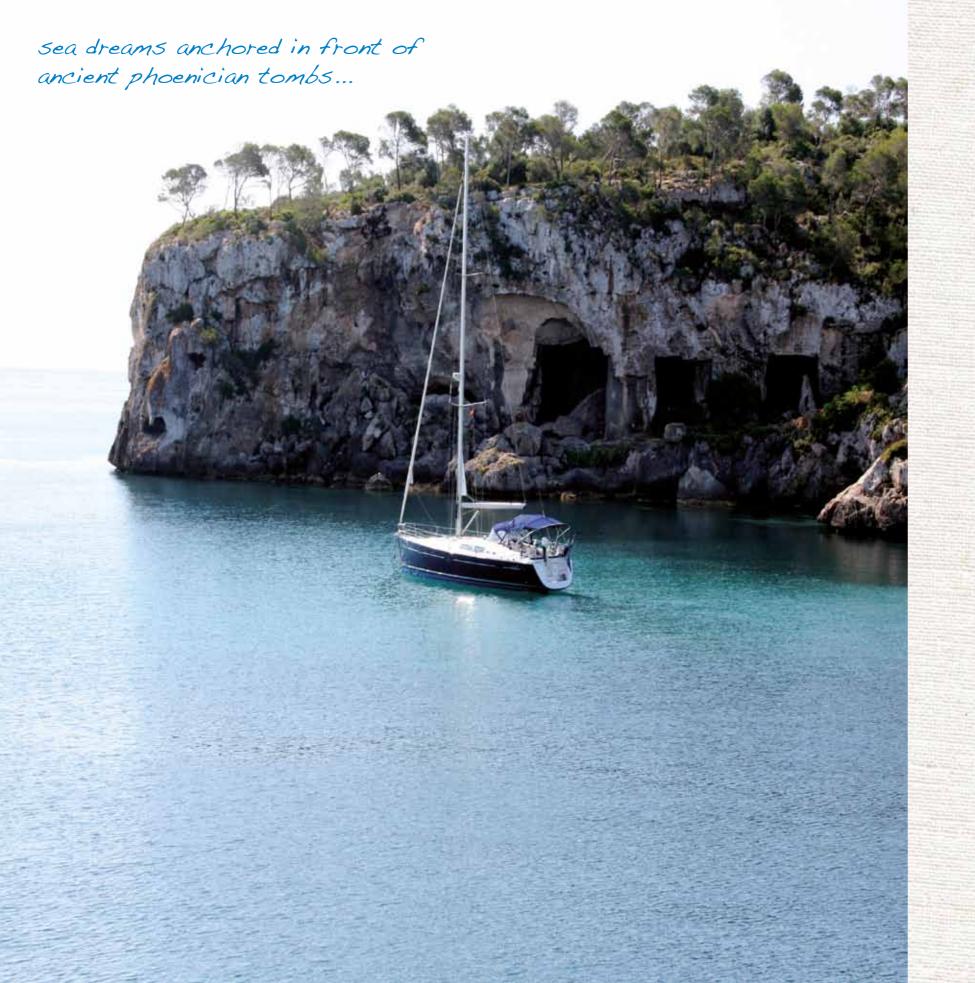






mallorca & menorca

After an early start we had a delightful passage across on the back of a mild southerly and arrived at Cala de Santa Ponsa, near the southwest tip of the island by mid afternoon. The broad bay is about twenty miles from the capital, Palma, and was sheltered from the last of the sea breeze.



within the cobbled streets

Back from the Pantalen del Mediterranean, the marina where we berthed Sea Dreams in Palma, a myriad of winding cobblestoned streets lead to the old town where boutiques, restaurants and tapas bars abound. Some are hidden down narrow stone stairways and are like caves carved into the rock, others spill onto the streets with diners enjoying the sun's warmth and the hustle and bustle. On the waterfront one can loll for hours watching the boats come and go while dining on such delicacies as langostinos (king prawns) or a paella (a traditional dish of saffron rice and choice of seafood slow cooked in their own juices).

Mallorca's white sandy beaches and sailing waters are known around the world, but its wines haven't been quite as popular. Today, the wine industry, after a few ill-fated centuries, is producing some exceptionally good bottles, including what is regarded as one of the best — Toni Gelabert's Torre des Canonge — made from Giro Blanc. But like Ibiza there are many other local wines worth tasting

From the deck of Sea Dreams we watched a never-ending parade of happy rollerskaters, cyclists and promenaders pass by, often stopping to give us a wave. Some, intrigued by the Australian flag, paused to have a chat. The nights often reverberated to the thunder of loud music and revellers enjoying the long summer evenings.

Further out at the glitzy Puerto Portals, super yachts pay millions for a berth, and the chic restaurants and posh boutiques are an alluring magnet for the rich and famous.









