

## Madeira

We sail into Madeira, our first port of call, on a bright and sunny morning. We have been here many times before, and are surprised to find that we are the only cruise ship here today. We also note that the quayside is being redeveloped into a modern cruise terminal, and is losing the quaint docks with old shops and services.



Yes, we have work to catch up with, and spend time online for an hour or so, before leaving the ship for the delights of Funchal town itself. We know of a hidden restaurant within sight of the ship, high up on the top of the rocks, with superb views out to sea, and with a lift entrance at ground level on the pavement. Yes, it is still there, and we eventually find our way to some food and drinks. This fine hostelry has recently changed hands, and the new owner is eager to tell us his grand plans for the future. The conversation with him turned to classic cars, and he tells us that there are many fine car collections on the island of Madeira, to which he will introduce us to in future emails. In fact, we stayed talking with him for quite some time, after which we returned to the Braemar.



The sun was still shining, so we ventured to the deck at the top of the ship which houses the swimming pools, open bar area, wicker tables and chairs, and many sun loungers. Here we meet up with fellow guest lecturers Sandy and her husband, where we all relax in the sun.



At this point let us give you the list of speakers, lecturers, and entertainers:-

Ian Black	Guest Speaker
Netta Martin	Enhancement Speaker
Lynn Sweet	Vocal Coach
Gilbert Davies	Watercolour Painting Instructor
Malcolm/Valerie Golding	Bridge Instructors
Sandy Sharpe	Guest Speaker
Owain/Alvina Williams	Arts Club Guest Speakers
Anthony Stuart Lloyd	Vocal Entertainer
Michael Bacala	Virtuoso Violinist
Lee Carroll	Comedy Entertainer
Kevin/Cynthia O'Donnell	Classical Entertainers

For our part, our contract is to give a series of afternoon guest lectures to passengers in the main show lounge. We asked the cruise director if we could follow these sessions with computer workshops, to which he readily agreed, so we now also conduct workshops from 11am to 1pm daily.

In addition, we mentioned our interest in classic cars to our cruise director, who was very interested, and this has led to us giving a further guest lecture tomorrow afternoon on classic cars - a first for us!

We will let you know how it was received!