

TIMES Travel

PORTOFINO, FLORENCE AND TUSCANY

Departing May to October 2013



8 days from
£519
per person

Based in one of Tuscany's most celebrated spa resorts, this wonderful holiday includes unforgettable excursions to the famous resorts of Santa Margherita and Portofino, and to exquisite Florence.

Price includes:

- Return flights to Italy direct from London Gatwick and Manston
- Return airport to hotel transfers
- Seven nights' half-board accommodation at the three-star Hotel Belvedere, Montecatini (upgrade to the four-star Grand Hotel Regina available for a supplement)
- Visit to Santa Margherita and Portofino, including boat trip
- Visit to Florence
- The services of a tour manager

DANUBE CRUISE TO VIENNA AND BUDAPEST

Departing August and September 2013, onboard MS Olympia



10 days from
£999
per person

Join welcoming MS Olympia on a memorable journey calling at some of Europe's most beautiful cities, and passing through the ever-changing scenery of three contrasting, thoroughly enchanting and engaging countries.

Price includes:

- Return coach travel and Channel crossings
- Seven nights' full board accommodation in a standard cabin on board MS Olympia (upgrade cabins available)
- Two nights' en route b&b hotel accommodation
- Embark in Linz
- Calls at Melk, Vienna, Budapest, Bratislava and Dürstein
- English commentary and on-board entertainment
- The services of a tour manager

CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW DAY TRIP

Departing 24 May 2013



Day trip from
£75
per person

Enjoy a visit to the 100th Chelsea Flower Show! Marvel at the floral exhibits and fabulous show gardens, get advice and inspiration, and see the latest in garden design and equipment. With time to explore the fabulous shops in Knightsbridge as well, this is a day out not to be missed!

Price includes:

- Return coach travel from the local area
- An afternoon/early evening ticket for the Chelsea Flower Show
- Time to shop and have lunch in Knightsbridge
- The services of a tour manager

Planting seeds of artistic impression

by Emma Cooney

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A SEASALTER artist is staging an exhibition of sculptures that look like real-life plants.

The Above Ground show at Square View Gallery in Oxford Street features seedlings made from silicon.

Clare Tindall, 56, who runs art business Questioners' Garden Time (QGT), says art lovers often do a double take when they realise the plants are not real and her fixation with seedlings never seems to wane.

The QGT name was inspired by BBC radio show Gardeners' Question Time, hosted by a panel of gardening experts who answer questions from the audience.

Miss Tindall said: "Artists seek to question and to encourage others to question. Many people think, at first, that the seedlings are real and this double take is intentional.

"It is about looking and re-looking at things, life, ourselves, the world.

"The seedling is the ultimate symbol of new life and growth and hope for the future, a symbol of optimism."

Miss Tindall's work comprises different kinds of handmade plants, the overriding aim being to convince the viewer that they are looking at a natural form. She often uses rubber in her creations because it has the appearance and texture of the stem or leaf of a plant.

Her Drop In The Ocean collection fuses together elements of plant and marine life. She uses discarded objects such as disposable razors, bubble-wrap and shoes as moulds to create bizarre, imaginary



DOUBLE TAKE: Claire Tindall's plant art has made customers look twice

creatures which could possibly be found at the bottom of the ocean. The specimens are housed in jars and submerged in liquid to suggest experimentation, mutation and science fiction.

The show is on until Sunday, at the Square View Gallery, 9 Oxford St, Whitstable.

Call 07949 267664 for details or www.questionersgardentime.com



PLAYING FOR PATIENTS: Silver Threads are holding a fundraising gig at Faversham Town FC social club

Musicians to support hospital appeal

SIX-PIECE band Silver Threads are kicking off a fundraising appeal with a gig at Faversham Town Football Club this month.

The band – consisting of Mary from Canterbury, Maddy and Anne from Chatham, Rob and Jon from Dover and Len from Rochester – will play at

Faversham Town FC Social Club, Salter's Lane on Saturday, April 13 at 7.30pm.

Their set list is varied but includes everything from Sixties classics to present-day hits.

The event is in aid of the East Kent Hospitals Appeal to raise £1.2m to buy high-tech

digital scanners for each of the three main hospitals to enable specialists to diagnose breast cancer faster.

The scanners will benefit patients and their families in the care of East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust, which includes QEQM in Margate, the Kent &

Canterbury, William Harvey, Buckland and the Royal Victoria hospitals.

Tickets are £5, available online at www.justgiving.com/silver-threads or by e-mailing silverthreads@outlook.com. All proceeds will go towards the appeal.

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