



THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

THE MOTTO - BUILDING BRIDGES NOT WALLS

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LACE MAKING
IS ONE OF MALTA'S
MOST
PRECIOUS TRADITIONS.
ORIGINALLY
ASSOCIATED
WITH NOBILITY,
IT IS NOW CONSIDERED
A HIGHLY VALUED
COMMODITY

BIZZILLA - LACE-MAKING IN MALTA

Kummissjoni Gholja tar-Repubblika ta' Malta
High Commission for the Republic of Malta

MHC Press Release 06/2017



First Official Visit to Perth, Western Australia of High Commissioner Charles Muscat, 8-13 September 2017

High Commissioner H.E. Mr. Charles Muscat, accompanied by Mrs. Victoria Muscat, paid a first official visit to Perth, Western Australia, on 8-13 September 2017.

The High Commissioner and Mrs. Muscat arrived in Perth on Friday, 8th September 2017. Upon their arrival, they paid a visit to the St. Mary's Cathedral where they met Rev. Msgr. Michael Keating, Dean and Administrator, who was keen to discuss about pilgrimages to Europe. In the evening, the High Commissioner and Mrs. Muscat attended a welcome reception held by the Maltese Association of Western Australia (MAWA) in Bassendean.



High Commissioner Charles Muscat and H.E. the Hon Kerry Sanderson AC, Governor of

On Sunday, 10th September 2017, the High Commissioner was invited to lay a wreath with Mr. Stephen Cauchi, President of MAWA, during a ceremony with the Maltese community at Kings Park Memorial that commemorated the Great Siege. A visit to the Migrant Children Commemorative Sculpture and the Welcoming Walls in Fremantle to pay tribute to Maltese migrants who arrived by sea at Fremantle and Albany followed.

The official calls and meetings with the WA Government were facilitated by Ms. Melanie Slinger, Senior State Ceremonial Events Officer of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

The High Commissioner called on the following officials of the WA Government:

- Deputy Lord Mayor of the City of Perth, Mr. James Limnios,
- Governor of Western Australia (WA), H.E. the Hon. Kerry Sanderson AC,
- President of the Legislative Council, the Hon. Kate Doust MLC,
- Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Hon. Peter Watson MLA,
- Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Dr. Mike Nahan MLA,
- Chief Justice of WA, the Hon. Wayne Martin AC
- Representing the Premier of WA, the Hon. Dave Kelly MLA

The High Commissioner also attended an economic briefing on Western Australia conducted by Mr. John Shute, Project Manager at the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation.

High Commissioner Muscat also met, on separate occasions, with Mr. Darren Levy, Manager of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the WA State Director of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ms. Andrea Gleason.

On the last day of the visit, the High Commissioner attended a meeting with representatives of Austal, Australia's foremost shipbuilding company, and discussed Austal's interest in Europe.

During his meetings, the High Commissioner was accompanied by the Honorary Consul in Perth, Mr. Paul Calleja.

Building on the success of this Official Visit, further discussions will be held with selected companies and government entities.

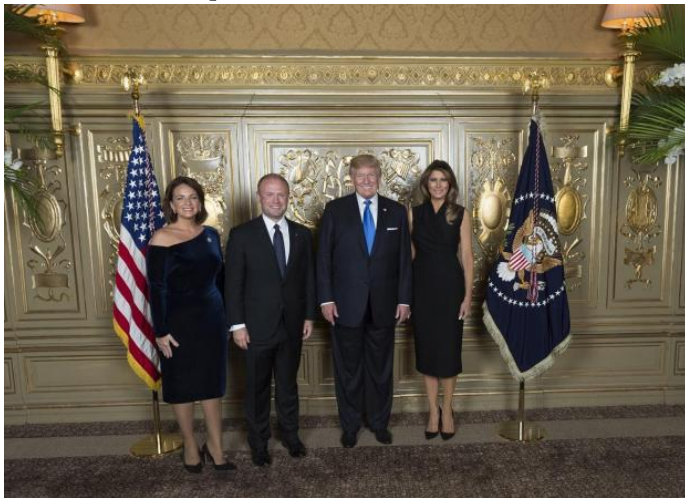
High Commissioner Charles and Mrs. Victoria Muscat with Mr Stephen Cauchi,



strengthen diplomatic relations with state government officials while availing of any opportunities to promote Malta and Gozo.

The High Commissioner and Mrs. Muscat departed Perth on Wednesday, 13 September 2017.

Muscat speech to United Nations: 'No peace while extreme poverty exists'



Prime Minister Joseph Muscat and Mrs Michelle Muscat posed for an official White House photo with US President Donald Trump and his wife Melania during a visit in New York.

Maltese prime minister Joseph Muscat addresses UN General Assembly makes pitch for multilateral action on migration and trafficking

Prime Minister Joseph Muscat set much store by his government's efforts to reduce extreme poverty and severe material deprivation at home, in his speech to the United Nations' General Assembly in New York. His opener to the UNGA, declaring that "there can be no peace while extreme poverty exists", served as a prelude to a speech that promoted his government's commitment to social mobility, social justice, equality and unity.

"Just today we have learnt that in Malta less people are at risk of poverty, following a drive by our government to distribute fairly the proceeds coming from sustained growth. This is an achievement which is as dear to us as our record setting economic

growth and minimal unemployment levels," he said of the latest income survey that found 9,000 less people were living at risk of poverty and social exclusion. "This is exactly what we work for, our raison d'être, which we describe as prosperity with a purpose." Muscat also spoke of his government's achievement in equality and inclusion, particularly on gay rights.

"We redefined marriage to grant full equality and a fair gender neutral essence. All this has been complemented by amendments to our Constitution to protect against discrimination on the basis of 'sexual orientation' and 'gender identity'. These individual choices should be as significant as the colour of one's eyes."

He also spoke of the government's measures to reconcile work and familial responsibilities, and provide universal free childcare to all working people. "We want to ensure more gender-balanced political representation coupled with recent initiatives to increase youth participation by lowering voting age in general and European elections from 18 to 16, after already lowered voting age in local elections." He turned to migration, where he claimed Malta – often dubbed a source and destination country for trafficking – was serving as a "beacon of political courage that inspires others to introduce concrete measures and reforms" in the protection of marginalized and vulnerable persons.

"The exploitation of human misery knows no boundaries. Migrant smuggling and human trafficking by criminal groups are globally prevalent and Malta very much witnesses this close to home along the central Mediterranean route."

But he said that migration and trafficking required a global response, he reaffirmed that States had a sovereign right to decide their immigration policies. "But [the Global Compact on Migration] should also commit States to build migration systems and institutions that operate in a timely manner so that migrants are treated fairly and with dignity; protect migrants' human rights and create awareness against exploitation and modern slavery; and lead campaigns against xenophobia whilst providing support for the integration of long-term migrants."

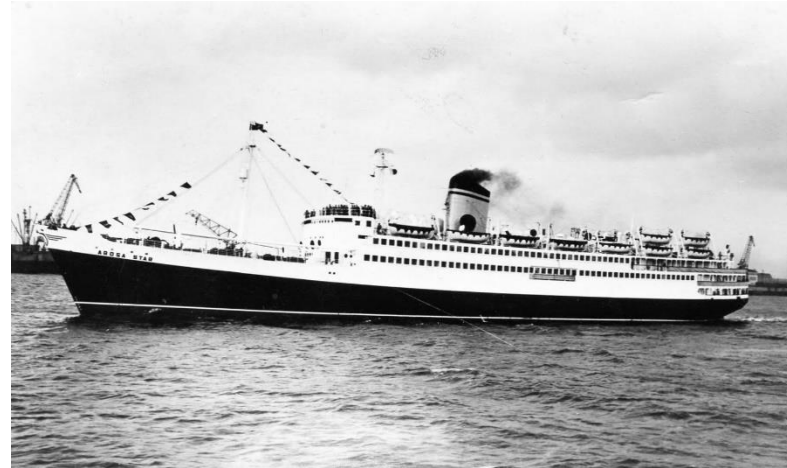
"We are strong believers in the overarching power of multilateralism. We do not believe the UN is simply a sum of its parts, but rather a force that grows exponentially when we think and act as one, rather than alone."

