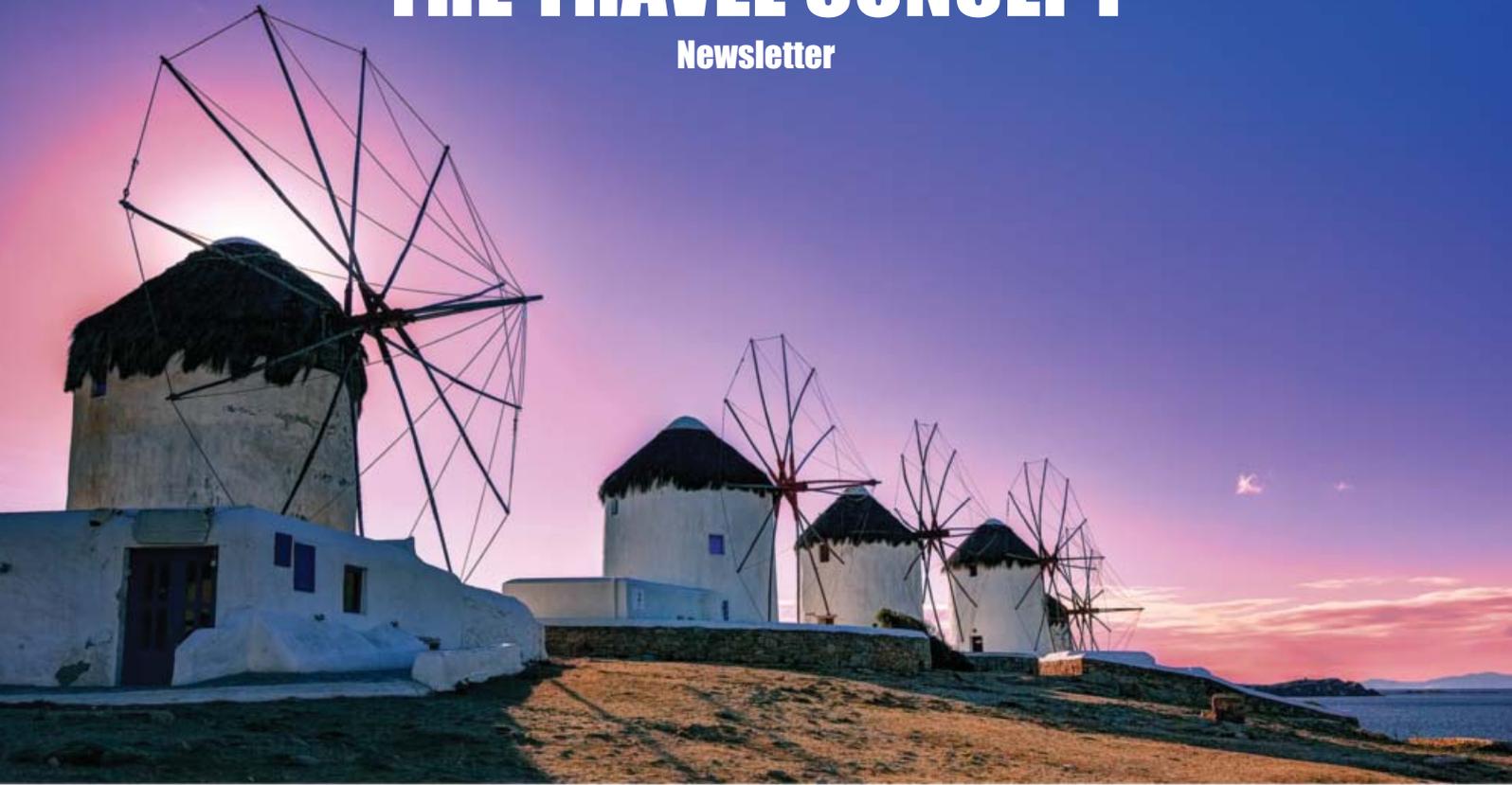


THE TRAVEL CONCEPT

Newsletter



AUTUMN 2018

Ski - Mykonos - Cyprus - Lefkada - Croatia - Italian Opera Tours - River Cruises - Antigua - Barbados

BIANCA'S TOP TIPS

for choosing the right place to go...

