



DANTE'S INFERNO

Celebrate in style on a trip to the homeland

By Michael Micciche



An inviting restaurant on the isle of Capri offers al fresco dining.

Do you have a special birthday, anniversary or wedding coming up in 2020? Why not celebrate it in Italy? You'll never forget it.

To help you consider a trip to Italy this year, I thought I'd share an article by writer Lisa Miller that was published Dec. 28, 2013, in *The Huffington Post*. Miller points out some very good reasons for visiting Italy — beyond the food, wine and history.

Here's the article, reprinted with Miller's and *The Post's* permission:

"If you've spent time in Italy, you know that life in Italy and life in America are very different. While both cultures have their pros and cons, we think Americans can learn a lot from the way Italians live.

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Bocce training heats up this month

Spring training camp for bocce will open Saturday, March 14. If Mother Nature allows us on the courts, we'll kick off the season with open play starting at 9:30 a.m. We'll begin by discussing rules, play, teams and league schedules.

Last season more than 40 members

participated in league play, and we hope the interest continues, as bocce is a great way to meet our countrymen.

In addition, this year we've had high interest in bocce from our Ladies Auxiliary. We'll hold meetings to encourage members of the auxiliary to come out and use the courts.

The bocce committee will work with men's and women's groups to provide information on rules and league play.

We're also considering the idea of creating a mixed-team league for play during the week.

So let's all get our bocce mojo on!

Committee proposes changes to club bylaws

Ron Fiorica and his bylaws committee members have been busy reviewing current Dante Club bylaws that, in some cases, go back to the club's inception in 1936.

To bring our bylaws kicking and screaming into the 21st century, these changes have been proposed and will be presented to members at an upcoming meeting:

Nonsubstantive, semi-technical

- changing the word "shall" to "may"
- renumbering certain agenda items
- combining the position titles of financial secretary and treasurer to treasurer/financial secretary

Substantive

- combining advisory and finance committees and their duties
- combining membership and investigating committees and their duties

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NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE



Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary had the distinct pleasure of having the Balliamo Dancers perform at its Feb. 10 meeting.

The group from the local Italian Cultural Society consists of five lovely Italian women wearing costumes that each represent a different region of Italy.

The Balliamo Dancers performed three dances onstage, then surprised the audience by encouraging members to join in a dance. About 40 members obliged, with much laughter as they tried to keep up with the steps while still trying to breathe.

A big thank you to auxiliary vice-president Heidi Veneman for hiring these fantastic dancers.

The auxiliary also enjoyed another incredible meal prepared by Dante Club chef Jessi Moreno: pork marbella, polenta, roasted cauliflower, salad, and ice cream with caramel sauce.

Members won various prizes, including valentine-themed wine glasses, a set of heart dishes, jewelry and Godiva chocolates.

Members donated many items for the silent-auction baskets the auxiliary will contribute to the Dante Club's annual Cioppino Feed on March 7. Among donations were bottles of

wine, soaps, lotions, barbecue tools, a crystal cake dish, pastas and chocolates, which board members will use to get creative in designing the baskets.

Also during the February meeting, members discussed developing a women's bocce league. At the March meeting, the auxiliary will announce the chairmen of the league and will share information about when the bocce courts will be open for practice. Members are encouraged to form teams or even join the league solo.

The Ladies Auxiliary has welcomed 20 new members over the past six months, including seven new members this year: Julie Whelan, Judy Kaminski, Gina Morandi Gray, Alyse Covey De Fazio, Adrienne DeFazio, Roseann Jamison and Susan Kasmatis.

Anyone interested in joining may call president Debra Cattuzzo at 916-442-2266 or email her at tuzo56@hotmail.com.

Newsletter ads welcomed

We continue to appreciate the seven businesses participating in our effort to make this newsletter a more interactive marketing vehicle for Dante Club and Ladies Auxiliary members.

Club members Johnny "The Barber" Waldron, Tom "Mixed Bag" Novi, Jim Relles of Relles Florist and Mark Pedroncelli of Pedroncelli Chiropractic, as well as Ladies Auxiliary board member Helen Manfredi of Medic Ambulance, have all made annual advertising commitments for their businesses.

Dante's Inferno advertisers also include the Italian Cemetery of Colma and Realtor Pat Vogeli.

