



DANTE'S INFERNO



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Rich Battistessa

Vital vote on dues increase set for November meeting

A final reading, discussion and vote on an important change in our bylaws will be the major topic of discussion at the November membership meeting.

Each year, our overall costs have risen. The Dante Club needs major parking-lot repairs, our workman's compensation costs have climbed to a new high, and food costs have increased, although we've tried to keep our meeting-night dinners at a reasonable cost.

With all of this before us, the board believes it would be prudent to move forward with the proposed bylaws change.

The change calls for a \$50 increase in annual membership dues, beginning in January 2017. This would put dues at \$100 per member.

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CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Members invited to enjoy free holiday meal to mark anniversary

Dante Club and Ladies Auxiliary members are invited to attend our annual Christmas dinner Dec. 18. And this year, in honor of the club's 90th anniversary, members and their spouses or partners will be admitted to the event for free.

Seating for 250 guests is available. Reservations will be accepted until Thanksgiving, Nov. 24, or until the seating maximum is reached. If space permits, members can invite guests after Thanksgiving, at \$30 each.

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A palm tree frames this breath-taking high-level view of the beautiful coastline of Southern Italy's Amalfi area from high above the town of Ravello. Popular films and photos about Italy frequently feature the area in all its picturesque glory, and the real place lives up to its reputation.

Bay of Naples surpasses movie images

Story and photos by Michael Micciche

The Bay of Naples and the Amalfi Coast. Almost everyone has heard about, read about or seen this area of Southern Italy in movies and photos. It includes Naples, Salerno, Sorrento, Positano, Ravello, Amalfi, Praiano, Pompeii, the Islands of Capri and Ischia.

The area is everything and more than what's depicted in photos and movies. It's truly a series of beautiful picture postcards—surroundings that take time to see and immerse yourself in. No matter where you look, you'll

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**President's Corner**

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The extra money will help us address the many needs of our older facility.

Board members think it's imperative that we consider improving the appearance of the club to make it a more marketable venue.

A bocce court and a picnic area would be nice additions that could encourage members young and old to come more often to enjoy the club.

Also, our goal is to always be prepared for any facility repairs that require immediate care. Revenue should be available to meet the needs of the club's social endeavors and to maintain the general appearance of the club facility, which will help us to stay competitive in the marketplace.

We hope that our members will agree with the rationale for making the bylaws change and will support the increase in annual dues.

This decision will help us ensure that we can have a better, stronger Dante Club for years to come.

NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE**Ladies Auxiliary**

The Ladies Auxiliary will hold its annual business meeting at the Monday, Nov. 14 dinner. Board member elections and other business matters will be covered.

The annual Christmas dinner meeting on Monday, Dec. 12 will include a special musical and dance performance.

The Ladies Auxiliary meets the second Monday of each month, except July and August, for themed dinner meetings. Membership is open to any woman of Italian descent or who is married to an Italian. Those who'd like to participate or learn more may contact president Jill Matranga at 916-204-9409 or jmatranga@surewest.net.

New members

We welcomed three new members—Tom Bellucci, John Klier and Gabe Roberson—to our club at the Oct. 17 meeting. We also interviewed and approved Bill Boruff, who will be inducted Nov. 21. Doug Skewes will appear before the board Nov. 14 for possible honorary membership.

We accepted one new application Oct. 17, as we have plenty of openings for the first time in ages.

Members, please recommend possible new members by obtaining an application online, at the Dante Club through Joy or by contacting Frank Calcagno at 916-515-1117 or fscal@comcast.net.

In memoriam

Emil Eric Isler, a life member since 1967, passed away Oct. 15. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Isler family.

Dante Club apparel additions

Just in time for the holidays, we have added aprons and sweatshirts to the ever-expanding Dante Club wardrobe.

Four styles of sweatshirts for men, women and children are available for purchase. These are in addition to the short- and long-sleeved polo shirts for men, women and children we already offer.

Please speak to Ron Cristoni at a general members meeting or a meeting of the board members and the Ladies Auxiliary. You also may reach him at 916-457-4516 or roncristoni@aol.com.

You must present cash or a check made out to the Dante Club when you place an order.

Plan for the holidays

Thinking of booking a holiday party at the Dante Club? Call now, as we're almost fully committed.

Our New Year's Eve celebration Dec. 31 will include a four-course meal and a champagne toast at midnight. Musical guests are in the works.

Tickets are \$45 each. For more information, visit the Dante Club website.

**December 6****Family Dinner**

Time: 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner

Menu: Mixed greens, half chicken with pancetta cream, polenta cake, vegetables, winter greens, dessert, house wine and coffee

Cost: \$22 adults, \$11 children ages 5 to 12

Reservation details are pending.

December 18**Annual Christmas Dinner**

Time: 5 p.m. no-host cocktails, 6 p.m. dinner

Menu: Prime rib with baked potato or Cornish game hen with wild rice stuffing; along with antipasti and shrimp cocktail; mixed greens with candied walnuts, apples, prosciutto and white balsamic vinaigrette; as well as seasonal vegetables, rolls, dessert, wine, coffee and iced tea

Cost: Free for club and auxiliary members and their partners and spouses

Reserve by Thanksgiving, Nov. 24. If seats are still available after Nov. 24, guests can be invited after that date for \$30 per person.

