

AUSTRALIA

FREEDOM AUSTRALIA & NZ

BEST CHOICE DOWNUNDER

- Superb Hotels and Apartments
- Self-driven and Motorhomes
- Escorted Tours and Excursions
- Rail Travel and Reef Cruises
- Discount Flights and Stopovers

PERFECT HOLIDAYS DESIGNED FOR YOU

Call for Brochure **0844 567 8400**
www.freedomaustralia.co.uk

FLORIDA

KINWOOD TRAVEL
 Est. since 1978

EASTER 2015

BOOKING LIMITED AVAILABILITY

Doubletree Resort at Universal	Universal's Cabana Bay Resort	Universal's Hard Rock Hotel
£945 adult £630 child	£1080 adult £950 child	£1430 adult £1250 child

CALL FOR PRICES

Please call or email for more info
 020 7740 4221 info@kinwoodtravel.com
kinwoodtravel.co.uk

MALTA

MercuryDirect Offer code: MPDM

MALTA

A WEEK 4★ HALF BOARD 'DINE AROUND' FROM **£299***

2 WEEKS HALF BOARD WITH A 3RD WEEK FREE ON BAR FROM **£549***

Includes 10 February 2015

Two FREE 15 minute Thalassio pool treatments*

Two FREE Spa Scrub treatments*

Hotel Fortina ★★☆☆
 Enjoying a superb location on the waterfront in Sliema, with wonderful views of Valletta's skyline, this hotel forms part of the Fortina Spa Resort & has been a popular choice with our clients for many years.

Our fabulous offer of a week Half Board starts from **£299***. This fantastic price includes your return flights and transfers in resort, as well as breakfast and dinner daily with the opportunity to 'dine around' in a choice of five restaurants for your evening meal.

LOOK WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Accommodation at the 4★ Hotel Fortina in Sliema, exclusive to Mercury Direct
- Air-conditioned/heated garden room with an sofa and satellite TV
- Return flights from Gatwick, Luton, Stansted or 14 other UK airports (supplements may apply)
- Return airport transfers in Malta
- All security fees, airport & passenger taxes
- Mercury Direct Representative in resort
- FREE harbour cruise per person per stay

2014-2015 DATES & PRICES FOR THE 4★ HOTEL FORTINA

Month	1 wk	10 nts	2 wks	3 wks	Half Board 10 nts on B&B FREE	1 wk	10 nts	2 wks	3 wks
	Adult	Adult	Adult	Adult	Adult	Adult	Adult	Adult	Adult
August	£299	£295	£525	£750	£299	£299	£599	£899	£1399
September	£299	£295	£519	£745	£299	£299	£599	£899	£1399
October	£299	£295	£519	£745	£299	£299	£599	£899	£1399
November	£299	£295	£519	£745	£299	£299	£599	£899	£1399
December	£299	£295	£519	£745	£299	£299	£599	£899	£1399
January	£299	£295	£519	£745	£299	£299	£599	£899	£1399
February	£299	£295	£519	£745	£299	£299	£599	£899	£1399
March	£299	£295	£519	£745	£299	£299	£599	£899	£1399

PRICES REFERRED TO A DOUBLE ROOMING VERY DEPENDENT ON 011714-380915

For more information or to book call **0843 357 5260**
 or visit www.mercurydirect.com/hotels/14

Our lines are open 7 days a week
 Mon - Fri 08.00-21.00
 Sat 08.00-20.00
 Sun 10.00-21.00

ABTA ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH TRAVEL AGENTS

By JACQUI THAKE

My hubby Tom is the ultimate Mr Romance. I get flowers, candlelit dinners, a love note every morning with my coffee in bed and he compliments me constantly, telling me how beautiful I am (that sight test is so overdue).

It's all very well, but I'm still irritated by the fact that he doesn't "do" climbing ladders and clearing out the gutter. He won't even change a light bulb.

So would being whisked off on a romantic anniversary trip to the Greek island of Rhodes be enough to take my mind off the guttering?

We got off to a good start. Arriving late at night at our suite in the five-star Lindian Village resort I was delighted to see the four-poster bed that welcomed us – not so much because it was decorated with a heart of rose petals, but because of its football-pitch size.

No, my mind wasn't on scoring, I was more concerned with earache from Tom's snoring.

But I was soon reassured that should the need arise, there were several alternative beds I could escape to.

There was the sumptuous double sun lounger and spacious cushioned seating area outside on our huge terrace, an inviting sofa in the sitting room – even the bath was big enough to set up home in.

We were soon to find that such was the excellence of the service I could probably have called for an airbed and spent the night floating in our private pool.

In fact, the four-poster was so comfortable I could have slept through anything.

We woke to vast blue skies and brilliant sunlight which allowed us to fully appreciate the beauty of our surroundings, the subtlety of the tasteful decor.

We couldn't wait to explore outside and opened our front door to a picture-perfect scene. Glorious clumps of hibiscus and bougainvillea alongside an enchanting brook that bubbled between the white-washed, low-rise buildings.

MAXIMUM PRIVACY

It was a short walk down to the calm sea. The beach was equipped with the Rolls-Royce of sun loungers – a few four-posters draped with shade-providing curtains were lolling under the trees, all artfully arranged for maximum privacy.

Other well-padded loungers sat at the water's edge with good views of fellow holidaymakers enjoying all the water sports centre had to offer.

We knew where we would be relaxing this morning – after, of course, a magnificent breakfast in the resort's main buffet restaurant.

I had come with good intentions of using the gym – outdoors but, would you believe, air-conditioned – to counteract the damage of what would turn out to be a non-stop eating and drinking fest, but somehow exercise fell off the agenda.

