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Newsletter**

Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

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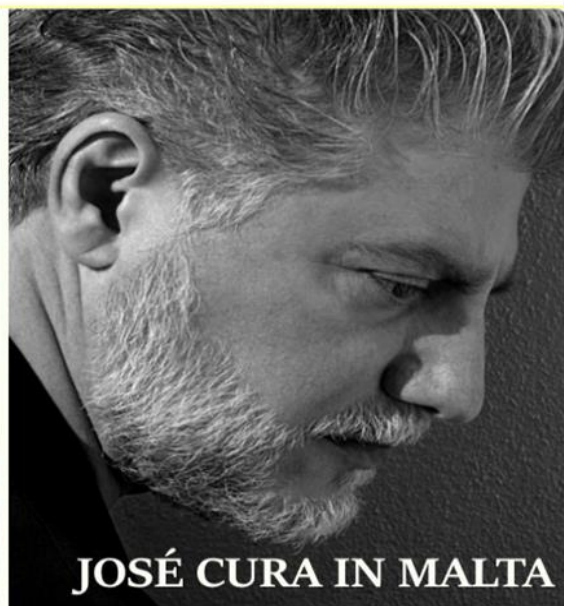


Natascha McElhone
in Carmen

**Selected as Malta
submission for the
Academy Awards**

Written and directed
by Valeria Buhagiar,
the Maltese-Canadian
movie is produced
by Pierre Ellul and
Anika Psaila Savona
of Falkun Films.

CARMEN

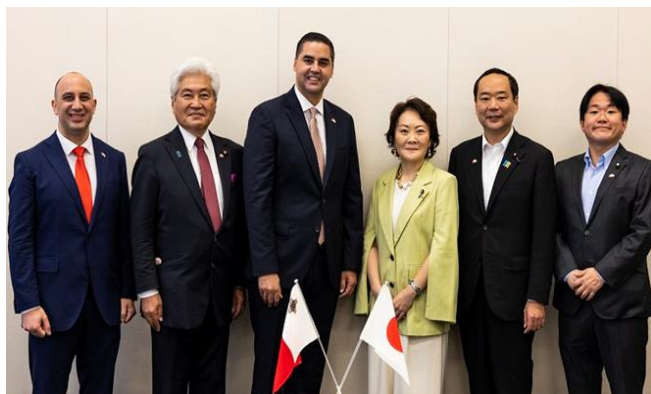


JOSÉ CURA IN MALTA



MALTESE FOLKLORE





The Japanese Government is committed to open an embassy in Malta

Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

Reference Number: , Press Release Issue Date: Sep 30, 2022

It is really gratifying that discussions are currently underway, and the Japanese Government is showing commitment to open a Japanese Embassy in Malta in the near future." This was stated by Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade Ian Borg during an official visit to the capital city of Japan, Tokyo.

During a meeting with the Parliamentary Friendship Group between Japan and Malta, Minister Borg said that this is an important step forward for our country's bilateral relations with an important country as Japan. It is essential that we continue to strengthen these relations from which both peoples can enjoy.

During this official visit to Japan, Minister Ian Borg had a meeting with the Nippon Foundation. During a discussion with Chairman Yōhei Sasakawa, it was stated that Malta has always played a positive role on multilateral fora in terms of climate diplomacy. Dr Borg also explained the role that Malta will have within the United Nations Security Council, especially during the Presidency in February 2023. He reiterated that Malta will be seeing that particular attention is paid to the impact of climate change on small island developing states (SIDS). In recent years, this foundation has contributed towards 66 scholarships for students from all over the world to come to our country and study at the National Maritime Law Institute.

Minister Borg also had a meeting with the Japan Trade Confederation. The discussions focused mostly on the export of Maltese tuna to this market. He stated that, just as this sector is a success, there is a need to work harder so that this success is mirrored also in other sectors and products. "Malta has much more to offer namely in the service industry, pharmaceuticals, logistics, maritime and aviation, among others. We want to see that the commercial relationship between the two countries continues to grow," reiterated Minister Borg.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs also visited the Tourism Expo, where among others Malta has its stand to continue promoting more tourism to our country. In a meeting with the Chairman of the Japanese Association for Travel Agencies Hiroyuki Takahashi, the collaboration and existing and potential opportunities to strengthen tourism between the two countries were discussed. Before the pandemic, Malta hosted around 25,000 tourists and 4,000 Japanese English-learning students a year.

