

BSAC WIN! OTTER BRITANNIC DRY SUIT WORTH £1,005

DIVE

www.divemagazine.co.uk

Britain's best-selling scuba magazine
May 2011 • £3.99

SECRET SEAS

New TV series
on UK diving

BEST OF THE MED

Sardinia • Cyprus
Malta • Ibiza • France

ENTER THE KITTIWAKE

First dives on Grand Cayman's new wreck



» EARLY SEASON DIVES IN CORNWALL



» EXPLORING THE AZORES



» CLUB TRIP TO THE SOUTH OF FRANCE



SIX OF THE BEST
COMPRESSED NEOPRENE
DRY SUITS ON TEST



Contents

MED MAGIC: find out more about diving in Sardinia on page 87

EQUIPMENT

- 31 WARM COMPRESS**
Charles Hood looks at the benefits of compressed-neoprene drysuits
- 37 TEST ZONE**
Northern Diver Storm 6/4 wetsuit...
Aquatec Aquamarine 300 LED torch...
Olympus PEN E-PL1 camera and PT-EPO1 housing

REGULARS

- 15 BITEBACK**
Common Fisheries Policy
- 23 MONTY**
A new perspective
- 98 INBOX**
Your letters and a chance to win a Suunto Vyper Air computer
- 100 DIRECTORY**
Dive shops and centres
- 113 HANG TIME**
Quiz and crossword
- 114 IT HAPPENED TO ME**
Fighting for breath

SKILLS & DIVE GUIDES

- 65 SKILLS & THRILLS**
Rescue breaths for dummies
- 70 SHORE THING**
Selsey Lifeboat Station
- 73 GB DIVES**
The best sites at Dive Fest
- 79 DOUBLE TAKE**
Jackson and Thomas reefs
- 82 PHOTOPRO**
Fluorescence shots
- 87 INDEPTH GUIDE**
Best of the Med

BRIEFING

- 10-19** MoD seizes items from dive boat... Silt dumping review... Lundy Splash-IN... Fish Fight won?... Crowns cleared

SUBSCRIPTION OFFER

- 84** Subscribe to *DIVE* and receive a waterproof wallet **FREE!**



ALEX MUSTARD

87 INDEPTH GUIDE
Best of the Med

NEXT MONTH...

ON SALE 18 MAY 2011

- MEXICAN MIX**
Alex Mustard photo special: the sea lions of La Paz, Mexico
- THE B24 WRECK**
Croatia's newly discovered wreck
- GB DIVES**
The wreck of the Smyrna



SARDINIA

SCUBA ATTRACTIONS

The Italian island of Sardinia is one of the most scenic and culturally fascinating places in the Med, writes *Alex Mustard*. For divers, it offers the chance to sample wrecks, caverns and marine life and combine these with topside sightseeing, fine beaches and first-class cuisine and wines.

Recreational scuba has been popular in Sardinia since the 1950s and there are interesting dives all around the island. However, at 186 miles long, it is one of the largest islands in the Mediterranean, making it impractical to dive it all on a single visit. It is best to pick an area to focus on and possibly plan a day trip to another.

The archipelago of La Maddalena in the north is very beautiful, and sites such as Washington Rock seem to have it all, from schooling barracuda to swaths of gorgonian fans. In the east, the limestone island of Tavolara is home to sites such as the dramatic submerged pinnacles of Secca del Papa, where Mediterranean anthias swarm over colourful corals.

The best months to visit are between April and October, but avoid August, when the island is packed with holidaying Italians.

