



DANTE'S INFERNO



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Rich Battistessa

Anniversary fun planned all year

Celebrations for the Dante Club's 90th birthday are well into the planning stages. Our kick-off, Viva Vino, on Sunday, May 22, will be quite an affair, with music, art and great wines and food.

Anniversary activities will continue during the year. Events will include the Italian Heritage Night baseball game June 30 at Raley Field with the River Cats and a Sacramento Republic FC soccer game, with a special section for our club. Also, in September, we'll hold our Mangia Italiano dinner and dance.

We're collecting Dante Club memorabilia to display at our events. We invite all members and guests to participate in the many activities planned.

Many members, young and old, attended our last general meeting to have their pictures taken and to share club stories.

Ron Cristoni and several Womens Auxiliary members are working on club history, and we'll feature Power Point presentations and commentary from many senior members.

As one of Sacramento's oldest Italian organizations, the Dante Club is reaching out to the Italian community to come and enjoy our special events.

We have a long, rich history that's worth celebrating!



The central location of Hotel Mozart, left, in Rome makes for easy walking to the city's many scenic and historical attractions. Friends, above right, enjoy conversation and wine in a Rome restaurant.

BEYOND THE BOOT

Arrivederci, Roma

By Michael Micciche

Note: This is the second in a series of 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.

Is there anything that hasn't been said or written about Roma?

We've all learned about the gladiators and the Roman Empire from countless books, movies and TV, but you must see Roma in person to truly appreciate it.

There's so much to see and experience in old Rome and in the countryside. You should try to spend a reasonable amount of time there so you can drink in the many wonders the area has to offer.

The Roman Empire, from its inception to its fall, left us with architectural, engineering, political and cultural firsts, many of which have withstood the test of time.



An eatery next to the Hotel Mozart offers a handy spot to find good food.

The election process, the creation of a legislative body called the Senate and—imagine!—even the idea of gathering input from the populace, to name a few, have been replicated all over the world.

Engineering and architectural

SEE ROMA, PAGE 3

**WHAT'S COOKING?**

Joy Reinhardt

Here's the news about our brews

Come check out our new draft beer selections from local breweries.

Blue Note of Woodland offers a pale ale with just enough hops flavor to keep your interest.

Oak Park Brewery recently released an IPA that's slightly bitter but with just the right amount of sweetness.

And, of course, we can't overlook Hoppy Brewing Co., a Dante Club partner since the beginning. Who of us doesn't love its Liquid Sunshine?

All these beers will be available at the 5th Annual Viva Vino on May 22. Cheers!

NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE**Ladies Auxiliary**

To volunteer or obtain additional information about the Ladies Auxiliary, call president Jill Matranga at 916-204-9409 or email her 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 additional information, 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 two new members at the meeting on April 18:

◆ David Rosso, sponsored by John Rosso

◆ Nick Saich, sponsored by Lou Bisbiglia and Nic Witry

New members, we welcome your friendship and service.

Congratulations

Bob and Loretta Hocking will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary June 23.

Both claim to have been just 10 years old when they said "I do" back in 1946.

**May 22****5th Annual Viva Vino Tasting Event**

Menu: Specialty local wines and olive oils, antipasti, Italian sausage on sourdough rolls with peppers, onions

Location: Dante Club patio

Time: 1 to 4 p.m.

Cost: \$25 per person at the door; children welcome and free
Proceeds to benefit the Dante Club scholarship and building funds.

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](#) for updates.

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 [online](#).

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](#) 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.

**Premium Wine, Beer 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



ROMA: FROM PAGE 1

wonders such as aqueducts, roads like the Appian Way, the Colosseum and so many more physical designs are still with us.

In fact, many are still in use in Rome, and others have been models for modern designs.

Even with all the activities and sights related to Rome's history, don't forget to eat.

Roman cuisine is very good, especially if you stick to local specialties.

Try the carbonara, Rome's most notable dish, or cacio pepe (black pepper) or spaghetti alle



Visitors explore the interior of the Colosseum, among the many world-famous and popular tourist attractions in Rome.

vongole (spaghetti and fresh clams).

Tuesday is fresh-catch day in all restaurants, so you won't go wrong with seafood.

Regarding wines, whites are more notable in Rome, but local reds are on the rise.

Of course, because Rome is an international

destination, you will find a wide variety of cuisines and wines from nearly everywhere.

Rome provides hundreds of hotels of all sizes and quality, but for location, the Hotel Mozart is convenient for walking to many points of interest.

Hotel staff also are very restaurant-savvy and can point you to the best non-touristy locations.

For convenient and reasonably priced dining, try Taverna del Corso, near the Hotel Mozart.

So start packing, and enjoy your journey to Rome and beyond!

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.