
2023 Mediterranean Islands Golf Cruise

9 Nights | 4 Rounds | Athens - Rome | September 18 - 27

PRE-RYDER CUP CRUISE!

PerryGolf proudly partners again with **Azamara®** for this exceptional 9-night, 4-round golf voyage including some of the Mediterranean's most beautiful islands onboard the outstanding 700-guest *Azamara Onward*. The timing of our voyage also makes it the perfect Pre-Ryder Cup vacation for guests enroute to the biennial contest between the USA and Europe at the Marco Simone Country Club on the outskirts of Rome Italy September 29 - October 1, 2023

We begin in **Athens** bound for five captivating islands including **Crete, Malta, Sicily, Sardinia** and **Corsica**, plus the charming **Kusadasi** and **Sorrento**, before our final port of **Rome**. Our golf includes four rounds including the excellent and highly regarded courses of **Crete Golf Club, Il Picciolo (Mount Etna) , Pevero** and **Sperone**. Late evenings in port in Malta and Sardinia also allow an opportunity to better enjoy these destinations.

Azamara Onward, which serves as our perfect floating boutique hotel and clubhouse, is a mid-sized luxury vessel nimble enough to access smaller ports yet large enough to provide every amenity you would expect, from a choice of fine dining and live entertainment, to a well-equipped gym and full-service spa. Forty-six suites are available with English butler style service which routinely book early. Sailing schedules often include extended stays in port plus the occasional overnight which allows for a truly immersive experience. Better still, these cruises are inclusive of a selection of beers, spirits, soft drinks, bottled water, specialty coffees plus wine with lunch and dinner along with gratuities for housekeeping, dining and bar staff. *Azamara* also proudly boasts two unique signature events on each cruise - an **AzAmazing EveningSM** and the **White Night** party - complimentary to all guests and consistently well received.

Every aspect of the golf program is fully managed by PerryGolf staff onboard and ashore. Your clubs will be ready and waiting at each venue. Tee times and pairings arranged and posted in advance. A convenient transportation schedule affords suitable time to warm up at the range, and to make the almost inevitable pro shop merchandise purchase. Carts are always included, subject to availability. A friendly competition is staged at a selected course, with prizes awarded at our farewell gathering. A snack lunch is included on-course plus an open bar operates in the clubhouse at the conclusion of the round. Our typical guest list which brings together like-minded individuals generally numbers between 40 and 50, with new friendships invariably formed during each cruise. Many guests are golfing couples but an equal number are golfers travelling with a non-golfing spouse. Specially arranged onboard golf group social functions, to which all accompanying non-golfing spouses are most warmly welcomed, further enhances the club-like environment. The award winning **Azamara Shore Excursions®** program, offering a wide variety of off ship excursions, also caters beautifully to our non-golfing guests during days when our golfing excursions are underway.

The "2023 Mediterranean Islands Golf Cruise" is a genuinely full-featured vacation and a special opportunity to enjoy yourself in the company of like-minded new friends

[Photo Album](#)

Detailed Itinerary

SEPTEMBER 18, MONDAY: ATHENS, GREECE (EMBARK BY 3:30PM / SAIL 5:00PM)

Embark *Azamara Onward* beginning at 1:00PM. All aboard by 3:30PM.

Welcome Cocktails & Briefing this evening. Meet your fellow participants and PerryGolf staff.

SIGHTSEEING: **Athens** has quite a reputation to live up to. Named for Athena, Goddess of Wisdom, the city is credited with being the cradle of European civilisation and birthplace of democracy. Ruins and relics of its glory days are scattered throughout the modern city, popping up where you least expect them. Its crowning glory is the Acropolis, perched atop a hillside, and covered in carved and columned temples of varying degrees of antiquity. Not quite so old is the Plaka, an appealing neighbourhood for a stroll down cobblestone streets, past old mansions and a plethora of outdoor tavernas ideal for watching the world go by, while munching tasty Greek snacks.