THE SIGNATURE DIVE

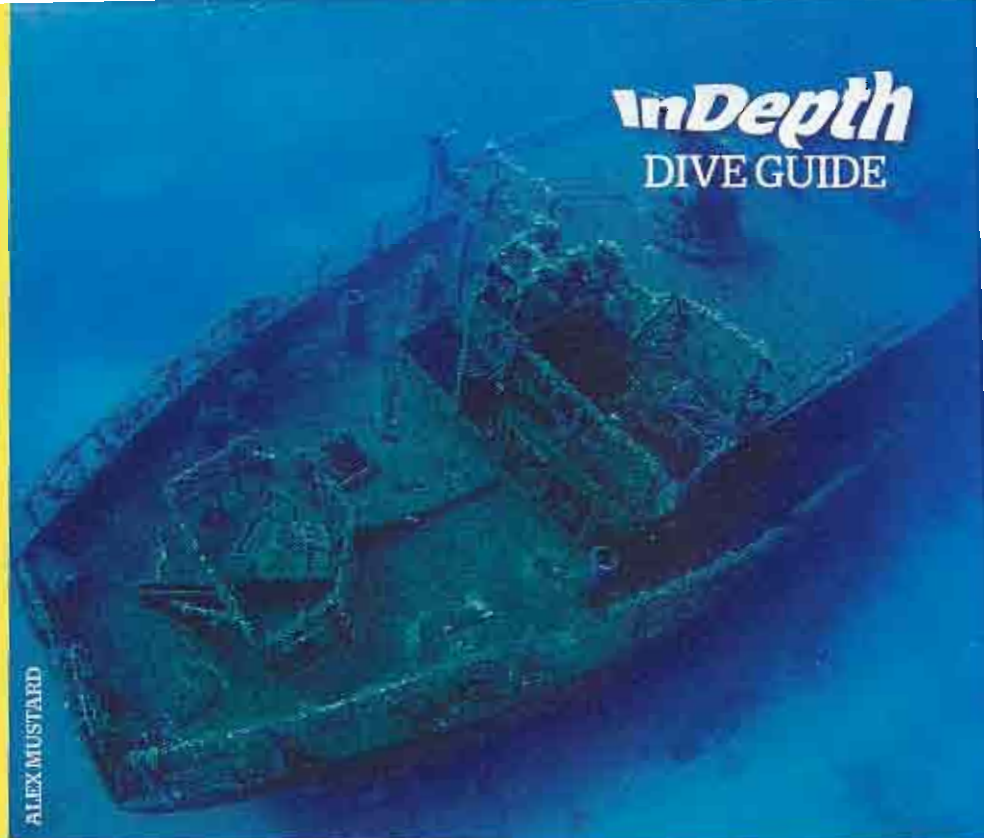
Each area of the island has its signature spot. On the east coast, it is the Second World War wreck of the KT12, a large German landing craft that is interesting to explore inside and out. In the west, it is the giant limestone sea cavern Grotta di Nereo, which is the Mediterranean's largest cave and a great place to see valuable red coral, which is sold as jewellery in the nearby town of Alghero.

In the north, the classic trip involves travelling to another country to dive! The Italian-sounding Lavezzi Islands are actually part of France, but just as easily dived from Sardinia as Corsica. They are home to a fantastic grouper dive where 20-40 of these large, friendly fish become your buddies.

TASTE OF THE MED

If you really want to immerse yourself in Sardinian hospitality, stay at a bed-and-breakfast, where a family will treat you as one of their own.

Traditional meats are a big thing in



ALEX MUSTARD

SARDINIAN SIGHTS (from top) the KT12 wreck; large grouper at the Lavezzi Islands; encrusting marine life in Sardinia



ALEX MUSTARD

Sardinia – seek out the spit-roasted suckling pig, cooked over a log fire and flavoured with myrtle leaves. Baby lamb, goat and rabbit are also very popular.

CONTACTS

Up north, I dive with Nautilus Diving Center (www.divesardegna.com) to explore the archipelagoes of La Maddalena and Lavezzi. Orosei Diving Center (www.oroseidivingcenter.it) has expert local knowledge of the KT12 wreck and nearby sites. And in the west, the well-appointed Capo Galera Diving Center (www.capogalera.com) is ideal for exploring the many sea caverns around Alghero. »



ALEX MUSTARD