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# Il-Bizzilla

THE AIR MALTA IN-FLIGHT MAGAZINE



**AGRITOURISM IN MALTA** p. 14 Cooking for the season, the Mediterranean way.

**TALK OF THE TOWN** p. 58 This month take a look at what Rabat has to offer.



# MINIMALIST MALTA

ICONIC MALTESE STAPLES THROUGH THE EYES OF THE *TE FIT-TAZZA* TEAM

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**D**ynamic duo Andrew Farrugia and Craig Macdonald translate symbols of our archipelago's eclectic culture and unique identity in their one-year old project, *Te fit-Tazza*. Their contemporary pieces of art set out to document iconic elements of Malta.

"All of our prints celebrate the island's charm, but some in particular, add a dose of nostalgia," Craig says. "Our aim was to capture and document these attributes in the form of minimalist depictions. Taking away as much detail from our subjects as is possible, while keeping the subject instantly recognisable."

In their first series, *Te fit-Tazza* takes us on a visual trip around the island's intriguing landscape:

## NORTHERN TOUR: MELLIEĦA

### TORRI L-AĦMAR

Majestically perched on top of a hill, the Red Tower - built in 1647 by the Order of St John to strengthen northern coastal defences - is an iconic part of the northern landscape, famous for surrounding country walks as well as its history.

*Artist's note: "This print comes with a lot of unforgettable childhood memories that we can treasure for years to come. As a watchtower, it is definitely the most iconic on the island: its colour and the aesthetic of this unique tower tie in as an illustration, lending perfectly to the beauty that we try to capture in our prints."*

## GOZO TOUR: QBAJJAR & WIED IL-GĦASRI

### QBAJJAR

During the sweltering summer months, one can witness locals scraping up the salt-crystals in what is a century-old Gozitan tradition of sea-salt production, passed down families, for many generations. The scenic salt-pans stretch about 3km along the north coast of Gozo, west of Marsalforn.

*Artist's note: "We're amazed by how people interacted with this natural beauty and used this place for their salt production. This print represents a healthy and respectful interaction between the land and her people," Andrew says.*

### WIED IL-GĦASRI

Just up the road from Qbajjar salt pans, you'll find Wied il-Għasri - a hamlet on the western part of the sister island famous for its picturesque valley. Tucked between its high cliffs, at the end of the valley, is a secluded little pebbly-beach, like a natural sea-corridor, which is quite remote, but well worth the effort to get to.

*Artist's note: "We still remember the first time we walked down the narrow stairs to discover this hidden bathing spot. The way the valley flows out to sea protects it from rough seas making it one of the most peaceful gems in the Maltese archipelago."*

## SOUTH TOUR: FILFLA & MARSAXLOKK

### FILFLA

One of the smallest islands in the archipelago, Filfla floats calmly in the middle of the Mediterranean, serving as a home to a protected ecosystem and marine species. She is best appreciated during a picturesque coastline drive from Wied iż-Żurriq to Għar Lapsi, where one can absorb its silent beauty awash with the colours of sunset.

### LUZZU BY DAY

The colourful fishing boats, dating back to the Phoenicians, can be admired rocking gently at Marsaxlokk. They are now considered a symbol of Malta, lending to years of tradition and history, with the iconic eye as a protector from evil and sign of good health. If you visit on Sunday morning you can observe fishermen at work.

*Artist's note: These were the two first artworks we created. We spent months refining the style, removing and re-adding details, until we achieved a result that was both modern and minimalist but is still local and recognisable. ©*