Port Explorer Guide - Athens

Overnight: At Sea

SEPTEMBER 19, TUESDAY: EPHESUS (KUSADASI), TURKEY (8:00AM / 6:00PM)

Kusadasi is your port of access to an age-old civilisation. Ephesus was once the second largest metropolitan area in the Roman Empire, eclipsed only by Rome herself. Explore this city of construction both monumental and mundane. It was famed for the **Temple of Artemis**, one of the wonders of the ancient world; the **Library of Celsus**, with its thousands of scrolls; and its amphitheater, with a capacity of 24,000 spectators. But you can also imagine yourself in the sandals of a resident as you stroll the streets, past marketplaces, and into bath complexes that offered piped-in hot water, massage, and sauna.

Enjoy **Kusadasi** on your own or via **Azamara Shore Excursions®**.

Port Explorer Guide - Kusadasi

Overnight: At Sea

SEPTEMBER 20, WEDNESDAY: HERAKLION, CRETE, GREECE (7:30AM / 6:00PM)

GOLF: Golf remains an unusual sport in Greece, **Crete Golf Club** is the only 18-hole course on the island built to USGA specifications. And what a golf course it is. Designed by Bob Hunt from PGA Design Consulting in the UK, the 6,430-yard layout was carved out of difficult, mountainous terrain at a cost of €16.2 million! It's a par 71 with five sets of tees and generous fairways. You'll remember the par 3s, particularly No. 6 which plays over a deep gorge to a two-tiered green cut into the foot of a hillside.

SIGHTSEEING: **Crete** is the fifth largest Mediterranean island, located 160 miles south of the Greek mainland. Humans have inhabited the island for approximately 130,000 years. It was here in the Bronze Age around 2,000 BC where Europe's first advanced civilization was developed by the Minoans. Their largest and most sophisticated settlement was **Knossos**, a palace located just 20 minutes outside of **Heraklion**, the largest city

and capital of Crete, and one of Azamara's newest ports of call. Along with Knossos, be sure to include a visit to the Archaeological Museum, regarded as one of the most important museums in Greece. The pedestrian only Daidalou Street is where you'll find trendy shops boutiques and the chance to sample outstanding Greek cuisine like *kaltsounia* (sweet and savory cheese pie) plus and lamb with *stamnagathi* (a type of wild chicory).

Enjoy **Heraklion** on your own or via **Azamara Shore Excursions®**.

Port Explorer Guide - Heraklion

Overnight: At Sea

SEPTEMBER 21, THURSDAY: AT SEA

Today it's time to relax and reset. Make your reservations early for **The Sanctum Spa**, a world-class wellness facility offering a full range of health, beauty and restorative treatments. Complimentary fitness and nutrition classes are available along with a fully equipped gym on Deck 9 offering magnificent sea views. There's room for everyone on the Pool Deck both in and out of the sun. Service to your lounge chair is available from **The Pool Bar** where the attentive staff is always ready to offer an inclusive cocktail, beer, bottled water, soft drink or fresh towel. **The Patio** restaurant serves casual fare during the day then completely transforms itself into a sit-down al fresco dining experience at night with table linens and candles. Elegant specialty dining is available for beef at **Prime C** and Italian at **Aqualina**. **Windows Café** serves casual buffet dining with every imaginable choice indoors and out at the sensational Sunset Bar.

What a way to spend a day!

Overnight: At Sea

SEPTEMBER 22, FRIDAY: VALLETTA, MALTA (8:00AM / 10:00PM)

The Lilliputian capital of Malta, **Valletta**, is one of the most concentrated UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the world. But despite its small size (less than half a square mile!), we expect you'll appreciate the extra time provided by this late departure to see everything the city has to offer. Head to Triq ir-Republika for shops, cafés, and bakeries serving up can't-miss treats like *pastizzi* (filo pastry with ricotta) and *ftira*, a savory flatbread. St. John's Co-Cathedral has an exterior that belies a stunning vaulted interior considered to be one of the finest examples of high Baroque architecture in Europe along with "the most beautiful floor in the world". Thanks to the recent work of renowned architect Renzo Piano, including the City Gate and the Parliament House, the old city now exists in spectacular juxtaposition with the new.

