



**MALLORCA AND MENORCA IN SPRING**  
**WEDNESDAY 5 TO MONDAY 10 MARCH 2014**  
**NICHOLAS FRIEND**

'A sky like turquoise, a sea like lapis lazuli, mountains like emerald, air like heaven' wrote Chopin on arriving at the romantic Mallorcan monastery of Valldemossa in November 1838. From there he wrote some of his most enduring and eloquent piano pieces. Under that same sky, Robert Graves, flush with the success of 'Goodbye to All That', found similar energy for his great 'Claudius' series of novels. Eager and frequent visitors to his romantic home in Deià included novelists Kingsley Amis, Alan Sillitoe and Gabriel García Márquez, actors Alec Guinness and Peter Ustinov - the last of whom came to live in Mallorca. Agatha Christie came and set 'Problem at Pollensa Bay' here. The great 20c artist Miro, came first in 1929, then to settle in 1954, finding not only the space for a vast and beautiful studio, but also the inspiration for his curious humanoid sculptures. "I invent nothing, it's all here! That is why I have to live here!" Miró exclaimed. The accolades could go on and on, Mallorca is, indeed, a much praised and prized island.

Promising more than a revitalising spring tonic to INSCAPE voyagers, a brilliant respite from the grey gravity of a British winter, Mallorca is a cultural cornucopia due to the influences of successive Roman, Carthaginian, Byzantine and Spanish conquests. From 2,000 BC its earliest inhabitants erected great funerary monuments or Tumuli followed by the Talaiotic culture, clustered in towns, the most sophisticated Iron Age culture in Europe, whose talaiot structures, groupings of columns and slabs, are still visible today. By the 19c and 20c Mallorca became a place of quiet retreat for some of the greatest creative minds in Europe including, the greatest Polish Romantic composer and his partner, a cross-dressing French novelist; a Hapsburg Archduke, author of a seven-volume study of the islands; an English novelist who wrote about the Emperor Claudius; the most important Austrian-Jewish-American poet of her generation; a Catalan painter to rival Picasso, and the Danish architect who designed both the iconic Sydney Opera House and one of the most beautiful Modernist summer residences on Mallorca. (Chopin, George Sand, Ludwig Salvator, Robert Graves, Laura Riding, Joan Miró, and Jørn Utzon). Through visits both public and private to prehistoric and through modern sites we enjoy a cultural and culinary-infused visit to the place even the most stern Gertrude Stein called "Paradise."

### **WEDNESDAY 5 MARCH**

Arrive Palma de Mallorca airport, private transfer to Hotel Palau Sa Font. Hotel check-in, architectural walk in Palma including Cathedral, Templar Chapel; also visits to Palau de L'Almudaina, Gothic palace of King Juan Carlos; La Llotja, late Gothic Stock exchange of 1426-56; and Art Nouveau Modernista architecture. Private wine tasting

### **THURSDAY 6 MARCH**

Son Fornes Talayotic archaeological site; Private visit to birthplace of Fray Junipero Serra; Pollenca Roman Remains; Son Marroig, home of Archduke Ludwig Salvator

### **FRIDAY 7 MARCH - MENORCA**

Coach/Boat Journey to Menorca: Talayot de Trepulco, Talati de Dalt; Private visit to Museu Hernandez Mora in Moa; Private visit to Museu de Menorca

### **SATURDAY 8 MARCH**

Museu de Mallorca; Es Baluard Museum; Castell de Bellver; Miro Foundation private tour

### **SUNDAY 9 MARCH**

Valldemossa Monastery (Chopin and George Sand); Private view of Robert Graves House with William Graves the writer's son; Can Prunera Modern Art Museum

### **MONDAY 10 MARCH**

Cap Blanc Talayotic remains; Private view of Portopetro Jørn Utzon house; Return to hotel and private transfer to airport

### **HOTEL PALAU SA FONT**

Our small hotel in Palma is exquisite. Tucked behind the 16c facade of an Episcopal palace in a peaceful part of La Jonja, the space is modern, minimalist, and filled with paintings and sculpture. Its location close to the medieval walls, the marina, and the museums is matched only by the attentiveness and friendliness of its service.

**COST** £1795 Members, £1845 non-Members, no SRS, deposit £200, includes flights London-Palma de Mallorca, private transfers, five nights accommodation at the Hotel Palau Sa Font, all breakfasts, two dinners with wine, one wine tasting, all entries, private views, gratuities and VAT.

### **INSCAPE CULTURAL STUDY SOCIETY**

ST JUDE'S COTTAGE  
12A CASTLEBAR HILL  
LONDON, W5 1TD  
020 8566 7539  
INFO@INSCAPETOURS.CO.UK