During his visit, the minister had the opportunity to also visit the Tokyo fish market and experience a tuna auction. He spoke to several Maltese tuna importers about the success that this Maltese product has in Japan.

**444 EDITIONS IS QUITE
AN ACHIEVEMENT**



ACTIVITIES IN MALTA IN OCTOBER 2022

The Malta Classic attracts car enthusiasts from Malta and foreigners who come purposely for this event. It is organized at the old capital city Mdina. Three main competitions are held the hill climb classified by the speed, power of car and age.

The display of elegance which entails the finest historic and collector automobiles. The grand prix set in the most picturesque country streets beneath the Mdina fortifications.

Malta Classic Details **Organizer:** Malta Classic **Location:** Mdina **When:** Monday 13th to Thursday 16th October 2022 **Phone:** +356 2133 9165



ROLEX MIDDLE SEA RACE 2022

The Rolex Middle Sea Race is one of the world's most exciting and demanding offshore races been labelled on the international scene as "one the most attractive routes in the world" bringing together some of the best sailing crews in the world. It is organised by the Royal Malta Yacht Club (RMYC).

Since 2021 Rolex has sponsored the race, the first race was in 1968 where slowly it grew in popularity becoming world famous. The 606-nautical mile race circumnavigates the island

of Sicily. The race starts and finishes from the spectacular Grand Harbour in Valletta seeing the yachts navigate the fortifications surrounding the harbour from all flanks is something to be witnessed.

Rolex Middle Sea Race Details **Organiser:** Rolex Middle Sea Race **Venue:** Valletta **When:** Saturday 22nd October 2022

**SATURDAY
22**

SAVE THE DATE

OCT



**HAMRUN CHOCOLATE
FESTIVAL**

THE HAMRUN CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL

The streets of Hamrun will once again host the chocolate festival. Many stalls will be on display where chocolate will be the ingredient of innovation and display in food and art. You will be able to buy various products made from chocolate and taste

recipes created for this festival

Other attractions are centred on painting on canvas, sculptures, tattoos not least body painting. It is an opportunity for families to take their children to be entertained in this festival.

Hamrun Chocolate Festival Details **Organizer:** Hamrun Local Council **Venue:** Hamrun **When:** Saturday 22nd October 2022

- **Contact:** +356 2122 2020

**Birgu - Citta' Vittoriosa**

BIRGUFEST 2022

Birgufest celebrates its rich history and the beautiful architecture within its fortifications. The festival is celebrated at Birgu also known as Vittoriosa which is one of the oldest historical cities on the island.

It is celebration on three days including historic re-enactments, reduced entrance fees for museums, exhibitions, entertainment and the most popular is the Birgu by

Candlelight event where the old narrow winding roads including the house facades are illuminated with candles creating a magical romantic charming atmosphere.

If you intend going you gave to plan much before as the city is invaded with locals and tourists and parking might be difficult but it will be an unforgettable experience with several photos for your memories. Birgufest Details

- **Organizer:** Birgu Local Councils **Venue:** Vittoriosa **When:** Friday 7th to Sunday 9th October 2022



Special handstamp to commemorate World Postcard Day

A special handstamp will be issued on Saturday, the 1st at October, at the Malta Postal Museum to commemorate World Postcard Day.

MaltaPost advised that orders for this special hand postmark may be placed from the Philatelic Bureau, MaltaPost p.l.c. 305, Triq Hal Qormi,

Marsa, MTP 1001, online at www.maltaphilately.com or by mail – Telephone: 2596 1740 – e-mail: info@maltaphilately.com.



