



DANTE'S INFERNO

*Fun and fraternity:
That's why we are
who we are*

The aim of the Dante Club is to encourage friendship, provide social activities for members and families, sustain our Italian



**PRESIDENT'S
CORNER**

Rich Battistessa

heritage and serve our community as good citizens.

Dante Club membership is capped at 380. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have all these friends together at one time?

The board continually looks for ways to spark an interest in all members. Special dinners, playing cards, Viva Vino and gin fizz breakfasts are just a few of our great events worth attending.

Two events that build on friendship and fraternity are our membership meetings and our Family Night Dinners.

We hope that each of you will attend on a regular basis and reach out to bring fellow members to the meetings. The family night dinners are for *family*. So let's try to reinvent the family experience by attending.

And, of course, children and grandchildren are always welcome. We can create special menus for the kids. Remember: *La familia sono importante*.

90TH ANNIVERSARY

Viva Vino to kick off celebrations

In an ongoing effort to maximize the "viva" in Viva Vino, the Dante Club board has developed a full day of activities for this special annual event, this year scheduled for 1 p.m. Sunday, May 22.

With Viva Vino, we hope to capture the traditions established by our club's first board president, Victor Panattoni, and his paesani.

On the villalike setting of the Dante Club patio, the

spring event will feature wines from Draconis in Mount Aukum and the Pedroncelli Winery in Geyserville, olive oil from Rosario Maltese, celebrated dancers, live music and art on display.

See VIVA VINO, Page 2



Club member Michael Micciche and family, left, visit in Santa Caterina Villarmosa, Sicily, in 2012. A sign, above, marks the street of the family home.

BEYOND THE BOOT

All roads don't lead to Rome

By Michael Micciche

Note: This is the first in a series of periodic articles about our beloved Italian motherland. Writer Michael Micciche, 72, of Sacramento has been a Dante Club member for almost three years. His business, Italian Journeys of Sacramento, specializes in travel planning and booking services for Italy. He travels there about once a year.

I have an admitted bias for Sicily, because my roots on my father's side are in Sicily. He came to the United States as a 13-year-old. I have many cousins still in the hometown of Santa Caterina Villarmosa, in the heart of the island. The home my father was born in is still there, occupied by cousins.

See MICCICHE, Page 3



Of moms, brunch and herb growing

How about something for dear old mom? Thanks to the huge success of last year's Mother's Day



WHAT'S COOKING?
Joy Reinhardt

brunch, we will offer the same

spread as last year's but with a few surprises.

Seating is limited, so please reserve early.

In an ongoing attempt to use every possible inch of "Dante dirt," we've purchased and planted seeds for the beginnings of our Alighieri Herb Garden, honoring our club's namesake. We'll have sage, parsley, mint, basil and even a few chili peppers for those who like their pasta with a punch. Bon appetito!

NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

Ladies Auxiliary

To volunteer or to get more information about the Ladies Auxiliary, call president Jill Matranga at 916-204-9409 or email at jmatranga@surewest.net.

Member openings

Openings for new members are accepted on an ongoing basis. Applications are processed in the order they're received, as openings occur. For more details, go online at www.danteclub.com/members.php, visit the Dante Club office or email Frank Calcagno at fscal@comcast.net.

New members

The club welcomed three new members on March 21: Scott Klier,

sponsored by Joe Guzzo; Mike Catuzzo, sponsored by Steve DeRoss; and Paul Colander, sponsored by Don Agostinelli. We now have four openings and six on the waiting list.

New members, we look forward to your friendship and service.

In memoriam

Duane "Rick" Tamagni, former member and board member, died in February 2005. Please keep the Tamagni family in your thoughts and prayers. We're grateful for Rick's contribution to the club.

Member kudos

Congratulations to Dante Club member Romano Luchini, who was recently named Teacher of the Year at Arcade Middle School.

Adults and guests younger than 21 will receive different-colored commemorative bracelets. Designated drivers will be available upon request.

Events like Viva Vino will continue throughout the year as part of our 90th anniversary year celebrations.

Between parties, our research staff is busily working on a definitive history of the club to be published and available in the fall.

To capture the essence of now, club president Richard Battistessa has thrown out a challenge to all members to attend the general meeting April 18.

We also will enlist several well-known area photographers who will take a group shot of all 380 members for the publication.

Transportation will be provided for anyone who needs a ride.

So come to the meeting and be part of the fun. See you then!



May 3

Tuesday Family Night Dinner

Menu: Grilled double pork chop with pesto glaze, herbed petite potatoes, seasonal vegetables Bibb lettuce salad, house wine, dessert, coffee
Times: 6 p.m. social, 7 p.m. dinner
Cost: \$24 adults, \$12 ages 5 to 10
Reservation deadline pending. Check [website](http://www.danteclub.com/calendar.php) for updates.

