



# DANTE'S INFERNO



**PRESIDENT'S  
CORNER**

*Rich Battistessa*

*And off we go,  
celebrating 90 years  
of club history*

The 90th celebration of our years as an Italian-American social club in Sacramento got off to a great start at last month's Viva Vino event.

The weather cooperated beautifully, and the crowd enjoyed fine wines, good food and a few good brews.

An artist and musicians provided entertainment typical of an Italian festa.

This year we also added a jewelry and fashion boutique, which proved very popular with attendees.

The Balliamo Dancers provided a nice touch, dancing to regional music of the Italian countryside.

State Assemblymember Ken Cooley read and presented a framed resolution recognizing the Dante Club's role in the growth and popularity of Sacramento.

See PRESIDENT'S CORNER, Page 2



Dante Club members Michael Paddock, left, and Romano Luchini were among the hundreds of attendees who enjoyed the club's successful Viva Vino event in May. The event featured musicians and clothing and jewelry vendors, right, along with dancers, a historical presentation and wines, olive oils and beers for tasting.



## Viva Las Vegas no match for Dante Club's Viva Vino

**E**lvis Presley and our Italian forefathers would have been proud.

The Dante Club's annual wine event, Viva Vino, on May 22 brought out myriad wineries, breweries, oil (olive) refineries and other vendors that had attendees asking, "How do they do this?"

Hundreds of club members, relatives and friends roamed the beautiful Dante Club grounds, basking in the sun of a gloriously mild May day in Sacramento.

The participating vintners, brewers, oilers and merchants helped set the stage for a multitude of other celebratory events that will



State Assemblymember Ken Cooley, left, presents a framed resolution recognizing the Dante Club's 90 years to club president Richard Battistessa and board member Ron Fiorica.

take place throughout our 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, 2016.

As a sign of unity, the Italian Cultural Society helped provide part of the entertainment package for Viva Vino.

See VIVA VINO, Page 4



## NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

### Ladies Auxiliary

To volunteer or obtain more information about the Ladies Auxiliary, call president Jill Matranga at 916-204-9409 or email at [jmatranga@surewest.net](mailto: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 details, go online at [www.danteclub.com/members.php](http://www.danteclub.com/members.php), visit the Dante Club office or email Frank Calcagno at [fscal@comcast.net](mailto:fscal@comcast.net).

### Congratulations

Bob and Loretta Hocking will celebrate their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary June 23. Both claim to have been just 10 years old when they said "I do" back in 1946.

### In memoriam

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of past Dante Club president Rich Pierucci—former teacher, coach, administrator, referee and all-around great guy.

Please keep the Pierucci family in your thoughts and prayers.



## WHAT'S COOKING?

Joy Reinhardt

### Share your Italian foodie finesse with your fellow club members

June is upon us, as well as all the glorious fruits and vegetables!

The Dante Club welcomes interesting recipes that are native to specific Italian regions or personal family recipes.

Many of you have amazing levels of culinary experience and memories of food, so please feel free to share them with us.

We look forward to seeing you at a few of our upcoming events, which you can learn more about online at [www.danteclub.com](http://www.danteclub.com).

And don't forget our annual Father's Day event coming up June 18. We will feature summer American barbecue favorites, including chicken and Italian sausages, along with pasta and summer salads.

Petroni on draft also will be available.

Cheers!

### President's Corner

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Cooley spoke of our club's hard work and tenacity and our efforts to enhance the city through Italian cultural events and activities.

The more than 200 paesani who attended Viva Vino were treated to a historical presentation about the club from 1926 to the present.

We appreciate the hard work of our

committee members and all who came out to kick off the 90th anniversary celebration.

Our next event will be Italian Heritage Night at a River Cats game at Raley Field in West Sacramento on June 30.

We also have our Mangia Italiano dinner coming up in September.

Come celebrate with the Dante Club.

### 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



Upcoming Events  
To reserve and pay online, go to:  
<http://www.danteclub.com/calendar.php>

## June 18

### Father's Day Barbecue

**Menu:** Chicken, Italian sausages, pastas, summer salads and Petroni on draft

**Time:** 11 a.m. beer, noon lunch

**Cost:** \$25

Reserve at club website (above).

## June 30

### Italian Heritage Night at River Cats vs. Albuquerque Isotopes Game

**Location:** Raley Field, 400 Ballpark Drive, West Sacramento

**Times:** 7:05 p.m. game time

**Cost:** \$19 special price for Dante Club members and guests for premium Senate lower-level seats; \$7 food ticket includes hot dog, drink and optional chips

Order tickets online (above) by June 22. Pick up at club after June 23 or at Will Call at stadium. Call Tom Novi at 916-961-6197 for more information.

