



# DANTE'S INFERNO



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*Bob Guidera*

### *Up next: Festivities and transition*

The Dante Club's traditional Christmas dinner — just like Santa Claus — is comin' to town!

The festive dinner will be held at the club on Dec. 16, offering an entree choice of prime rib or Cornish game hen, along with all the trimmings. As an extra treat, we'll add Italian entertainment to our luscious meal. I hope you all can make it.

In case you haven't heard, we will make an administrative change in the new year. Our board has decided to seek out a new manager for the club.

For now, we're in good hands with Sarah and Kim taking over club management, Jessi as our returning chef and kitchen manager and Diane as our bookkeeper. And we have our top-notch crew of servers, bartenders and set-up staff.

Our first week went very well with this group in place. We feel confident that the transition will

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## Survey results reinforce club mission to serve its members

In an October opinion survey, members offered their thoughts on how to improve Dante Club social events in an effort to increase attendance and better meet member needs and expectations in 2019.

The board of directors conducted the survey with the help of a social events review committee appointed by club president Bob Guidera.

The committee was asked to gather and evaluate data on

members' attitudes about existing activities and identify changes that could be made to the club's social events calendar in the coming year.

The survey was widely distributed, with 52 members returning their completed survey forms by early November.

The board has reviewed survey responses and will present results and recommendations for changes during the December meeting.

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## Travelers discover love for Italy during monthlong trip

Story and photos by Michael Micciche

I recently experienced a bucket-list trip to Italy, a one-month adventure that I had the great pleasure of organizing and leading for a client and her friends.

Our trip started at an apartment in the village of Montano Lucino in the Lake Como area, which was our home base for the month. The



Dante Club member Michael Micciche, shown at a restaurant in Como, operates Italian Journeys of Sacramento, a business specializing in travel planning and booking services for Italy.

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## NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

### Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary named a new board of directors at its annual members meeting Nov. 12.

Chosen to lead the auxiliary for 2019 will be Carole Stefani and Debrah Cattuzzo, co-presidents; Heidi Veneman-Pesce, vice president; Tina Luchini-Bowee and Debbie Duuccini-Hansen, co-treasurers; Judy Farina-Montgomery and Helen Manfredi-Pierson, co-secretaries.

The auxiliary also donated \$100 to the Dante Club's scholarship fund in memory of Vivian Buletti, who died earlier this month.

The group's annual Christmas dinner meeting Dec. 10 promises to be full of merriment and fun.

Women interested in joining the auxiliary may call or text Karol Rehm Buccola at 916-217-6124.

### Club apparel

Members might consider Dante Club-branded clothing for holiday gifts. The club offers aprons and four styles of sweatshirts and polo shirts in sizes for men, women and children. Contact Ron Cristoni at 916-457-4516 or [roncristoni@aol.com](mailto:roncristoni@aol.com).

### New members

New member Dennis Nord couldn't attend the November meeting, so he will be inducted in December or January. Dennis is sponsored by Pietro Pozzuto.

Congratulations to longtime member Gene Christopher and his wife, Phyllis, on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Phyllis is an active Ladies Auxiliary member.

We wish a speedy recovery for recent inductee Marco Ambroselli, who is seriously ill.

We encourage qualified applicants to become club members, as we have several openings.

### Save pull tabs

Dante Club members are asked to save the pull tabs from their aluminum cans and bring them to our club events and meetings.

We will collect the pull-tabs and donate them on behalf of the club to the Sacramento Ronald McDonald House pull-tab program, based at the University of California Davis Medical Center in Sacramento.

The program collects and recycles pull tabs and contributes proceeds to the Adopt-A-Family Program. The program helps subsidize lodging costs for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House near the medical center while their children are hospitalized.

The program collects only aluminum can tabs instead of entire cans because collection and storage of the tabs is easier and more hygienic.

### Dues deadline coming soon

We remind members that our annual club dues of \$100 are due by Jan. 31. Members can pay by credit card [online](#) or by check, payable to the Dante Club. Mail checks to: Dante Club of Sacramento; Attn. Tom Mezzanares, Treasurer; 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd.; Sacramento, CA 95825. Dues also can be paid in person to Tom at the club.