Any members with businesses

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UPCOMING EVENTS
Reserve and pay online at:
<http://www.danteclub.com/calendar.php>

March 16

Meeting Night Dinner

Time: 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. meeting

Menu: Radicchio and citrus salad with burrata, pork shoulder braciola with ragu, turnip greens with Parmesan, orecchiette with greens and sausage, grilled peaches with vanilla ice cream

Cost: \$13 by deadline, \$18 after deadline

Reserve by 10 a.m. Friday, March 13.

March 22

Fizz Brunch

Time: 11 a.m. fizzes, noon brunch

Menu: Fruit salad, pastries, potatoes, bacon, biscuits and gravy, scrambled eggs with cheese and scallions, orange and cranberry juices, coffee, iced tea

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

Reserve by 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 18

April 7

Tuesday Night Dinner

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

Menu: Prosciutto, melon, spring greens minestrone soup, pappardelle with prawns, marinated radicchio, lemon panna cotta

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

Reserve by 10 a.m. Friday, April 3.



2020 Committees and Assignments

(revised 2.13.20)

COMMITTEES

ADVISORY AND OPERATIONS

Ron Cristoni, chairman; Michael Micciche, vice chairman
Members: Tom Novi, Frank Calcagno, Richard Battistessa, Mark Pedroncelli

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Ernie Tomassilli, chairman; Joe Porata, vice chairman
Members: Ron Pane, Bob Guidera, vacancy

BYLAWS

Ron Fiorica, chairman; Tom Novi, vice chairman
Members: Michael Micciche, Richard Battistessa, Ralph DiLibero

FINANCE

Tom Novi, chairman; Pat Orelli, vice chairman
Members: Tom Mezzanares, Ralph DiLibero, Dan Calcagno

INVESTIGATION

Ron Pane, chairman; Bob Guidera, vice chairman
Members: Pat Orelli, Ernie Tomassilli, Frank Calcagno

MEMBERSHIP

Dan Calcagno, chairman; Bob Guidera, vice chairman
Members: Pat Orelli, Ernie Tomassilli, Frank Calcagno

PUBLICITY

John Caselli, chairman; Tom Mezzanares, vice chairman
Member: Mark Pedroncelli

SCHOLARSHIP

Rich Battistessa, chairman; Jim Dimino, vice chairman
Members: Joe Porata, Mike Battistessa, two Ladies Auxiliary representatives

SOCIAL

Michael Micciche, chairman; Joe Porata, vice chairman
Members: Pat Orelli, Mark Pedroncelli, Colin Orelli, vacancy, two Ladies Auxiliary representatives

PERFORMANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY (special committee)

Tom Novi, chairman; Ralph DiLibero, vice chairman
Members: Jim Dimino, Rich Battistessa, Pat Orelli

VOLUNTEERS (special committee to recruit members to assist with painting, plumbing, electrical, landscaping, social activities, internet, website and other club needs)

Ron Cristoni, chairman; Ron Fiorica, vice chairman
Members: Michael Micciche, Frank Calcagno, Jim Dimino

ASSIGNMENTS

Bocce: Rich Battistessa and Ladies Auxiliary
Dante Club apparel: Mark Pedroncelli
General membership meetings: John Caselli, Joe Porata, Ron Bacher
Sergeant-at-arms: John Fiorica, general meeting
Ladies Auxiliary liaison: Richard Battistessa

2020 DANTE CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

- Ronnie Pane, president: repane@icloud.com
- Ron Cristoni, first vice president: roncristoni@aol.com
- Tom Novi, second first president: tomnovi@aol.com
- Ron Fiorica, secretary: rbfiorica@frontiernet.net
- Tom Mezzanares, treasurer: tjmezzan@gmail.com

BOARD MEMBERS

- Richard Battistessa: drbattistessa@comcast.net
- Dan Calcagno: dmcalcagno@aol.com
- Frank Calcagno: fscal@comcast.net
- John Caselli: jac6652@aol.com
- Ron Cristoni: roncristoni@aol.com
- Ralph DiLibero: ralph.dilibero@dhcs.ca.gov
- Jim Dimino: jkdimino@sbcglobal.net
- Ron Fiorica: rbfiorica@frontiernet.net
- Bob Guidera: robertguidera@att.net
- Tom Mezzanares: tjmezzan@gmail.com
- Michael Micciche: michael.micciche@gmail.com
- Tom Novi: tomnovi@aol.com
- Patrick Orelli: pat@apcpagroup.com
- Ron Pane: repane@icloud.com
- Mark Pedroncelli: peddc@surewest.net
- Joe Porata: jporata@sbcglobal.net
- Ernie Tomassilli: ca.ernest@pacbell.net

**News, Notes and Otherwise**

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who wish to participate can email John Caselli at jac6652@aol.com.

