

## Valletta becomes another silent capital

Paul Azzopardi, Valletta



Some two years ago I had written a letter to The Times with regard to the introduction of the CVA system and the allotment of green, blue and white parking spaces in Valletta. The letter never made it to print.

At that time I had foreseen the adverse effect on business in Valletta precisely because the people who usually drive into Valletta were going to find it extremely difficult to find a parking space, even if they were being charged for having entered Valletta and remaining there for more than 30 minutes.

Preposterous. If your stay is 35 minutes long you are charged for one hour. Otherwise use the park and ride, was the answer by the man charged with issuing such regulations.

Businesses in Valletta have suffered the consequences and this year's Christmas sales dropped by an average 45 per cent.

Valletta was a buzzing city in terms of business and commerce, with clients coming in non-stop, parking was unlimited and visitors, including shoppers, could still find a parking space here and there.

After the CVA was introduced, most of the remaining parking spaces were taken over by members of Parliament and, presumably, their secretaries.


The man on top has decided to have a Parliament building right at the entrance to Valletta, taking up the whole square there. Has anyone ever seen a Parliament building right at the entrance to a capital city? This square could have easily solved

all of Valletta's parking problems had some thought been given to it. It could have easily taken parking as road level and also at least four floors underground, with entrances and exits through Republic Street and underground exiting the ditch at Sa Maison.

I cannot say whether it is already too late but somebody must do something to bring back life to business in the capital.

Valletta has slowly been turned into another silent city.

## Comments

Pauline Busuttil(1 week, 5 days ago) 

Lill DVella nghidlu biex jekk ma jafx l'affarijiet sew ma jtkelliemx. Ahna ir-residenti ma ahniex insibu nipparkjaw fuq il linju hodur ( ghax ma hawnx bizzejjed ghalina) ghalhekk ikollna nipparkjarw fuq l-abjad jew il blu. Ma tridx ghall'jista jkun ma nipparkjawx fuq dawn biex minn jigi jixtri u ma joqghodx il Belt issib jipparkja?. Soluzjoni wahda hemm, li jsiru undergrounds parking (kif hemm fl'Ibriet kapitali kollha tal-Ewropa per ezempju taht pjazzez) u tara kif kollox jigi ghan-normal u ikun hemm inqas karrozzi ipparkjati fit-toroq tal Belt. Ir-residenti Beltin ghandhom ikollhom l-priorita fil parking dejjem.

S. Zammit(1 week, 5 days ago)

Jekk int ikollok il-priorita li tipparkja quddiem il-bieb ta darek ghax toqod il-Belt, jien nippretendi l-istess haga li noqghod H'Attard

John Gatt (1 week, 5 days ago)

Pauline Busuttil ixtri jew ikri garage bhal ma ghamilna ahna u hafna nies ohra.

Paul Muscat (1 week, 5 days ago)

Pauline Busuttil jaqaw inti thallas licenzja doppja iktar minna biex qed tippretendi li ghandu jkollo preferenza biex tipparkja? It-toroq ta' kulhadd Pauline u kulhadd ghandu l-istess drittijiet.


Sean Grima(1 week, 5 days ago)

ghalhekk tara ruxxamata kaxxi hodur vojta, ghax m'hemmx bizzejjed!

Joseph Meli(1 week, 5 days ago) 


Since the CVA system was introduced many like me failed to go to Valletta during the day, afternoon or during the evening, just because you would never find any parking spaces and the system of the park and ride was too inconvenient to use. In fact these last few days we managed to visit Valletta due to the carnival period and found that most of the drinks and food had gone down compared with those in other places such as Hamrun or Sliema. This indicated that their business is failing from obtaining customers. Therefore, the only good solution is to get back the old system,

that one pays an annual fee to enter into Valletta, then business will be back in full swing in Valletta.


DVella(1 week, 5 days ago) 

where, exactly did you get your data to arrive at the 'average 45%' drop in business Mr Azzopardi?? On a different note, people are finding it extremely difficult to find parking spaces in Valletta not because there are less parking spaces but because of the crass selfishness of several Valletta residents that purposely occupy a white parking space . . . the large number of empty 'reserved' parking spaces one can observe on any evening is evidence of this!


When you say Valletta WAS a 'buzzing city in terms of business and commerce with clients coming in non-stop' . . . one is forced to wonder whether you have been there recently!

Paul Debattista (1 week, 5 days ago) 

My daughter was charged because she stayed 18 seconds, yes you read it right, 18 seconds more than 30 minutes. I have seen the receipt and the photos with the times on the photos. She said she shall never again shop in Valletta as long as the CVA remains.

Sean Grima(1 week, 5 days ago) 

dunno how you can say that when the place is choc a bloc until the evening, 6 days a week!

Joseph Micallef(1 week, 5 days ago) 

And it will become even more silent when the kiosks are removed from its entrance - reducing it in a dead but maybe nice to look at place!

Sean Grima(1 week, 5 days ago)

they are a blot - the sooner they go the better.

Joe Gatt (1 week, 5 days ago) 

No parking, reserved parking or paying parking = NO BUSINESS.  
We shall spend our money elsewhere.

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