

# HOME & AWAY

## BABY, IT'S BOLD OUTSIDE

Spruce up your outdoor space on the cheap with bright accessories and clever upcycling

On table, from left: serving bowl, £35, Marks & Spencer; salad servers, £16 for pair, Linea at House of Fraser; green plate, £5, House of Fraser; tumblers, £2.50 each, House by John Lewis; green bowls, £4 each, House of Fraser; napkins, £3.99 each,

H&M; plates (beneath bowls), £3.50 each, Marks & Spencer; wooden bowl, £14.99, H&M; table runner, £20, John Lewis; plant pot, £25, House of Fraser; plant, from a selection at B&Q; zinc pot, £2.99, H&M; plastic cutlery, £10 for set, House by John Lewis;

small glass lantern, £7.99, H&M; glass bottle, £5, House by John Lewis; glass planter, £25, Next; plastic wine glass, £1, Matalan; lantern, £22, Sainsbury's; candle (inside lantern), £5, Next; radio, £60, Roberts; parasol, £29, B&Q →

From left: yellow beanbag (just seen), £70, Habitat; blue chair, £99, Barker & Stonehouse; cushion, £20, House of Fraser; table, stylist's own; green chair, £45, Habitat; floral tie cushion, £20, House of Fraser; blue chairs, £15 each, B&Q; striped tie cushion, £20, House of Fraser

## OFF THE RAILS

To add the wow factor to your plant box, pop down to your local metal scrap yard or welding company and pick up old railings to place behind it. You could also use an old gate or a metal headboard. Spray with paint and add climbing plants.

Dulux Paint Mixing Kitchen Plus Matt in Spring Breeze, £24.49 for 2.5l, B&Q



## WHAT PAPERWORK?

Reuse an old filing cabinet to create a focal point in your garden. Remove the drawers, add a slick of paint and drill holes in the bottom so water can drain out, before filling with compost and your fave flowers. Dulux Paint Mixing Kitchen Plus Matt in Luscious Lime, £24.49 for 2.5l, B&Q; cushion, £10, throw, £60, both Linea at House of Fraser; lime pot, £28 for pair, Next; plants, from a selection at Squires Garden Centres

## HERBAL ESSENCES

For a DIY herb garden with a difference, attach some jam or Kilner jars to spare pieces of wood you have lying around using Jubilee clips.

Treated wooden gravel boards, from £3.98 each, B&Q; Kilner jars, £10.99 for three, Lakeland; Jubilee clips, £11.15 for 10, Screwfix; various herbs, from £1.99 each, Squires Garden Centres



## KITCHEN CLEAR-OUT

To create interesting plant pots, revive old teapots, metal boxes and colanders with a wash of bright, waterproof paint. Just make sure you drill holes in the bottom for drainage.

Green paint: Dulux Paint Mixing Kitchen Plus Matt in Enchanted Eden, yellow paint: Dulux Paint Mixing Kitchen Plus Matt in Spring Breeze, both £24.49 for 2.5l, B&Q; colander, £10.99, Lakeland





## CENTRE OF ATTENTION

Make a simple yet stylish table centrepiece by planting alpines or cacti in a glass jar.

Zinc pot, £2.99, glass lantern, £7.99, both H&M; plastic cutlery, £10 for set, bottle, £5, both House by John Lewis; glass planter, £25, Next



## CRATE IDEA

No space for a flower bed? Use old wooden pallets - which can be picked up for free from most garden centres or supermarkets - to create a wall display. Alternatively, drill wooden baskets to decking.

Picnic rug, £6, Matalan; watering can, £19.99, Squires Garden Centres



Let your troubles  
Malta-way at the Hilton



This island  
holds the quay  
to relaxation



The Palazzo  
Parisio is  
far from  
Euro-trash



Yacht's the  
problem?

*Fabulous goes to...*

# MALTA

Writer Jo Usmar laps up affordable luxury - private yacht and lobster included - on the European isle

## SEE

Tucked away in the Mediterranean sea, Malta is just a three-hour flight from the UK. Although it's small - less than 200 square miles - the island has lots to offer. It's easy to navigate using local buses, with day tickets costing from just £1 per person. Soak up the local history by visiting the Palazzo Parisio in Naxxar, £10 (Palazzoparisio.com), a privately owned and seriously decadent 18th-century palace.

## DO

Malta is surrounded by breathtakingly blue waters, so grab your snorkel mask and charter a private yacht for the day. A swanky boat, complete with skipper and lunch, costs from £50 per person, based on 12 people hopping on board (Maltaisailingcharter.com). Cruise the waves around the Maltese shores and snorkel at the beautiful Blue Lagoon.

## Fyi

### Getting there

Fly to Malta from all over the UK with Airmalta.com, from £74 one way.

### Stay

Double rooms at the harbour-side five-star Hilton Malta start from £115 per night based on two sharing, including breakfast. Smack bang in the middle of St Julian's, it's handy for partying as well as being the perfect base to chill out, with spacious balconies, four pools and a spa. (Hiltonmaltahotel.com).

**Time zone**  
GMT +1 hour

**Currency**  
Euro

## EAT

For a lush lunch, pop into Luna di Sera at the Palazzo Parisio - its home-made ricotta ravioli, £12, is super-tasty. For dinner, make a beeline for Tarragon Restaurant, a slick hideaway with amazing views of St Paul's Bay (Tarragonmalta.com). Feast on fresh lobster and crab pasta with a balsamic black caviar sauce - a snip at £11. Wash it down with a bottle of Ulysses Chenin Blanc, made on the neighbouring island of Gozo, for £12.50.

## DRINK

The town of St Julian's is the place to totter around for a big night out. It mixes a laidback Mediterranean vibe with cosmopolitan chic. If hot barmen and '90s pop tunes are your thing, then head for Hugo's Terrace sharpish. The roof is rolled back to reveal the stars and it's a fab place to people watch as you sip an ice-cold beer for just £2.50 a pop. **F**