



# DANTE'S INFERNO



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*Rich Battistessa*

### *Dinner sets tone for prosperous year to come*

The Dante Club celebrated Christmas in great style, with 320 people attending our annual holiday dinner Dec. 18.

Our manager, Joy Reinhardt, served a fabulous prime rib dinner, with all the trimmings, in a very festive atmosphere. It was wonderful seeing so many members in attendance.

We hope the dinner points to many more events bringing friends and family together in 2017.

A business update: We've entered into a lease agreement with Magpie School, which will occupy the Dante Club's Privado room, previously the bridge club. This will provide us with steady revenue for the coming years.

Joy reports that bookings for the club were fantastic for December and that a great deal of business is headed our way for 2017.

We look forward to a prosperous new year and to seeing our many members and friends at club events throughout the year.

Nuovo Anno Felice, one and all!

## CHRISTMAS AL DANTE

### Holiday event fulfills its tidings of comfort (foods) and joy



At the Dante Club's 2016 Christmas dinner, servers Marianne, Kyniesha and Ginger, above, prepare to pass out plates of prime rib and Cornish game hens. Members at the event enjoyed the meal for free in honor of the club's 90th anniversary. President Rich Battistessa and his wife, Diane, left, wish "Buon Natale!" to everyone at the party.



## NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

### Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary's December dinner meeting Dec. 12 was a festive, fun and delicious event. After a sumptuous meal of prime rib and fixings, students from the Italian department of St. Francis High School serenaded guests with Italian Christmas carols. A visit from La Befana was even included.

After the lovely performance, a dance troupe, Tapestry, wowed the crowd with several numbers, including a festive dance to "Santa Baby."

The true highlight of the evening was the tremendously generous donations to the group's sock drive. Members collected more than 500 pairs of new children's and adult socks to be donated to Loaves & Fishes. What a great way to kick off the season of receiving and giving.

The auxiliary's installation dinner meeting is scheduled for Jan. 9. Members send everyone wishes of "Buon anno a tutti!"

The Ladies Auxiliary meets the second Monday of each month, except July and August, for themed dinner meetings. Membership is open to any woman of Italian descent or who is married to an Italian.

Women who'd like to participate in the auxiliary may contact president Jill Matranga at 916-204-9409 or [jmatranga@surewest.net](mailto:jmatranga@surewest.net).

### New members

The membership committee inducted Henry Favro on Dec. 19. He was sponsored by Michael Micciche.

Prospective member Alex Sarti, sponsored by Dick Zarzana, will be interviewed in January.

Applications for prospective new members are available online, from club manager Joy Reinhardt or from Frank Calcagno at 916-515-1117 or [fscal@comcast.net](mailto:fscal@comcast.net).

### In memoriam

Life member Vince Calaci, a regular member from 1960 to 2015, died Dec. 10 at age 91. Also, longtime

Women's Auxiliary member Marie "Kay" Pesce died Nov. 11. We hope you will keep the Calaci and Pesce families in your thoughts and prayers.

### Dues due this month

Annual membership dues of \$100 are due by Jan. 31. Payment can be made by credit card at [www.danteclub.com/members.php](http://www.danteclub.com/members.php) or by check payable to the Dante Club, 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 dues online at [www.danteclub.com/auxiliary.html](http://www.danteclub.com/auxiliary.html) or visit the Members Area online and click on Auxiliary.

### Club apparel additions

We've added aprons and sweatshirts to the ever-expanding Dante Club wardrobe.

Four styles of sweatshirts for men, women and children are available for purchase. These are in addition to the short- and long-sleeved polo shirts for men, women and children that we already offer.

To order clothing, speak to Ron Cristoni at a meeting or reach him at 916-457-4516 or [roncristoni@aol.com](mailto:roncristoni@aol.com).

You must present cash or a check made out to the Dante Club when you place an order.

### Scholarship donations

The Scholarship Fund recently received several donations from Dante Club and Ladies Auxiliary members.

Gloria Tomei donated \$250 in memory of past Dante Club and Auxiliary members via her bus trips.

The Ladies Auxiliary donated \$100 in memory of Kay Pesce, who died in November.

