



DANTE'S INFERNO



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Rich Battistessa

Get ready for a whole lot of fishy business

Best cioppino in town ... and this is no April Fool's joke!

Our Dante Club head chef, Michael Talani, is one of the premier Italian cooks in the Sacramento area. If you haven't had cioppino, you must try it. But if you've had *his* cioppino at the Dante Club, you know what I'm talking about.

Italian fishermen on the boats of San Francisco are probably the culprits for creating this great dish. They would share the catch of the day among their fellow fishermen and place it in pots with a steaming tomato-based broth to the delight of people on the docks.

Originally, Italians emigrating from the Ligurian coast, specifically from the port city of Genoa, were accustomed to eating fish stew, and our San Francisco Italians claim to have perfected it.

The name may come from cioppin, a word in Genoa's

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Dante Club members, left, Michael Paddock and Romano Luchini were among the hundreds of people who attended last year's successful Viva Vino event. The event featured music, vendors, above, and many premium wines, olive oils and beers for tasting.

Planning underway for Viva Vino event

The Dante Club will host its 6th annual Viva Vino wine and beer tasting event on the club grounds from 1 to 4 p.m. May 21.

Attendees will be able to sample a large selection of premium wines, microbrews and olive oils. Food, crafts vendors and musical entertainment also are planned.

Club members are encouraged to mark their calendars and invite

their family and friends to attend this fundraiser.

Tickets are \$25 if purchased by May 17. After that, the cost is \$30 at the event. Designated-driver admission is \$5.

Further event details will be included in the next Inferno. Members who have suggestions or want to help may contact Randy Canova at cydnar067@yahoo.com or 916-212-6972.

Next stops in Italy: Vicenza, Verona

Story and Photos by Michael Micciche

Vicenza is a thriving cosmopolitan city, with a rich history and culture and many museums, art galleries, piazzas, villas, churches and elegant Renaissance palazzi.

With the Palladian Villas of the Veneto in the surrounding area and the renowned Teatro Olimpico, or Olympic Theatre, the city of Palladio has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1994.

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NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary donated \$100 in memory of Osvaldo Musso, who died in January. He was installed on Feb. 16, 1998.

The 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 may call president Karol Buccola at 916-217-6124 or 916-455-4232 or email her at Karolrb55@gmail.com.

New members

Dante Club members approved Alex Sarti for membership on Feb. 20. He will be initiated in March.

The club commends new member Henry Favro for his generous wine-tasting prizes for our Family Night Dinner and his involvement in Viva Vino.

The club has 15 openings for new members and a waiting list of six. Current members are encouraged to recruit people who will become active in our club, along with their sponsor.

Club apparel

Aprons and sweatshirts are among Dante Club clothing items available for purchase. We also have four styles of sweatshirts for men, women and children, along with short- and long-sleeved 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.

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

Club scholarship fund

Mario Velo donated \$50 to the scholarship fund in memory of his brother, Luigi Velo. Jerry and Judith Long donated \$25 to the fund.

Scholarship applications and instructions are available online at <http://www.danteclub.com/members.php>. The scholarship committee must receive applications by March 31.

If you have questions, call Ron Fiorica at 916-687-6406 or email him at rbfiorica@frontiernet.net.

In memoriam

Two of our members died in February: Frank Michael Cima and Manuel Viera, Jr.

Golf tournament

Just a reminder that the Vic Martinelli Golf Tournament, the main fundraiser for our scholarship fund, will be held Aug. 12 at Bartley Cavanaugh.

We need everyone's help in obtaining corporate and business sponsors, hole sponsors, raffle prizes and players.

If you or your relatives or friends want to play in the tournament, you can sign up on the Dante Club website or get a sign-up sheet from Ken Buono at Kenbuono@aol.com or Frank Buccola at frankiebuccola@gmail.com. Ken or Frank can offer help and answer questions about sponsorships.

