

GO FOR IT

Edited by  
**VICKY LISSAMAN**

Hip-hop to Malta for a spot of high life & lotsa nightlife on the new...

# PARTY ISLE

**HARBOUR VIEW:** From the pool at the Hotel Fortina Resort and Spa you can look across at Valletta. Inset left, the island is now a paradise for clubbers



by **JENNIFER DUNKERLEY**

**MIXING a bit of Botox with balmy nights partying under the stars sounds like Katie Price's dream holiday.**

But it isn't LA or Ibiza which has caught the attention of the clubbing crowd – it's **Malta**, the tiny, historic island in the heart of the Med.

I rocked up on a three-hour easyJet flight from Gatwick in search of some serious pampering to get me looking my best when I hit the club scene.

Staying at the five-star Fortina Spa Resort overlooking the capital of Valletta was the perfect way to ease myself into seven days of rest, relaxation and great nights out.

The list of spa treatments includes delights such as chocolate facials and traditional Thai, Balinese and lava shell massages.

There are hydrotherapy pools and hot tubs dotted around the Egyptian-

themed spa area plus a separate thalasso pool with sessions in water therapy to ease those aching muscles.

## Peel

Along with its four spa centres, five swimming pools, hair salon, fitness centre and pilates studio, the hotel boasts a dental and cosmetic surgery clinic.

You can book in for a light chemical peel to leave your skin peachy or plump up with dermal fillers, Botox and lip enhancements and be back on your sunbed by the afternoon.

I opted for the Zoom teeth whitening treatment which, at £320, was half the price of private clinics at home.

Spa "wellness" bedrooms come at an extra cost but with a Jacuzzi, hydrotherapy pool, steam room and outdoor hot tub, they are worth the money.

Pummelled, sweated and bleached, I was ready to hit the dance floor and show off my new bod and gnashers.

Malta's nightlife capital is based around St Julian's and is referred to as Paceville.

Most of the action is around four



main streets – Dragonara Road, Wilga Street, St George’s Road and St Rita Steps.

The Empire Bar & Club on St George’s Road has four bars on four levels and plays Eighties tunes.

Havana has six bars on two floors and is the best for R’n’B, soul and hip hop.

But it was the out-of-town, al fresco clubs I had my eye on.

Look out for famous roofless venues Gianpula and Numero Uno, which are based in former quarries.

Grab a cab out there and watch the sun come up with

like-minded caners. Gianpula is surrounded by fields in the eastern part of the island.

It is divided into five areas to suit all music fans.

### Beat

It was like heading into a neon-lit fantasy world where the stresses of everyday life vanish on the first hip hop beat and sip of vodka-lemon.

My first day trip was to the pint-

sized capital city of Valletta, renowned for its massive forts and grand architecture.

Crowds bustle around the main shopping streets and markets

of Triq ir-Repubblika and Triq il-Merkanti.

But venture into the quiet, narrow back streets and you’ll get a feel for its relaxed, everyday life.

On the other side of the Grand Harbour from Valletta are the historic, fortified towns referred to as The Three Cities – Vittoriosa, Senglea and Cospicua, homes to the first knights.

Here you can enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the Safe Haven Gardens at the tip of the peninsula.

Next on the tour was Mdina. Also known as the Silent City, the island’s previous capital is perched on a rocky hillside and you can spend hours

wandering its quiet, narrow streets. The Maltese celebrate holy days and “festas” like nowhere else in the Med.

The most spectacular include the Easter processions when statues of

the “Risen Christ” are carried through the streets and fireworks are set off from dawn until the wee hours.

This can last all summer as each town has its own festa week to pay homage to their particular patron saint.

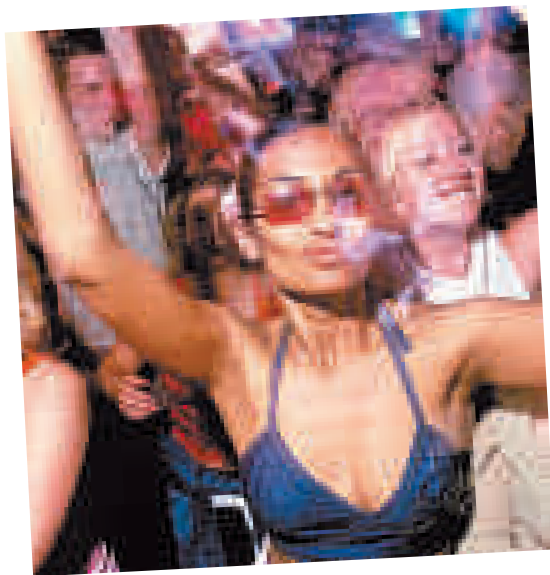
So if you want days of pampering followed by nights of partying, with a large dose of culture thrown in, make your way to [Malta](#).



**LOVELY BUBBLY:**  
The hot tub at one of the hotel’s spa bedrooms



**CANING IT:** Gianpula nightclub draws large crowds. Inset, Jennifer, right, on a boat trip with pals



## FACT FILE

**GETTING THERE:** Fly with easyJet from Gatwick from £29.99 one way, including taxes. The service runs daily. easyJet's Newcastle-Malta service runs twice weekly and fares start from £26.99 one way, including taxes. Visit [easyjet.com](http://easyjet.com) for details. Ryanair has launched a flight from Edinburgh to Malta on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Prices start from £25 one way, including taxes. Visit [ryanair.com](http://ryanair.com)

**WHERE TO STAY:** Seven nights' half-board at the five-star Fortina Spa Resort in a garden view room starts from £599, including flight from Gatwick, transfers and a cruise of Malta's Grand Harbour. Upgrade to a spa bedroom for £49pp per night. For more details visit [fortinasparesort.com](http://fortinasparesort.com)