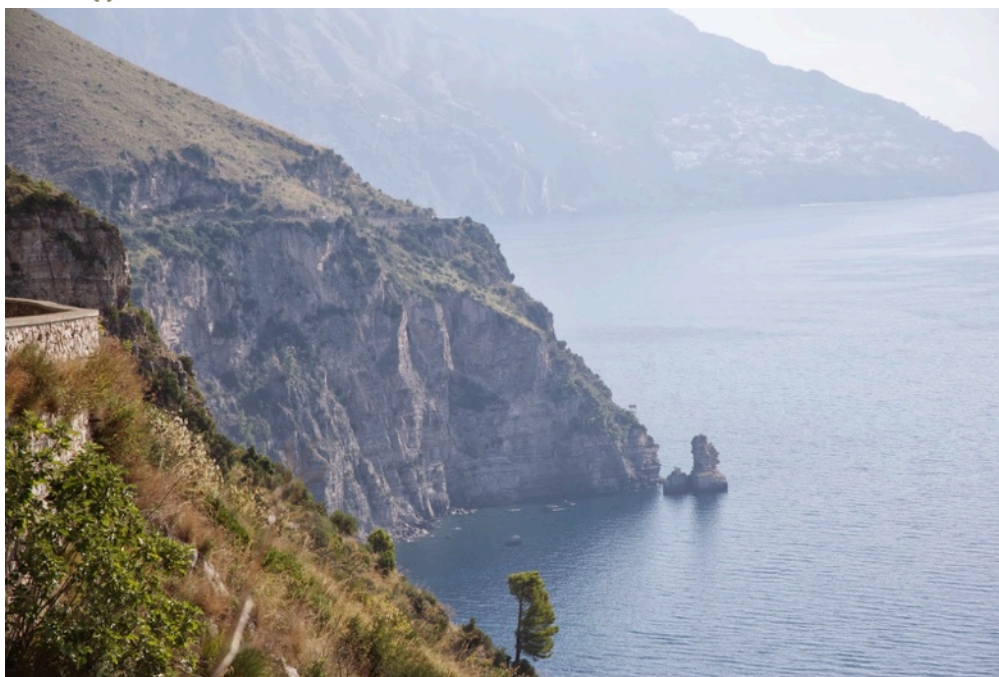
Reservations must be made by credit card online or by calling 916-925-8230. See Page 1 story for more details.

SAVE THE DATE:

Come to our New Year's Eve party Dec. 31!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

A cioppino dinner is coming Jan. 14, followed by a crab feed Jan. 21. Details to follow soon!



A leisurely auto tour, preferably in a private car with a driver, can reveal spectacular views of the rugged Amalfi Coast.



The Pompeii ruins, above, are among many historical sights in the Bay of Naples area. A victim, right, of the Mount Vesuvius eruption that buried Pompeii, playground of the Romans, evokes the horror of the 79 A.D. event.



Bay of Naples

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see spectacular vistas of the sea, mountains, cliffs and hillside towns.

The best way to take a trip in this area is by auto tour with a driver in a private car. Never drive it yourself if you want to enjoy the scenery.

After you take in the breathtaking views, you'll want to return to spend time in the seaside and hillside towns and villages.

You can savor some of Italy's best seafood as part of your adventure.

Don't miss Sorrento, Naples, Ravello, Positano and the islands of Capri and Ischia, which are easily reachable by fast or slow ferry boats.

You can savor some of Italy's best seafood as part of your adventure.

Also don't forget Pompeii for an amazing historical experience.

The entire area is famous for food, such as flavorful San Marzano tomatoes, mozzarella and burrata cheeses, semolina pastas and, of course, the best pizzas in the world. A visit to Naples to taste the original

Holiday Meal

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Reservations must be made online at www.danteclub.com or by calling the Dante Club at 916-925-8230. Credit cards are required and will be charged 1 cent for processing.

Diners will have a choice of prime rib or Cornish game hen.

When making a reservation, click on the appropriate button for the entree choice. If you want one roast beef and one hen, you will need to use both buttons.

No-host cocktails will be at 5 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m. For the full menu, see Upcoming Events on Page 2.

Premium winery, brewery and olive oil partners

Wine

- Balletto Vineyards, Santa Rosa
- Bella Grace Vineyards, Sutter Creek
- Carvalho Family Winery, Clarksburg
- Galvan Family Cellars, Fairfield
- Karmere Vineyards, Plymouth
- Merlo Vineyards, Redding
- Morse Wines, Fiddletown
- Pedroncelli, Geyserville
- Perry Creek Winery, Fair Play
- Sean Minor, Napa
- Secret Ravine, Loomis
- Taylor Family Vineyards, Napa
- Yorba Wines, Sutter Creek
- Young's Vineyard, Plymouth

Beer

- Blue Note Brewing Co., Woodland
- Hoppy Brewing Co., Sacramento
- Lost Coast Brewery, Humboldt
- Mussetter Distributing, Auburn
- Out of Bounds Brewing Co., Rocklin
- Wildcard Brewing Co., Redding

Olive Oil

- Olive Mix, Sacramento

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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 online at <http://www.danteclub.com/donation.html>.

Dante Club apparel

If you'd like to purchase club shirts or other specialty clothing items, contact Ron Cristoni at 916-457-4516 or roncristoni@aol.com or speak to him at a members meeting. You must present cash or a check to place an order.

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 search for "Dante Club."

Contact information

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

Bay of Naples

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Neapolitan pizza is a must.

The quality of local wines may surprise and delight you. Also, be sure to try limoncello, the Italian lemon liqueur that's native to the Bay of Naples region because of the excellent lemons grown there.

Spectacular views and picturesque villages go on for miles in this part of Southern Italy. You will never regret having spent time in this truly romantic place. And you will want to "ritorno a Sorrento."



Italy travel expert Michael Micciche captured this magnificent sunset view from his hotel room balcony in the city of Sorrento.