



# DANTE'S INFERNO



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*Bob Guidera*

### *Club prepares for an exciting 2018*

It is my pleasure to be elected president of the Dante Club for 2018. I look forward to working with everyone to continue to make our club as successful as it can be. I'm committed to working positively with our board and our new manager. It is helpful to have a continuing board, as well as the addition of one new member.

A little about me: I'm a Sacramento native (from east Sacramento, to be exact) and a Dante Club member since 2007.

I remember, while growing up, coming to the club for weddings and various other gatherings. I always wondered why the club was tucked behind Ed's Sporting Goods on Fair Oaks Boulevard.

As an adult, I began to realize how vital our club is to the broader Sacramento community.

This year, most of our club committees will remain in place, because they worked so well

See PRESIDENT'S CORNER, Page 3



Diners packed a Dante Club banquet room Jan. 20 for the club's annual crab feed and raffle.

## Members and guests enjoy 'splendid time' at crab feed

**M**ore than 300 people attended this year's Dante Club crab feed on Saturday, Jan. 20.

As guests arrived, they were greeted by an elaborate antipasta station consisting of jumbo shrimp, a variety of cheeses and meats, and crackers.

Guests then dined on the evening's main course of salad, garlic bread, the Dante Club's award-winning rigatoni, fresh crab and, for dessert, spumoni.

Crustacean lovers brought their usual sauces and surgarlike accoutrements. Red and white

wine also was included as a palate cleanser between courses.

After the meal, Patrick and Colin Orelli orchestrated a raffle, with an array of prizes that included many bottles of top-shelf whisky, scotch, vodka and wine.

Raffle tickets sold at a record pace throughout the evening.

Perhaps wanting a little something delicious for their Sunday lunches, many guests purchased rigatoni after dinner, putting kitchen staff members on high alert after the main meal was served.

A splendid time was had by all.



## NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

### Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary meets for dinner and social events on the second Monday of the month, except for July and August.

Women interested in participating in the auxiliary may call Karol Buccola at 916-455-4232 or 916-217-6124 or email her at [karolrb55@gmail.com](mailto:karolrb55@gmail.com).

### New members

Al Benedetti, longtime Dante Club member and past president, is being considered for lifetime membership. He will be presented to members at the February members meeting.

Michael St. John was inducted Jan. 15, and five days later he attended our successful crab feed, winning two raffle prizes. (Good start, Michael!)

Dave Gregory, sponsored by John Caselli, will be inducted in February along with Tom Lippi, sponsored by Frank Calcagno.

Frank Lomascola and Peter Pesetti, sponsored by Frank Buccola, are next in line on the waiting list.

Members are encouraged to invite qualified Italian-Americans to apply for membership. Applications are available online, at the manager's office or from Frank Calcagno, 916-515-1117.

### Lend a fellow paesano a hand

The Dante Club has long supported area Italian-American businesses whenever possible. In turn, members of the local Italian business community have long supported the Dante Club.

Starting with this edition of *Dante's Inferno*, we will profile a local business as a way to show our support. We'll try this for a few months to see if it should be a permanent feature in our newsletter.

Initially, selected businesses will pay nothing to participate.

The feature should be a great opportunity for the Italian community to support Italian businesses, as *Dante's Inferno* now has a circulation of nearly 1,000 copies a month.

Owners of Sacramento-area Italian businesses who'd like to participate may email Tom Novi at [tomnovi@aol.com](mailto:tomnovi@aol.com) for further details.

### Show Tom the money

Membership dues for 2018 were due Jan. 31. Those who missed the deadline can pay on the Dante Club website at <http://www.danteclub.com/members.php> or can send a check for \$100, payable to the Dante Club, to:

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

### Club apparel

Available for purchase are Dante Club aprons and 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](mailto:roncristoni@aol.com).

### Donation to scholarship fund

Ron Fiorica won \$85 in the 50/50 raffle at the general meeting Jan. 15. He donated his winnings to the club's scholarship fund.