JOURNEY TO THE UNKNOWN

Ron Borg - Adelaide, Australia



SS Boringen was a passenger liner built in USA in 1931. In WW II, it was used for troop transport until June 1946. She could carry 1,289 troops and 404 medical patients. After January 1945, she began a routine shuttle between Southampton and Le Harve. In 1949 she was sold she was bought by the Bull Steamship Co. and renamed Puerto Rico. In 1954, she was purchased by the Arosa Line and rebuilt as the Arosa Star the third largest Swiss Cruise Liners of the Arosa Line until 1958. During this period she transported immigrants from Northern Europe to Canada and the USA, but with the advent of affordable Air travel, the immigrant transport business diminished and the Arosa Line eventually went



bankrupt. In the years of 1959-69, she operated for the Eastern Steamship Lines as the Bahama Star, sailing between Florida and the Bahamas, during which period it managed to rescue 489 people from the burning SS Yarmouth Castle, (another Cruise Ship), with 90 people perishing in the blaze.



The Chetcuti family (in the foreground) on board the Arosa Star

In 1964 she was renamed La Jenelle and brought to California with plans to be turned into a floating Restaurant, but that plan never materialized. In 1970, while at anchor, a storm erupted, the ships anchor could not hold, and 23 minutes later she was ground on the beach at Port Hueneme California.

Leaving their beloved hometown of Zejtun, Malta, **Joe Chetcuti**, with his parents **Angelo and Felicia**, and his three brothers, **Tony, Charlie and Fred** and his sisters, **Doris and Mary** departed the shores of Valletta harbour to the waves of "Farewell" from friends and relatives on Saturday 29 January 1955 on board the **AROSA STAR**.

Joe recalls that there were other Maltese migrants on the same journey that settled in Adelaide, including the Caruana Family, Salvu and Charlie Mercieca (*tal-Moy-Moy*), Manuel Borg (*il-Furkett*) and Fred Richards (*the Soccer player*). This was to be the third and last voyage of the Arosa Star to Australia.

Valley of the Kings, is a movie that Joe will never forget. He watched it for about 25 times out of the 33 nights that it was shown through the entire voyage!! Not much variety in entertainment, but that is all that there was! An event that caused concern among the passengers on the day previous to the ship docking in Melbourne was a fire that developed during the maintenance work that was being carried out on board.



It must have caused anxiety for everyone especially when the ship's distress funnel horn was sounded twice, indicating the seriousness of the fire. However the Arosa Star arrived safely on the 2nd March 1955 and the Chetcuti family made their Overland Train journey to Adelaide arriving on the 3rd March.

Joseph Bugeja accompanied by his mother Daydie, brothers Phillip and Emanuel, sisters Rita, Maria, and Zena with her husband Tony Cauchi, also had their journey to Australia on this same voyage, but they came to be reunited with their father Tony, brother George, and sister Kate who were already living in Broken Hill.

This Series "Journey to the Unknown" will continue in the next Newsletter - Ron Borg, Adelaide Australia

THE ART OF LACE-MAKING

Lacemaking in Malta and neighboring Gozo trace their origins back to the 16th century. Needlelace was made there as in was in Venice. This continued until the 19th century when the depression that descended upon the islands nearly led to its extinction. Two people are known to be responsible for introducing and promoting a new lace in these islands in the mid 1800's.

Lady Hamilton Chichester sent lacemakers from Genoa, where the technique of Italian bobbin lace was developed, to Malta. They used the old needlelace patterns and turned them into ones using bobbins, instead of the slower time-consuming needles.

On Gozo it was the promotion by designer, Dun Guzepppe, that made lacemaking a way of raising the standard of living for local families. It wasn't long after its introduction before the Maltese/Gozo lace developed it's own unique style from lace on the continent.

One of the most recognizable traits of Maltese and Gozo lace is the creamy, honey colored, Spanish silk from which most of it is made. Black silk was also used until the 20th century when it declined in favor so is harder to find today. Later linen was also used in some pieces used for household purposes instead of clothing, as it was more durable. Another distinguishing feature of Maltese/Gozo lace is the 8 pointed Maltese crosses that are worked into most, but not all of this lace. These crosses are done in what lacemakers call whole or cloth stitch. (see photo)

The last of the most recognizable features are the leaves known as "wheat ears" or "oats". They are plump and rounded in shape compared to the long narrow Bedfordshire lace leaves. Bedfordshire lace, which is sometimes compared to Maltese lace, has some similarities and were probably both developed from the Genosese bobbin lace.

It is interesting to note that larger pieces of real Maltese lace are made by piecing together sections rarely wider than 6 inches. One more thing to look for in assessing Maltese design is the more fluid styles. Genoese lace is more geometric and without the swirls developed in Gozo. Another interesting item that lacemakers might find interesting is that the patterns do not have the pin holes pre-marked as in the closely related "Beds" lace.

The study of Maltese/Gozo lace is at best difficult, as there is very little printed material about it. The only author who has written about it in English is Consiglia Azzopardi. She has written 2 books. The first: "Gozo Lace- An introduction to Lacemaking in the Maltese Islands" and the follow-up. "Gozo Lace – A selection of Bobbin Lace Patterns" 1998. She has a website too!



President of Malta attends Mass at Oratory of Our Lady of Ta' Pinu in Washington



President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca attended Holy Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, in Washington.

The President was accompanied by her husband, Mr Edgar Preca, as well as the Ambassador of Malta to the U.S. Pierre Clive Agius.

The Basilica has a Maltese connection, and the Mass was celebrated in Maltese, by Reverend Emanuel P. Magro, Assistant Professor of Catechetics within the School of Theology and Religious Studies at the Catholic University of America.

ed in the Crypt Church of the Basilica is the dedicated Oratory of Our Lady of Ta' Pinu, which features a beautiful mosaic reproduction of the original oil painting of the Assumption of Mary, that is in the Basilica of Ta' Pinu in Gozo. The President, is the first Maltese Head of State to visit Washington D.C. oil painting of the Assumption of Mary, that resides in the Basilica of Ta' Pinu in Gozo, Malta.



READERS FROM MALTA - GOZO

CANADA - AUSTRALIA

UNITED STATES, EUROPE

SOUTH AMERICA

AFRICA - NEW ZEALAND

UNITED KINGDOM

AND MORE



Malti fi New York: Kienu jistaqsuh fejn hi Malta, illum jistaqsuh kif telaq minnha

[TVM](#)

Fi New York, hemm mal-25,000 Malti u Maltija mill-ewwel sat-tielet generazzjoni. L-erba' klabbs tal-Maltin fi New York illum huma miġbura fi klabb wiehed, li huwa l-post fejn il-Maltin iżommu kuntatt ma' art

twelidhom.