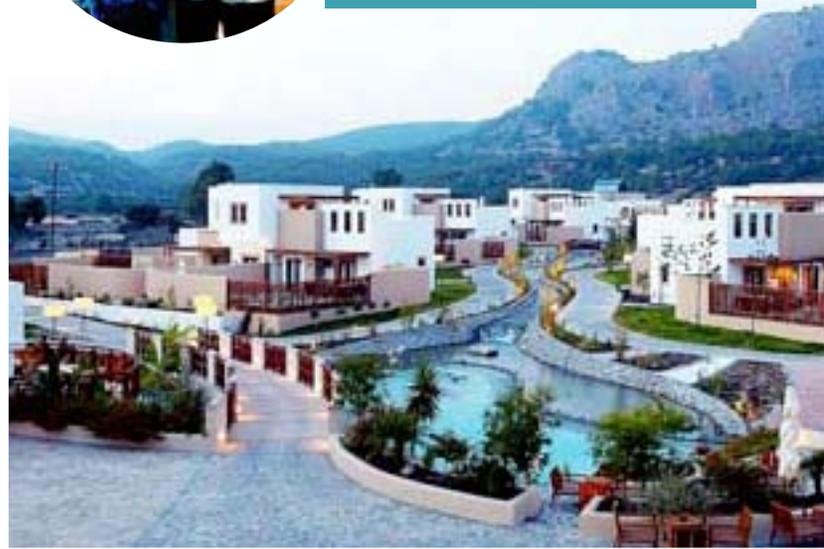
Until, that is, the aqua aerobics instructor Decho muscled into view. I can tell you I wasn't the only woman to suddenly feel energetic enough to follow him to the main pool.

Tom was to spend the holiday referring to him, disparagingly, as Abs-orba the Greek.

OK, perhaps I did pay him a little too much attention, but Tom was equally smitten with the very lovely and charming front office manager Sevasti.



Our front door opened on to a picture-perfect scene – glorious hibiscus alongside an enchanting, bubbling brook



But we were supposed to be here for each other, so in the spirit of togetherness I invited Tom to accompany me to the cool, calming sanctuary of the spa for a couple's massage.

However, he declined, fearing he might get hurt. He was right. I endured a hell of a pummelling. Apparently my muscles were extremely tight – obviously still worrying about that guttering. Tom had a way to go to make me forget.

Hard though it was to tear ourselves away from the stunning Lindian Village resort, we decided to make the most of our visit to Rhodes and explore a little further afield.

A daily shuttle bus takes visitors to Rhodes Town,

A FINE RHODESMANCE

Could an anniversary break in Greece take this wife's mind off her man's disappointing DIY?

Take the plunge... in the private pool



TRAVEL FILE

FAMILY FRIENDLY

This resort is perfect for a romantic getaway but is also ideal for families.

DINING OPTIONS

The Lindian Village has a five restaurants – the main Almantes buffet diner, the al fresco Astroscopus for fish, the Basil for Greek food, the Kohilo pool restaurant for lunch and Mr Danton for Thai cuisine.

GETTING AROUND

A daily shuttle bus to Rhodes Town leaves the resort at 9am. Taxis are plentiful, but if you want to explore, car hire's the best option.

BOOK IT

A Mediterraneo Classic Room at the Lindian Village is on special offer in September for £82.50 per night, based on two sharing, and includes fruit basket, flowers and breakfast. lindianvillage.gr Keep costs down by flying easyJet, from £23.99 one way based on two travelling. easyjet.com Get inspired at mirror.co.uk/travel

Sites for sore eyes... St Paul's Bay (top) and Rhodes town



Ready for romance... from left, Jacqui and husband Tom, the Lindian Village and their room

cultivated with citrus fruit, grapes and olives.

From a high viewing point we looked down on St Paul's Bay in Lindos, a stunning crescent of sand beneath an ancient acropolis, and snapped away with the camera, hoping to capture at least one picture which would do

its beauty justice. Sadly, the brevity of our stay meant our sight-seeing was limited and we'd promised ourselves that we'd spend our anniversary, the following day, close to our new home.

The day dawned and my card from Tom was beautifully worded. On the front, that is. Inside it

said: "Happy Anniversary to a special couple." (Really must get him to that optician.) But what a special day it turned out to be. All the staff had been made aware of the occasion, and sprinkled it with fairy dust – starting with our bed which was decorated with the words "Happy Anniversary" spelt out in rose petals.

Later a bottle of champagne and a plate of delicacies were delivered to our room. And the day culminated in THE most romantic meal, served on a private balcony adorned with more hearts and flowers and pretty lanterns, presided over by attentive-but-discreet waiters.

I half expected that at any minute Michael Bublé would turn up to serenade us. Talk about Romeo and Juliet... but with a happier ending.

We feasted on a traditional Greek meal of delicious dips with pitta bread; grouper with asparagus, courgettes, cabbage and carrots, plus the best-ever chocolate dessert, all accompanied by deeply satisfying local wines.

After dinner we adjourned to the beach and a four-poster bed, not for any funny business, mind – although I did get a few love bites from some amorous mosquitoes – but to gaze at a dazzling sky full of stars.

The Lindian Village had worked its magic and finally obliterated all thoughts of outstanding DIY jobs.

Gutters – what gutters?



Sea views...from dinner on balcony to beach



lined with tourist temptations, taking frequent café stops to people-watch. Until a huge cruise ship sailed into port and offloaded its hordes of passengers to trample us underfoot.

We beat a hasty retreat, making for the must-see town of Lindos. On the way we took in the spectacular mountainous scenery covered with forests of pine and cypress, passing strips of land

All the staff had been made aware of our wedding anniversary and they sprinkled it with fairy dust