### Social activities

Several great events are coming up, including Tuesday Night dinners on Feb. 6 and March 6 and our annual cioppino dinner and dance on March 17.

The cioppino event is produced by Dante members and features cioppino made from a true Italian family recipe.

Rich Battistessa and Michael Talani Jr. head the event, assisted by more than a dozen members.

We expect more than 300 members and guests to attend. Limited seating will be available in the Venetian room, with overflow seating in the Tuscan and Sicilian rooms. Early reservations are recommended.

Our March 31 Easter celebration for kids and grandkids will feature egg hunts, hot dogs and sodas. The Ladies Auxiliary will provide other treats and prizes. The event is free.

Dan Calcagno heads the event, with help from his brother, Frank.

The Jan. 20 crab feed prompted many appreciative comments. It was a nice dinner enjoyed by all.



## Upcoming Events

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

### March 6

#### Tuesday Night Dinner

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

**Menu:** beef and vegetable lasagna, mixed greens, garlic bread, roasted brussels sprouts with pancetta, cannoli, house wine, coffee, iced tea

**Cost:** \$25 adults, \$12.50 children age 5 to 10

**Reservations are pending**

### March 17

#### Cioppino Dinner and Dance

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

**Menu:** antipasti, salad, risotto, cioppino, dessert, wine and \$2 green beer for the Irish

**Cost:** \$48 per person

*Live music featured from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.*

**Reservation deadline: 10 a.m. Monday, March 12**

### April 3

#### Tuesday Night Dinner

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

**Menu:** chicken marbella, asparagus, roasted potatoes, rigatoni, spinach salad, Italian lemon raspberry cream cake, house wine, coffee, iced tea

**Cost:** \$25 adults, \$12.50 children age 5 to 10

**Reservations are pending**

### May 1

#### Tuesday Night Dinner

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

**Menu:** build-your-own pizza, Italian chicken wings, rigatoni, salad, ice cream sundae bar, house wine, coffee, iced tea

**Cost:** \$25 adults, \$12.50 children age 5 to 10

**Reservations are pending**

**IN THE KITCHEN**

Allison Nord  
General Manager

## *Bartender shines as people person, foodie*

The Dante Club is proud to spotlight Vicki Finkleman, our club bartender and one of our outstanding team members for the month of December.

Raised in the West Texas town of El Paso, Vicki is a passionate foodie, dedicated dog mom and energetic people person.



**Vicki Finkleman**

Vicki relocated to Sacramento in 2014 after spending several years in snowy Montana working in the catering department in one of the state's largest hospitals. Before moving to Montana, she worked out of Sacramento as a flight attendant for Reno Air and as a sales representative for Playtex.

Since joining the Dante Club team in 2015, Vicki has loved getting to know her co-workers, as well as the club members.

She enjoys meeting many different people every day and says she especially appreciates the sense of teamwork at the club.

In her free time, Vicki loves spending time at Bodega Bay, relaxing with her dog or catching a great horror flick.

## **President's Corner**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

together and did a good job last year. Any member interested in joining one of our committees can notify me. We can always use the help.

As always, we're looking for great new members who want to get involved and participate in our club events and activities.

Members who know someone of this caliber are encouraged to invite them to apply for club membership.

Members can obtain application forms at the club office, from membership chairman Frank Calcagno or on our club website.

Our new manager, Allison Nord, comes to us with a wealth of experience in the food and beverage industry. She has many new ideas to move us ahead, as well as a commitment to helping us preserve the best of our Dante Club traditions.

I was impressed with the way Allison handled our Christmas dinner and, more recently, our crab feed. I thought the Venetian room looked very festive and welcoming to our guests.

Allison has much experience in marketing and will use those skills to market the Dante Club facility as one of the better places to go for an event. That will help keep the club competitive in the marketplace. I think she will take us to the next level.

Tom Mezzanares has been

busy collecting members' 2018 dues and issuing our new club membership/drink cards.

The cards entitle club members to buy half-price drinks at all club functions.

Any member who hasn't yet paid their 2018 dues, which were due in January, should do so as soon as possible.

We have many events coming up to start the year off.