The golf tournament committee is small and will be successful only with everyone's help, so members are encouraged to get involved in this important special event.

**April 1****5th Annual Cioppino Dinner**

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

Menu: Antipasti, insalata, risotto, cioppino, dolce

Cost: \$48 per person

Reservation deadline is 10 a.m. Monday, March 27.

April 4**Family Night Dinner**

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

Menu: Fennel and grapefruit salad with sambuca, tagliatelle with lamb and olives, green beans with shallots, olive oil cake with lemon cream

Cost: \$25 adults, \$13 children ages 5 to 10

Reservations are pending.

May 2**Family Night Dinner**

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

Menu: Warm radicchio with red onions and lemon, guinea hen with fregula, cauliflower ziti and biscotti

Cost: \$24 adults, \$12 children ages 5 to 10

Reservations are pending.

May 21**Viva Vino Wine and Beer Tasting Event**

Time: 1 to 4 p.m.

Cost: \$25 through May 17; \$30 at door

See Page 1 for more details!



President's Corner

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Ligurian dialect that means "to chop up" or "chopped." This describes how the stew is made, by chopping up a variety of the day's fish catch.

But some say the name may be a corruption of "il ciuppin," which means "little soup."

In any case, hurray for the Genovese, and enough history! Let's eat!

At 5:30 p.m. April 1, the Dante Club will present its annual cioppino dinner, prepared by Michael and served by a crew of volunteers. The delectable feast is one of our club's more popular and traditional parties.

You should make your reservations pronto. We have table rounds seating 10 guests each, so gather your friends and encourage others to attend as well.

The cioppino dinner is a fundraiser that includes a raffle among the night's activities. Dinner includes wine, and we will have a great band for dancing.

New and seasoned members who'd like to volunteer should call Rich Battistessa at 916-995-0291.

Vicenza

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As of December 2008, Vicenza had an estimated population of 115,927 and a metropolitan area population of 270,000.

Vicenza is the third largest Italian industrial center as measured by the value of its exports. It's one of Italy's wealthiest cities because of its textile and steel industries, which employ tens of thousands of workers.

About one fifth of the country's gold jewelry is made in Vicenza, helping the city's economy.

Another important sector is the engineering and computer components industry. Federico Faggin, co-inventor of the microprocessor, was born in Vicenza.

UNESCO in 1994 designated Vicenza, City of Palladio, on its list of World Heritage Sites.

Two years later, the site was expanded to include the Palladian Villas outside the core area and renamed City of Palladio and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto.

Vicenza is home to 23 buildings designed by Andrea Palladio, an influential 16th century Italian architect.

Among the most famous are Villa Almerico Capra, also known as La



The Vicenza Piazza, left, features architecture by Andrea Palladio, an influential 16th century architect. In Verona, the Storico Centro Portal, above, leads to the city's historical district.

Rotonda, outside the downtown area; Basilica Palladiana, centrally located in Vicenza's Piazza dei Signori, which Palladio said compares with similar works of antiquity; and Teatro Olimpico, designed for the Accademia Olimpica and begun to be built in 1580, when Palladio died.

Compact and easy to navigate, Verona remains one of Italy's most underrated cities despite its picturesque center, cobblestone streets lined with medieval pink-hued buildings, well-preserved Roman sites and dozens of churches.

A short hop from major hubs such as Milan and Venice, the former Roman settlement never feels overrun by tourists,

although visitors descend on the town for various events.

Among them is the summer opera festival June 14 to Sept. 8, which this year celebrates the city's centennial and Verdi's bicentenary.

Vinitaly in April is one of the wine world's most important events.

In addition to discovering the many landmarks and happenings that keep Verona culturally vibrant, visitors will find much more to take in.

They can enjoy lavish meals in inventive new restaurants, tastings at wine bars tucked away behind unassuming facades and shopping in small boutiques off the main arteries.



Verona's Colosseum, left, and Vicenza's Palladio Theatre, right, are among the sights tourists can discover.



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.