## July 5

### Family Night Dinner

**Menu:** Grill your own New York strip steak, house salad, baked potato with all the fixin's, fruit shortcake, house wine and coffee

**Times:** 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner  
**Cost:** \$23 adults, \$11.50 children ages 5 to 10

Reservations available after June's Family Night Dinner. Check club website (above) for update.

## August 13

### Vic Martinelli Memorial Golf Tournament

**Location:** 18-hole Alister MacKenzie Golf Course at Haggin Oaks

**Times:** 7:30 a.m. shotgun start; banquet and raffle to follow tournament

**Menu:** TBA

**Cost:** TBA

Open to all Dante Club members and guests.





# Bologna beckons with great food, lively atmosphere

Story and photos by Michael Micciche

**B**ologna is a marvelous and fascinating city, well-known for its fabulous cuisine. I'm pleased to say that, in 2011, I had the pleasure of tasting a great deal of it.

There's no question that Bologna is one of the best foodie places in the world. The famous



Polpette, or Bologna-style meatballs, are among the city's many culinary delights.

Bolognese sauce was created here and remains one of the city's signature dishes. Mortadella with pistachios is another Bologna original.

There's more, of course, to Bologna

than its cuisine. It's also home to Europe's oldest university, the University of Bologna, founded in 1088. So it's a vibrant and alive city, a destination in Northern Italy that's not to be missed.

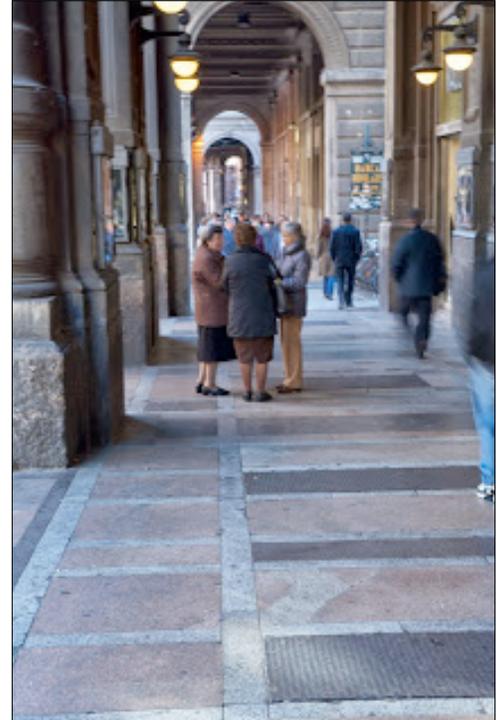
The sidewalks of many of the streets in Bologna are covered with porticoes. That feature, along with the city's layout, makes it an easy place to walk around and enjoy. Bologna also is known as the city of towers because of its many medieval towers, including two that tilt like the more famous leaning tower in Pisa.

From Bologna you can easily access the cities of Parma, Modena and Ferrara, as well as the Adriatic coast.

*Michael Micciche 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.*



Bologna's signature twin towers, left, the Torre degli Asinelli and the Torre Garisenda, tilt like the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Porticoes, similar to the one at right, make navigating the city easy and enjoyable.



A sculpture of Neptune, left, adorns a fountain in Piazza Maggiore, the central square and hub of political and social life in Bologna since the 13th century. Government buildings, a church and outdoor cafes surround the piazza. Above, a small street shows Bologna's charm.



# Viva Vino

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The society's Italian dancers performed several times throughout the afternoon under the direction of Bill Cerrutti. Dances were from numerous regions of the mother country.

"This year's event was a great way to kick off the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary parade of celebrations," said event chairman Michael Matteucci. "We are delighted with the recognition from the proclamation bestowed on the club by

Assemblyman Ken Cooley. Thanks to all our sponsors, Dante Club families and friends."

Plans are underway for next year's event, tentatively titled "Viva Vino: The Next Generation."

Mark your calendars now for May 2017, and stand by for updates.

Our prediction for next year: Las Vegas will be put to shame.



The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors honored the Dante Club on May 24 with a resolution recognizing the club as a cultural force in the Sacramento area. Supervisor Susan Peters presents the honor to members, from left, Ron Fiorica, Bob Guidera and John Caselli.

## 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](mailto:drbattistessa@comcast.net) or 916-961-4854 and Tom at [tomnovi@aol.com](mailto:tomnovi@aol.com) or 916-961-6197. To explore new social events, contact Vic Brida at [vbrida51@gmail.com](mailto: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 online at <http://www.danteclub.com/donation.html>.

### Club shirts and jackets

Contact Ron Cristoni at 916-457-4516 or [roncristoni@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:tjmezzan@gmail.com).