Enjoy **Malta** on your own or via **Azamara Shore Excursions®**.

Port Explorer Guide - Valletta

Overnight: At Sea

SEPTEMBER 23, SATURDAY: GIORDINA NAXO (TAORMINA), SICILY (9:00AM / 6:00PM)

GOLF: The highly scenic **Il Picciolo** course at the Mount Etna Golf Resort is the oldest course in Sicily, sitting in

the shadow of Mount Etna. It was designed by renowned architect Luigi Rota Caremoli, and is fashioned from the characteristic lava stone of Mount Etna. It has been a regular host to events on the Ladies European Tour and Men's Senior European Tour.

SIGHTSEEING: The island of **Sicily**, just off the tip of the Italian boot is the largest in the Mediterranean. Mountainous and rugged, its highest point is the tip of that infamous firebrand, the still active Mt Etna at 10,900 feet. Farmland, enriched by volcanic soil, produces lush crops of olives, citrus, and grapes. Climbing higher, you'd find forests, the scars left by old lava flows, and eventually the crater where smoke and simmering lava is sometimes visible. **Taormina** is a lovely small medieval town perched on high cliffs, with spectacular views over the bay and rugged coastline below.

Enjoy **Sicily** on your own or via **Azamara Shore Excursions®**.

Port Explorer Guide - Taormina

Overnight: At Sea

SEPTEMBER 24, SUNDAY: SORRENTO, ITALY (8:30AM / 6:00PM)

A warming sun and gentle sea breezes have been attracting visitors to **Sorrento** for two millennia. Its reputation as a playground of the ancient rich and famous resulted in the building of lavish villas and palaces, an emperor relocated to the Isle of Capri nearby, and over the centuries it has been a haven for artists and artisans, writers and poets, politicians and philosophers, and all manner of aristocrats. You will be a welcome addition. The massive eruption of nearby Vesuvius in 79 AD caused considerable damage, but the resulting volcanic ash is responsible for Sorrento's modern day fertility, thriving olive orchards, and excellent wine.

Enjoy **Sorrento** on your own or via **Azamara Shore Excursions®**.

Port Explorer Guide - Sorrento

Overnight: At Sea

SEPTEMBER 25, MONDAY: OLBIA, SARDINIA (9:30AM / 9:00PM)

GOLF: Pevero Golf Club. The site of Sardinia's first golf course – along the rugged, ragged coastline of the peninsula between the Bays of Cala di Volpe and Volpero – lured the esteemed Robert Trent Jones for one of his earliest projects overseas.

SIGHTSEEING: In a desirable location on the stunning Costa Smeralda, **Olbia** has been inhabited since the 8th century BC, but a recent archaeological discovery of 24 shipwrecks - two of them from the age of Nero - has landed it in the spotlight. The name Olbia means 'happy town', though its past has been somewhat difficult with the city destroyed and rebuilt many times throughout its history. Of course, that makes it all the more interesting, as every empire that came and went has left something of value behind for you to see.

Enjoy **Olbia** on your own or via **Azamara Shore Excursions®**.

Port Explorer Guide - Olbia

Overnight: At Sea

SEPTEMBER 26, TUESDAY: PORTO-VECCHIO, CORSICA (7:00AM / 6:00PM)

GOLF: The birthplace of Napoléon Bonaparte is also home to **Sperone Golf Club**, a Cabell B. Robinson (for Robert Trent Jones) design opened on the southernmost tip of Corsica in 1990. Many compare the setting to Pebble Beach and Cypress Point. In several very memorable spots, Sperone is that good. The solid front nine winds through rugged Corsican undergrowth to a number of small raised greens. Eleven plays down toward the ocean and a slender ledge green sandwiched between large boulders. Twelve is a testy 3 par across a rocky canyon to an elevated cliff-top green. It's not a long layout so the round can be enjoyed with equal parts fun and photos!