Carmel Attard (left) with outgoing president Antoine Vassallo. Photo: Charles Spiteri

CATHOLIC ACTION **New Diocesan Directorate**

MEDIA RELEASE

After eleven years, Antoine Vassallo has come to the end of his tenure as Diocesan President of Catholic Action in Gozo. Bishop Anton Teuma accepted the nomination of Carmel Attard as successor. Attard, who retired as Assistant Director of Education, has long been an active member.

This was announced during meetings for representatives of the various groups around the parishes in which the year's motto about the Word which illuminates was explained. The

Diocesan Directorate for 2022-2025 also includes Carmen Formosa (Secretary), John Vella (Administrator), Bernardette Vella (Adult Section President), Louis Attard (Male groups Coordinator), Antoine Vassallo (PRO and Vice President), Can Noel Saliba (Diocesan Ecclesiastical Assistant) and Can George Frendo (Adult Council Assistant).

It was announced too that the Assembly will be held at the Headquarters on Saturday 29 October at 4.30pm. Besides a programmatic speech by the new President and mass les by Bishop Teuma, the agenda also includes a reflection on Saint Gianna Beretta Molla on her birth centenary. Catholic Action acts on the cult of this first family mother raised to the altars, also using her relic.

A Vassallo PEP PRO AZZJONI KATTOLIKA TRIQ SIR ARTURO MERCIECA
VICTORIA



THE PRIME MINISTER VISITS THE MALTESE CENTER IN ASTORIA USA

In his last engagement in New York, Prime Minister Robert Abela and his wife Lydia met with Maltese emigrants at the Maltese Center in Astoria. He was welcomed by many children of Maltese descent, waving Maltese flags, who together with their parents are trying to preserve the Maltese language and culture within the Maltese community living in New York.

The children sang some songs in Maltese, including the Malta's national anthem and the song Viva Malta.

One of the teachers said that in recent months the amount of children who are showing interest in learning Maltese has doubled while she also explained that they will also start lessons for adults. Around 40 children of various ages are learning the Maltese language in New York, USA. The courses are being held on the initiative of Rita Grech, a Maltese emigrant in America, in collaboration with the committee of the Maltese Center.

Grech, who is a teacher in the United States explained how the initiative started in March of last year, and the response from parents who are Maltese emigrants in the United States, was immediately good. She said that in each class there are 10 students and in the first months there were two classes and the number rising to four classes in a few months.

This is how we bring the young couples to the Center, They teach them the language, the songs, and the culture of Malta, last year they started in March, we had 20, we had two classes, this year they have four classes, and soon they will start classes for adults as well to teach them conversational Maltese.

Rita Grech, a Maltese language teacher said that she believes that even though she is living so far from Malta, she feels it is important for the community to preserve the Maltese language and pass it on to the younger generations. Malta is our homeland, Maltese is the language of Malta and we when we visit Malta and hear people speak English and not Maltese, we are a little offended and disappointed because Maltese is our language, and we want to keep it. Every country loves and is proud of its language, so why shouldn't we the Maltese and Gozitans do the same? Katya Grima is Maltese living in USA said that her 5-year-old daughter should start learning Maltese from an early age and so I send her for the Maltese lessons here in the Center. We try to keep the Maltese culture alive even away from Malta.

Prime Minister Abela addressed the Maltese emigrants who attended the event in Astoria and thanked the Maltese emigrants for, despite living far away from Malta, still feeling proud to be Maltese.

CHANGING TOWNS: A PROFILE OF MALTA IN 2022

SLIEMA

	2011	2021
Inhabitants/sq.km	10,551	15,167
Average age	48.2	44.4
% under 14	9.3%	9.7%
% over 65	28.8%	22.6%
% not Maltese	15.4%	48.9%
Total population	13,621	19,655

James Debono's census spotlight looks at the various demographic indicators from Maltese towns, revealing a declining capital city that keeps losing its inhabitants, to veritable explosion of residents in localities like Msida whose population has nearly doubled thanks to an influx of foreigners

Sliema: Pumped up by foreigners

Thanks to an influx of foreigners which increased from 2,095 in 2011 to a staggering 9,605 in 2021, Sliema has seen its population increasing to 19,655, the highest recorded since the 1985 census but still a far cry from the city's post-war peak.