Upcoming Events  
Reserve and pay online at:  
<http://www.danteclub.com/calendar.php>

### December 16

#### Christmas Dinner

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

**Menu:** Choice of prime rib with rosemary potatoes or Cornish game hen with wild rice, antipasto, mixed greens, seasonal vegetables, rolls, iced tea, coffee, wine and dessert

**Cost:** \$35 adults, \$25 children ages 12 and younger

*Reserve by Tuesday, Dec. 11.*

### January 19

#### Crab Feed

**Time:** 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner, dancing after dinner

**Menu:** All-you-can-eat crab, antipasto, mixed salad, rigatoni with meat sauce, seasonal vegetables, rolls, sine, coffee and spumoni

**Cost:** \$50 adults, \$25 children ages 5 to 10

*Reserve by 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15.*

### February 5

#### Tuesday Night Dinner

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

**Menu:** Caesar salad, stuffed eggplant with Italian sausage, butternut squash risotto, zucchini ribbons, rolls, wine, tiramisu

**Cost:** \$26 adults, \$13 children ages 5 to 10

*Reserve by 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 1.*

### HOLD THE DATE:

**March 2:** Cioppino dinner



Kitchen workers manage pots of cioppino as they prepare for the 2015 dinner.



**President's Corner**

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run smoothly.

This is the time of year when we elect a new board of directors. If you have someone in mind who you think would be good, please ask them and then, of course, nominate them.

We have exciting events planned for 2019. On Jan. 19, we'll offer one of our most popular meals, our annual crab feed. So get your group together and come enjoy.

Because the first Tuesday of January is New Year's Day, we thought it best to cancel our usual Tuesday night dinner that day. But we will resume the Tuesday dinners on Feb. 5, and in March we will have our famous cioppino dinner.

If you've been thinking about having a family or business Christmas party, it may not be too late to book a room at the Dante Club.

We do have a few dates open, so speak to Kim or Sarah as soon as possible. They'll be happy to help you.

We continue to look for new members. If you have someone in mind, ask them if they're interested in joining us. Our Christmas dinner is open to guests as well as members, so that event might be a good way to show off our club. The club will look festive and inviting decked out for the season.

The board and I wish you a joyous holiday season and a prosperous new year. Stay safe and enjoy!



During their travels, Michael Micciche and his tour group stayed at a bed-and-breakfast inn on a vineyard property in Piemonte, top left. In Verona, right and bottom left, they saw a Roman-style arena and the balcony at Juliet's House.

**Trip**

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accommodations provided lots of room, privacy, a kitchen, balconies and other amenities.

From our base, we traveled throughout northern Italy, visiting Lake Como and surrounding communities; the Dolomites and Lake Garda; the Alba area in Piemonte; the Italian Riviera, including Cinque Terre, Rapallo and Portofino; and the cities of Bologna, Venice, Verona and Milan.

Transportation was primarily by car, driven by me. We also used boats for transport on Lake Como to

lake villages, and we traveled to Milan and among Cinque Terre towns via train.

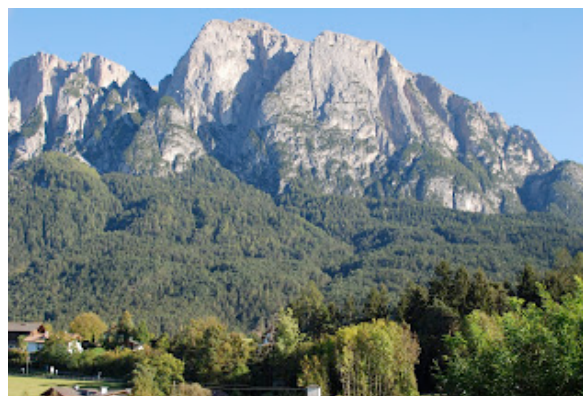
Outside of Lake Como, we stayed in hotels and a delightful bed-and-breakfast inn on a vineyard property in Piemonte.

We ate only in nontourist restaurants that I know personally and others recommended by people whose judgment I trust.

We looked for small villages and sights off the beaten path.

My experience as an Italy tour organizer has taught me to always ask the locals where they and their

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Michael Micciche's travel companions, above, pause for a photograph in front of the majestic Dolomites, a mountain range popular among skiers and hikers.



