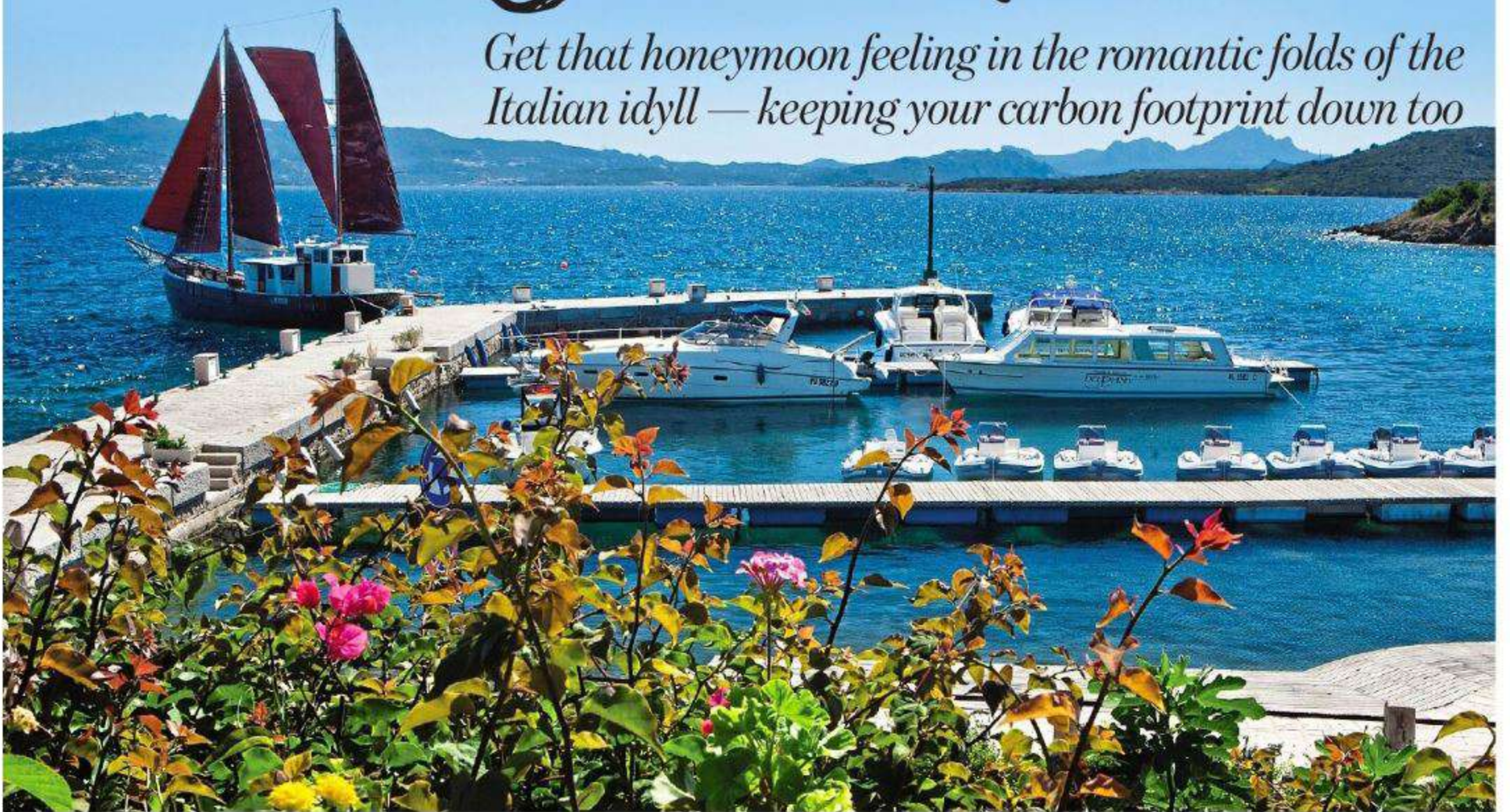


Fall in LOVE with *Sardinia*

Get that honeymoon feeling in the romantic folds of the Italian idyll — keeping your carbon footprint down too



BY
JENNY FRIEL

Secluded bliss: Clockwise from main, the marina at the Capo d'Orso Hotel; a room overlooking the water; Ile Flotante restaurant; and Jenny and her husband Mark toast 12 years of marriage

But we chose to keep going until the small town of Santa Teresa Gallura, on the very northern tip of the island.

It's a buzzy tourist town, with a large open square in the centre lined with restaurants and ice-cream parlours. Although late in the season, there was still enough of a crowd around to make our long lunch on one of the terraces a perfect spot for people-watching. There's a beautiful beach, Rena Bianca, nearby and the 16th

century Longosardo Tower, just a five-minute walk from the main piazza, was an interesting historical pitstop. The panoramic views at the top, where you can see across the Strait of Bonifacio to the coast of Corsica, The French Island, are stunning.

We drove on to have a look at the Capo Testa peninsula, which is full of hidden coves and dramatic rock formations, as well as a couple of lighthouses. It's a popular place for hiking and those

who like to meditate, as it's believed to be full of powerful and positive energy from the massive granite rocks.

There are more spectacular rocks on the way to Capo d'Orso Hotel, which takes its name from 'Bear Cape', a huge bear-shaped mass that overlooks the sea. This hotel is definitely more of a couple's retreat, full of secluded decks and terraces, where you can hang out on sun loungers, totally undisturbed apart from getting lunch and

drinks delivered from the bar by obliging staff.

There's a small, empty beach about a ten-minute walk away along the headland of the property, where we spent the guts of a day, dipping in and out of the water. I also made it as far as the Thalasso spa, for a super facial and session in the outdoor seawater pools.

We ate each night in a different restaurant, choosing the romantic floating deck, Ile Flotante, to celebrate our

anniversary. With the twinkling lights of Porto Cervo in the distance, it was a perfect way to mark 12 years of hanging out together.

The entire trip was lovely, and a lot less stressful than I remember our honeymoon being at times — relaxed and easy, just how I'd hoped a marriage might work out.

TRAVEL FACTS

Ryanair (ryanair.com) flights to Alghero start again on May 5. Aer Lingus (aerlingus.com) flights to Olbia start on May 2. We booked a car through Avis, picked up at Alghero Airport. Hotel Capo D'Orso Thalasso & SPA starts at €230 per person per night for a double room, half-board basis, open from May 19 to October 7, 2023. Hotel Marinedda Thalasso & SPA starts at €150 per person per night for a double room, half-board basis, open from May 19 to September 30, 2023. For both visit delphinahotels.co.uk.

