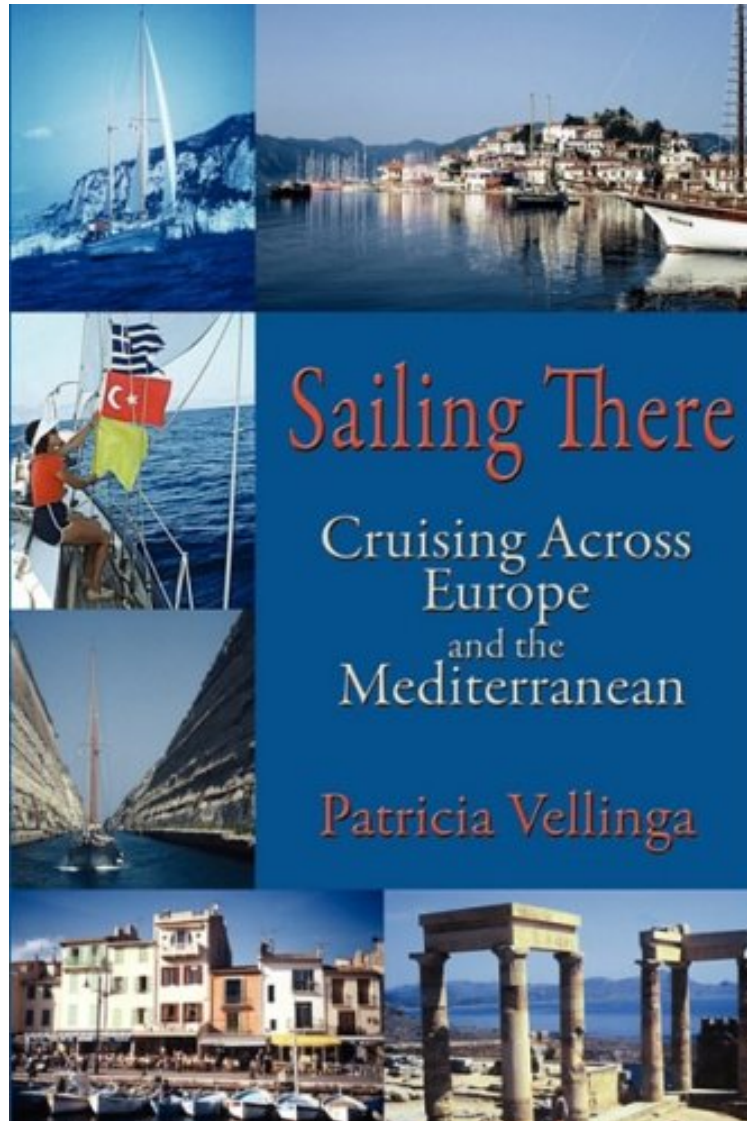


[PDF] Sailing There, Cruising Across Europe and the Mediterranean

# Sailing There, Cruising Across Europe and the Mediterranean

*Patricia Vellinga*

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**Patricia Vellinga : Sailing There, Cruising Across Europe and the Mediterranean** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sailing There, Cruising Across Europe and the Mediterranean:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Being there with Sailing There By Flutterby For the armchair traveler

who enjoys adventures from a safe location "Sailing There" is a delightful book. The word that popped into my head from the beginning of the book was "Intrepid" definitely with a capital "I". It is an excellent vicarious adventure for a confirmed landlubber. How did Ray and Pat ever learn to handle all the complicated situations of canal, river and finally Mediterranean travel? It seemed like every event was different from every one that had gone before. Ray's sailing and mechanical abilities were matched by Pat's navigation and crewing skills. The descriptions of their sailing adventures, the camaraderie among cruisers, the different ports (large and small) they visited, the locals they met gave a real taste of what the cruising life must be like. Pat's clear writing puts the reader there. One of the treats of reading "Sailing There" on my iPad Kindle app was the ability to switch over to Maps, Google Images or Wikipedia to follow along on. Many thanks to Pat for sharing the Vellinga adventures and love of sailing the Mediterranean.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Inspired me to seek adventure on the water! By Kevin Baerg This is a tale about a fascinating couple who have inspired my wife and I to live out our lives as adventurers too. It will draw you in and carry you along with the wind of your imagination as you discover the many ports and gorgeous coves along their course... I have read this book via the Kindle reader on my iPad over the past several weeks and have thoroughly enjoyed it! What adventurers Ray Pat Vellinga are!! Even though this story happened several years ago, there is so much to be learned from all of their triumphs as well as their openly discussed miscues. I never really dreamed of cruising a small yacht in the Mediterranean before, but there is certainly a burning ember in my heart to add it to the bucket list now!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A little scary By Greg Wilkinson We plan to sail the Med in a catamaran for a year with two kids aged 6 8. This book forms part of my research. Whilst the book was a great read, it came close to putting me off the idea altogether. Having to deal with the Mistrel in the western med and the Meltimi in the east, bolshy harbour masters and flotillas of charter boats there didn't seem to be time for much enjoyment.... And we'll have kids!

Looking for a new adventure, Patricia Vellinga and her husband buy a boat—a big boat that turns out to be more a yacht kit than a yacht. Their simple plan is to cruise Europe and the Mediterranean for one year. Their journey, however, is far from routine. As Pat and Ray motor through the canals of Holland, Belgium, and France, then sail to Italy, Greece, Turkey, and Spain, they find beauty and danger, towering locks, salty characters, peaceful anchorages, treacherous winds—and even a forest fire. Forced at gunpoint to cast off into the raging Saône River, they struggle to safety. Even so, they get hooked on a cruising lifestyle that takes them well beyond their one-year plan. *Sailing There, Cruising Across Europe and the Mediterranean* is a rich and entertaining tale of a couple's lively voyage with the wind through ancient ports and history.

A delightful read about a couple's adventures while canaling through Europe and sailing across the Mediterranean, "Sailing There" is populated with a host of eccentric characters including the bouillabaisse chef, gruff bargemen, disinterested port officials, mafia youth, and of course, other cruisers. Pat and Ray's one year cruise is extended indefinitely as they become accustomed to a lifestyle full of suspiciously friendly people, culinary surprises, local wines, and emergency boat repairs. The learning curve from the initial splash down in Rotterdam to the far off Greek Isles is quite steep, which leads to numerous near-disasters. By the end of the first year, Pat and Ray are knowledgeable cruisers and don't have to worry as much about the Mediterranean mooring system, foreign language weather reports, custom's clearance procedures, or the "surprise" of the mistral winds. They actually have time to enjoy the history they are sailing through and many times find themselves in ports that existed 2,000 years ago. Woven throughout the story is the running joke about how the factory-described "turnkey" yacht, actually ended up being more of a "yacht kit"—some assembly required. Oh you thought a ship's wheel was needed? Don't worry about those missing engine components—they'll just break anyways. Oh yes, all the brass instruments are usually stolen prior to launch— it saves on weight. What ensues are multiple trips to the local nautical chandleries (sometimes not so local) spread across numerous countries. The scavenger hunt for parts, decent canvas makers, welders, and provisions will be familiar to anyone that owns or crews on a sailboat. All in all, this book is a very entertaining read, and a great book to curl up with when faced with the realities of frozen lakes and snowy conditions. "Sailing There" does a wonderful job of transporting the reader to the sunny Mediterranean, and while reading it, you can almost feel the sunshine on your back and the salt in the spray. --Erich Drescher, *Good Old Boat* "Often humorous, frequently nail-biting, and always entertaining, this engagingly written story of a couple's journey into new waters and foreign cultures will make you want to change course and set sail for the Med."