Les Trois Vallees (France)

*Experience some of the best skiing in Europe between the resorts of **Meribel**, **Courchevel** and **Val Thorens**. The expansive terrain of the Trois Vallees is a daredevils paradise, but also fantastic for anyone who wants to try it for the first time. If you're a non-skier then head for the smart boutiques, fine restaurants and the buzzing nightspots! Plus the snow can be some of the best in the alps, so get your powder skis ready...*

Austria

*Everything about the Austrian Alps is classic with charming alpine villages dotted around glorious summits. From the medieval town of **Kitzbuehl** with cobbled streets and 179km of ski slopes, to the intimate resort of **Zurs** which is a powder paradise. If you're looking for a romantic getaway, St. Anton has stunning views from the top of Galzig, cosy restaurants and superb apres-ski. Austria has so many gorgeous villages to choose from and if you are a non-skier, you'll be spoilt by the scenery and walks.*

Colorado, USA

*Great choice of resorts from celebrity spotting in **Vail** to traditional village life in **Winter Park**. They are both a great choice for any level of skier or boarder and will suit all budgets. With direct flights to Denver from London and typically a 2 hour transfer, it's a great place for families.*

Italy

With numerous resorts and good snow falls, Italy is the perfect choice for beginners. For me, Italy is always a big winner being a lover of Italian food and of course the ice cream! Italy offers a good range of accommodation and will suit all budgets.

Scandinavia

Norway and Finland are renowned for their incredible family-friendly ski resorts. They have a fantastic selection of modern, ski-in/ski-out hotels with exceptional facilities. Plus stunning catered chalets and apartments.

Ready Steady Snow

Bianca is our resident ski specialist and has enjoyed it since her early teens. She has skied extensively throughout France, Italy, Austria and North America.

In recent years she has skied on numerous occasions with Club Med and seen pretty much most of their French & Italian resorts!

Mark Warner is another favourite operator and last season she stayed at the L'Ecrin Chalet Hotel, with a visit to the Aiguille Percee in Tignes. These are both great hotels in superb locations.

January 2016 was the year to experience her own family holiday with Ski Esprit (one of the UK's favourite family ski specialists). It was the first time taking her young daughter and they had a fantastic week in St Anton Austria.

Bianca's trip to St. Anton

As keen skiers, my husband and I wanted to take our daughter for the first time and booked with Esprit! Known as one of the best in the industry for family ski holidays and with over 33 years' experience, I knew this would be a good choice – and we were not disappointed!! Everything about Esprit's childcare is absolutely amazing! With only one child I was a little nervous about how Daisy might adapt to the snow club and lessons whilst we went off to enjoy the terrain on offer in St Anton. I needn't have worried, she was totally taken care of and loved every minute! The accommodation is basic but clean and tidy. The food we had was superb and the wine flowed freely at dinner! A great week had by all!



Mykonos by Bianca

Cosmopolitan and historic - something for everyone!

Welcome to Greece's most famous island, a whitewashed paradise in the heart of the Cyclades. In my opinion Mykonos has something for everyone. If your looking for fun and nightlife, or simply want to explore the history and tradition, it's the perfect choice! Mykonos will certainly meet all your expectations and will not disappoint!

Explore the Capital, Hora, strolling along narrow streets of whitewashed houses with colourful doors and windows. Visit the church of Panayia Paraportiani, the town hall and the castle situated above the harbour. No visit would be complete without a wander along Matoyanni street with famous brand name stores, charming cafes and stylish restaurants.

Mykonos boasts a lively waterfront with a fleet of brightly coloured fishing boats and azure waters. There are many beautiful photo opportunities as well. The "Little Venice" 18th century district is one of these. It's dominated by grand captains' mansions with colourful balconies and stylish windows. You'll also

see the famous quaint windmills.