New York, il-belt magħrufa li qatt ma torqod, hija komunità vibranti li tħaddan fiha nies ġejjin mill-kontinenti kollha. Mhux lanqas il-Maltin, li l-influss tagħhom hawn kien fl-aqwa tiegħu wara l-aħħar gwerra, u issa t-tielet generazzjoni ta' Maltin jafu biss lill-Istati Uniti bħala darhom.

Izda r-rabtiet tal-Maltin li emigraw lejn New York, għadhom b'qalbhom f'Malta. Il-klabb tal-Maltin fi Queens New York, huwa bejta t'attività hajja għall-membri li jiltaqgħu hawn, u fuq fommhom – dak kollu li huwa Malti. Mill-istatwa ta' San Pawl maħduma minn idejn Wistin Camilleri Cauchi sittin sena ilu, sa kull simbolu ieħor li jgħaqqadhom ma' Malta – bħal din id-dgħajsa tal-pass, il-Maltin hawn jippruvaw ma jinsewx ir-rabta m'art twelidhom.

“Il-komunità Maltija hawnhekk hija vibranti u daqsxejn avvanzata fl-età, għax it-tfal tal-Maltin kollha hargu minn New York, Connecticut u New Jersey, però għadhom iżommu sew it-tradizzjonijiet Maltin. Fil-fatt meta tiġi titkellem hawn magħhom il-Hadd jitekellmu fuq il-futbol, però xi haġa tajba li għandha l-komunità Maltija hi li hija komunità magħqda minn kull aspett, anke dak politiku, u fil-fatt fil-klabb tal-Maltin għandhom regola li ma jitekllmux fuq politika Maltija. Jitekllmu fuq politika Amerikana, fuq Trump fuq Obama, imma fuq il-politika Maltija ma jitekllmux,” qal l-Ambaxxatur Carmel Inguanez, rappreżentant permanenti Malti għan-Nazzjonijiet Magħqda.

Il-President ta' Malta Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, u l-Prim Ministru Joseph Muscat li f'impenji differenti jinsabu hawn fi New York iltaqgħu flimkien mal-Maltin, u fissru l-gratitudni tagħhom li għalkemm bogħod minn arthom, il-Maltin baqgħu jzommu l-identità tagħhom. Karmenu Mampalao, Għawdx i li emigra l-Amerka 34 sena ilu, jgħid li qed tikber l-isfida ta' generazzjonijiet godda li jibqgħu qrib art missirijiethom.

“Għall-ewwel li ġejt hawn jien kont niltaqa ma' nies jew ma' barranin u jghidulu ‘fejn hi Malta?’ Illum jghidulek ‘int x'qiegħed tagħmel hawn, Malta sabiha tant, kif qiegħed hawn fi New York?’ Jigifieri n-nies saru jafu hafna iktar fuq Malta, u l-Maltin kburin hafna li huma Maltin,” jghid Mampalao.

B'kollox huwa stmat li fil-belt ta' New York, it-tliet generazzjonijiet ta' Maltin ilaħħqu mal-25,000. It-timbru Malti huwa manifest anke fl-indirizz ta' dan l-uniku klabb għall-Maltin fi New York, li jinsab fi pjazza Malta – Malta Square. Hekk, qal is-sur Mampalao, post Malta jibqa' għal dejjem, anke f'dan il-kontinent li ta futur lil tant Maltin li emigraw fih.



**I AM ADDICTED TO THIS JOURNAL
AND I ALWAYS SHARE IT WITH MY RELATIVES AND FRIENDS**

cgalea



Malta still in the hearts of Maltese and Gozitans in New York

[TVM News](#)

The PM and the President of Malta, who recently visited New York, found the time to meet with some of the 15,000 people of Maltese descent who live in this state. Despite the fact that many years have passed since some of them left Malta, the emigrants still

have Malta in their hearts, especially our mother tongue.

Some of them emigrated to the US over 50 years ago, however as soon as you walk into the Maltese club in New York you feel as if you have entered into the core of a Maltese village. The President of the Maltese Centre in New York – Mark Azzopardi – said that the Maltese community does everything it can to keep its Maltese heritage alive.

“We try to bring Malta here and keep it here. We used to put up theatre productions, we play cards and even *boċċi*. Whatever we learned in Malta, we try and keep it going here,” said Mr Azzopardi.

Mr Azzopardi said that around 15,000 Maltese live in New York, 3,000 of which are members of the Maltese centre. Although they are far away from their native land, they still converse in Maltese. There is even an initiative by some members at the moment to teach the younger generation Maltese.

“I came here in 1984, almost 30 years ago, and I still speak Maltese fluently.” said George Cremona.

“When we come to the club we always speak in Maltese and when we meet other Gozitans we also speak in Maltese, although we speak English in our everyday life,” added Rita Grech.

“We speak the language at home and the children understand us even though we live here now. Since we meet every week, we keep our language alive which, as you know, is a beautiful language,” said Gino Fench.

“Oh yeah, I’m not going to forget Maltese and I enjoy meeting fellow Maltese and speaking the language. I’ve been here 44 years,” said Marija.

During their visit to New York, President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca and PM Joseph Muscat addressed the Maltese community.

The President said that no embassy gives visibility to Malta as much as the Maltese who live abroad. She praised the Maltese emigrants for everything they were doing for Malta. The PM stressed how important it was for Maltese communities who live abroad to remain united and urged them to not to let their differences and pique divide them. He noticed, however, that there was a lot of unity among the Maltese in New York.





VITTORIOSA (IL-BIRGU) - SENGLEA (L-ISLA)
COSPIGUA (BORMLA)

Birgu, Città Vittoriosa

is one of the oldest city on the Island, and it played an important role in the Siege of **Malta** in 1565. 2,633 people inhabit the 0.5 km² city located on the south side of the **Grand Harbour**. Birgu was once a main city and has a long history of military and maritime activities.

Birgu's position in the **Grand harbour** was of great importance and several military

leaders wanted to take over the city. Therefore, the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans Byzantines, Arabs, Normans and the Aragonese all shaped and developed Birgu. Yet, no one did more for the city than the **Knights of St. John**, who arrived to Malta in 1530 and made Birgu the **capital of Malta**.

Birgu is a unique city surrounded by **fortified walls**, ancient history, monuments and places that one can visit. The entrance to Birgu is via the Couvre Porte, while the parish church is dedicated to St. Lawrence, whose feast is celebrated annually on the 10th of August. Brass bands clubs, processions and fireworks are among the attractions in such festivities.

There is another church dedicated to Our Lady of the Annunciation and is run by the Dominican Order. It is also known as St. Dominic Church, and a smaller feast is celebrated every last Sunday of August.

Birgu: Things to do and see - **The Parish Church**: The parish church of St. Lawrence was the **Conventual church** of the Knights of St. John.

Inquisitor's Palace: The Inquisitor's Palace was the seat of the Inquisition in Malta from 1571 to 1798. The Palace has now been converted into a museum but before, it had its own chapel, library and rooms. However, once can still see the dungeons and the courtyard. The Museum is open every day and houses the national **museum of ethnography** collection.

Malta Maritime Museum: Exhibits maritime history from ancient to more recent times. The collections are unique and outstanding, especially those concerning the **warships of the Knights of St John**. There are also paintings, weapons, uniforms, anchors, maps and models dating from 1530 to 1798.

Notre Dame Gate: Grandmaster Fra Nicola Cotoner built this historical gate in Birgu in 1675. At the time it was built, it was the highest building in the region and from its terrace and roof there was an excellent view of a good part of the island. Today Notre Dame Gate houses the **headquarters of Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna** – the Malta Heritage Trust.

