



The Blue Lagoon at the tiny island of Comino; below left, the terrace at 59 Republic; below right, the Upper Barrakka Gardens; bottom left, the Mediterranean Film Festival; bottom right, the Phoenicia Malta

St Dominic's Counterguard, a landward-facing section of Fort Ricasoli. Billed as a "platform that expresses a shared cultural language shaped by the sea, history and human connection", the week-long festivities culminate in the glamorous Golden Bee Awards, broadcast live across Malta, as filmmakers, actors and industry leaders gather to honour productions from around the world.

mediterrane.com

7 Palazzo plates

Malta's culinary scene is one of the Mediterranean's most exciting, blending local ingredients with international influences in unforgettable settings. For fine dining, head to OKA's in Balluta, 8km north of Valletta, housed inside a refurbished 19th-century palazzo and serving a modern menu featuring dishes such as sea bass capunti and beetroot gnocchi with pumpkin cream and hazelnuts. Overlooking Valletta's central St George's Square, 59 Republic delivers refined Maltese cooking including a dessert – dark chocolate and caramel mousse – that has become famous. As evening falls, head to Bridge Bar for wine, cocktails and tapas while jazz spills on to the famous stone steps nearby.

fiftyninerepublic.com



8 Art of space

For those seeking contemporary culture, MICAS (Malta International Contemporary Art Space) has established itself as one of Europe's most exciting contemporary art museums. Opened in 2024 and housed within restored the Floriana historic fortifications, the space brings together internationally acclaimed artists and leading Maltese talent, creating a dialogue between global and local perspectives. Complementing MICAS is Spazju Kreattiv, Malta's national centre for the creative arts, in the revitalised 16th-century fortification St James Cavalier centre. Its program spans visual arts, theatre, music, literature and film from Malta and beyond.

micas.art

9 Bathing beauty

After days spent exploring historic cities, cultural landmarks and iconic film locations, end your trip with a swim at St Peter's Pool, one of Malta's most idyllic natural swimming spots. This horseshoe-shaped inlet near the traditional fishing village of Marsaxlokk has been carved from honey-coloured limestone, creating a sheltered pool of turquoise water. The flat rock platforms are perfect for sunbathing, while the more adventurous can dive off them into the sea below. And that person drying off beside you? They might just be a Hollywood star on a break between takes. In Malta, cinematic magic is everywhere.

outdoorexplorersmalta.com

BEST BEDS

10 Star billets

The Phoenicia Malta, just outside Valletta's city walls, has welcomed guests for decades and remains the grande dame. Set in almost 3ha of landscaped gardens, the five-star hotel combines elegant art deco stylings with gorgeous vistas, a luxurious spa, an infinity pool and one of the Mediterranean's finest hotel terraces. For a more intimate stay, Casa Bonavita offers a beautifully restored 18th-century townhouse experience in one of Valletta's historic neighbourhoods. Quiet courtyards and thoughtful contemporary interiors blend seamlessly with centuries-old architecture, placing guests within walking distance of the city's best restaurants, museums and night-life.

phoeniciamalta.com