There are plenty of great beaches to choose from too - so just pick the ones that suit your mood. Some are better for peaceful, bohemian relaxation with less facilities (such as Agios Sostis), others suit families (like Elia, Platis Gialos, Ornos), plus there is a selection for jet-setters and party-goers (Super Paradise being one of them!).

No stay on Mykonos would be complete without a visit to the tiny island of Delos. Legendary birthplace of Apollo and Artemis, it is hard to believe that 25,000 people once lived on this sacred rock! There are three temples to Apollo, the site of the ancient lake where the twins were born and many other fascinating remains, including a museum containing the famous lion sculptures, dating from 7th century BC.

With only a 3.5 hours flight time from the UK, I think this is a perfect choice for a beach holiday, or a short stay in Mykonos town as a couple or group of friends.



The Myconian Collection

A sublime collection of 9 hotels across Mykonos.

Elias Beach is home to five of their hotels - Avaton, Villa Collection, Royal, Utopia and Imperial. All offer something a bit different, with each oozing chic charm. The Imperial is great for groups and close to the main beach.

My personal favourite in the collection is the Myconian Ambassador (Relais & Châteaux hotel) located in Platis Gialos. A stunning, cool and contemporary hotel with an amazing restaurant and calming rooms just steps from the sand.

A further three hotels are located in Mykonos town - Kyma, Koralí and Naia. Again all different in style. Each has a great pool, restaurant and various room types.





Ikos Dassia by Tracy

An exciting new resort in idyllic Corfu

The renowned Ikos hotels opened their latest 5* luxury resort in May this year and I was lucky enough to be one of the first to take a look!

Its located on the North-East side of beautiful Corfu about 20 minutes drive from the airport and 15 minutes to Corfu town. Framed by woodland in pretty Dassia Bay think contemporary Mediterranean style meets traditional Greek hospitality with a beautiful private beach setting and views out to the Ionian Sea.

Rooms are elegant and airy, neutral colours with that gorgeous Greek turquoise colour splash. With a wide range of accommodations including family interconnecting, suites and villas with private gardens and pools there's an excellent choice. Dining is amazing with 6 excellent a la carte restaurants catering for all tastes, my favourite was Fresco. There is also a private island experience and a traditional taverna in Corfu Town. All are included in the award-winning 'Infinite Lifestyle' all-inclusive concept ensuring unlimited luxury that doesn't compromise on quality.

Kids are well looked after by the excellent Worldwide Kids clubs catering for all ages and is also included within the all-inclusive concept.

All this plus adult only pools, evening entertainment, stunning spa what's not to like! I loved this resort as it is perfect for both families and couples looking for a luxury all-inclusive concept. It has already been very popular with our clients this summer, many of whom have already booked again for next year!

Ionian Island Holidays

by Tracy

I love discovering the beautiful islands of Greece and have travelled twice with Ionian Island Holidays. This Greek Island specialist has a wonderful portfolio of amazing properties, villas, apartments and hotels in some unique destinations. I can't wait for the next opportunity to explore another Greek island!

Lefkada (main picture)

Considered to be the Caribbean of Greece and I can see why; beautiful landscapes and stunning blue seas. It is connected to the mainland via a causeway and is one of the few Greek islands you can drive to, surprisingly it remains unspoiled.

Lefkada has so much to offer ...Lefkada town is laid back and charming. The west coast has some stunning beaches, but if its windsurfing you are after then head south to Vasiliki famous for windsurfing in the summer months, due to a local thermal wind 'Eric'! Take a trip into the mountains to discover sleepy villages where traditional life has remained unchanged for more than a century. Nidri offers waterfalls, beaches, sailing and nightlife – we hired our boat for the day from here. This is a must do, snorkelling, a spot of lunch in Meganisi and discovering hidden coves, just perfect. Definitely take a drive to Sivota, a pretty bay with a harbour and some fantastic fish restaurants.



Cephalonia



Zakynthos



Corfu



MS Agape Rose



MS Providencia

Discover Croatia

Small ship cruises on-board exclusive charters with Prestige Holidays

Croatia has become an increasingly popular destination and has something for everyone: an impressive collection of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, medieval walled cities, churches and palaces, pure natural beauty of National Parks, crystal clear seas and pristine beaches, all to discover on your voyage.

