

Hi to all - 2/10/2012

We are hoping to take off in the morning from Brindisi, Italy for Malta, with a Friday or Saturday arrival at the Royal Malta Yacht Club.

Friends, Roger and Trish Rees are sailing with us and have been enjoying the sail through Croatia and our brief visit to the "bottom" of Italy.

All is going well. "Divided Sky" is continuing to be an easy yacht for us to handle and to enjoy.

Love,

Col and Jeanne

CROATIA AND THE ARRIVAL OF THE REES' 10/10/2012

A two day sail from Corfu found us approaching the Croatian customs clearance port of Cavtat with the cracking of thunder and lightning all around us.

After safely tying to the "Q" quay, Col struck off to find the various offices for the port captain, immigration and customs, returning to Divided Sky quite a few Kuna (local currency) lighter due to various government fees for cruising permits and for maintaining navigation aids.

Cavtat proved to be a terrific port-of-call. Not only was it a lovely, ancient village with a grocery store and al fresco waterfront dining, but it was convenient to Dubrovnik via a 25 minute water taxi ride to the Old Port, putting us at the doorstep of the Old Town walls for touring the capital. Additionally, a short bus ride away was Cilipi, a hillside village maintaining traditional customs, crafts and culture including a Sunday show of singing and dancing. Now an international dancing sensation, Colin was, of course, seen participating in Croatia dancing.

With the pending arrival of Roger and Trish Rees we aimed Divided Sky for Split. Several lovely anchorages were enjoyed between Dubrovnik and Split, including the National Park island of Mjlet, where we took a boat ride to an ancient monastery on a small island. Then on 19 September, Col rowed ashore in the dinghy to retrieve the Rees' and their luggage from shore side amongst the chaos of hundreds of cruise liner passengers alighting for the day.

Our cruise thru Croatian waters included all types of experience: flat calms, roaring gale force winds, lightning and thunder, clear blue skies, beach settings, boulder surrounded anchorages, ancient towns and national park islands. Perhaps the favourite stop was the Pakleni Island anchorage of Vinogradisce (near Hvar Town) in turquoise water with a beach bar 20 metres astern (which served pina coladas in pitchers). Here the crew was put to work cleaning the waterline for our upcoming passage.

After fuelling at Ubli on the island of Lastovo, Col tried to find all of the officials for outbound clearance. It only took a few hours, and then we were set for a day-night-day sail towards Brindisi, Italy with a good weather forecast and enthusiastic crew looking forward to their first international ocean passage.