Malta at War Museum: The Museum holds an exciting exhibition about the II World War in Malta, with an underground air raid shelter. There is also a viewing of a 30-minute original **wartime documentary**. The museum exhibits a collection of wartime mementos, underground tunnels and audiovisuals. Open daily between 10:00 and 16:00.

Fort St. Angelo: After the Knights of Malta chose to settle in Birgu they made Fort St Angelo the seat of the Grand Master. This is a historical piece of military architecture with its fortified walls. Some parts of the fort were leased to the Order of the Knights of St. John, forming an **independent state** over which Malta has no jurisdiction over. Other parts of the fort were trusted in the hands of Heritage Malta, who plan its restoration in the near future.



Malta Philharmonic Orchestra 2017-2018 concert season launched

The Malta Orchestra set to take part in a tour of four German cities, after which it will continue on its way to Austria to take part in the prestigious *Musikverein*

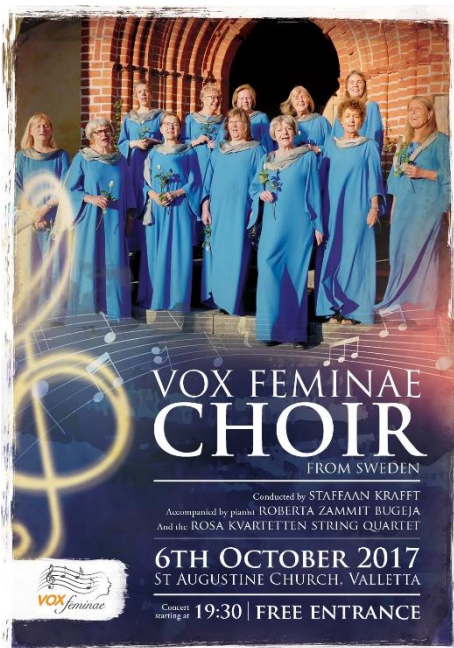


Photo - DOI - Jeremy Wonnacott

Culture Minister Owen Bonnici flanked by Malta Philharmonic Orchestra's executive chairman Sigmund Mifsud. Culture Minister Owen Bonnici and Malta Philharmonic Orchestra's executive chairman Sigmund Mifsud launched the MPO's 2017-2018 concert season.

"The National Orchestra has made great strides forward and it will continue to advance and reach new goals. This will be another exciting season for our musicians," Bonnici said, during the launch of the orchestra's concert season.

The Orchestra will once again act as Malta's cultural ambassador. Ten musicians from the National Orchestra will join 10 Russian counterparts in a concert, which will be held in Russia's capital Moscow, to commemorate the 50 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The Malta Orchestra will also take part in a tour of four German cities, after which the MPO will continue its way to Austria to take part in the prestigious *Musikverein*. Last year the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra had a standing ovation at this same event. Bonnici said this international involvement was taking local talent worldwide. On his part, Mifsud said that the National Orchestra should also be a point of reference for young Maltese musicians who aspire to join. He also remarked that these concerts do not only serve to showcase local musicians, but also Maltese music, helping to keep Malta's musical identity alive. The National Orchestra often commissions new works by Maltese composers itself: last June it premiered five pieces by Maltese composers for chamber orchestra and traditional instruments such as the *żaqq* and *flejtuta*.



Experience the beautiful and angelic voices of Vox Feminae, an all female Swedish Choir conducted by the brilliant Staffn Krafft, and

accompanied by the Rosa Kvartetten Quartet, which is also all female as well as the talented Roberta Zammit Bugeja on piano. The Choir shall perform during on the 6th October 2017 at 19:30 at St Augustine Church in Valletta. Admission is FREE

JP2FOUNDATION2@GMAIL.COM



Enjoy a Festival of Culture and Art at Birgufest 2017

Written by Sabine

If you're planning your holidays in Malta this autumn, then you're in for a cultural treat! Whilst the summer sun may be lower in the sky, there is still plenty to see and do during your stay and a great example of this is Birgufest 2017, a celebration of culture and

art.

Birgu, also known as Citta Vittoriosa is an ancient, fortified city in Malta. The city is flanked by Kalkara, Bormla, and Cospicua, and set across the majestic Grand Harbour from the capital city of Valletta. It is widely considered as one of the most spectacular and picturesque locations on the island.

Birgu is a wonderful mix of the old and new as well as being full of Instagram perfect views around every corner! The city is home to a luxury yacht marina, a bustling promenade full of top-end restaurants and bistros, boutique hotels. You'll also find numerous quaint little shops and cafes that are all very typically Maltese.

Throughout the year, Birgu hosts a large range of cultural events from yacht shows to street parties and daytime processions. Birgufest is the one that really draws the crowds from both near and far though.

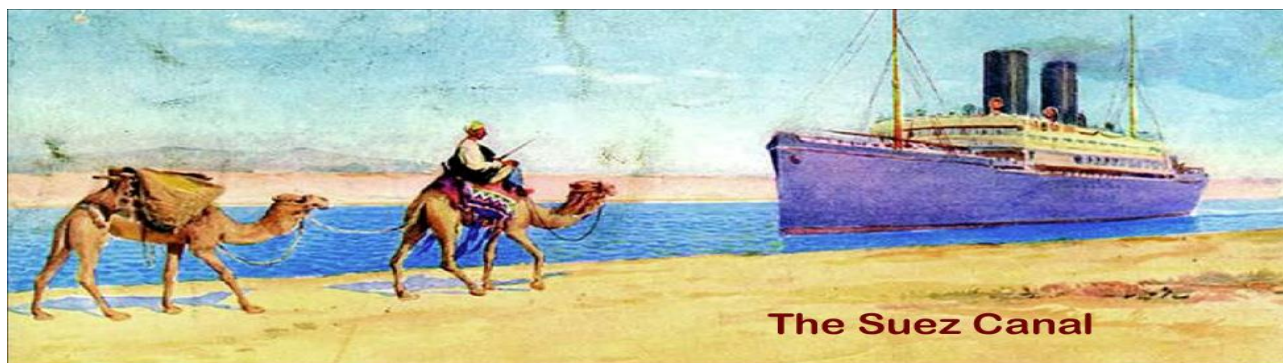
What is Birgufest? What started off as a few small events has now developed into a larger programme spanning a whole weekend. Guests and visitors can experience everything from historical enactments to dinner by candlelight in the beautiful town square. All the streets and houses are lit up with candles, chandeliers hang in the streets, and music ruminates throughout the winding pathways.

Most of the areas museums are open later and at discounted prices and this includes the historic Fort St Angelo. This imposing structure stands as a remnant of Birgu's past as the last bastion of Malta's defence against the invading Turkish forces during the Great Siege. You can also enjoy live music from a variety of different local groups, church services, processions, and a wide variety of street food on offer.

You can take your time to slowly explore the area, taking in exhibitions of local artists, visiting maritime museums, or just sitting outside a bistro watching the super yachts sail by.

When is it? Birgufest will be held this year over three days on 13-15 of October. Whilst official dates are yet to be announced, if you are thinking of a visit to Malta around this time, it is advisable to try and book so that your visit coincides. It really is an incredible evening which is suitable for all of the family. There is nothing quite like wandering the ancient streets of this historic city, just lit by the light of thousands of candles. It's something that really has to be seen to be believed!

If you'd like to learn more about Birgufest and when it will be organised for this year, keep an eye on the Birgufest Facebook Page.





Swimming at Saint Peter's Pool - Marsaxlokk

Check out the lunar terrain of this atypical beach—no sand but but smooth rock shaped by erosion. It's St. Peter's Pool!