Due to popular demand, Prestige Holidays is offering three exclusively chartered seven-night voyages on a choice of two ships for 2019. The MS Providencia was completely refurbished in 2018 and now displays a stylish, modern interior. She will sail round-trip from Dubrovnik on a Dalmatian Highlights itinerary. The MS Agape Rose, a

modern, sleek motor cruiser will sail from Split to Dubrovnik on the Highlights of the South Adriatic itinerary. As well as a Cruise Manager and attentive crew, you will be accompanied by a Prestige Holidays Tour Manager who will be on hand to ensure your holiday is completely care-free.

With a maximum of just 38 or 40 guests, both cruisers are ideally suited to explore 'off the beaten track' ports of call that big cruise ships are unable to visit. On-board, there are no strict dress codes, so kick off your shoes, relax, and enjoy the stunning scenery and gentle pace. The casual feel is continued with plentiful breakfasts and light lunches served buffet style.

**Adriatic Highlights
(MS Agape Rose)
departs 13 July 2019
prices from £2,399.00 per person**

**Dalmatian Highlights
(MS Providencia)
departs 22 June & 14 Sept 2019
prices from £2,199.00
per person**

On three evenings, dinner is served instead of lunch. A true highlight of small ship cruising is no overnight sailing. This gives guests ample opportunity to explore the port of call independently and to dine in a local restaurant or Konoba (tavern) and fully enjoy the evening ambience in cafes or bars close by.



A summer of Italian opera

Join guide lecturer **Adrian Mourby** on an exploration of Italian opera with **Prestige Holidays**

“Summer, Italian opera and prosecco are the three essential elements of a perfect mix. Whether it’s Rossini’s joyous festival in the seaside resort of Pesaro, the stirring music of Verdi in Parma or the divine Puccini Festival on the shores of his lakeside home in Torre del Lago, these three festivals offer the opportunity to discover three great opera composers within their own landscapes.

There is also superb food along the way (something Rossini and Puccini would have greatly enjoyed) and performances that even the demanding Giuseppe Verdi would have enjoyed.

Most of all there is a unique sense of authenticity when you hear Italian opera performed by Italian singers in places each composer loved.”

Adrian Mourby, Tour Manager

Lucca and the Puccini Opera Festival **July/August 2019**

A five day tour based in charming Lucca, the birthplace of Giacomo Puccini. Explore Lucca and the surrounding areas associated with the composer’s life and works. Enriched with dining in local trattorie and two Puccini operas performed in the stunning lakeside theatre at Torre del Lago.

Parma and the Verdi Festival **October 2019**

Each October, the city of Parma is dedicated to the music of Giuseppe Verdi. Discover the delights of the landscapes and flavours that inspired the great maestro’s memorable compositions.

Pesaro and the Rossini Festival **August 2019**

August in Pesaro is the time of the Rossini Opera Festival, celebrating the works of Gioachino Rossini in his birthplace. View two magnificent operas and discover the seaside resort of Pesaro as well as the highlights of Urbino and the breathtaking Bologna.

Take the Scenic route

Luxury all-inclusive & all-suite river cruising

Setting the standard for river cruising on Europe's most iconic waterways, Scenic's fully-inclusive promise ensures even the luxuries you would expect to pay for are included in the price. From all flights and transfers to every insightful excursion, delicious spoonful and thirst-quenching sip.

Marrying innovative technology with opulent designer finishes, a Scenic Space-Ship is friendly and intimate in equal measure, generously proportioned and affording elegance and style, it serves as your luxury floating boutique hotel.

Some of the largest on European waters, their suites provide space and views in abundance, with included amenities like the comfort of Scenic Slumber Beds, a complimentary mini bar, and balcony

with an innovative all-weather Sun Lounge. Not forgetting a butler service for every guest.

Unrivalled fine-dining in up to five exclusive on board venues, introduces you to authentic dishes inspired by the path on which you're travelling, not forgetting you can make the most of a selection of complimentary premium drinks all day every day. From your morning champagne breakfast to a brandy nightcap.