San Francisco outing

Ladies Auxiliary member Gloria Tomei is planning a San Francisco outing Sunday, Aug. 9, to see *My Fair Lady* at the Golden Gate Theatre. The Lincoln Center Theater touring production is a revival of the 1956 Lerner and Loewe musical classic.

Participants will meet at 10 a.m. at the Target parking lot on Broadway and continue to the Dante Club parking lot. They'll arrive in San Francisco at 1 p.m., see the show from 2 to 5 p.m. and have dinner at 6 p.m. at Alioto's restaurant on Fisherman's Wharf.

Dinner will feature tomato bruschetta, mixed green salad with shrimp, rigatoni with pesto sauce, a choice of pan-fried petrale sole or chicken with sauteed mushrooms, and cheesecake.

Cost is \$195 per person. Reservations and payments must be received by June 25.

To sign up, mail a check to Gloria Tomei, 2785 14th St., Sacramento, CA 95818. Provide guest name, address, phone number, choice of dinner entree and whether pickup at Target is needed.

Questions? Call Gloria at 916-447-5559 or email her at gtomei@comcast.net.

Club apparel

Members can purchase Dante Club-branded clothing, including aprons and four styles of sweatshirts and polo shirts in sizes for men, women and children.

To order items, email Mark Pedroncelli at peddc@surewest.net.

Please note that Mark replaces Ron Cristoni, who has stepped down from selling club apparel.

Nine years ago, Ron took over from Tom Matranga and Al Lovotti when they were selling only jackets. He added polo shirts, sweatshirts, aprons and the tagline "Est. 1926."

Ron sold more than 200 items during his tenure and wants to thank all his former customers.

Save pull tabs

Members are asked to continue collecting their aluminum can pull tabs for donation to the Adopt-A-Family Program.

The program subsidizes lodging costs at the Ronald McDonald House near UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento. Parents traveling from outside the area so their children can receive medical care can stay at the house at low cost.

As of December, according to board member Ron Cristoni, the Dante Club has delivered 1,025 pounds of pull tabs since we started donating. Lodging costs \$20 per night for parents who can afford it. That means that if the program receives \$1 per pound of pull tabs, Dante Club members have donated 51 nights of lodging.

Everything Italian

We like to think the Dante Club is the best Italian social club in Sacramento, but several other groups may interest our members:

- Arberesh — arbereshofsacramento.org
- Italian Cultural Society — italianculturalsociety.com

- Piemonte Reale — John Lancara, Societa Piemonte Reale, 3621 E. Lincoln Ave, Sacramento, CA 95818
- Romulus Club — John L. Boze, Romulus Club, 400 Capitol Mall, Suite 1850, Sacramento, CA 95814

Annual dues overdue

Yearly \$100 membership dues were due Jan. 31. Members who missed the deadline can pay online at <https://www.danteclub.com/members.php> or by cash, check or card at the club. Mail checks to:

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

New members

We inducted Chris Troughton, sponsored by his dad, Doug Troughton, on Feb. 17. We also interviewed and hope to vote soon on Paul Jacobs, sponsored by James Leonard, and Andy Donovaro, sponsored by Don Agostinelli.

At the March members meeting, new president Ron Pane will present outgoing president Robert Guidera with a plaque for his dedicated service.

Improvements underway

Ernie Tomassilli's building and grounds committee is transforming our building. Here are highlights:

- Burned-out torchiere lights in the Venetian Room have been replaced with LEDs to save energy. All lights will be replaced with LEDs in the coming months.
- The building's security system is now working except for one area on the east side. Worn cables on the roof are being replaced.

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The Villa Rosa dei Venti is an estate in the municipal district of Cortona in Tuscany. It offers lodging for travelers in a scenic vineyard setting.

Italy

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But the beautiful life doesn't mean the luxurious life. It means a relaxed, family-centric lifestyle.

Check out seven lessons Americans can learn from Italians:

1. Eat slowly, locally and with others. There's really no such thing as Italian fast food. (There is street food, which is excellent.) Italy is all about 'slow food.' Dinners are unhurried and eaten around a table with family. Food is natural, authentic and sourced locally.

