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Condé Nast Traveler

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

AUGUST 2011



Land ho! Portofino, Italy

CRUISE
SPECIAL

DREAM SHIPS!

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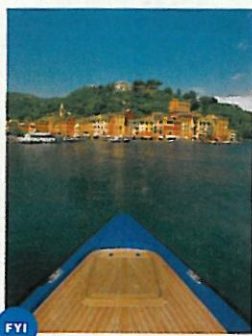
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Live the Cover

THE BACKSTORY When photographer Michel Figuet trained his lens on the gelato-colored villas of Portofino, he was following in the wake of emperors (Italian and French) and writers, Hollywood royalty and rock stars. A transcendent Ligurian coast location just west of the Cinque Terre, together with fierce zoning laws (nothing has been built here since 1935), have helped this *piccolo* port retain its cachet as other Med glamour spots have faded. So while sailing into Portofino is sure to be dramatic, as with all the ports featured in "Your Ship Has Come In" (page 80), it's only the opening scene.

HOW TO DO IT Many of our readers' favorite cruise lines, including Regent Seven Seas, Seabourn, and Windstar, call on Portofino. If you'd like to drop anchor for awhile—and who could blame you?—consider bunking at the **Hotel Splendido** and its 16-room annex, **Splendido Mare**, where the guest book reads like a marquee (Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall, Madonna) and the cliffside pool has peerless views (39-0185-267-801; doubles, \$1,102–\$2,270).

THE 360 See those green awnings on the left in the photo? They border the famously lovely piazzetta and shade the coveted tables at **Ristorante Puny** (39-0185-269-037; entrées, \$29–\$66). Work off the *primi*, *secondi*, and *dolci* by strolling to the twelfth-century San Martino Church (note its bell tower peeking over the rooftops) or, if you're more ambitious, by trekking the Sentiero Azzurro, a coastal path that links the Cinque Terre villages. It's fairly rugged, but there's no better way—on dry land, at least—to take in the Riviera di Levante.



FYI

All decked out: Portofino, as seen from the bow of the 47 Wallypower motor yacht chartered by cover photographer Michel Figuet.