



# DANTE'S INFERNO



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*Rich Battistessa*

### *Scholarships go to four student stars*

What an exciting evening! During the Dante Club's annual dinner meeting June 20, we presented scholarships to four very deserving and impressive high school graduates.

Scholarship recipients were Bryce Calcagno from Bella Vista High School, who will attend California State University, Long Beach; Savannah Potter from Sheldon High School, who will attend Cosumnes River College; Renzo Giordano from John F. Kennedy High School, who will attend CSU Chico; and Jack Wolger of Jesuit High School, who will attend the University of California, Berkeley.

The Dante Club board and scholarship committee members are very proud of these exceptional young people and wish them success as they enter college.

Also during the annual meeting, members discussed an upcoming change in our bylaws.

To meet the financial and social needs of the club, we are looking at a dues increase starting in January 2017.

See PRESIDENT'S CORNER, Page 2

## Italian Heritage Night



Dante Club members and their guests enjoy the festivities during Italian Heritage Night at a River Cats game against the Albuquerque Isotopes at Raley Field on June 30. From left are Richard and Diane Battistessa, Penny Manini, and Dennis and Cathy Zan. Members and families received a special price for premium seats at the West Sacramento stadium.

## TITILLATING TUSCANY

# Endless delights keep visitors busy

Story and photos by Michael Micciche

**T**uscany is the most visited region in Italy, for good reason. It has everything representative of Italy.

Every hill town and walled city has amazing history. The walls are a reminder of how Italy was before unification.

Each area of Italy had its own government, army and institutions. Natural enemies required cities to construct walls and towers. Cities were built on hills to make them easier to defend.

Today, the rivalries are about cuisines, wines, traditions and re-enactments of historical battles. These are times of festivities, parades and honors.

Tuscany offers so many things to see and do that it's difficult to mention all the cities and towns and their highlights. I can mention a few of the most

See TUSCANY, Page 3



NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

Ladies Auxiliary

To volunteer or obtain more information about the Ladies Auxiliary, call president Jill Matranga at 916-204-9409 or email at [jmatranga@surewest.net](mailto:jmatranga@surewest.net).

Member openings

Club members approved Tom DeCicco and John Agostinelli at the June meeting and will induct them on Sept. 19.

We will interview Gabe Roberson in July.

We have several openings, so members are encouraged to make recommendations.

Find applications at [www.danteclub.com/members.php](http://www.danteclub.com/members.php), see Joy Reinhardt in the Dante Club office or e-mail Frank Calcagno at [fscal@comcast.net](mailto:fscal@comcast.net).

Sick list

Charles Rainoldi is recovering at a local nursing facility.

In memoriam

Longtime Dante Club member Bob Hocking died June 12.

Bob and his wife, Loretta, were due to celebrate their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary June 23.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Hocking family.



WHAT'S COOKING?

Joy Reinhardt

Let the Dante Club make your summer party memorable

Need to cool off in the summer heat?

The Dante Club has four rooms available where you can host your next party. You also can beat the heat with our amazing beverage selection and ice-cold beer.

And while we're at it, we have the barbecues ready for use during July and August.

Remember to make your monthly dinner reservations early.

President's Corner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The proposal will be read to members in September and October and discussed and voted on at the general meeting in November.

Over the coming months, the board will gather information about club finances and operations that will allow members to make an informed decision on how we might go forward.

Questions and concerns expressed by members who attended the June meeting proved

extremely valuable in starting the process.

We're all working for the best interest of the club and want to meet the needs of our membership.

Board members encourage questions and comments about the planned changes.

Please remember that attending club meetings in the fall will be critical, as information will be presented that will help our ultimate decisions.

Your vote in November provides the direction for the board to go forward.

Premium winery, brewery and olive oil partners

Wine

- Draconis, Mount Aukum (El Dorado)
- Merlo Vineyards, Redding
- Moniz, Sonoma-Napa
- Morse Wines, Fiddletown
- Pedroncelli, Geyserville (Sonoma)

- Perry Creek, Fairplay (El Dorado)
- Sean Minor, Napa
- Secret Ravine, Loomis
- Story, Plymouth (Amador)
- Twisted Rivers, Clarksburg
- Wise, Lincoln
- Carvalho Family Winery (donations)

Beer

- Hoppy Brewery, east Sacramento
- Lost Coast Brewery, Humboldt

Olive Oil

- Olive Mix, Sacramento



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

August 13

Vic Martinelli Memorial Golf Tournament

**Location:** 18-hole Alister MacKenzie Golf Course at Haggin Oaks

**Times:** 6:45 a.m. check-in; 7:30 a.m. shotgun start; banquet and raffle at the Dante Club to follow tournament; 1:30 p.m. bar opens, with cocktails served until 3 p.m.; banquet at 3 p.m.

**Cost:** \$85 golf, dinner, raffle and awards; \$65 golf only; \$25 dinner guests. Open to all Dante Club members and their guests. Event supports the Dante Club scholarship fund.

**Reservations:** Go online at [www.danteclub.com](http://www.danteclub.com) or email Frank Buccola at [frankiebuccola@gmail.com](mailto:frankiebuccola@gmail.com) or Roy Jones at [royjones43@comast.net](mailto:royjones43@comast.net).



Member Frank Perri, second from left, takes a break with friends during last year's Vic Martinelli Memorial Golf Tournament in Haggin Oaks.



# Tuscany

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

popular, but I always recommend spending enough time in Tuscany to wander around and find your favorites. Here are a few of mine:

**Cortona:** It has history, Etruscan influences, fantastic views, great restaurants, enotecas and shops. You can roam the streets for hours.

**Arezzo:** This is a fully functioning, working city. It's two cities really—modern and commercial outside the walls and interesting in the historical center. It also has great restaurants and shops and is Italy's gold capital.

**Montepulciano, Pienza and Montalcino:** These are a perfect threesome for a day or evening trip. Wines in Montepulciano, *Vino Nobile* and *Rosso*

Montepulciano are consistently great, and wines in Montalcino, *Brunello* and *Rosso Montalcino* are excellent as well. Pienza, designed as the perfect plan for a city by Pope Pio, whose name it bears, is one main street with side streets and alleys opening up to great vistas of rolling hillsides and valleys. Pienza is known for its cheeses and meats.

**Siena:** Second in size only to Florence, Siena is spread out. Full of history, it's home to the *Palio* horse race held in the main piazza twice each summer. Every neighborhood, sporting specific colors, takes part in the race. It's remarkable to watch, particularly from the vantage point of a hotel on the square.

**San Gimignano:** Built to defend itself, the city once boasted more than 70



Agritourism allows travelers to experience rural Tuscan life with accommodations at working farms, country homes, wineries and other rustic locations. *Rosa dei Venti* in Crete, above, near Arezzo and Cortona, is writer Michael Micciche's favorite agriturismo.

towers. Today, only a handful remain. You can climb to the top of them for spectacular views. The city also has great shops and restaurants.

Tuscany has other wonderful cities, such as Florence, Fiesole, San Sepolcro, Lucca, Pisa, Viareggio, Follonica, Montecatini Terme, Montecatini Alto and

Chiusi, as well as many small, quaint villages. My advice is to get lost and let the road take you to these places, where you'll meet warm, friendly people proud of their towns, their food and their wines.

*Dante Club member Michael Micciche operates Italian Journeys of Sacramento, specializing in travel services for Italy.*

## 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>.

### Club shirts and jackets

Contact Ron Cristoni at 916-457-4516 or [roncristoni@aol.com](mailto:roncristoni@aol.com) or speak to him at the next members meeting. You must present cash or a check to place an order for shirts and jackets.

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