



# DANTE'S INFERNO



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*Rich Battistessa*

*Board ready to tackle a year full of goals for club improvement*

As the new Dante Club board begins its yearlong term, we would like to extend a big thank-you to Michael Mattuecci and John Fiorica for their diligence and hard work on the board.

We'd also like to welcome new members Dan Calcagno and Matt Longo to this year's group. John Fiorica will continue to serve as our sergeant-at-arms during the general membership meetings.

We look forward to a strong financial period as we move into this new year.

Our manager, Joy Reinhardt, reports that business is positive and that we're receiving many calls from customers wanting to book our facilities for events.

Magpie Preschool, which occupies the Privato building (the old bridge club), will provide a steady stream of income.

A dues increase in January

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Enjoying the 2016 golf tournament are, at left, Sandy Calcagno, Jenny Cooper, Diane Paris and Susan Danelz and, above, Frank Buccola, Frank Bartucco, Ken Buono and Bud Warren.

## FORE!!!

## Planning for annual golf tournament tees off

**W**e're beginning to plan the 2017 Vic Martinelli Memorial Golf

Tournament, which our board of directors has designated the main fundraiser for our High School Scholarship Fund.

The Aug. 12 event, to begin at 8 a.m. at the Bartley Cavanaugh Golf Course in south Sacramento, will cost \$85 per person to enter.

The price includes lunch afterward at the Dante Club. For an additional \$20, spouses and friends can attend the lunch, which will include a raffle.

We need all members' help in assisting the golf committee raise funds so this year's event is the most successful ever. We hope members will reach out to family

and friends who can donate to this worthy cause. Here are four ways to help:

### Corporate and business sponsorships

With a gold-level sponsorship, a business that donates \$1,000 or more will receive a free paid foursome in the golf tournament, as well as recognition in our promotional flier, at the event and in our monthly Inferno newsletter.

With a silver sponsorship, a business that donates \$500 to \$999 will receive a free paid twosome in the golf tournament and recognition in our flier and newsletter and at the event.

With a bronze sponsorship, a business that donates \$250 to \$499 will receive recognition in the flier and newsletter and at the event.

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## NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

**Ladies Auxiliary**

The Ladies Auxiliary has donated \$1,000 to the Dante Club Scholarship Fund. The funds help students of members with their college expenses.

The 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. Women who'd like to participate may call president Karol Buccola at 916-217-6124 or 916-455-4232 or email her at [Karolrb55@gmail.com](mailto:Karolrb55@gmail.com).

**Membership cards**

Annual membership dues of \$100 were due Jan. 31. For their dues renewal, members will soon receive Dante Club membership cards printed on heavy-duty card stock.

Members can present their cards at various Dante Club sponsor locations for a special "familia discount."

The cards are part of an ongoing board effort to do more for our members and are another way of thanking them for their loyalty.

Members who have paid their dues can pick up their cards at the March membership meeting. Members who show their membership cards at the Dante Club bar will receive drinks at half price throughout the year at any function they attend. This benefit extends to members only.

**Card sharks**

Did you know that after every general membership meeting, we have several tables of card players? The card sharks are always looking for fresh faces. Talk to Jim "Lucky" Dimino or "Fast" Joe Cavalaro if you'd like to participate in the fun.

**Generous members**

Dante Club longtimers Ottavio Luchini and Joe Cerniglia aren't required to pay annual dues because of their life-member status, but both men love their club enough to keep on giving.

Recently, Ottavio donated \$100 to the Building Fund and Joe donated \$100 to the Scholarship Fund. Thank you, Ottavio and Joe!

**Club apparel**

We've 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 that we already offer.

To order clothing, speak to Ron Cristoni at a meeting or reach him at 916-457-4516 or [roncristoni@aol.com](mailto:roncristoni@aol.com).

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

**Club scholarships**

Scholarship applications and instructions are available online at <http://www.danteclub.com/members.php>. The scholarship committee must receive applications by March 31. If you have questions, call Ron Fiorica at 916-687-6406 or email him at [rbfiorica@frontiernet.net](mailto:rbfiorica@frontiernet.net)

**New members**

We are interviewing Alex Sarti for admission to the Dante Club. We have 17 openings and three on a waiting list for interviews. Sponsors, remember that we welcome your recommendations, but please remind your applicants that we need them as active members, as well as their sponsors.

**Building and grounds**

Manager Joy Reinhardt reports completion of repairs and upkeep tasks.

The club's ice machines have been cleaned, with filters and fuses replaced.

Backflow service has been completed by Sacramento County.

Storm damage to the front entry awning has been fixed temporarily. Replacement of the awning is on our futures list.

The building and grounds committee reports that PG&E will remove six trees in our parking lot to comply with power-line clearance regulations.

The committee is discussing replacement of trees, as well as awning replacement and installation of two bocci courts.