READER OFFER

Save up to 25% per person, PLUS enjoy FREE city stays in Prague, Lisbon and Transylvania, on selected 2019 European river cruises

Gems of the Danube, Scenic Amber
17th October 2019 for 8 days
Nuremberg to Budapest
Cruise from £1,695 per person
for a Standard Suite

River Gems

Exceptional value with Emerald Waterways

An Emerald Waterways river cruise introduces the highlights of ocean cruising to the intimacy of Europe's waterways. Comfort and innovation combine on-board their state-of-the-art Star-Ships, boasting an exciting variety of luxurious on-board amenities and inclusions. The award-winning promise of Exceptional Emerald Value ensures your peace-of-mind, with everything you could need included in the price of your trip. From return flights, all transfers and on-board tips, to every thoughtful, chef-prepared meal and complimentary drinks served with lunch and dinner.

Insightful days ashore are brought to life by expert tour guides who introduce you to the very best of what Europe has to offer. Designed to showcase the highlights of every region, you can look forward to an included excursion at almost every stop. UNESCO World Heritage-listed sites, fairy tale castles and grandiose cathedrals intertwine visits to cosmopolitan cities and quaint ancient riverbank towns. The exclusive EmeraldPLUS program

offers the opportunity to get right to the heart of local life on authentic adventures that seek to avoid typical tourist hotspots, so you can have an experience unlike any other. This could be in the form of an invitation to the home of a Slovakian family, or an enchanting guided tour of Keukenhof Gardens in the Netherlands. As well as this, the EmeraldACTIVE program provides you with a range of activities directed at more outgoing guests. These consist of guided bike tours, hikes beyond city limits and canoeing on the Douro.

Chic, modern sanctuaries, Emerald suites and staterooms are much like something you'd expect from a world-class hotel with 5 room grades to choose from. Each room boasts an en-suite bathroom complete with luxurious toiletries, as well as a queen or twin-size hotel-style bed, draped in high quality linens, while a flat screen HDTV and infotainment system is perfect for when you'd like to relax in your suite, showing films, TV, news, sport and leisure channels.



READER OFFER
Save up to £1,650 per couple, PLUS when booking a balcony suite choose from a FREE premium drinks package, or, €200 per cabin to spend on-board on selected European 2019 cruises

Sensations of Southern France
Emerald Liberté
26th October 2019 for 8 days
Marseille to Lyon
Cruise from £1,495 per person
for Emerald Stateroom

Antigua

by Bianca

Powder-white beaches and rum punches

Antigua has some of the most stunning beaches I've seen, soft white sand and that almost-unbelievable aquamarine water that epitomises the Caribbean. You can do a boat trip around the coast, see the neighbouring island of Barbuda, enjoy the markets and local life in the capital St John's or brave the Antigua Rainforest Canopy Zipline.



Curtain Bluff

The moment you arrive at Curtain Bluff you just know it's going to be special! A small intimate resort with only 72 suites that spread over a large area, meaning space is key. There are large rooms with ocean views and the further up the bluff you stay the more panoramic the view! With two beaches you will always find a quiet spot, one beach has sounds of crashing waves and a breeze; the other side is calm and perfect for water sports. Food is superb with two restaurants to choose from. I only had a short stay but the staff make you feel like you have been going for years. Owned by the same family for over 50 years with staff that have been there for over 20 years. I can see why people return again and again.

Blue Waters

A firm favourite, I was very keen to see what makes it so popular. From the moment we arrived the staff were so welcoming and could not do enough for us. The beautiful cove beach has a great selection of water-sports, perfect if you like to be active. Rooms vary in size and décor but all a good standard, location is key. The cove suites are a popular choice and good for families. The space is fantastic and there is an additional pool. The Spa has the most beautiful backdrop perfect for some 'me' time!