Back in 1948 Sliema emerged as Malta's most populous city with a population of 24,295. Initially the home of civil servants loyal to the crown, the locality started attracting a diverse mix of middle- and upper-class residents, shopkeepers and even boasted its own working-class quarter: the so-called Lazy Corner.

But after reaching a peak in 1948, the population was in constant decline reaching an ebb of 12,906 in 1995.

Subsequently Sliema's population started rising again amidst the first property boom in the first decade of the century, albeit at a slow rate between 1995 and 2011, only to grow at a faster rate in the past decade. Now Sliema has emerged as Malta's fourth largest town overtaking Qormi and Zabbar, both of which were more populous in 2011.

Sliema has also seen its average age drop from 48.2 to 44.4 in the past decade. This was the largest drop in average age registered in all of Malta's 68 localities.

But while Maltese nationals in Sliema have grown older, with their average age increasing from 49.6 in 2011 to 52.8 in 2021, the age of the

average foreigner in Sliema has decreased from 40.3 to 35.6 in the same time-frame.

And while only 9% of Sliema's residents are children under the age of 14, 23% are aged over 65. This demographic trend suggests growing difficulties for an increasingly older native population which has to put up with increased infrastructural pressures resulting from the need to accommodate younger foreigners.

And what is actually happening is that despite the sharp increase in Sliema's population, the number of Maltese residents in the locality is still decreasing. Compared to 2011, Sliema has 1,476 less Maltese residents and 7,510 more foreigners. The decline in the Maltese population suggests that locals are being priced out.

Moreover the city has become more claustrophobic with its density increasing from 10,551 per square kilometre in 2011, to 15,167 per sq.km today.

Maltese are creating a new caste system the same as that of India.

May we ask - Who cleans the streets of Malta? The Black Africans.

Who collects the rubbish bins?

The Black Africans. Who works in the construction sites? Syrian refugees.

Who administers the medicines? The Indians. Who takes care of the elderly parents? The Filipinos. And who

delivers the food on cycles at their door because they are too lazy to cook?

The Indians and Nepalis. S L Bugeja

MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTROIA

It is with great pleasure to announce that Antonia Camilleri was elected President of the MCCV at the AGM. Andrew Gatt remained the Secretary and Tania De Carli was elected Vice President. Please join us - the editor, readers and supporters of the Journal of Maltese living abroad, to congratulate them and the rest of the committee for their elections and thank them for their endless hours they contribute to the MCCV as volunteers.

President Happy Parenting – Malta (For Happier Children) Art Course for youths with lesser opportunities.



The main theme of this project is Life is Beautiful free of Addiction, with ideas on how one can deal with problems that may arise.

Individuals between 13 and 30 years of age may take part.

For booking and other details please call: 77603330 Or write to: admin@happyparentingmalta.com If interested, apply without delay. Places are limited.

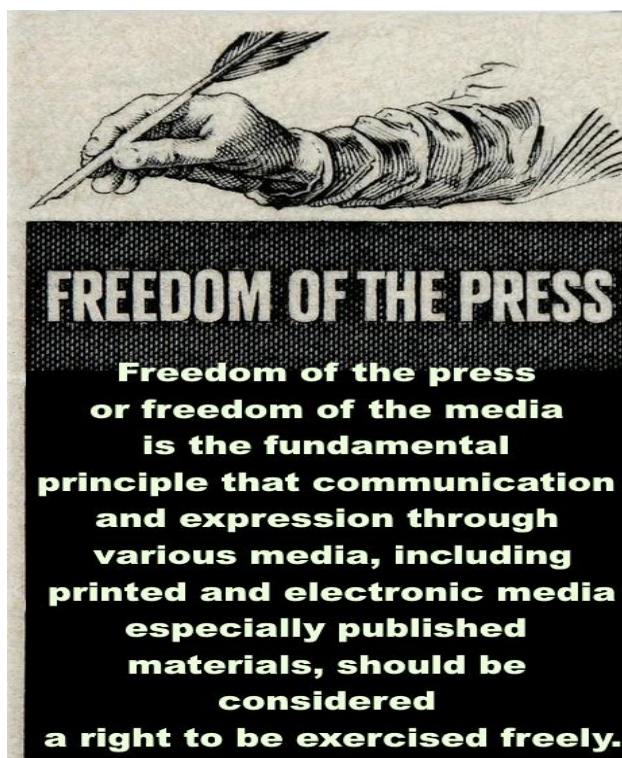
Happy Parenting - Malta (For Happier Children) is launching two art courses, a youth project sponsored by the EUPA. The lessons are intended for those who do not have the means to pay for such lessons or who normally lack access to such opportunities.