Member Steve Lavezzo donated \$150.

Thank you to all for your generosity.



### January 21

#### Crab Feed

**Time:** 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner, dancing after dinner  
**Menu:** Family-style all-you-can-eat crab, antipasto, signature house mixed salad, rigatoni with meat sauce and seasonal vegetables, crunchy rolls, red wine, spumoni and coffee  
**Cost:** \$45  
**Reservations:** Tickets are selling fast! Reserve, pay by credit card and make seating requests online or by calling 916-925-8230. Or pay by card, cash or check in person at the Dante Club. No refunds.

### February 7

#### Family Night Dinner

**Time:** 6 p.m. no-host cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner  
**Menu:** Antipasto, Caesar salad with chicken and polenta, rigatoni, seasonal vegetables, rolls, spumoni, wine and coffee  
**Cost:** \$22 adults, \$11 children ages 5 to 12  
**Reservation details are pending.**

### March 7

#### Family Night Dinner

**Time:** 6 p.m. no-host cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner  
**Menu:** Antipasto, fennel salad, grilled 14-ounce double pork chop with pesto glaze and caponata, fingerling potatoes, seasonal vegetables, rolls, tiramisu, wine and coffee  
**Cost:** \$23 adults, \$11.50 children ages 5 to 12  
**Reservation details are pending.**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**  
**A cioppino dinner is coming April 1. Details to follow.**



Bassano del Grappa is home to the Italian after-dinner drink grappa, as well as art venues, historical buildings and a picturesque wooden bridge, the Ponte degli Alpini.

# Veneto towns packed with history

By Michael Micciche

**T**he Veneto region of Northern Italy offers a wealth of sights, including one of the most historically evocative: Asolo, known as “the Pearl” and “the City of a Hundred Horizons” because of its mountain setting.

The town includes the remains of an amphitheater and an aqueduct; Rocca, a castle dating from the late 12th to early 13th centuries; Caterina Cornaro, a castle that’s now home to the Eleanor Duse Theatre; the Palazzo della Ragione, housing the city museum; and a cathedral built in 1747 that houses the Assunta altar piece.

Asolo is known for its architecture and an aristocratic atmosphere that can be felt in its squares and cafés.

Another captivating town in the Veneto region is Bassano del Grappa,



Italian travel writer Michael Micciche takes a stroll along a typical street in Asolo, an architecturally interesting town in a mountain setting in Northern Italy.

where Italians’ favorite *digestivo*, grappa, was invented.

Visitors can sample and purchase the brandylike beverage in tasting rooms and retail shops.

Bassano del Grappa is easy to walk around, as most of the town is free of

cars. The beautiful Brenta River flows under the town’s historic wooden covered bridge, Ponte degli Alpini, which offers good photo opportunities.

Architect Andrea Palladio designed the bridge in 1569 to replace one dating from at least 1209. Palladio’s bridge was destroyed in 1748 and rebuilt three years later. The Nardini tavern on the bridge is unchanged since 1779.

In the heart of town, opposite the bridge in the old Palazzo delle Teste, is the Poli Grappa Museum, created by the Poli family in appreciation of grappa. Five self-guided instructional rooms help visitors appreciate grappa and include opportunities for tasting.

Other points of interest include a cathedral built around 1000 and renovated in 1417. It contains artworks by Leandro da Bassano, Ottavio

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Visitors cross over the Brenta River in Bassano del Grappa via the Ponte degli Alpini, a historic wooden covered bridge. Architect Andrea Palladio designed it in 1569. A tavern on the bridge has remained unchanged since 1779.



**Veneto**

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Marinali and others.

In addition, the church of St. John the Baptist was built in the 14th century and restored in the 18th century.

The town museum features ancient archaeological remains, works by Antonio Canova and the Tiepolos, and drawings by Gian

Lorenzo Bernini, Spagnoletto, Albrecht Dürer and Rembrandt.

The Palazzo del Municipio, or Town Hall, erected from 1404, has a noteworthy loggia and a fresco attributed to Jacopo da Bassano.

The Nardini Grappa Factory, an architectural marvel, is just outside of the old town.

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