

Our Western Mediterranean Silver Spirit Cruise 2015

By Hank Schrader

Accredited Cruise Counselor

Western Europe Destination Specialist

Overview

- We sailed on SilverSea Silver Spirit.
- We embarked at Civitavecchia (Rome) Italy, sailed north to Portofino, Italy; then on to Livorno (Florence) Italy; next to Alghero; then on to Porto Mahon; next to Palma de Mallorca and ending this wonderful trip in Barcelona, Spain.
- This was an awesome luxury cruise where we got to experience great wines and food, stay in an elegant balcony cabin with a bath tub and a walk-in closet, and have a butler to attend to all our needs.

Silver Spirit

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Our Balcony Cabin #809

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Some of Our Cabin features

Photos
Anne Schrader
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Anne & Hank Alfresco Dining



Portofino, Italy

- Portofino, on the Italian Riviera, is a true gem, is part of the Ligurian coast in Northern Italy.
- It has a turbulent history, including being a Roman colony. It was ruled in 1229 by the Republic of Genoa and later by the French, English, Spanish and Austrians. Even pirates have ruled this rustic and elegant town and area.
- We took a wonderful shore excursion in Portofino. It was a tasting of fine Italian food and wine at Castello Brown.
- Later, we had a wonderful prawn lunch in town.

Portofino, Italy

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Portofino, Italy

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Photo Anne Schrader



Castello Brown, Portofino, Italy

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Our Wine & Food tasting in Castello Brown, Portofino, Italy led by Guido Porrati, an Italian food and wine expert



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Portofino, Italy



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Our Prawn Meal



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Livorno (Florence) Italy

- Livorno is the port for Florence.
- It is about an hour's trip to Florence, the birthplace of the Renaissance.
- It has the best Renaissance art in Europe, most of which is in the Uffizi Gallery and the Accademia, the home to Michelangelo's David sculpture.
- It is also a fashion center, has good street markets and like all of Italy, good food & wine.

The Port of Livorno

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Duomo & Giotto's Tower, Florence, Italy



Michelangelo's
David
Accademia Gallery
Florence, Italy



Statue of Neptune. In the background is the entrance to Uffizi Gallery with Statues of David & Hercules Florence, Italy



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Ponte Vecchio Florence, Italy



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Santa Trinita Bridge Florence, Italy

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Alghero, Sardinia, Italy

- Sardinia is Italy's second largest island, after Sicily.
- The town was reached by tenders to visit the old town, called the “centro storico”.
- Alghero's sea walls, built in the 16th century, are a highlight of the town's historic cityscape.

