



DANTE'S INFERNO



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Rich Battistessa

Club in midst of busy, productive time of year

November has been a very productive month for the Dante Club. Restaurant bookings are looking good. We are in the midst of nominating new board members, and we have initiated and voted on a change in our bylaws. Progress!

The board also is in the process of negotiating a new lease for the Privato room, formerly the bridge club area, and we hope to have an agreement before the end of the year.

The club, our board and our manager, Joy Reinhardt, certainly appreciate all of your support. We are very excited to see that more than 200 of our members plan to attend the Christmas dinner on Dec. 18. I personally am looking forward to greeting all of you!

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The St. Francis Basilica in Assisi holds the tomb of St. Francis and is a popular tourist and pilgrimage destination.

Hill towns of Umbria filled with sights both familiar and not so

By Michael Micciche

The Italian region of Umbria, a neighbor of Tuscany, shares much of the same landscape. There are some very interesting cities and towns to visit in Umbria, many you may have heard of and others that may be new to you. Among those familiar to you might be Perugia, Assisi and Orvieto. Others not so familiar might include Ascoli, Piceno, Pescara, Todi, Montefalco, Spoleto and Gubbio.

Perugia, Umbria's capital and largest town, is a lively hill town with Etruscan and medieval roots. Perugia offers a lot to do and see, and because it's well-served by public transportation, it makes a good base for exploring Umbria's hill towns.

Perugia has a good Italian-language school, a world famous jazz festival and a chocolate festival. Chocolate lovers might want to try Perugia's Etruscan Chochotel, where there's a restaurant with a chocolate menu.

Spoleto is a walled hill town, one of the largest in southern Umbria, with Etruscan, Roman and medieval sights.

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NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary held elections for new board positions at its annual business meeting Nov. 14. Board members presented reports and discussed other business. Officers will be sworn in at an installation dinner in January.

The auxiliary will hold its annual Christmas dinner meeting at 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 12. A prime rib meal will be served, and a dance group and an Italian holiday choir will perform. Members and their guests are encouraged to wear festive holiday attire.

For information about the auxiliary, call president Jill Matranga at 916-204-9409 or email jmatranga@surewest.net.

New members welcomed

We have welcomed new members Tom Bellucci, John Klier and Gabe Roberson. We inducted Bill Boruff, sponsored by Willie Da Prato, on Nov. 21. We also will interview Henry Favro, sponsored by Michael Micciche.

We have several openings and a waiting list of three. Members can obtain applications online, from our club manager or from Frank Calcagno at 916-515-1117 or fscal@comcast.net.

Dante Club apparel additions

We've added aprons and sweatshirts to the Dante Club wardrobe. Four styles of sweatshirts for men, women and children are available, in addition to the short- and long-sleeved polo shirts we already offer. To purchase, contact Ron Cristoni at a meeting or 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.

Dues due in January

Membership dues for 2017 are \$100 and due by Jan. 31. Payment can be made by credit card online at www.danteclub.com/members.php or

by check payable to the Dante Club and dropped off at the club or mailed to:

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

Auxiliary members also can pay their dues online at www.danteclub.com/auxiliary.html. Or they can go to the Members Area at www.danteclub.com and click on Auxiliary.

Social committee update

We've enjoyed wonderful social events this year, including the Manga Italiano 90th anniversary dinner and the October Sausage Stag Night. More than 130 members and guests attended each.

On Dec. 18 we'll have our Christmas dinner. The event is now sold out.

We're looking at social events for next year. Give your suggestions to social committee chairman Tom Novi at 916-961-6197 or tomnovi@aol.com.

Buildings and grounds update

After an inspection of the club's heating and air conditioning units, parts were replaced and maintenance was performed. Replacement kitchen stove hood parts have been ordered. We're also meeting with PG&E, George Procida Landscaping and our building and grounds committee to ensure that trees in the parking lot comply with regulations for tower power lines. As we finalize our 2017 budget, we're considering a few projects, such as replacing the entryway awnings and installing bocce courts.

New Year's event

Tickets are on sale for our New Year's Eve celebration. Members can reserve online or at the club.

This year's menu will include old-time favorites and a midnight toast. It will be a night of dinner, dancing and friendship.



December 18

Annual Christmas Dinner
SOLD OUT!!

December 31

New Year's Eve Dinner Dance

Time: 7 p.m. appetizers, 8 p.m. dinner

Appetizer menu: oysters Rockefeller, caviar canapes, smoked salmon toast points, deviled eggs

Dinner menu: first course of peppered beef carpaccio with shaved Parmesan and Meyer lemon vinaigrette; second course of lobster and pearls or petite rack of lamb over Italian farro; dessert course of double chocolate cake with toasted hazelnut and raspberry ganache

Cost: \$45 per person

Reserve online or at the club

January 3

Family Night Dinner

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

Menu: salad, Tuscan pork ribs, potato gratin, seasonal vegetables, rolls, cannoli, antipasto, wine and coffee

Cost: \$24 adults, \$12 children ages 5 to 12

Reservation details pending

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Look for more great meals in the new year. A crab feed is planned for Jan. 21, and a cioppino dinner will be held April 1. More details to follow soon!

President's Corner

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The Christmas dinner sponsored by the club is a move to restore one of our old traditions of celebrating

the holidays together. We will have a great menu and will enjoy visiting with our amici. Buon Natale a tutti!

**Umbria**

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Above Spoleto is a medieval Rocca, and spanning the deep gorge to one side is Spoleto's most famous sight, Ponte delle Torri, or Bridge of Towers. The world-famous Festival dei Due Mondi is held in Spoleto in June and July.

Gubbio is a well-preserved medieval hill town built of gray limestone. Its compact center has a good selection of medieval, Gothic and Renaissance monuments. Just outside the town is a Roman amphitheater.

Gubbio is in a scenic area on the lower slopes of Mount Ingino, with views of the countryside.

Lake Trasimeno is one of Italy's largest lakes. It offers beaches and three islands reachable by ferry.

One of the prettiest towns is Castiglione del



A staircase separates upper and lower Perugia, home of Perugina candy.

Credit: <http://www.travelling-in-umbria.com>

Lago with a medieval center and castle by the lake. The lake was the site of a famous battle between Hannibal and Rome.

Orvieto is an Etruscan city with a glittering duomo in the center. Famous for the white wine that bears its name, Orvieto is an easy drive from Rome.

Montefalco, a stunningly beautiful town in the heart of Umbria, offers ancient walls, cobbled

streets, stone buildings, medieval architecture and lovely cathedrals.

Montefalco offers some of the region's best scenic glimpses, with lovely orchards and olive trees.

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

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

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.