This beautiful natural swimming pool with crystal clear blue-green water is ideal for snorkelers and

swimmers, or simply for those who want to spend a relaxing day in the sun. It is located close to Marsaxlokk, at the tip Delimara Point in the south-west part of Malta. The beach is covered with flat rocks. Beware of the sun in the middle of summer days. It can be quite strong and there is not much shade—the high cliffs are not always a good shield from sun rays.

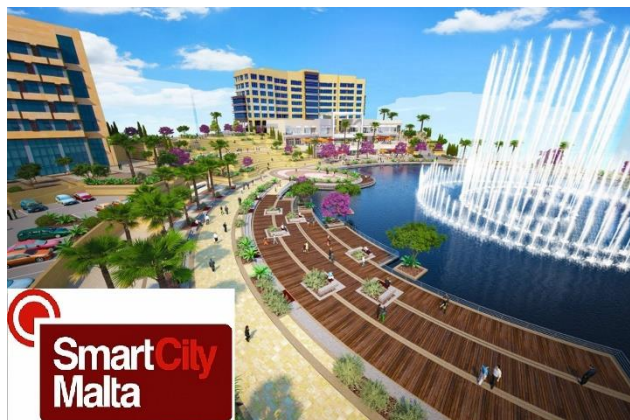
You can use the ladders from the flat rock beaches to go down to the sea. Due to its secluded position, St. Peter's Pool is rarely crowded and you can easily find a spot for yourself. This place has no infrastructure, no refreshments either, so plan ahead and bring snacks and water. Do not forget to take a hat and a sun screen cream too!

Oktoberfest

OCTOBERFEST WEEKEND
AT SMARTCITY MALTA

Laguna Walk at SmartCity Malta has continued to host a number of successful events throughout the summer and to add to previous successes, the new events hub in the south of Malta, together with Catermax, will be hosting an Oktoberfest on the 27th and 28th of September. The Oktoberfest will commence at 19:00 hrs till late on Saturday and will continue on Sunday from 11.00hrs onwards.

BMW Malta has chosen Laguna Walk to launch its BMW 2 Series Active Tourer during the upcoming event, on 27th sees BMW bringing the functionality of space and comfort, combined with hallmark BMW dynamics, style and elegance, to the premium compact class.



The Oktoberfest at Laguna Walk will follow the traditional German Oktoberfest held originally in Munich. The event is the world's largest annual funfair celebrated annually in Germany and other cities around the world. Everyone is invited to attend the festival which promises to be an exciting celebration at Laguna Walk. The entrance to the festival is free and ample parking spaces are available. These add to the spectacular location's many features.

During the event, there will be a dedicated BMW area. Areas of the Laguna Walk's promenade will also be allocated for a relaxing sit-down dining area where individuals and companies alike will have the opportunity to treat their family, friends, partners, associates and/or employees to a delicious meal with a stunning view. Since the event starts at 11:00hrs on Sunday, 28th a relaxing lunch on the Laguna Walk promenade on the day.

Laguna Walk at SmartCity Malta is the first of its kind on the island. It offers a dynamic venue for various events with its spectacularly choreographed fountains, beautiful promenade, grand steps and scenic terraced rooftops overlooking the

lagoon. In addition, the open-air amphitheatre and the terraced seating, all enjoy breathtaking views of the infinity lagoon and the azure Mediterranean Sea. Laguna Walk also offers a selection of indoor and outdoor dining experiences with food and beverages outlets such as Wejla by Tartarun, Chocafé, Bistro Ten-O-One, Laguna Restaurant, and soon to open: The Londoner Pub, Da Vinci and Incredible Asia who offer a variety of cuisines to tempt every palate.

If you wish to stay updated about all future Laguna Walk events, please visit www.lagunawalk.com.mt and like 'SmartCity News' on Facebook September. The launch of the BMW 2 Series Active Tourer September, people also have the opportunity to enjoy.



OKTOBERFEST

IN NEW YORK

U.S.A



**V18 Cultural program launched:
over 1 million people expected to
attend events next year**

Kevin Schembri

Orland

Today marked the launch of the 2018 cultural programme, a 224 page booklet for Valletta 2018, and over a million people are expected to attend events throughout next year.

A collection of 140 projects and 400 events are taking place throughout the European Capital of Culture year across the country. 200 of these events will be in Valletta.

14-21 January will be opening week for v18, and the official opening ceremony and celebrations will take place on 20 January. 20 January will see a series of events in and around Valletta.

, consists of projects from different disciplines including music, the visual arts, dance and performance. The programme sees the involvement of some 1,000 local and international artists, curators, artist collectives, performers, writers, designers, choirs etc. While a number of international artists are collaborating with locals during the 2018 programme, Maltese artists are travelling to Malta's twin Capital of Culture Leeuwarden in the Netherlands, as well as other cities in Cyprus, Japan and Greece.

"While there is no doubt that V18 will be a success, I pledge that government will not stop there and will keep working hand-in-hand with the culture and arts sectors so that every artist will keep finding opportunities in Malta."

Valletta 2018 Programme Coordinator Joanne Attard Mallia said that 2018 will be a unique year. "We are looking at a 12-month programme focused on exploring and pushing our understanding of culture

and art: combining traditions, art forms and concepts in innovative, even unusual ways.” He said that 2018 is a year for all Maltese.

Il-bidu tar-Rużarju

(fl-okkażjoni tal-100 Sena mid-dehriet ta' Fatima)



Ninsabu fis-sena 2017. Sewwa sew mitt sena ilu, il-Madonna dehret go Fatima fil-Portugal lil tlett itfal żgħar u innoċenti, Giacinta, Francesco u Lucia u fost hwejjeg oħra matul dawn id-dehriet talbithom biex jagħmlu penitenza u fuq kollox jgħidu ta' kuljum it-talba għażiża tar-Rużarju mqaddes biex ipattu għal tant nuqqasijiet ta' huthom il-bnedmin. Dan l-aħhar kont qed naqra kitba interessanti bl-Ingliż dwar l-origini tar-Rużarju miktuba minn Arinze Ani u deherli li ngib għall-attenzjoni tagħkom għeżież qarrejja xi qrajt dwar din it-talba li nemmen ħafna minnkomm għadhom isibu ħin li jgħiduha f'xi ħin jew iehor tal-gurnata. Wara kollox kemm tista' teħodlok ħin din ir-riflessjoni minn 24 siegħa tal-gurnata – mhux iktar minn kwarta!

Ir-Rużarju huwa wahda mit-talbiet tant għal qalb il-Knisja Kattolika. Jikkonsisti f'ħames misterji li jibdwew bil-Missierna, għaxar Ave Marijiet, u Glorja u Salve

Regina. Ħafna drabi ma tonqosx il-Litanija tal-Madonna. Matul dan il-ħin wiehed jirrifletti ftit dwar il-Misterji tal-Ferħ, tat-Tbatija, tal-Glorja u minn xi snin 'l hawn dwar il-Misterji tad-Dawl. Matul dan il-vjaġġ wiehed iġib quddiem għajnejh l-Inkarnazzjoni, il-Ministeru Appostoliku ta' Gesu', il-Passjoni u l-Mewt tiegħu, u l-Qawmien mill-mewt għall-Ħajja tal-Imgħallem Divin. Ir-Rużarju b'hekk jgħinna napprezzaw iktar dawn il-misterji u jgħaqqadna iktar ma' Gesu' u jgħinna ngħixu aħjar il-fidi tagħna. Fir-Rużarju nduru lejn Marija, Ommna fil-fidi u nitolbuha biex twassalna għand Binha Gesu'. Il-bidu tar-Rużarju mhuwiex daqstant ċar. L-użu taż-żibeġ tal-kuruna u r-repetizzjoni tat-talb għall-meditazzjoni imorru lura lejn il-bidu tal-Knisja u għandhom bidu saħansitra qabel l-eżistenza tal-Knisja. Hemm evidenza li turi li minn żmenijiet tan-nofs kienu diġa jintużaw żibeġ biex jgħinu persuna tghodd in-numru tal-Missierna u tal-Ave Marijiet waqt it-talb. Fil-fatt dawn iż-żibeġ kienu magħrufa bħala 'Paternosters'.