Alghero



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Awesome Coastline

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Alghero City Sea Walls

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Alghero Harbor

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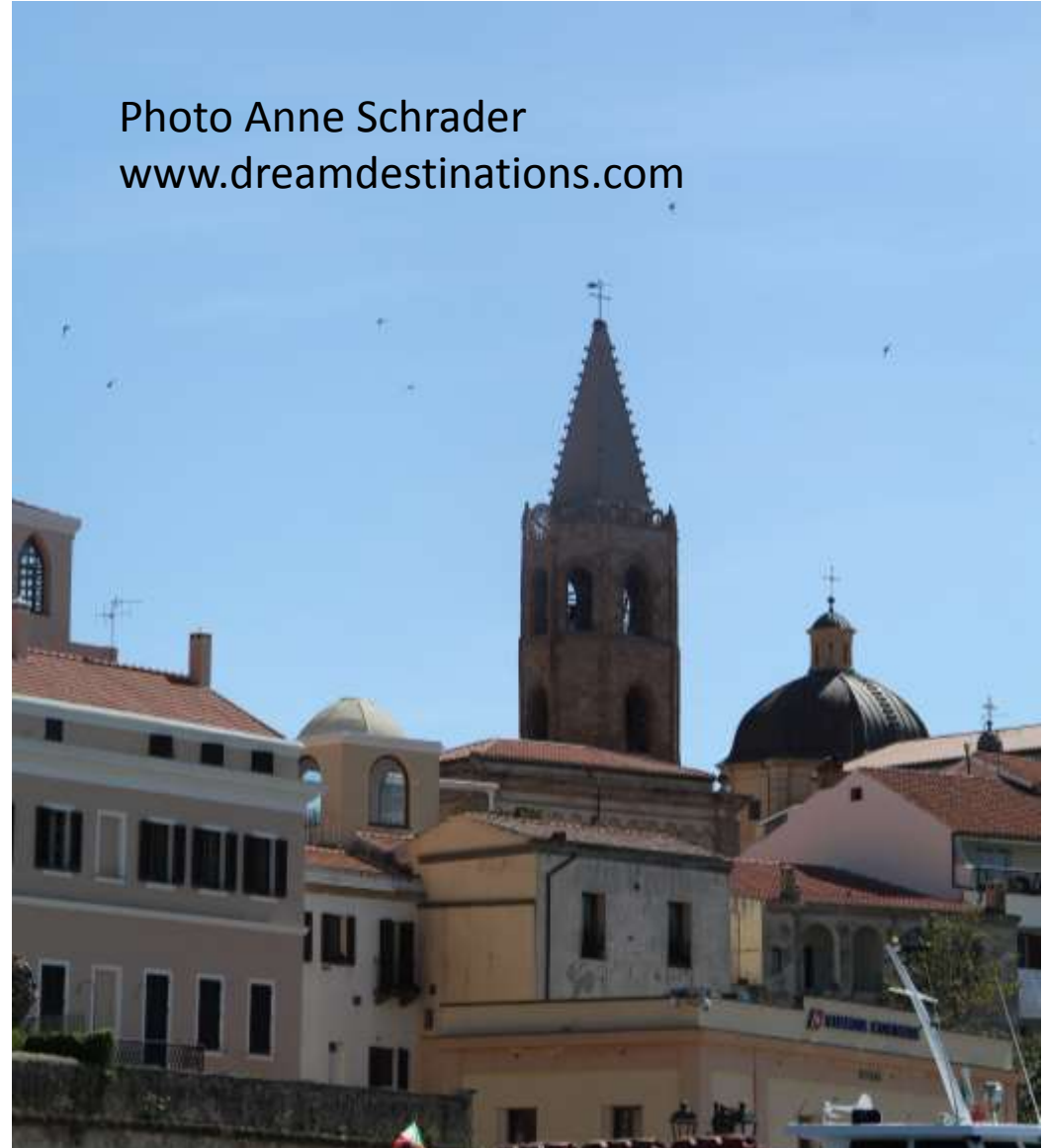


Alghero

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Porto Mahon, Menorca, Spain

- Menorca became part of Spain in 1802.
- Porto Mahon is capital city of the island of Menorca. It is one of the largest and deepest natural harbors in the world.
- The greatest attraction of the city is its old quarter, which has interesting buildings, markets, museums, shopping and fantastic viewpoints over the port.

Porto Mahon, Menorca, Spain

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Porto Mahon, Menorca, Spain

Old City Walls Gates



Porto Mahon, Menorca, Spain

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Porto Mahon, Menorca, Spain

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Palma de Mallorca, Spain

- Palma de Mallorca, is the capital and largest city of the Balearic Islands in Spain. It is famous as a great shopping location.
- Once a walled city, today's city is a relatively new creation.
- The tree lined avenues of La Rambla and the Passeig des Born, were built in the 19th Century on the site of a dried up riverbed.
- The original walls that once protected the city from invaders have now become Las Avingudas ring road, and the waterfront promenade, or Passeig Maritim, was reclaimed from the sea during the late 1950's.