The lessons will be given by Ryan Galea, a graduate in design and personal development. The two groups will be small in order to facilitate individual attention. Ryan has been giving similar lessons for the last three years on behalf of Happy Parenting – Malta (For Happier Children).

Lessons will be on Mondays. The first group will attend lessons from 4.30 to 5.30pm, while the second group will attend lessons from 5.45 to 6.45pm.

The launch: Monday 10 Oct at the Gżira Local Council Hall and online 5pm-7pm

There will be art competitions with prize money for all the participants.



A photography museum to remind us of what Malta once was

Renewed calls for a museum as exhibition shows images from 150 years ago

Fiona Galea Debono

Ta' Liesse in 1910 during a fish market. Photo: Richard Ellis, digitised by Charles Paul Azzopardi

An exhibition of images by photographer Richard Ellis capturing Malta 150 years ago, underscores the need for a museum of photography, according to the owner of the collection.

This should be considered “a priority and not a luxury”, said Ian Ellis, a descendent of the photographer, whose family put together the Richard Ellis Archive of around 45,000 images and was “farsighted enough” to preserve it under the difficult conditions of World War II.



Then and now: How Malta has changed in 150 years

The thousands of photos depict scenes now consigned to history such as a vastly different Spinola Bay and a Malta where Sliema and Valletta were the only built-up areas. But images like these have no place to call home, and many are being lost as owners do not know what to do with them.

The entrance to Valletta in 1890. Photo: Richard Ellis, digitised by Charles Paul Azzopardi

Digitised in archival-grade quality for the first time in their history, the huge-format prints on display at Spazju Kreattiv in Valletta until October 23 allow the public to

experience Malta and Gozo as they were 150 years ago – and the contrasts are stark.



“Looking back at our past should be a guide for our future. If looking back makes a lot of us realise what a mess we have made, and are still making, then let it be a big incentive to change our direction,” said Ellis, who is co-curating the exhibition with Charles Azzopardi.

The collection has, fortunately, been safeguarded. But much photographic material in Malta has been discarded, Azzopardi pointed out.

An international award-winning photographer himself, he has set up his own repository, Malta Image Preservation Archive (MIPA), to save as many images, negatives and equipment as he can within the constraints of limited funding and time.

Miss Twelves in her bridal dress in 1898 - an example of Richard Ellis' studio portraiture. Photo: Richard Ellis, digitised by Charles Paul Azzopardi

He claims he receives several calls every week from people who do not know what to do with their old collections of thousands of glass plates.

THE MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (MFA)



MFA is the governing body of football in Malta. The Association organises the Maltese Football League and several other competitions, including a knockout competition for the top teams, called the FA Trophy. The Malta national football team as well as several other representative teams in the younger categories compete regularly in international competitions organised by UEFA and FIFA. These include the European Championships and the World Cup.

Malta also takes part in women's international competitions and competitions of Futsal.

The MFA manages the National stadium and the Centenary Stadium nearby. This complex is based in Ta' Qali and includes training grounds, a gymnasium, a swimming pool and physiotherapy and medical clinics. The complex is also used by foreign clubs during the winter months, due to the mild temperatures of the Maltese Islands.

