

Difficulty of parking in Valletta at night (1)

Peter Montebello, Żejtun

Some time ago a lady journalist wondered why one cannot find any catering outlets in Valletta in the evening.

I would like to rephrase that question: Why is the government and/or local council waging a holy war on catering outlets in Valletta?

I love to go to Valletta at night but every time I do I am risking a fine.

Residents are given parking space between blue and green lines so why should they insist on parking between the white lines as well, leaving quite a few of “their” bays empty?

Market Square in the evening is reserved for the cars of our “representatives” during the sittings of Parliament. Fair enough. Why is it then that the public is fined for using the same parking space when Parliament is not in session, for example on Saturday evening?

Then, there is Castille Square?.


During the day it's fine to park on Castille Square, on both sides, even on the zebra crossing or exactly on the corner, forcing drivers to move to the wrong side of the road (provided, of course, you are a taxi). Come the evening, however, and policemen and wardens are dishing out tickets to their hearts' content.

Once I was issued with a ticket at 10.25 p.m. When I asked about it, the answer was that Castille Place is a sensitive area and therefore has to be kept free due to security. Rubbish!

It seems security is not breached when there are meetings, receptions, dinners, etc. at Castille; when there are weddings and parties and other functions held at Upper Barrakka Gardens and the square is reserved for the guests and outside catering vehicles etc. Yet, security is breached on all other evenings.


Finally, could someone please explain why the ramp leading to the Central Bank annexe and the parking place in front of the Central Bank is reserved for authorised vehicles only? Which vehicles are authorised to use these spaces? And how can someone get an authorisation?

Comments


Edward Farrugia(5 days, 8 hours ago) 

Not only in Valletta it is becoming too difficult, if not impossible to find a parking place, the problem practically exists everywhere. In Sliema, St. Julians and Valletta this problem is at least being addressed (although partially) in the sense that limited parking spaces are being made available to residents, disabled persons, priveleged people (?) and VIPs. This arrangement does not exist in other areas except of

course to Ministers and perhaps to some privileged personalities (the later in my view I consider questionable and at times abusive). This arrangement I consider to be fair but I find it grossly discriminatory as to why this arrangement is totally absent at other towns and villages. Are people elsewhere classified as second class citizens ?

E.Camilleri(5 days, 16 hours ago) 


I agree with Mr.Montebello comments, this government is killing Valletta with every decision they take. First they removed most of the parking spaces that were available in Valletta, except of course the parking spaces reserved for members of parliament .Then we are told that carnival is being moved outside Valletta, instead being held in Palace Square as promised. Now we are told that even the Sunday market is being moved away from Valletta, why not use Merchant Street on Sunday all the shops are closed and it is in the pedestrian zone, at least the catering establishments won't lose the business of tourists that come to Valletta on Sunday to see the flea market. In the seventies when the food market was moved to Floriana they use to say that Mintoff wanted to kill Valletta. Where are the Valletta Alive foundation, the MHRA, the GRTU, and the Republic street business community? Wake up before it is too late.

monica muscat(5 days, 19 hours ago) 


So many questions! You need the whole government administration to get and answer to just a few. Let me try to give you an answer to a couple ~ putting you a few questions myself.

Who told you that the government is waging a war against eating establishments? I keep seeing so many opening up for business all around Valletta!

Parking for residents? ~ and visitors. The allocated parking for residents is just about 200! When the need is 1300 ~ with an over availability of some 3000! Why don't you start to check the different departments concerned and see if they answer your questions. Good Luck

Paul Borg(5 days, 20 hours ago) 

I love you for your comment Peter. I am a restaurant owner in South street and you could not have painted a better picture " Waging war against Catering outlets" . On wednesday I asked the local council to help me with the traffic map to be printed on my new business cards. This is done to assist with the drop-off of the elderly, disabled and Taxis with tourists. Apart from getting an 'I don't know and I don't care' answer, I was told that Transport Malta had not decided for them yet! This is weeks before the entry to Valletta will cease to exist as we know it from Castille place.

Wilfred Camilleri(5 days, 20 hours ago) 

Residents who park in public parking places instead of their own should receive a ticket!

monica muscat(5 days, 16 hours ago)

O.K. with us residents. So long as we get enough green bays to accommodate all the Valletta residents cars. You will then be welcome to the rest. But rest assured that if we achieve this thing, no single non-resident will be able allowed on the residents' bays.

Anyway, why bring up the topic right now, when we all know what is going to happen after 1st June. You might be one of the first to opt for the enlarged P&R + the internal city transport! Or are you one of those who prefer to have wheels than legs?

Tony Mizzi(5 days, 16 hours ago)

The meaning of the word public means that it is open for use by everybody. It is just sheer arrogance that you, Mr. Camilleri speak in this manner. Where should I, as a resident, park? In Floriana or Marsa? Why for? Just for the great Mr. Camilleri to come to Valletta to enjoy a night out. Please do learn, that I as a resident come from work and don't find where to park, I go out in the evening, and don't find where to park, the government, or any other movement organise an activity in Valletta, & there is no where to park. Today there is for example the Malta Eurovision song festival and can't move my car, or wouldn't find anywhere to park. Mine is a daily problem !!!!!

Peter Zarb (5 days, 12 hours ago)


monica muscat, Tony Mizzi You have absolutely NO more right than other drivers because you pay the same amount of license like the rest of the vehicle owners. As others have said many times, reserved parking is against Article 45(1) of the Constitution because it is discriminatory. If you want to always find parking buy or rent a garage like the rest of us. Yes both of you, the Government and your local council are discriminating against the non-resident vehicle owners. This is the Government that we have in Malta. A discriminating government and its not the first one as has been decided by our Courts.

Denis A. Darmanin(5 days, 22 hours ago) 

I recommend to the authorities to keep in mind that if parking in the Park & Ride grounds at Horn/Crown Works is to be made at a charge, drivers are going to be more gallant to risk entering Valletta to park. Choosing between CVA and Park & Ride, one will prefer to pay and chance a place in the City within walking distance to their destination!

C Cassar(5 days, 16 hours ago)

That's the typical attitude from the Maltese. Why shouldn't you pay for the service of parking that includes transport to your final destination? Do you expect to travel on any public transport for free? Don't be so selfish and keep Valletta car free. The park & ride is a brilliant facility that most certainly should be charged for. After all, it's been free for so long who do you think is paying for it? It doesn't cost zero to run. All cars should be banned from Valletta 24hrs a day and fully pedestrianised. This will come as more and more of the streets have already been closed off to private vehicles. Fines for any breach of parking regulations should be made a minimum of €500 and the car towed to make it very inconvenient for the owner.

mark bonavia(5 days, 22 hours ago) 

Tista tajdli sur montebello fejn issibhom dawn il-parkings blu u hodor vojta ha nibda nipparkja fiehom ghax jien noqod il-belt u nigi x'hin nigi d-dar qatt ma nsib wiehed vojta. Grazie

P. Montebello(5 days, 15 hours ago)

Jekk ma tridx parking immedjatament wara l-bieb, ghandek issib bizzejjed St Urusla Street, Melita Street, Battery Street.