Le Seu Cathedral ,Palma de Mallorca, Spain

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Passeig des Born Palma de Mallorca, Spain



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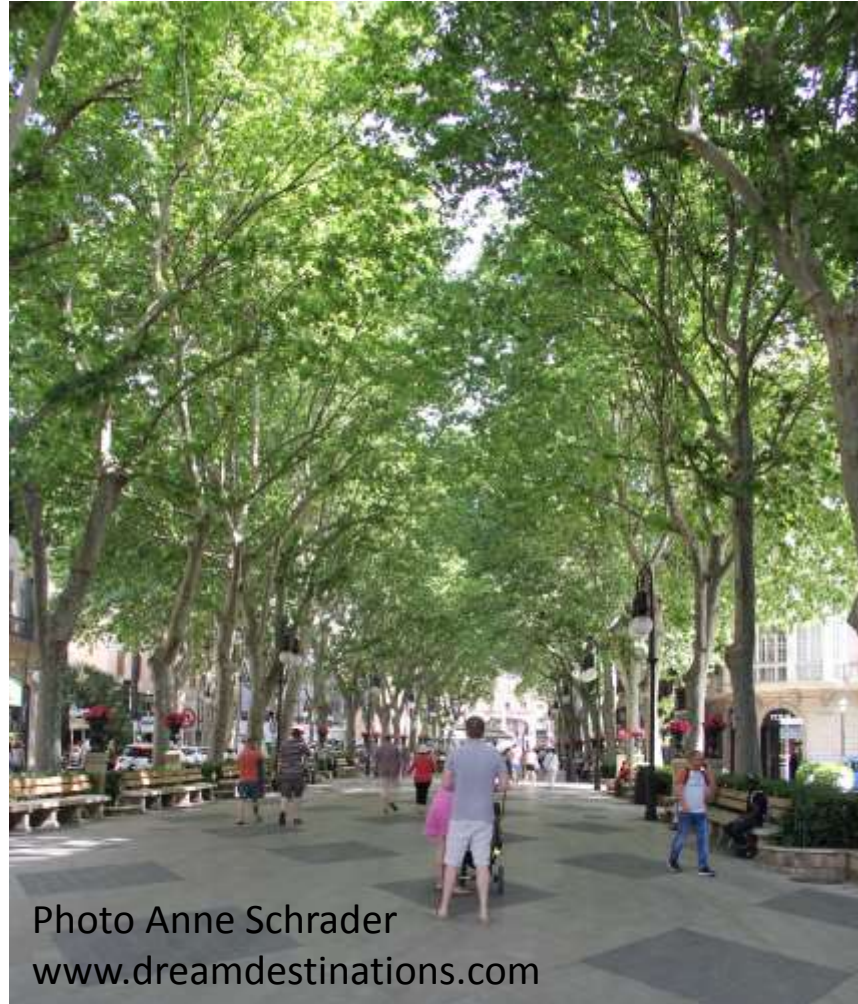


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Palma de Mallorca, Spain



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Palma de
Mallorca,
Spain



Tiny Truck in Palma de Mallorca, Spain



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The Royal
Palace of La
Almudaina,
Palma de
Mallorca,
Spain



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Photo Anne Schrader
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The Royal Palace of La Almudaina, Palma de Mallorca, Spain



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Waterfront promenade, Palma de Mallorca, Spain

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Photo Anne Schrader
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Barcelona, Spain

- Barcelona is the capital of Catalunya and the second largest city in Spain.
- It has quirky architecture, imaginative food and vibrant street life.
- The most famous site is architect Antoni Gaudí's fantastical Sagrada Família church.
- Its restaurant scene, anchored by the central Boqueria market, ranges from fine dining to tiny tapas bars.

