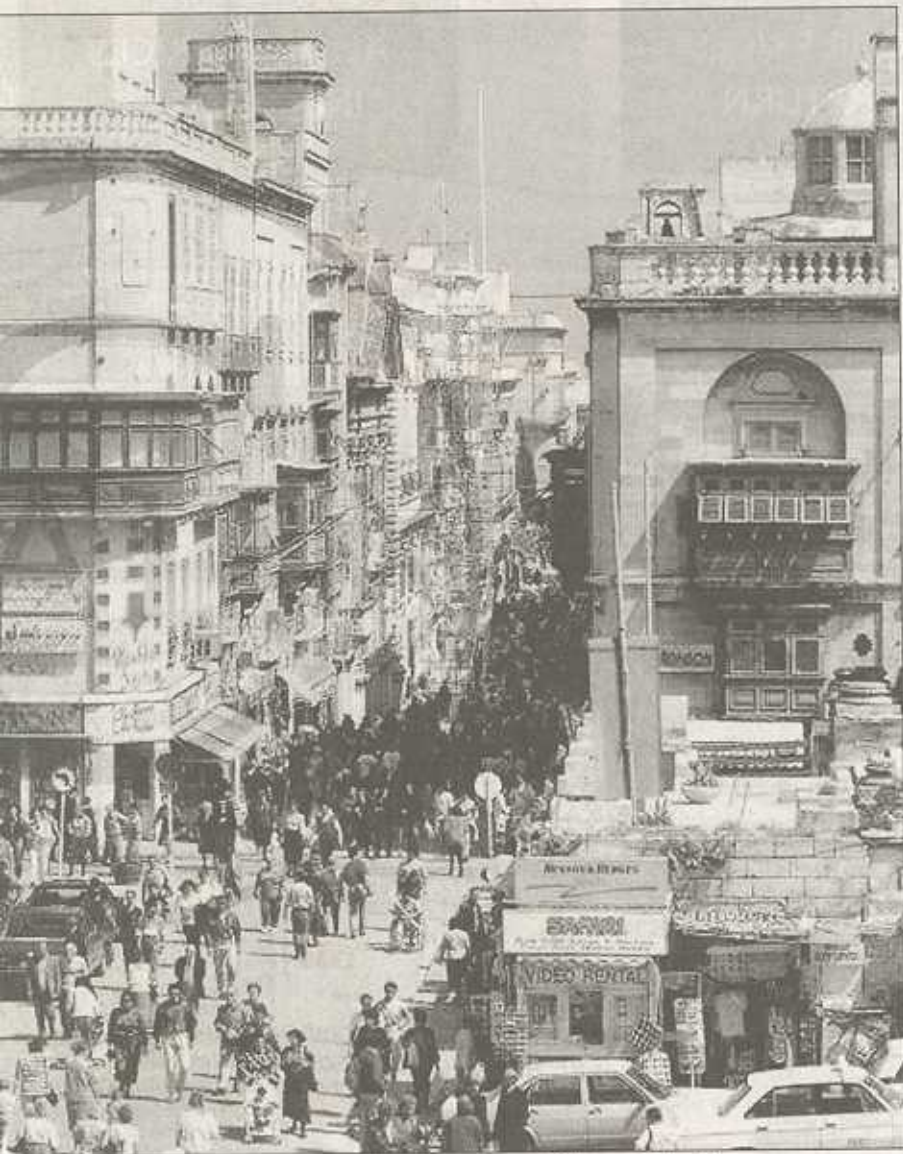


# due makeover



redefining Malta's resorts and attracting a new and different clientele

## AND IF YOU WANT TO GO SOON...



At the four-star Barcelo Riviera Resort and Spa at Mellieha a fortnight's stay costs from £575pp including Gatwick flights from September 7-23 through Voyana. Details: 0871 2715203, [www.voyana.com](http://www.voyana.com).

A week in Bugibba at the three-star Hotel Carolina is available from Transun from £299pp. Flights on September 6 are from Inverness and Belfast. Details: 0870 4444747, [www.transun.co.uk](http://www.transun.co.uk).

Self-catering at the Luna Apartments in Mellieha is

available from £306pp for the week beginning September 9 through Panorama Holidays (includes flights from Gatwick). Details: 0870 7582518, [www.panoramaholidays.co.uk](http://www.panoramaholidays.co.uk).

Fly out on Wednesday and stay at the Porto Del Sol Resort with Belleair Holidays. A two-week break costs from £556pp at the four-star Sol Suncrest Apartments, including flights from Gatwick. Book with Page & Moy. Details: 0870 0106242, [www.go-nowtravel.com](http://www.go-nowtravel.com).

## NEED TO KNOW

**Where to stay:** Hotel Juliani (00 356 2138 8000, [www.hoteljuliani.com](http://www.hoteljuliani.com)).

The Juliani is a sleek boutique hotel, with a rooftop pool and three restaurants. The popular café areas and 44 bedrooms mix style with comfort. Malta Hilton (2138 3383, [www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com)).

The best large hotel for waterfront location and great views. Hotel and Spa Resort Fortina (0800 9173001, [www.fortinaspa.com](http://www.fortinaspa.com)). Stunning views of Valletta and by autumn it will boast up-to-date spa facilities — including spa bedrooms with therapeutic baths and steam showers. Xara Palace (00 356 2145 0560, [www.xarapalace.com.mt](http://www.xarapalace.com.mt)).

A lovingly restored 17th-century palazzo, with 17 suites and a fantastic rooftop restaurant overlooking Mdina.

### Where to eat and drink:

The Bar @ Balluta, Balluta Bay (2133 7349). Classy drinking joint in classical-style buildings. La Dolce Vita, Spinola Bay (2133 7806). Apparently this was Brad Pitt's favourite while filming *Troy* last year. Wonderful setting with an amazing view of Spinola Bay.

Maestro e Fresco, South Street, Valetta. Light opera and local bands, tasty snacks and local wines at giveaway prices.

Trabuxu, Strait Street, Valetta (2122 2966). Classic cellar wine bar and a favourite little tryst with locals and visitors.

Zen, Portomaso Marina (2138 6500). The last word in classic Japanese cooking, in a peaceful setting beside the boats.

**What to see:** Casa Bernard, Rabat, is Malta's newest "stately home" to open its doors. This 16th-century stone palace houses eclectic furnishings, painting and objets d'art from all over Europe (call 2144 4373 for an appointment). Manoel Theatre, Old Theatre Street, Valetta. This Baroque gem built in 1732, gorgeously refurbished, is one of Europe's oldest theatres (2124 6389, [www.teatrumanoel.com.mt](http://www.teatrumanoel.com.mt)). The Hypogeum. This fascinating 5,000-year-old underground complex is Malta's best preserved temple. Details: [www.heritagemalta.org](http://www.heritagemalta.org).