THE ROAD TO ROME
SEPTEMBER 27–OCTOBER 7, 2016
Hosted by Author Alex Kershaw
Rich in culture and exuding charm, Italy is in itself a vast world heritage site complete with the finest food and wines to be found in the Mediterranean. A land ripe for discovery, Italy’s scenic harbors dot dramatic coastlines framed by magnificent cliff-top villages.

Students of history and ancient civilizations have long understood the strategic importance of Sicily and Italy, and armies throughout the ages have valued Sicily’s location as a launching pad to southern Europe. Winston Churchill called Italy the “soft underbelly of Europe” and in 1943 Eisenhower launched the Allied Forces Italian Campaign, initiating “The Road to Rome.”

Beginning in Sicily before stalling on the shores of Salerno and continuing through the rugged, stunning Italian countryside, the road to Rome was predicted to be easy, but turned out to be the toughest campaign for the Allies in World War II.

This Mediterranean cruise, based on the journey recounted in Alex Kershaw’s The Liberator, takes us to beautiful historic sites in Malta, southern Italy and Sicily as well as key World War II battlefields on the road to the eternal city, including Salerno, Monte Cassino and Anzio.

Join Alex as he recounts the unfolding of history on these dramatic shores. His interviews with many veterans who fought courageously in Italy offer a unique perspective on the challenges, victories and losses en route from Sicily to Rome. As we visit charming villages along our route, we are certain to emerge from our journey with renewed appreciation for the sacrifices that altered the course of history.

Alex Kershaw, the host of our journey, is the New York Times best-selling author of several popular World War II titles, including The Bedford Boys and The Liberator, which weaves the tale of one World War II soldier’s 500-day journey from the beaches of Sicily to the gates of Dachau. Alex is a British-born journalist, guest lecturer and guide at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, whose work emphasizes the human face of war. As our on-board expert historian, he leads our journey with insightful narrative as we trace the footsteps of Felix Sparks, aka The Liberator. To learn more about Alex, please visit www.alexkershaw.com.
SEPTEMBER 27/28: HOME • ROME, ITALY
Depart your home city on September 27 for an overnight flight to Rome, Italy. Upon arrival, you will be transported to the five-star Hotel Bernini Bristol. Tonight, we meet our fellow travelers and host Alex Kershaw as we enjoy our welcome dinner.

SEPTEMBER 29: ANZIO, ITALY
Lunch today is in Anzio with local war historian and guide, Enrico Canini, who leads an exclusive private tour of the Caves of Anzio, around which raged the fiercest fighting during the Battle of Anzio in February 1944. This is also where Felix Sparks, the central hero of *The Liberator*, lost his entire infantry company during a week of relentless combat. In the afternoon, we lay wreaths at the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery and Memorial where 7,861 Americans are buried. On our return trip to Rome, via Cisterna, Alex tells of the Allied break out from Anzio and the fight for Rome.

SEPTEMBER 30: ROME • EMBARK AZAMARA JOURNEY
Liberated by the Allies on June 4, 1944, Rome’s status as an “open city” saved it from many of the ravages of war and many must-see venues remain as they always have been. During our tour of Rome’s key sites, Kershaw weaves the thrilling story of how the amazing OSS spy Peter Tomkins and an American family living within the walls of the Vatican, functioned under the Nazi occupation of Rome. After our private tour of the Vatican this afternoon, we embark Azamara Journey.
OCTOBER 1: SORRENTO ● MONTE CASSINO, ITALY

Today, we visit Monte Cassino, a medieval Benedictine monastery built as an impressive citadel overlooking the Liri Valley, a valley that forms the most direct route to Rome. The Germans used this Roman bastion of art and teaching as the fulcrum of their heavily fortified Gustav Line. We tour the rebuilt abbey, scene of some of the most heroic combat in Italy in World War II. We then pay our respects at the nearby Commonwealth War Cemetery, among the most moving memorials to sacrifice and courage in Europe.

Guests may instead visit Pompeii or Amalfi on an Azamara Land Discovery tour.

OCTOBER 2: SORRENTO ● ISLE OF CAPRI, ITALY

We board a private boat to one of the most charming sites in Italy, following in the wake of lucky soldiers who escaped the rigors of war for precious hours to visit the island of Capri. After lunch at the historic Hotel Punta Tragara, where both Eisenhower and Churchill stayed during the war, we enjoy a walking tour of this veritable World War II oasis, mercifully untouched by fighting. Our private boat then returns us to Sorrento.
October 3: Taormina, Italy

The charming resort town of Taormina greets us this morning as we arrive in Sicily. Our day begins with a visit to the Historical Museum of the Landings, which vividly tells the story of the Allied campaign in Sicily. Then, we tour the Commonwealth War Cemetery located in a beautiful grove with a magnificent view of Mount Etna, the highest active volcano in Europe. We have plenty of time this afternoon to explore Taormina, a cliff-hanging, old-world locale, often compared to Postano and Eze, France. Our local guide leads us through the charming market, buzzing shops and cafes to the Ancient Greek theater, home to performances for two thousand years. Theater seats look out over dramatic cliffs to the shimmering Ionian Sea and a coastline that is visible for 30 miles.

October 4: Valletta, Malta

An exclusive private tour of the Malta at War Museum is on the schedule today, where we learn about the epic siege of Malta, one of the greatest battles of World War II. In the afternoon, our private tour continues with a visit to the underground Lascaris War Rooms, where a nervous General Dwight Eisenhower masterminded the invasion of Sicily, as recounted in the opening chapters of The Liberator.

Guests may instead join an Azamara Land Discovery tour to visit the palaces, cathedrals and gardens of Valletta or on a panoramic drive of the island.
Today, we have the opportunity to visit one of the most important archaeological sites in the world, The Valley of the Temples. A walk through this UNESCO World Heritage site, home to seven ancient temples, offers a glimpse of the beauty of this ancient cultural center that has inspired writers, poets and painters for centuries. Alternatively, we visit the Allied landing sites from Gela to Licata, followed by a final wreath laying ceremony at the memorial dedicated to the 82nd Airborne close to the Ponte Dirillo Bridge.

October 5: Porto Empedocle, Italy

October 6: Day at Sea

What better way to reflect on our journey than to delight in a full day at sea? Sit back, relax and enjoy the day as we make our way back to Rome. This evening’s farewell dinner will be highlighted by a wrap-up discussion hosted by Alex Kershaw.

October 7: Rome, Italy ● Home

We bid farewell to Azamara Journey and her crew as we disembark and transfer to the Rome Airport for return flights home.
CLASSIC CHARM. MODERN LUXURY.

Our historic journey deserves to be paired with the finest accommodation; venues that reflect the unique character of the places we visit, places where your every need is delightfully met.

We unwind in Rome at the Hotel Bernini Bristol, praised for their attention to service and hospitality and ideally located in the eternal city. Wonderful views of the Roman cityscape greet you from the rooftop terrace, and just a few steps from the entrance, a world of culinary delights await. You will enjoy our central location, walking distance to historic sites, quaint shops and wonderful dining.

As we transfer from shore to ship and board Azamara Journey, you will experience the ideal balance between small ship intimacy and the amenities typical of larger vessels. With a club-like atmosphere, plenty of space to explore, shopping, lounges and a casino, Azamara Journey will be the perfect home away from home as we cruise the coastlines of Italy.

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To view complete pricing and remaining trip details, please request a full trip brochure using the brochure request button posted throughout our website, or call us at 1-919-942-3464.

Each trip brochure may be viewed live online or received via postal mail.

Thank you for your interest in our memorable adventures.