2. Drink a bit but not too much. Italians love their vino, but they don't overdo it. Here in America, there's a culture of binge drinking. In Italy, a bottle of wine is shared among friends or around the dinner table. Italians like to drink, but they know how to keep it classy.

3. You should indulge a little every now and then. There are so many delicious treats in Italy — rich gelato, mouth-watering pastries, decadent chocolates. Much like the philosophy on drinking, Italian culture has a 'perché no?' take on treats. 'Perché no?' translates to 'why not?' The idea is to treat yourself by having a little bit of something tasty, because ... why not?

4. Stop hurrying, start relaxing. Life is less hurried in Italy. People don't rush around with to-go cups of coffee but rather sip their espresso at the bar (aka coffee shop). Meals tend to linger at restaurants or at home. Pedestrians tend to meander. Many Italians take a break during the day from 1 to 3 p.m. to eat lunch and relax.

5. Families in Italy tend to stay in the same area rather than moving around. Grandparents often care for their grandchildren, siblings remain close, and extended families are huge and welcoming. Having family nearby is deeply valued in Italy. Having nonna (grandma), aunts, uncles and cousins drop by for dinner during the week or having a weekly extended family meal every Sunday is common.

6. Gather and spend time outdoors. Part of the great communal feel of Italy comes from the fact that people tend to congregate outdoors. Friends will meet at a piazza and hang out there rather than in a home. Piazzas are vibrant hubs where people assemble, children play and tourists roam, creating a lively atmosphere. Similarly, many Italians do most of their shopping at a mercato, or outdoor market, where vendors sell everything from food and wine to clothing and leather goods.

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Bylaws

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- shortening the bylaws amendment process from three to two months by voting in the second month
- reducing the bylaws amendment vote requirement from two-thirds of those present to a majority of those present
- increasing terms of the board of directors from one to two years
- having club officers assume their duties at the time of election
- adding duties to the role of recording secretary
- changing the term "club room" to "Dante Club facility"
- changing the membership of certain committees

For questions or concerns, call Ron Pane at 916-798-0111 or email him at repane@icloud.com.

News, Notes and Otherwise

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• The club's nerve center, the bar, is undergoing a minor facelift. The cool box under the taps has been refreshed, and push-button dispensers, wells and sinks will soon be replaced. Doors, mirrors and wiring behind the bar have been removed for a less cluttered look.

Members who are good with a hammer and nail can volunteer by emailing Ernie at ca.ernest@pacbell.net.



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Fax: (916) 443-3739
pedchiropractic@att.net

Office Hours By Appointment

ADVERTISER LISTING

Mixed Bag. Gifts for all reasons. 24th and K. 9-6 M-SA, 10-5 SU. 10% discount to club members. Tom & Linda Novi, proprietors. 916-447-6123. mixedbagsac.com.

THIS SPACE AVAILABLE
For details, contact John Caselli at jac6652@aol.com or 916-217-6482.

**Italy**

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There's nothing like wandering a mercato to sample the fare and interact with the locals.

7. Maintain a 'bella figura,' which literally translates to 'beautiful figure,' but it's more idiomatic than that. It's the idea of maintaining a good public image. Italians don't get drunk in public, eat while they walk or wear pajamas to the dinner table, because it would have a negative impact on their image. Bella figura is more than just looking good. It's a way of life that emphasizes aesthetics and good behavior."

I might add a No. 8: Italy's train service is an easier,

slower and less stressful way to get around.

For instance, you could fly into Rome and take a train to your hotel from the airport. Then take a train to Florence, where the station is in the heart of the city, and walk or taxi to your hotel. Then take an express train to Venice, Bologna or Milan. Then fly home from Milan or take a train back to Rome or Florence.

In all of these destinations, cars and guides can be arranged for day or overnight trips to the countryside for wine tasting, museums, historical ruins and special events.



The Sistine Chapel is in the Apostolic Palace in the Vatican City State.

DANTE'S REMINDERS

**Member volunteers**

To volunteer, contact club president Ron Pane or social chairman Michael Micciche to offer your services. You can reach Ron at 916-798-0111 or repane@icloud.com. You can contact Michael at 916-550-1122 or michael.micciche@gmail.com.

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 Mark Pedroncelli at 916-812-6729 or peddc@surewest.net 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 20th 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 our club treasurer, Tom Mezzanares, at 916-467-7483 or tjmezzan@gmail.com.