May 7

Mother's Day Mimosa Brunch

Menu: Ham and roast beef carving station, omelet station, scrambled eggs with cheese, smoked salmon with creme fraiche, red onion and capers, Italian sausage and bacon, quinoa salad, fruit with lemon zest, assorted breakfast pastries and mini-bagels, coffee, tea and juice
Times: 11 a.m. cocktails, noon brunch
Cost: \$25 adults, \$12 ages 5 to 10
Reserve by 10 a.m. Monday, May 2. To pay online, find the brunch at www.danteclub.com/calendar.php. Enter your seating request in the description field of the charge form. You also can pay by credit card at 916-925-8230 or by cash, check or credit card at the Dante Club.

May 22

Viva Vino Tasting Event

Menu: Specialty wines and olive oils, antipasti, Italian sausage on sourdough rolls with peppers, onions
Time: 1 p.m.
Cost: \$20 for tickets purchased [online](http://www.danteclub.com/calendar.php) by May 6; \$25 after May 6 and at the door

June 7

Tuesday Family Night Dinner

Menu: Chicken and polenta with rigatoni, vegetables, Caesar salad, spumoni, house wine, coffee
Times: 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner
Cost: \$22 adults, \$11 ages 5 to 10
Reservation deadline pending. Check [website](http://www.danteclub.com/calendar.php) for updates.

Viva Vino

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Because no Italian celebration is complete without food, Viva Vino will offer antipasti and Italian sausage on sourdough rolls, with onions and peppers.

Tickets cost \$20 each when purchased by May 6 through the Dante Club website. They're \$25 each after May 6 and at the door.

Proceeds will benefit the club's scholarship, buildings and grounds funds.

Premium winery, brewery and olive oil partners

Wine

- Draconis, Mount Aukum (El Dorado)
- Merlo Vineyards, Redding
- Moniz, Sonoma-Napa
- Morse Wines, Fiddletown
- Pedroncelli, Geyserville (Sonoma)

- Perry Creek, Fairplay (El Dorado)
- Sean Minor, Napa
- Secret Ravine, Loomis
- Story, Plymouth (Amador)
- Twisted Rivers, Clarksburg
- Wise, Lincoln
- Carvalho Family Winery (donations)

Beer

- Hoppy Brewery, east Sacramento
- Lost Coast Brewery, Humboldt

Olive Oil

- Olive Mix, Sacramento



Micciche

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I think if you haven't yet visited Sicily, you will want to go.

You'll find many reasons to love this island. The cuisine is remarkable, with influences over centuries from Spain, France, Greece and North Africa. The blending of the various herbs, spices and styles provides for the most distinctive cuisine in all of Italy.

Of course, you'll discover many other reasons to love Sicily.

The island offers beautiful vistas along its miles and miles of coastline. Its climate is the mildest in Italy, mainly because of its location north of Africa.

The wines of Sicily have come into their own. You can visit beautiful wineries, and the island is a fun place to drive. The



Dante Club member Michael Micciche, seated at right in the left photo above, enjoys conversation with his Italian extended family members during a 2012 visit to Sicily's Santa Caterina Villarmosa, the town where Micciche's father was born in 1909.



main roads are excellent, allowing you to crisscross the island.

Sicily has many Greek ruins, some of which are in better condition than those in Greece.

And, of course, the most famous volcano, Mount Etna, just north of Catania near Taormina, is one of the most visited areas of Sicily. Taormina sits high above the Ionian Sea, with breathtaking views of the coastline.

Among the many fascinating cities you can visit are Palermo, Catania, Messina, Siracusa and Agrigento. There also are many historical, well-preserved towns, such as Modica, Noto, Taormina, Cefalu and Enna.

The people of Sicily are warm and friendly. They love that you love their island!

A week is necessary to see the island as it should be seen, but if you have less time, you can choose a few

highlights and see them in three to five days. Sicily is the largest island in the Mediterranean, so it takes time to see it thoroughly.

You can fly into Catania or Palermo from almost any European hub, as well as connect from Rome, Milan, Naples and most airports in Italy. Ships and trains also travel to Sicily from ports and major train stations.

And there is even a ferry train for your car!

DANTE'S REMINDERS



Member volunteers

To volunteer, contact club president Rich Battistessa or social chairman Tom Novi to offer your services. You can reach Rich at drbattistessa@comcast.net or 916-961-4854 and Tom at tomnovi@aol.com or 916-961-6197. To explore new social events, contact Vic Brida at vbrida51@gmail.com or 916-588-6276.

Donations

Donate to our scholarship or building funds in memory of a loved one or a friend to keep their legacy going. And buy raffle tickets! Donations can be made easily in the members area of our Dante Club [website](#).

Club shirts and jackets

Contact Ron Cristoni at 916-457-4516 or roncristoni@aol.com or speak to him at the next members meeting. You must present cash or a check to place an order for shirts and jackets.

Newsletter photos and news

Submit photos and news items for *Dante's Inferno* to John Caselli at jac6652@aol.com. Items must be received by the 25th of each month to be considered for the following month's newsletter. Publication depends on available space and is not guaranteed. To post news and photos on Facebook, log in to your Facebook account and visit our [Dante Club page](#).

Contact information

Have you recently changed your address or phone number? Please alert Tom Mezzanares at 916-467-7483 or tjmezzan@gmail.com.