L-istruttura tar-Rużarju bdiet tevolvi bilmod bejn it-12 u l-15-il sekl. Bil-mod bdew jingħadu ħamsin Ave Marija b'intervalli ta' xi salm jew frażijiet oħra li jtkellmu dwar Gesu' u Marija. Din il-forma ta' talba bilmod bdiet tissejjah 'Rosarium' (ġnien bil-fjuri); fi kliem sempliċi antoloġija ta' stejjer fuq l-istess suġġett. Finalment fis-16-il sekl, it-talba tar-Rużarju ħadet il-forma kif nafuha llum, jiġifieri ħames posti u l-ħames misterji skont il-gurnata tal-ġimgha. Għadd ta' sekli wara, fis-sena 2002, żdiedu l-ħames misterji tad-Dawl fuq xewqa tal-Papa qaddis Gwanni Pawlu t-Tieni imwieled fil-Polonja.

It-Tradizzjoni żżomm li San Duminku (1221) fassal ir-Rużarju kif nafuh illum. Wara viżjoni li l-Qaddis kellu tal-Madonna, huwa ppriedka dwar it-talba tar-Rużarju lill-Albeġiżi li kienu jiċhdu l-inkarnazzjoni ta' Kristu għalkemm xi studjużi ma jikkonfermawx dan il-fatt billi r-Rużarju ma jissemmiex fil-ħajja bikrija tal-Qaddis u l-pittura ta' żmien ma ġgib xejn dwar dan l-istat ta' fatt.

Fl-1922 Dom Louis Gougau hallielna miktub dan li ġej: 'Id-devozzjoni Kattolika magħrufa bħala r-Rużarju hija r-riżultat ta' żvilupp twil u gradwali li beda qabel San Duminku, kompli jikber mingħajr l-ebda indħil tal-Qaddis u li ha s-sura attwali tiegħu diversi sekli wara l-mewt ta' San Duminku.' Min-naħa l-oħra skola oħra ta' ħassieba jsostnu li għalkemm San Duminku ma vvintax ir-Rużarju, madanakollu tkellem b'saħħa fuq biex jikkonverti lill-midinba u jiġbed lura lil dawk li kienu tbiegħdu

mill-fidi. Ma rridux imma nħallu barra li madwar tużżana Papiet tkellmu dwar San Duminku u r-rabta tiegħu miegħu u dan ta' min jagħti kasu.

It-talba tar-Rużarju kompliet tikber fil-popolarita' fl-1500 meta l-Misilmin Torok kienu qed iħarbtu parti kbira tal-Ewropa. Fl-1453, Kostantinopli kienet waqgħet f'idejn it-Torok bil-Balkani u l-Ungerija f'periklu kbir. Il-Misilmin kienu qed jattakkaw ukoll il-kosta tal-Italja u allura l-Mediterran kien f'periklu imminenti. Fl-1571 il-Papa Piju V waqaf armata taħt it-treġġja ta' Don Juan tal-Awstrija; matul din il-kampanja l-Papa heġġeġ lil kulhadd biex jgħid ir-Rużarju lill-Madonna tal-Vitorji biex il-Mulej jagħti r-rebħa lill-forzi kattoġliċi. Ghalkemm il-flotta Torka kien bil-wisq ikbar minn dik tal-Papa, li kellha tperper il-bandiera bi Kristu msallab, fis-7 ta' Ottubru 1571, it-Torok ħargu telliefa fil-battalja ta' Lepanto. Is-sena ta' wara, il-Papa San Piju V bħala ringrazzjament waqqaf il-festa tal-Madonna tar-Rużarju fis-7 ta' Ottubru biex l-insara jibqgħu jiftakru f'din ir-rebħa storika waqt li jroddu ħajr lil Alla għall-benefiċċji kollha li għoġbu jxerred fuqhom u bħala ringrazzjament lill-Verġni mbierka għall-interċessjoni tagħha.

B'dan il-ħsieb f'moħħu, il-Papa Pollakk illum qaddis, Gwanni Pawlu t-Tieni, matul it-talba tal-Angelus lura f'Ottubru tal-1983 kien instama' jgħid: 'Ir-Rużarju jiehu perspettiva ġdida u jspikka fuq l-imġhoddi. Issa mhuwiex il-każ li ngħiduh biex niksbu rebħiet bħal dawk ta' Lepanto u Vienna; issa hija kwistjoni li nduru lejn Marija biex tippovvilna gellieda valorużi biex jikkumbattu l-ispirtu tal-ħażen bid-dirgħajn tal-Vangelu, bis-Salib u l-Kelma t'Alla. Ir-Rużarju hija t-talba mill-bniedem għall-bniedem. Hija t-talba tas-solidarjeta' umana, it-talba li trid tifdi lill-bniedem, li tirrifletti l-ispirtu u l-intenzjoni ta' dik li giet l-ewwel mifdija, Marija, xbieha u Omm il-Knisja. Hija t-talba għall-popli kollha tad-dinja, ħajjin u mejtin, msejha biex magħna jkun l-ġisem ta' Kristu u werrieta tiegħu fil-glorja tal-Missier.'

Il-fatt li l-Knisja għadha tinkludi l-festa tar-Rużarju fil-Kalendarju Liturġiku tagħha huwa xhieda biżżejjed tal-importanza u t-tjubija ta' din it-talba li kif għidna fil-bidu ma tehux iktar minn kwarta jekk mhux inqas ukoll biex tgħidha. Nagħlqu din il-kitba tagħna billi nikkwotaw x'ħallielna miktub l-Arċisqof Amerikan ta' fama qaddisa, Fulton Sheen f'wahda mill-kitbiet għarfa tiegħu: 'Ir-Rużarju huwa l-ktieb tal-ghomja fejn l-erwieħ jaraw u hemm tispikka l-akbar imħabba; ir-Rużarju huwa l-ktieb tas-sempliċi li jdahħalhom f'misteri u għerf ħafna ikbar minn tal-ghorrief; huwa t-talba tal-anzjani li ghajnejhom magħluqin għad-dawl ta' din id-dinja imma miftuħa beraħ għall-ħajja li ġejja. Is-saħħa tar-Rużarju ma tistax tiddekkriwiha'



It's finally happening... Transforming Ta' Qali crafts village

The government will invest €10 million of EU funds

Works to transform the Ta' Qali crafts village into a modern outfit have started after years of aborted plans and failed promises.

Economy Minister Chris Cardona said the

government will invest €10 million of EU funds and the project will be complete by the end of next year. Private investors have agreed to invest another €4 million and rebuild their workshops according to an approved master plan.

"During the last administration we revisited plans that had been in the pipeline since 1992, reached an agreement with tenants and applied for EU funds," Dr Cardona said.

The project aims to turn the area into a destination for Maltese as much as tourists.

Joe Galea, managing director at Heritage Homes, a company based at the crafts village, said he was investing €1.7 million to create an artisan cluster of workshops.