**February 7****Family Night Dinner**

**Time:** 6 p.m. no-host cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner

**Menu:** Antipasto, Caesar salad with chicken and polenta, rigatoni, seasonal vegetables, rolls, spumoni, wine and coffee

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

**Reservation deadline is 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 3.**

**February 12****Spirits Brunch**

**Time:** 11 a.m. cocktails (gin fizz, bloody Mary and gin and juice), noon brunch

**Menu:** Seasonal fruit salad; assorted pastries, biscotti and scones; potatoes; Italian sausage; crispy bacon; biscuits and gravy; scrambled eggs with cheese and scallions; orange and cranberry juices; coffee and iced tea

**Cost:** \$25 adults, \$12 children ages 5 to 10

**Reservation deadline is 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 9.**

**March 7****Family Night Dinner**

**Time:** 6 p.m. no-host cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner

**Menu:** Antipasto, fennel salad, grilled double pork chop with pesto glaze and caponata, fingerling potatoes, seasonal vegetables, rolls, tiramisu, wine and coffee

**Cost:** \$23 adults, \$11.50 children ages 5 to 12

**Reservation details are pending.**

**April 1****Fifth Annual Cioppino Dinner**

**Time:** 5:30 p.m. cocktails, 6:30 p.m. dinner

**Menu:** Antipasti, insalata, risotto, cioppino, dolce

**Cost:** \$48 per person

**Reservation deadline is 10 a.m. Monday, March 27.**



**President's Corner**

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will enable the Dante Club to take care of regular building and grounds needs.

It also will allow us to look at a few more improvements to increase the club's popularity among the general public and our important club members.

Pricing of dinners, bar drinks, wine and menus will all be discussed in an effort to find more alternatives and to maintain a high quality of food.

As a board, we hope we can count on your support. We serve our membership, and our goal is to make our club the best Italian group in the city.

With your help, we surely can accomplish our goals.

Please encourage prospective new members, attend meetings, enjoy our events and participate on our committees.

That's Italian!

*Il divertimento  
e la famiglia  
sono  
importanti.*



Travel writer Michael Micciche, center, and his friends examine a map of Italy's Piedmont region over a bottle of Barbera.

## Wine, truffles and Nutella among Piedmont's delights

By Michael Micciche

**T**he *Piemonte*, or Piedmont, region of Italy has some of Italy's most beautiful countryside vistas, as well as wonderful wines made from the Nebbiolo grape. We know these wines as Barolo, Barbera, Dolcetto and Barberesco.

Torino is a beautiful and vibrant city, full of young people because of its large university. The River Po flowing through the city is the site of many rowing competitions.

Torino is easy for walking around and sightseeing, and the cuisine is excellent, especially in autumn when truffles and mushrooms are plentiful.

By Italian measures of age, Torino is a relatively modern city that's well-designed, with great views of the Alps. The city hosted the 2006 Winter Olympics.

From Torino, visitors can take a short drive to the rolling hills and

vineyards of the Alba and Asti areas.

Alba is a wonderful small city in the heart of the Piedmont wine region. It is the proud home of some of the best Italian truffles. Wonderful wines, including Asti spumante, are produced here.

Alba also is home to Nutella, because of the large harvests of hazelnuts in the area.

In Alba, visitors can experience a truffle hunt

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The small Italian city of Alba is designed for easy walking so visitors can easily see the sights, including many historical buildings, as in this piazza, and enjoy the city's restaurants and businesses.



The countryside around Alba is known for its rolling green hills, lush vineyards, beautiful vistas and visitor opportunities to observe trained dogs root out buried treasure on truffle hunts.

## Piedmont

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with trained dogs and watch them sniff and dig out the buried delicacies.

Alba is surrounded by beautiful vistas spanning miles and rolling hills filled with vineyards.

The area around Alba is easy to see by car because the villages are not too far apart.

The city itself is designed for walking, so visitors can enjoy the sights, including a number of historical buildings, on foot.

While in Alba, don't forget to indulge in a pasta dish with fresh truffles or porcini mushrooms.

And for those who like to drink sparkling wines, Asti is just a short drive from Alba.

Southwest of Alba, Barolo offers a spectacular interactive wine museum as well as opportunities to sample the town's signature wine.

A day trip to Genoa and the Riviera is very doable.

## Tournament

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### Hole sponsorships

For a \$100 donation, an individual or a business can sponsor a golf course hole at the tournament. A sign at the hole will acknowledge the donor.

### Raffle prizes

The golf committee will accept donations of prizes that can be raffled off during the post-tournament luncheon. The committee will accept actual items as well as gift certificates from restaurants, retail stores and other businesses.

### Golf participation

Our goal this year is to have a full field of golfers, so we need 144 people to sign up. A sign-up sheet is now available.

We will continue accepting sign-ups and payments through July 25, when we must give the golf course a tally of all participants we expect. Sign-ups after July 25 will be accepted only if the golf course can accommodate us.

We ask Dante Club members to reach out to their business connections to help us raise funds for the tournament. We also encourage members, friends, relatives and anyone else who enjoys golfing for a good cause to please sign up.

In addition, members who want to join the planning committee or help in some way during the event should contact Frank Buccola at 916-606-4026 or Ken Buono at 916-955-9413. Frank and Ken would like to know as soon as possible who is willing to help and how.





## 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>.

### 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](mailto: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](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 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](mailto:tjmezzan@gmail.com).

## 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