Galley Bay

Rustic charm in the Caribbean and a perfect adults only choice. The beach is lovely, a long sweeping area perfect for those romantic walks. What really impressed me was the style of the rooms, I loved the location of the beachfront options, but equally the Gauguin cottages are a perfect romantic spot. The Spa is very special with two treatment areas in the trees! It's the place to relax, unwind and enjoy the beautiful Caribbean way of life.

Sandals Antigua

I have been to several Sandals resorts but Sandals Antigua has to be my favourite. Set on one of the best beaches in Antigua with white powder sands and clear blue seas. Great accommodation options from larger suites in the Med village with a lively atmosphere around the pool, to the more Caribbean flair cottages on the other side with smaller pools where you can escape. Restaurants are excellent and we loved the varied choice. Definitely on my recommend list!

Barbados

by Bianca

and the Platinum Coast

With a choice of luxurious beachfront retreats lapped by gentle waves and an infectious tropical heartbeat, blissful Barbados has an endearing charm! Today this tiny island in the eastern Caribbean offers everything from magnificent, tranquil beaches to dramatic cliffs, rugged rolling hills, superb restaurants and picture-perfect golf courses. Dining out on Barbados can be smart or barefoot, with reservations essential in high season. We highly recommend **The Cliff** (simply the best restaurant in the Caribbean), but you'll be spoilt for choice as there are so many other superb places to eat on the island, including **Daphne's**, elegant **Cin Cin by the Sea** and the cool, contemporary **Lone Star Garage**. For a taste of authentic Bajan cuisine, try **Angry Annie's** or **Ragamuffins** in Holetown, **Pisces** at St. Lawrence Gap or **Champers** overlooking Accra Beach.

Cobblers Cove

When you walk through the stunning gardens upon arrival at Cobblers you instantly feel relaxed. I just loved all the pastel colours in the rooms and bright spacious feel to them.... The food in Camelot was absolutely superb and we left feeling like we had made friends with everyone! Will the General Manager is a very friendly charismatic guy and he really takes the time to get to know every one of his guests. I would highly recommend Cobblers to couples wanting an intimate hideaway.

Sandpiper

I loved the new lap pool they have built within the beautiful gardens at Sandpiper this is a great addition to the main pool. Harold is a very famous bar tender at Sandpiper he has been at the hotel for over 25 years and is loved by so many guests the beach bar is named after him! The beach is lovely here and the rooms with a contemporary twist – I really loved the atmosphere here!

Colony Club

(main image)

Colony Club has a fantastic vibe to it, set on a really nice beach with lots of complimentary water sports. This is a great option for families especially with teenagers. Our junior suite rooms were very nice and spacious. The service and food was great too and the lagoon pool winds itself through the beautiful gardens at Colony making a nice escape from the beach. Part of the Elegant Hotels water taxi transportation is also available to the sister hotels nearby.



BACK PAGE NEWS



Finding your tour made simple!

You can now use our new option on our website and Facebook page to search the huge choice of escorted touring and guided holidays.

It's so much easier than trawling loads of different websites and Googling your days away! Plus it saves a few trees if you're not collecting multiple large brochures...*ckarop* perfect for some 'me' time!



Bianca in Singapore for Grand Prix 2018

By the time this newsletter drops through your door Bianca will have returned from an adrenalin-fuelled trip to the 2018 Singapore Grand Prix!

Her visit conveniently allowed her to see the newly refurbished Raffles Singapore, one of the world's finest Victorian era luxury hotels and birthplace of the famous "Singapore Sling" cocktail.

If you fancy a trip to a sporting event just give us a call as we have excellent access to the very best packages. What will it be? The Rugby World Cup 2019 ...the Americas Cup ...or perhaps a Grand Prix...

Join us at 4 Seasons Brasserie for a travel evening

17th October 2018



Our ever popular travel evenings are back! This time we have hired a room at the **4 Seasons Brasserie** in Eastbourne so why not confirm your place in advance with us...

On the agenda, apart from the usual drinks and nibbles, will be presentations on **escorted tours** (Back Roads Touring) and **river cruises** (Uniworld).

Venue address:
3 The Waterfront, Eastbourne, BN23 5UZ
Event timing: 6.30pm



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