Private investors will have to redevelop their buildings in line with the approved master plan. The government also plans to market the whole site as a single brand.

AUSTRALIA'S Great Barrier Reef

A world heritage listed, natural inspiration.

The Great Barrier Reef is located off the coast of Queensland Australia. The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef going for approximately 344 400 km squared and is composed of 2 900 separate reefs, 900 islands and stretches for 2 300 km in length.



The Great Barrier Reef is one of the seven wonders of the natural world, and pulling away from it, and viewing it from a greater distance, you can understand why. It is larger than the Great Wall of China and the only living thing on earth visible from space. The Great Barrier Reef, off the coast of Queensland in northeastern Australia, is the largest living thing on Earth, and even visible from outer space. The 2,300km-long ecosystem comprises thousands of reefs and hundreds of islands made of over 600 types of hard and soft coral. It's home to countless species of colourful fish, molluscs and starfish, plus turtles, dolphins and sharks.

Where Is The Great Barrier Reef?

The marine park stretches over 3000km (1800 miles) almost parallel to the Queensland coast, from near the southern coastal town of Bundaberg, up past the northern tip of Cape York.

The reef, between 15 kilometres and 150 kilometres off shore and around 65 Km wide in some parts, is a gathering of brilliant, vivid coral providing divers with the most spectacular underwater experience imaginable. A closer encounter with the Great Barrier Reef's impressive coral gardens reveals many astounding underwater attractions including the world's largest collection of corals (in fact, more than 400 different kinds of coral), coral sponges, molluscs, rays, dolphins, over 1500 species of tropical fish, more than 200 types of birds, around 20 types of reptiles including sea turtles and giant clams over 120 years old.

What Is The Great Barrier Reef? The reef is a breeding area for humpback whales, migrating from the Antarctic and is also the habitat of a few endangered species including the Dugong (Sea Cow) and large Green Sea Turtle. In recognition of its significance, UNESCO listed the Great Barrier Reef as a World Heritage Site in 1981. *Because of its natural beauty, both below and above the water's surface, the reef has become one of the worlds most sought after tourist destinations.*

In are approximately 820 operators and 1500 vessels and aircraft permitted to operate in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park providing ease of access for all to experience the Great Barrier Reef and learn first hand about its natural delights and World Heritage values.



Many Maltese migrants travelled though the Suez Canal in 1950s, 60s and 70s on their way to Australia

HISTORY OF EGYPT

- THE SUEZ CANAL

1859 was another important year in the history of Egypt and of the Mediterranean. On April 25 of that year Ferdinand de Lesseps started working on the Suez Canal and that zone was to attract thousands of workers

from the European shores of the Mediterranean. Some Maltese sought their fortune in that area. Manual workers left Malta on their own initiative to find employment with the British Forces in Egypt. Most of the immigrants from Malta earned their livelihood in the construction business as masons, carpenters, smiths and glaziers. Their British employers found them useful because some Maltese knew English and they were able to pick up Arabic much faster than other European workers.

The Magical Mediterranean Island of Malta

Rich in mythology, ancient treasures, and Hollywood history.



The woman at the check-in counter is terse and unsmiling. She's clearly about to deliver bad news.

"I'm sorry, but because of the floods in Milan your flight is cancelled," she says, refusing to make eye-contact with either of us. "But we can offer you tickets to Malta instead."

Us: "Where?" I vaguely remember learning about the tiny Mediterranean country in fifth form geography, but time and indifference had wiped it from my mental slate.

In fact, the sum total of our knowledge of Malta consisted of the fact actor Oliver Reed died there and it's where they filmed *Gladiator*, *Troy* and

other films involving men in togas.

We were apparently not alone in our ignorance: on our return to New Zealand, friends asked if Malta was somewhere in Africa, if it was an island and if we needed inoculations. But having spent a week in the tiny Mediterranean speck, I can confidently say the EU's smallest state is also one of its best.

That's if you make it from the airport in one piece. Malta has one of the worst driving records in Europe and the absence of traffic lights, drivers determined to break the land-speed record and potholes you could fish in, makes for one hairy ride.

But if your taxi overtakes on a blind corner, or the bus driver spends the entire journey chatting to his mate, barely glancing at the road, you should do as the locals do: shrug and get over it. As one man told me: "Here we drive on the right, on the left and on the footpath. But we always get there in the end".

He's right and besides, the three small islands that comprise Malta contain so many treasures it's easy to overlook the driving issue. Because Malta is one of the most historically significant places on earth.

There are five World Heritage sites featuring some of the oldest structures in the world, including 5000-year-old temples which rub up against immense 16th century fortifications, megalithic fortresses and grand stone palaces. Here history doesn't just whisper from the shadows; it yells from the rooftops.

And what a history it is: the list of those who've invaded and ruled this tiny archipelago over the past 7000 years reads like a who's who of the ancient world. As far back as 7000 BC, the Greeks showed up and helped themselves to large chunks of land. They were followed by the Romans, Arabs, Sicilians, the Knights of St John, the French, Turks and even the British.

So it's not surprising that Malta, the smaller island of Gozo and the even tinier one of Comino are like sponges, having absorbed characteristics from all those who have gone before.

The Italians, for example, bequeathed pasta and wine, there are architectural flights of fancy and spice from the Phoenicians and almond and olive trees from the Greeks and Romans. Dates and sugar cane came courtesy of the Arabs, while the last rulers, the British, introduced red telephone boxes, right-hand driving and a penchant for scones and tea.

We begin our Maltese adventure in Valletta, the capital of Malta. At 600m x 1000m, it's the EU's smallest capital, a compact city filled with charming cobbled lanes and hole-in-the wall cafés.

Dominating the proceedings is St John's Co-Cathedral, a ridiculously ornate behemoth that would put most European cathedrals to shame. The proscenium arches, marble inlay tombstones, and manically ornamented everything are an incredible testament to the Knights of St John's endless attempts to keep up with the Medicis. And if that's not enough, there are two paintings by Caravaggio.

The mercurial Italian apparently spent 14 months on the island before impregnating a local organ-player and legging it, leaving in his wake the astonishing realist masterpiece, *The Beheading of St John the Baptist*. Almost as impressive is the 16th century Grand Master's Palace, once home to the Knights of St John and now the seat of Malta's parliament and the official residence of the Maltese president.

But a girl can't live on architecture and art alone so we take ourselves to the Upper Barrakka Gardens, a shaded colonnaded garden which provides surely the best view of Malta's Grand Harbour. Given this view,

and the amount of historic and architectural bling, it's no surprise that Malta is the go-to destination for film makers.

Our guide tells us these sun-blushed islands produce more films per head of population each year than Los Angeles. No wonder the locals are so proud movies such as *Gladiator*, *Troy*, *Midnight Express* and *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* were filmed here.



Indeed, one of the most famous actors to film here was the late Oliver Reed, so it's fitting that we raise a glass of the excellent local brew, Cisk Beer, to him at a tiny back-street bar known simply as The Pub. This is where the infamous Reed enjoyed his last ever drop of alcohol and the walls are, accordingly, papered with photos and mementos of him.

By day three we're ready to brave the Maltese traffic again, so we jump on one of the prehistoric public buses for the 45-minute journey to the island's former capital, the medieval city of Mdina. This is, without a doubt, historic Malta at her most

photogenic.

We lose the best part of a day exploring the charming cobbled alleys that snake around Baroque palazzos and ornately decorated churches.