SIGHTSEEING: Dating back to the 16th century, the fortified port town of **Porto-Vecchio** is now a Corsican resort destination. The Old Town district — with its cobblestone streets, charming buildings, and ruins of the ancient citadel — features fashionable shops, boutiques, and cafés while Porto-Vecchio's modern marina offers ferry rides to Bonifacio and the Lavezzi Islands nature reserve, plus a variety of places to enjoy a local beverage harborside. Visit the Church of Saint Jean-Baptiste, the Bastion San Antonia, and the Porte Genoise Gate for panoramic views of the sea, mountains and surrounding valley, or enjoy an afternoon at one of Corsica's two most famous beaches, Palombaggia and Santa Guilia, located just south of Porto-Vecchio. As dusk settles, head to the Old Town's Place de la République (main square) for its lively nightlife, bars, and restaurants.

Enjoy **Porto-Vecchio** on your own or via **Azamara Shore Excursions®**.

Port Explorer Guide - Porto-Vecchio

Overnight: At Sea

SEPTEMBER 27: ROME (CIVITAVECCHIA), ITALY (DISEMBARK 9:00AM)

9:00AM Disembark *Azamara Onward*.

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SIGHTSEEING: **Rome** has something special to offer to all visitors, no matter their interests and tastes. Whether you daydream about fighting with gladiators in the Colosseum, debating with togaed senators in the Forum, tossing a coin in a fabled fountain, or being awestruck by the magnificence of St Peter's Basilica and Michelangelo's masterpieces, Rome seems to live up to its sobriquet - the Eternal City. When you need sustenance, today's Rome will provide *delizioso pasta e vino*. Or perhaps you draw strength from a little retail therapy - the Italians are also renowned for their sense of style.

Golf Schedule

CRETE GOLF CLUB: CRETE, GREECE



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IL PICCIOLO GOLF RESORT: MOUNT ETNA, SICILY

The highly scenic **Il Picciolo** course at the Mount Etna Golf Resort is the oldest course in Sicily, sitting in the shadow of Mount Etna. It was designed by renowned architect Luigi Rota Caremoli, and is fashioned from the characteristic lava stone of Mount Etna. It has been a regular host to events on the Ladies European Tour and Men's Senior European Tour.

PEVERO GOLF CLUB: PORTO CERVO, ITALY



Pevero Golf Club Sardinia's first golf course opened in 1972 and designed by Robert Trent Jones. It's found along the edge of a rugged, jagged coastline in chic Costa Smeralda sandwiched spectacularly between the Gulf of Pevero and the sparkling bay of Cala di Volpe. The outward half plays counter-clockwise; the inward clockwise. While the coastline is never in play, Jones has added several ponds to make water an ever-present danger plus he has wisely afforded generous landing areas so that the course is enjoyable even when confronted by the area's famed north wind - the Mistral.

SPERONE GOLF CLUB: BONIFACIO, FRANCE

The birthplace of Napoléon Bonaparte is also home to **Sperone Golf Club**, a Cabell B. Robinson (for Robert Trent Jones) design opened on the southernmost tip of Corsica in 1990. Many compare the setting to Pebble Beach and Cypress Point. In several very memorable spots, Sperone is that good. The solid front nine winds through rugged Corsican undergrowth to a number of small raised greens. Eleven plays down toward the ocean and a slender ledge green sandwiched between large boulders. Twelve is a testy 3 par across a rocky canyon to an elevated cliff-top green. It's not a long layout so the round can be enjoyed with equal parts fun and photos!





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