



DANTE'S INFERNO



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Rich Battistessa

Election of new board to round out the year

The Dante Club's calendar year just keeps on rolling.

In November and December, we will elect new directors for our club operations, so I encourage all members to attend the next two meetings when nominations for the new board will take place. We also invite any of you who might be interested in serving on the board to put your name forward.

The board consists of 17 voting members. Each member, in addition to interacting with board policy, are responsible for working on many of the committees that serve the general membership's interest, such as the finance, advisory, and building and grounds committees.

Meetings are held once a month, always on the second Monday of the month. Committee chairmen report to the membership at the general meetings.

Many of our members have

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A staircase separates upper and lower Perugia, home of Perugia candy, in Italy's Umbria region.

Hill towns of Umbria filled with scenic sights

By Michael Micciche

Italy's Umbria region shares much of the same rolling, scenic landscape as the neighboring region of Tuscany. Umbria has some very interesting cities and towns worth visiting. Many you may have heard of, and others may be new to you.

Probably familiar are Perugia and Assisi. Not so familiar might include Ascoli, Piceno, Pescara, Todi, Montefalco, Spoleto and Gubbio. Here is a sample of towns worth visiting in Umbria:

Perugia

Umbria's capital and largest town, Perugia, is a lively hill



The St. Francis Basilica, a popular destination in Assisi, holds the tomb of the patron saint.

town with Etruscan and medieval roots. There's a lot to do and see in Perugia, and because it's well-served by public transportation,

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NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary donated \$100 in memory of Margaret Vairo, who passed away. The donation will go toward the Dante Club scholarship fund.

Women interested in participating in the auxiliary may contact Karol Renm Buccola at 916-455-4232 (home), 916-217-6124 (cell) or karolrb55@gmail.com.

In memoriam

Nick Piacentini, Sr., died Friday, Oct. 13. He had been a Dante Club member since Feb. 11, 1963.

Club apparel

Aprons and sweatshirts are among clothing items available for purchase.

We have four styles of sweatshirts and polo shirts for men, women and children.

To order items, speak to Ron Cristoni at a meeting or reach him at 916-457-4516 or roncristoni@aol.com.

Social activities

We recently enjoyed our annual Sausage Stag Night with wonderful food, great fellowship and tasteful Hooters girls selling raffle tickets.

The Dante Club's Christmas dinner on Dec. 17 will feature prime rib and game hens for the reasonable price of \$32 for adults and \$20 for children ages 12 and younger. Plan to attend to embrace the holiday season with great food and drink.

And let's not forget the monthly Tuesday Night dinners on the first Tuesday of each month. Club manager Joy Reinhardt is doing a wonderful job preparing very nice Italian meals served at a modest price.

So plan to attend our events whenever possible. Great food, drink and friendships are the foundation of Dante. Ciao!

Show Tom the money

Membership dues for 2018 are due by Jan. 31. They can be paid online at <http://www.danteclub.com/members.php> or by sending a \$100 check to:

Dante Club, Attn: Tom Mezzanares
2330 Fair Oaks Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95825

Checks should be made payable to the Dante Club.

New members

Larry Andreccetti, sponsored by member Rich Rainald, was inducted Oct. 16. Larry says he's determined to actively participate in the Dante Club.

The club also accepted two applicants. Harold Price, sponsored by Rich Battistessa, is from Angels Camp, a thriving Italian-American community.

We also accepted Ron Grove, sponsored by Tom Mezzanares. A legendary volleyball coach at Roseville High School, Ron has already become a fixture at many Dante Club events.

In November, we will interview David Gregory, sponsored by John Caselli. Frank Lomascola and Tom Lippi are on the waiting list.

At the October meeting, members also honored Christobal Columbo (Genovese) for his historic contribution to our great nation's Italian-American heritage. Badge No. 340 was issued to Steve Kanelos, Sr.

We have plenty of membership openings. All members are encouraged to recruit qualified applicants.

Lend a fellow paesano a hand

The Dante Club has long supported local Italian-American businesses whenever possible, and, in turn, the Italian business community has long supported the Dante Club.