The only problem with such historic loveliness is that every other tourist on the island wants to see it too; but do as we did, and escape the crush by walking the tree-lined streets to Rabat, the tiny town immediately to the south of Mdina. Here lie some of the most important Christian sites in this deeply Catholic nation, including St Paul's Church and Grotto. Legend has it the saint was shipwrecked off the Maltese coast in AD60 and spent some time living here. Across the square, St Paul's Catacombs are also worth a visit, if only to escape the heat of the day. There's not a lot to see in the labyrinth of rock-cut tombs but it's still fun to explore.

You can't come to Malta and not catch the ferry to Gozo, one of three tiny limestone dots that make up the Maltese archipelago.

As far north as you can go without bumping into Sicily, Gozo was said to be home to the sea nymph Calypso who kept Odysseus as a prisoner of love for seven years. It's only 43sq km, which means you can drive it in half an hour (or 10 minutes, if you're a local).

We hire cycles and ride out to the island's most historic site, the Ggantija Temples. Pre-dating the Egyptian pyramids and Stonehenge by some 1000 years, the Giant's Temples are said to be the world's oldest free-standing buildings.

Built around 3600BC, possibly as the site of a fertility cult, archaeologists believe the numerous rotund female figurines found among these soft limestone structures are connected to that cult. Local legend has it that a giantess built these temples and used them as places of worship.

History is one thing you can't get away from in Gozo; religion is another. Everywhere you turn you will see religious references - from statues of the Virgin Mary in front of the supermarket to houses with names such as The Assumption, Santa Maria and Bethlehem. Which could explain the ubiquitous domed churches: 50 for a population of just under 30,000.

Gozo is big enough to be interesting but small enough to be easy, and once you've visited the main historic sites, there's not much else to do here but eat, drink and relax.

We eat fresh fish at cafés with the Mediterranean Sea lapping at our feet, take leisurely walks along the limestone cliffs and prop up the local wine industry (not bad, as it goes). It's the perfect end to our week in one of Europe's best kept secrets.

Words: Sharon Stephenson



Malta during World War I snippets from July- December 1917

**Men of the Canadian
Expeditionary Force.
Photo: Provincial
Archives of Alberta**

In early July, 1917, the food supply was in a precarious situation. The bread obtainable was enough to try the hardest stomach. A letter in the Daily Malta Chronicle described the situation: "The complaint is general, but the people are helpless. The sanitary people feed off the same kind of bread, I suppose; unless they are more fortunate in getting a digestible and palatable product, otherwise I cannot understand why such a state of affairs should not only continue, but go from bad to worse.

"I have been getting my bread from different dealers, but it is all the same heavy unpalatable abomination. If kept beyond a day it will turn sour and mouldy. It may be due to the excess of moisture allowed to remain in the bread, but this circumstance should, by itself, engage the attention of the authorities, who should see that the public is not defrauded at any time, but especially in these hard times, when bread forms the staple food of most of the people. I also have my doubts whether our bread is not being adulterated..."

The reader ended the letter by suggesting – in relation to food prices – that every buyer would be interested in the opening of large co-operative stores.

Aster, Azalea hit mines of Malta - At 8.45am on July 4, 1917, the sloops Aster and Azalea departed Grand Harbour escorting the hospital-ship Abbasieh for Mudros. At 10.10am the Aster hit a mine eight nautical miles east of Malta. The Azalea approached the Aster in order to tow it to Malta but suddenly a mine was seen and the former hit the mine. The Aster was abandoned at 11.20am and it sank a short while later. The Azalea, though badly damaged, managed to limp back to Malta – steaming astern – and was temporarily beached at Marsaxlokk. There was no loss of life on the Azalea but 10 died on the Aster, and 83 were rescued by the Azalea.

Maltese sergeant killed on Western Front - Sergeant Frank Micallef, a Maltese who was serving with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in France, lost his life on the Western Front. He had been in France from the earliest stages of the war and had seen much hard fighting, including the First and Second Battles of Ypres.

French Navy moves from Malta to Greece - In the summer of 1917 the French Navy transferred its operation base from Malta to Argostoli, on the island of Kefalonia, Ionian Islands. It is said that the move was made because Argostoli was much nearer the French operational area in the Aegean. However, the real reason was to distance the French sailors from the prostitutes of Malta, who were causing quite an amount of contagious sex-transmitted diseases to the French sailors.

Fines for profiteering from foodstuffs - Certain Maltese profited from the lack of foodstuffs and they sold these products at exuberant prices. One case occurred in late October 1917, when the Valletta Police Court disposed of several contraventions of the Food and Prices Control Ordinance. They were caught having sold eggs at an excessive price. Two dealers were fined £5 each. Another case was using sugar in the making of pastry without having previously reported stock in hand. A fine of £10 was imposed. Source - **TIMES OF MALTA**



Date: Saturday, 7 October 2017

Time: 19:00 – 02:00

Location: Valletta

During this night, the old streets, churches, historical sites, and museums of Valletta will host exhibitions, local artists, workshops, and concerts until the early hours. BirdLife Malta will be participating to promote a culture of socio-environmental awareness among the general public!

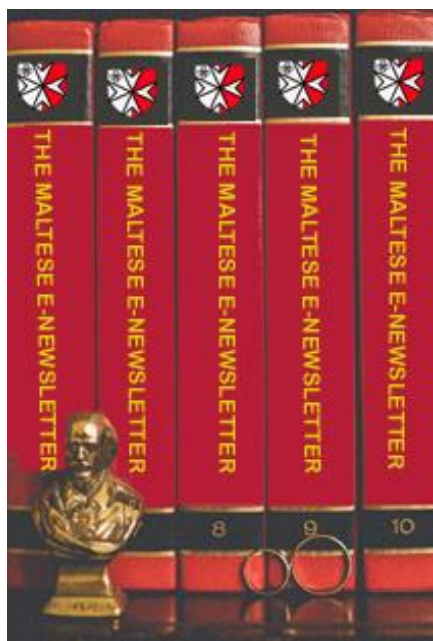
As we shall do at Science in the City a week before, our stand will focus on bird migration and the scientific work we do to monitor this phenomenon using advanced technologies such as satellite-tagging, but also through our bird ringing scheme. During Notte Bianca 2017 we will be presenting our Turtle Dove satellite-tagging project, an applied case where the latest technology of telemetry is used to monitor and track these wild birds for effective actions in order to assist in their conservation for the future.

Apart from showcasing our work, we shall also have interactive games and activities related to the tracking of migrating birds such as Turtle Doves and Malta's seabirds, together with interesting details about the biology of bird migration.



BIOGRAPHY - JAMES GALEA

James Galea is Australia's number one magician. Constant television appearances (including *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*, *TV's 50 Greatest Magic Tricks*, *TODAY*, *Morning's with Kerri-Anne*, *Good Day LA*, *The Footy Show*), his own series *Urban Magic* and his recent role starring in the *Discovery Channel* series *Breaking Magic* have seen James in constant demand in his home country and internationally both in the corporate arena and touring as a headliner world-wide (including the *Edinburgh Fringe Festival*, *The World Famous Hollywood Magic Castle* & *The Melbourne International Comedy Festival*) James is an award-winning magician, writer, songwriter, director and producer. He resides in both Los Angeles and Sydney where he chases the sunshine (and rainbows).



Our eNewsletters are read and enjoyed
by Maltese throughout the world.

It's a journal for all the family,
young and not-so-young

We would like to thank all our contributors who
constantly send us emails, photos, pictures and
articles for publication.

This bilingual magazine is written mainly in English
in order to reach our younger generations and the
non-Maltese readers.