## 2018 DANTE CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

- Robert Guidera, president: [robertguidera@att.net](mailto:robertguidera@att.net)
- Bill Giovanetti, first vice president, building and grounds: [wgiovanetti@comcast.net](mailto:wgiovanetti@comcast.net)
- Ron Cristoni, second vice president, club clothing: [roncristoni@aol.com](mailto:roncristoni@aol.com)
- Ron Fiorica, recording secretary, scholarships: [rbfiorica@frontiernet.net](mailto:rbfiorica@frontiernet.net)
- Tom Mezzanares, treasurer: [tjmezzan@gmail.com](mailto:tjmezzan@gmail.com)

### BOARD MEMBERS

- Ronald Bacher, admission ticket chairman: [ronald.bacher@gmail.com](mailto:ronald.bacher@gmail.com)
- Richard Battistessa, advisory, social activities: [drbattistessa@comcast.net](mailto:drbattistessa@comcast.net)
- Victor Brida, tour director: [ybrida@gmail.com](mailto:ybrida@gmail.com)
- Dan Calcagno, Easter Bunny: [dmcacagno@aol.com](mailto:dmcacagno@aol.com)
- Frank Calcagno, membership: [fscal@comcast.net](mailto:fscal@comcast.net)
- John Caselli, publicity: [jac6652@aol.com](mailto:jac6652@aol.com)
- Jim Dimino, advisory committee: [jkdimino@sbcglobal.com](mailto:jkdimino@sbcglobal.com)
- John Fiorica, sergeant at arms: [jfpacificr@frontiernet.net](mailto:jfpacificr@frontiernet.net)
- Matt Longo, building and grounds: [longomb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:longomb@sbcglobal.net)
- Michael Micciche, corporate travel: [Michael.micciche@gmail.com](mailto:Michael.micciche@gmail.com)
- Tom Novi, social activities: [tomnovi@aol.com](mailto:tomnovi@aol.com)
- Patrick Orelli, finance: [pat@apcpagroup.com](mailto:pat@apcpagroup.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
- Taylor's Market, Sacramento

- 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
- Maltese Olive Oil, Sacramento

## Club seeks applicants for general manager replacement

The Dante Club is looking for a new general manager after the departure of Allison Nord, who has held the position since January of this year.

Members are asked to reach out to qualified people they know and encourage them to apply.

Prospective candidates should send their resumes to [sendyourresume2us@gmail.com](mailto:sendyourresume2us@gmail.com).

Applicants should not contact the Dante Club directly.

### Survey

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“A review of questionnaire responses was very interesting,” said social chairman Tom Novi. “The major concerns related to the quality of meals, service at events, movement away from traditional Italian recipes, and event and drink pricing.”

Members also offered suggestions for improving the overall Dante experience, Novi said. He said members' feedback has reinforced a key tenet of the club — that the restaurant is meant to serve its members by providing high-quality Italian food, drinks and service at modest prices, the foundation of an Italian social club.

The board thanks everyone who participated in the survey and pledges to do everything possible to make the Dante Club stronger and better than ever in the new year.

**Trip**

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families. We looked for small villages and sights off the beaten path.

My experience as an Italy tour organizer has taught me to always ask the locals where they and their families like to eat. Good food and wine for a good value are very important to Italians.

I made a point to acquaint the group with the area of our apartment and the people operating restaurants and shops in the village.

This allowed us to live somewhat like locals and to be recognized when we patronized shops and restaurants.

During the trip, members of the group offered many positive comments about their experiences.



Lake Como and Venice's Grand Canal were among the many sights the travelers enjoyed in Italy.

These were among the best of them: "Best pizza and pasta I have ever eaten." "Nicest people I ever met." "Most interesting and beautiful landscapes and vistas ever." "The only way to visit, with someone who knows the language, the geography, the restaurants, the sights—and who does all the driving."

The group wanted lots of free time, so I didn't over-plan our

activities. This allowed them to make some decisions while there, particularly day trips.

And they didn't need guides, because I served that purpose, except for specialized sights that needed local experts.

After our trip, I received this from one of my fellow travelers: "You so love Italy, and now I do, too."

Italy is infectious.

## DANTE'S REMINDERS

**Member volunteers**

To volunteer, contact club president Bob Guidera or social chairman Tom Novi to offer your services. You can reach Bob at [robertguidera@att.net](mailto:robertguidera@att.net) or 916-451-1467 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 20th 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 our club treasurer, Tom Mezzanares, at 916-467-7483 or [tjmezzan@gmail.com](mailto:tjmezzan@gmail.com).