HMS VICTORY

Now available for privileged hire
You are invited to join with the National Museum of the Royal Navy and participate in an exclusive event that very few have experienced since 1805.

HMS Victory is now available for privileged evening hire, and is able to accommodate up to 150 guests in a variety of spaces.

The Quarterdeck, or Upper Gun Deck, will accommodate 150 for a reception, the Lower Gun Deck up to 90 for a dinner, and Nelson’s Great Cabin up to 20.

The unique selling proposition of each event package will be dinner aboard HMS Victory, which is marketed towards premium niche customers of discerning taste who appreciate quality, refinement, heritage and a sense of occasion.

She is the oldest ship in commission in the world and is located in the heart of the Portsmouth Naval Base.

The Nelson Touch

At the beginning of October 1805, Vice Admiral Lord Nelson, Commander of the British Fleet in the Mediterranean, gathered the captains of his ships around the dining table in the Great Cabin in his flagship, HMS Victory. Dipping his finger in wine, he drew on the table his plan to defeat the combined French and Spanish fleet moored in Cadiz Harbour.

The plan was so radical that it evoked a remarkable response from the assembled company:

‘when I came to explain (it) to them, it was like an electric shock. Some shed tears, all approved, it was new, it was singular, it was simple’*

Nelson called it ‘the Nelson Touch’. And it led to one of the most decisive naval battles ever fought and created a legend that lives on today.

Now, the National Museum of the Royal Navy can offer you and your guests the exclusive privilege of dining in the very same cabin in which history was created.

(*letter from Nelson to Emma Hamilton, 1st October 1805)
Nelson’s Great Cabin

This is the ‘Jewel in the Crown’ of what HMS Victory has to offer. You can have exclusive access to parts of the ship not open to the public and dine in exactly the spot that Nelson lived, dined and entertained over 200 years ago. This was where Nelson formulated his plans to defeat the French and Spanish fleets, and on that fateful morning of Monday 21st October 1805 where Nelson composed his famous and inspiring prayer.

All dinners will be hosted by Vice Admiral Charles Montgomery Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command

The Cabin can accommodate up to 20 guests.

For every booking you will have your own dedicated liaison at the National Museum, who will be on hand to facilitate the smooth running of your event, ensuring that all you have to do is to entertain your guests. Food is prepared by the highly trained chefs of the Second Sea Lord who are accustomed to catering for the most discerning of clients.

We will liaise with you and the chefs, in order to produce a selection of menus from which you can choose. Although HMS Victory has a rather limited catering facility compared to many other top dining establishments, rest assured our chefs are highly experienced in working within such constraints, whilst serving dignitaries that include Monarchs and Heads of State.

Wine is selected individually for each event, according to your chosen menu and any particular preferences you may have. We will liaise with our personal wine consultant to ensure that every effort is made to achieve the highest of standards for your dining experience.

Dinner is accompanied by a string quartet throughout, and music can be chosen from their repertoire should you have any particular favourites.

HMS VICTORY
the ‘Jewel in the Crown’
Standard programmes

The standard programme for an event would be:

19.00 Reception in the Nelson Gallery in the National Museum of the Royal Navy, where guests will be greeted by a string quartet. Champagne and canapés will be served whilst visitors have the opportunity to tour both the Nelson Gallery and the Sailing Navy Gallery of the Museum. This provides an ideal networking atmosphere whilst guests can acquaint themselves within the historic surroundings.

19.45 Board HMS Victory on her starboard side. Guests ascend to the Quarter Deck for a group photograph. This photograph will be presented in a souvenir frame to all guests as they depart at the end of the evening, as a memento of a memorable experience.

20.00 Dinner is served in the Great Cabin, where guests will be hosted by Vice Admiral Charles Montgomery.

22.30 Guests will be treated to a guided tour of HMS Victory, conducted by either the Commanding Officer or their representative.

23.00 Carriages

We have created three levels of corporate package for the Great Cabin, The Nelson, The Hardy, and The Beatty. These are named after the Vice-Admiral, the ship’s Captain, and the ship’s Surgeon.

The Nelson offers our top of the range dining experience, with a menu designed for your event, together with appropriate wines and ports. Customers are accommodated in luxury boutique hotels, and collected from the hotel and brought to the ship by a chauffeur driven service.

After dinner your guests will be presented not only with their framed photograph, taken earlier in the evening, but will also be given a gift bag containing a number of souvenir items. A chauffeur will then return them to their hotel.

The Hardy offers our middle range dining experience, but with a slightly reduced range of menus, together with appropriate wines and ports. Customers are accommodated in hotels, and collected from the hotel by a chauffeur driven service. After dinner your guests will be presented not only with their framed photograph taken earlier in the evening, but will also be given a gift bag containing a number of appropriate items. A chauffeur will then return them to their hotel.

The Beatty offers our entry level package of dining experience, with menus designed to suit your needs, and wines chosen to perfectly compliment your meal. After dinner each guest will be presented with a framed photograph taken earlier in the evening.

Customers will be able, within certain limitations, to tailor their event package to suit their specific needs.

Dinners will be supported by high end external suppliers such as hoteliers and transport providers, who can match the high standard required at this event.

All gift bags can be individually themed to either your party as a whole or to individual guests.

HMS VICTORY

The Nelson, The Hardy, and The Beatty.
The Lower Gun Deck

The Lower Gun Deck allows guests the chance to dine at mess tables, slung between the 32-pounder guns where in the past the crew of Victory would have eaten their rations. These were Victory’s heaviest guns, each weighing in at 3.75 tons, including their carriage.

Food is prepared by one of our accredited catering companies, who together with their highly trained chefs are accustomed to preparing food for the most discerning of clients. We will liaise with both yourselves and the chefs, and from this will produce a selection of menus from which to choose.

HMS Victory has limited catering facilities, but these chefs are highly experienced in working within such constraints, allowing them to deliver a seamless service.

Wine is selected individually for each event, dependant upon your chosen menu, any particular preference you may have, and a host of other influencing factors. We will liaise with our personal wine consultant to ensure that every effort is made to achieve the highest of standards for all aspects of your dining experience.

The standard programme for an event would be:

19.00 Commence boarding HMS Victory. Groups of 20 will then be treated to a guided tour of the ship conducted by one of our trained tour guides. Guests ascend to the Quarter Deck for group photographs. This photograph will be presented to all guests as they depart at the end of the evening, as a memento of a memorable experience.

19.30 Drinks reception on the Upper Gun Deck. This provides an ideal networking opportunity whilst guests acquaint themselves with historic surroundings.

20.00 Dinner is served on the Lower Gun Deck.

22.30 Carriages

The Quarter Deck

The Quarter Deck will accommodate up to 150 guests for a reception.

It was the control centre of the ship, where the defence of the ship and the business of battle was coordinated, and it was on this very deck that Nelson was mortally wounded during the Battle of Trafalgar.

This deck provides a stunning location for an event with not only wonderful views of the ship, and a magnificent vista of Portsmouth Harbour.

Should the weather prove to be inclement, the Upper Gun Deck can be used as an alternative at relatively short notice.
Further information:

For further information and pricing details please contact:

Giles Gould
Enterprise Manager
The National Museum of the Royal Navy
HM Naval Base (PP66)
Portsmouth
Hampshire
PO1 3NH

t: +44(0)23 9272 7583
e: giles.gould@nmrn.org.uk