The Ramblas Barcelona, Spain



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

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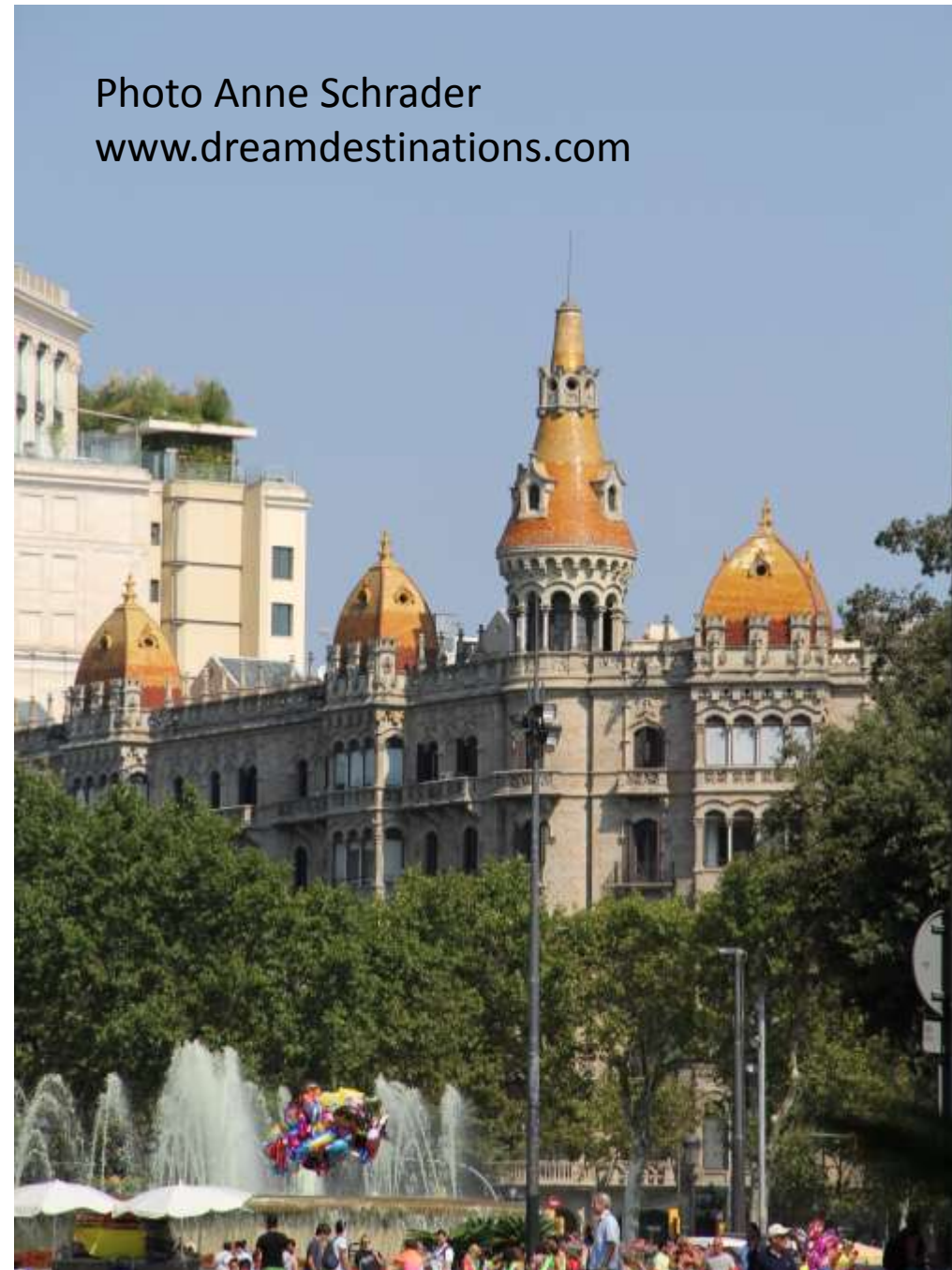


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The Boqueria Market, Barcelona, Spain

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More Boqueria Market Barcelona, Spain

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Columbus
Monument
Barcelona,
Spain



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