENTION

Make a simple yet stylish table centrepiece by planting alpines or cacti in a glass jar.

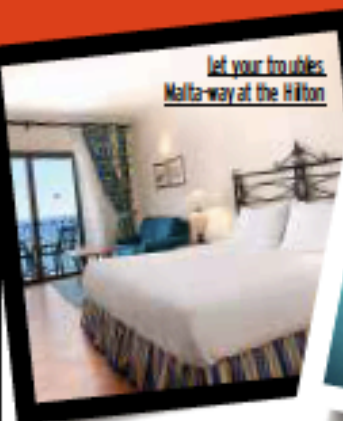
Zinc pot, £2.99, glass lantern, £7.99, both H&M; plastic outery, £10 for set, bottle, £5, both House by John Lewis; glass planter, £25, Next



### CRATE IDEA

No space for a flower bed? Use old wooden pallets - which can be picked up for free from most garden centres or supermarkets - to create a wall display. Alternatively, drill wooden baskets to decking.

Picnic rug, £6, Malabar; watering can, £19.99, Squires Garden Centres



Fabulous goes to...

# MALTA

Writer Jo Usmar laps up affordable luxury - private yacht and lobster included - on the European isle

## SEE

Tucked away in the Mediterranean sea, Malta is just a three-hour flight from the UK. Although it's small - less than 200 square miles - the island has lots to offer. It's easy to navigate using local buses, with day tickets costing from just £1 per person. Soak up the local history by visiting the Palazzo Parisio in Naxxar, £10 (Palazzoparisio.com), a privately owned and seriously decadent 18th-century palace.

## DO

Malta is surrounded by breathtakingly blue waters, so grab your snorkel mask and charter a private yacht for the day. A swanky boat, complete with skipper and lunch, costs from £50 per person, based on 12 people hopping on board (Malta sailing charter.com). Cruise the waves around the Maltese shores and snorkel at the beautiful Blue Lagoon.

## Fyi

**Getting there**  
Fly to Malta from all over the UK with Air Malta.com, from £74 one way.

**Stay**  
Double rooms at the harbour-side five-star Hilton Malta start from £115 per night based on two sharing including breakfast. Smeak bang in the middle of St Julian's, it's handy for partying as well as being the perfect base to chill out, with spacious balconies, four pools and a spa. (Hiltonmalta.com).

**Time zone**  
GMT +1 hour

**Currency**  
Euro

## EAT

For a lush lunch, pop into Luna di Sera at the Palazzo Parisio - its home-made ricotta ravioli, £12, is super-tasty for dinner, make a beeline for Tarragon Restaurant, a slick hideaway with amazing views of St Paul's Bay (Tarragonmalta.com). Feast on fresh lobster and crab pasta with a balsamic black caviar sauce - a snip at ETL. Wash it down with a bottle of Ulysses Chenin Blanc, made on the neighbouring island of Gozo, for £12.50.

## DRINK

The town of St Julian's is the place to totter around for a big night out. It mixes a laidback Mediterranean vibe with cosmopolitan chic. If hot barmen and 90s pop tunes are your thing, then head for Hugo's Terrace sharpish. The roof is rolled back to reveal the stars and it's a fab place to people watch as you sip an ice-cold beer for just £2.50 a pop. **F**