The club's board of directors recently decided to feature Italian businesses in *Dante's Inferno* as another way of showing our support.

We will try this for the next few months to see if it should be a permanent feature in the newsletter.

There would be no cost, at least initially, to the businesses featured. It should be a great opportunity for the Italian community to support local Italian businesses, because the *Inferno* has a circulation approaching 1,000 copies a month.

Italian businesses that would like to participate may contact Tom Novi at tomnovi@aol.com for further details. Grazie!



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

December 5**Tuesday Night Dinner**

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

Menu: arugula with prosciutto and grilled figs, pork tenderloin over polenta, asparagus with hazelnut gremolata, poached pears with gorgonzola and candied walnuts, rolls, wine

Cost: \$25 adults, \$12.50 ages 5 to 10

Open to friends and family. Reservations pending.

December 17**Dante Club Christmas Holiday Party**

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

Menu: antipasto, mixed greens, prime rib with rosemary potatoes, Cornish game hen with wild rice, seasonal vegetables, rolls, iced tea, coffee, wine, bundt cakes

Cost: \$32 adults, \$20 ages 12 and younger

Reservation deadline: Tuesday, Dec. 12

January 2**Tuesday Night Dinner**

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

Menu: antipasto, chicken and polenta, seasonal vegetables, rigatoni, rolls, spumoni, coffee, tea, wine

Cost: \$25 adults, \$12.50 ages 5 to 10
Open to friends and family. Reservations pending.



President's Corner

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great ideas and certainly represent a wide range of interests. New ideas and new people are always welcome to step up and serve.

I look forward to seeing great attendance at the November and December meetings.

To increase the number of people who attend our monthly Tuesday night dinners, we'd like as many members as possible to attend the November dinner.

The menu, which can be found on the Dante Club website, promises to be delectable.

Joy's lamb chops are the best, and the risotto will be an added treat. Come join the group and think about bringing a guest. Board members will attend, possibly with guests as well.

These dinners are a nice way to introduce potential members to the Dante Club. We also encourage members to reach out to the general public and other organizations. The price is right, and you will not be disappointed with the food. The more the merrier!



People of all ages take an evening stroll on the streets of Orvieto, an Etruscan city most famous for the white wine that bears its name.

Credit: www.pagestromitaly.com

Umbria

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the town makes a good home base for exploring Umbria's other hill towns.

Perugia has a world-famous jazz festival, a chocolate festival and an Italian-language school.

Spoleto

The walled town of Spoleto, among southern Umbria's largest towns, offers Etruscan, Roman and medieval sites.

Above Spoleto is a medieval rocca and the town's most famous sight, Ponte delle Torri or Bridge of Towers, which spans a gorge to one side of the rocca.

The world-famous Festival dei due Mondi, or two worlds festival, is held in Spoleto from late June to early July.

Lake Trasimeno is one of Italy's largest lakes. Three picturesque islands can be reached by ferry, and nice beaches surround the lake.

Especially pretty is Castiglione del Lago, with a medieval center and castle by the lake. The lake was the site of a famous battle between Hannibal and Rome.

Montefalco

The beautiful town of Montefalco in the heart of Umbria offers interesting attractions, including cobbled streets, stone buildings, ancient walls, medieval architecture and lovely churches and cathedrals.

Across the Spoleto Valley, Montefalco

offers some of the best views of the scenic landscape of the region.

You can find lovely orchards, olive groves and vineyards in the town. Try the local red wine, called Montefalco.

Assisi

Assisi was the hometown of St. Francis, or San Francesco, patron saint of Italy. The St. Francis Basilica holds his tomb and is a popular tourist and pilgrimage destination.

Assisi also has many churches, Roman ruins, medieval sites, museums and shops in its walled medieval center. There are good walks from town into the nearby countryside.



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

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

Beer

- Blue Note Brewing Co., Woodland

Olive Oil

- Olive Mix, Sacramento
- Maltese Olive Oil, Sacramento

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 Mezzanaras at 916-467-7483 or tjmezzan@gmail.com.