On March 17, we have our club-sponsored cioppino dinner, one of our most popular events of the year.

For this dinner, club member Mike Talani will be the chef in charge for the evening.

Mike always does a superb job in the kitchen for this event.

And because the cioppino dinner will be held on St. Patrick's Day, we will honor our Irish friends.

I'm delighted to be your new president and sincerely hope 2018 will be a great year for us. I'm also confident that our new general manager will be a real bonus for our club.

I'll be working with a great group of committee chairmen this year. They are: Bill Giovannetti, advisory and building and grounds committees; Ron Fiorica, bylaws and scholarship committees; Pat Orelli, finance; Frank Calcagno, membership; John Caselli, publicity; Tom Novi, social; and Ron Cristoni, Dante Club clothing ordering.

Andiamo avanti!





## ITALIAN BUSINESS PROFILE

*Fortnet  
Security Inc.*

Fortnet Security Inc., based in Gilroy in the Silicon Valley, is a premier provider of network security products to businesses, school districts and local governments. The company provides web and internal security solutions for network systems, bringing more than 21 years of experience in consulting, designing and implementing advanced multivendor solutions. Fortnet provides complete analyses and monitoring of network security and performance. Vice President Louis Bisbiglia, a Dante Club member, can advise prospective customers on their system needs. He can be reached at 916-670-1072 or [Louis@fsi.tech](mailto:Louis@fsi.tech).

## BAY OF NAPLES, AMALFI COAST

# Movie images pale next to the real Italian thing

Story and photo by Michael Micciche

Many people have heard about, read about or seen the Bay of Naples and the Amalfi Coast in Southern Italy. The area includes Naples, Salerno, Sorrento, Positano, Ravello, Amalfi, Praiano, Pompeii, the Islands of Capri and Ischia.

It's even more picture-postcard beautiful than what's depicted in photos and movies. Everywhere you look, you can enjoy spectacular vistas of the sea, mountains, cliffs and hillside towns.

The best way to tour this area is by private car with a driver. After you take in the breathtaking views, you'll want to return to spend more quality time in the seaside and hillside towns and villages.

Don't miss Sorrento, Naples, Ravello, Positano, the islands of Capri and Ischia, which are easily reachable by fast or slow ferry boats. Also don't forget Pompeii for an amazing historical experience.

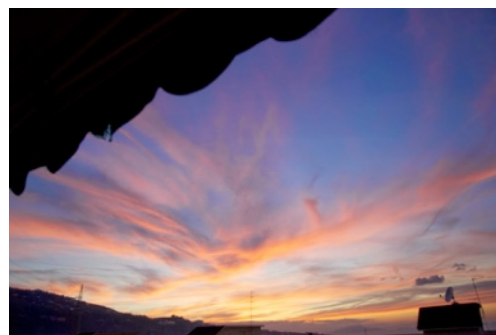
You can savor some of Italy's best seafood as part of your adventure. The area is famous for



A palm tree frames a breathtaking view of the coastline of Southern Italy's Amalfi area from high above the town of Ravello. Films and photos about Italy frequently feature the area in all its picturesque glory.



A victim, left, of the volcano that buried Pompeii is on display in the ruins. A Sorrento sunset, right, dazzles the eye.



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 Neapolitan pizza is a must.

The quality of local wines may surprise you, and limoncello is

native to the area because of the excellent lemons grown here.

You will never regret having spent time in this truly romantic region of Italy.

*Editor's note: This article first published in Dante's Inferno in November 2016.*



## 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

- Out of Bounds Brewing Co., Rocklin
- Wildcard Brewing Co., Redding

### Olive Oil

- Olive Mix, Sacramento
- Maltese Olive Oil, Sacramento

### Beer

- Blue Note Brewing Co., Woodland
- Hoppy Brewing Co., Sacramento
- Lost Coast Brewery, Humboldt
- Mussetter Distributing, Auburn

## 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 Mezzanars at 916-467-7483 or [tjmezzan@gmail.com](mailto:tjmezzan@gmail.com).