The association is one of the oldest and one of the best in Europe, being founded in 1900 with the first national league being organised in season 1909–1910. There are several important landmarks in the history of Maltese football, especially since Malta played its first official international friendly match against Austria in February 1957. The result was a narrow 3–2 defeat for Malta.

It took until 1959 for the MFA to join FIFA, also joining UEFA the year after in 1960. From then onwards, Malta became an ever-present in international competitions at national teams as well as at club levels.

During 2019, the MFA has also entered into talks with the Italian Football Federation and the Lega Pro to discuss the possibility for the MFA to field a professional team within the Italian football league system.^[4]

The MFA is structured by having 53 member clubs, as well as 10 member associations. The clubs

compete in four divisions; the premier, first, second and third. The member associations are specialised football associations who organise competitions for clubs affiliated to them. The member associations include:

VISION Football as a source of pride, joy and inspiration for the whole nation.

MISSION The Malta Football Association is committed to growing and improving the game of football and the people in it at all levels; fostering a positive social change to embrace a sporting culture; championing national pride and unity as we strive to inspire people and achieve high standards.

CORE VALUES

DYNAMIC – We are proactive and passionate in delivering the highest standards of performance.

SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE – we are inclusive and open to all, regardless of gender, ability, age, religion, sexual orientation, politics or race.

TRUSTWORTHY – we are open, honest and shall strive to instil trust in our institution and competitions in a manner that reflects the highest standards of integrity.

INTERNATIONAL 'A' FRIENDLY NATIONAL STADIUM, TA' QALI MALTA...2 ISRAEL...1

Two late goals gave Malta a priceless victory over Israel today, a deserved win for the hosts who created the better chances on the night. A prestigious result, the first ever win over Israel in history, against tough opposition as the hosts are ranked 76th on the latest FIFA ranking. With a bit of more luck, the win could have been larger, looking at the chances created most of them after some excellent team-play.

The team of coach Davide Mazzotta welcomed back Bjorn Kristensen on midfield, nine months after his last match for Malta, a World Cup qualifier against Slovakia in November last year. There was also a place in the starting eleven for Floriana playmaker Jan Busuttil, while Steve Borg, Jurgen Degabriele and Shaun Dimech were also named in the line-up after coming on as substitutions against Estonia last Friday. In the first half, Malta shared the exchanges with the visitors and created several goalscoring opportunities, hitting the woodwork once apart

from a number of other chances which should have resulted into a goal or two. After a quiet opening, on 21 minutes, Henry Bonello was called into action for the first time, turning an attempt from Omri Altman into a corner. Malta pressed the Israelis early in their own half, which forced the visitors to make mistakes in their build-up. On 28 minutes, the hosts created a wonderful attack with Jean Borg releasing Ryan Camenzuli on the left, passing to Shaun Dimech who kicked against the post with the ball ending up into a corner via the back of Feyenoord goalkeeper Ofir Marciano.

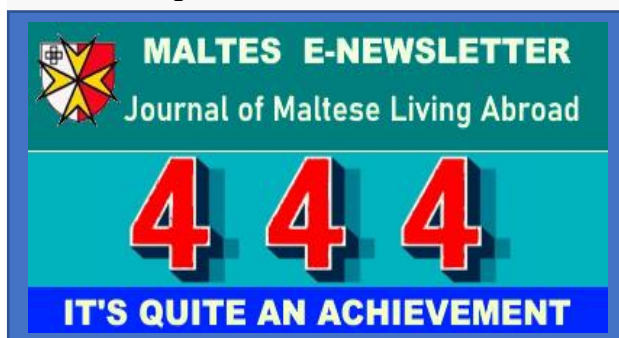
In the attack on the other side that followed, Israel were awarded a dubious penalty when Steve Borg allegedly brought down Denny Gropper in the box, a harsh decision by the referee. Captain Bibras Natcho made no mistake from the spot to break the deadlock in favour of the Israelis. Straight from kick-off, Jurgen Degabriele had a golden opportunity to restore equilibrium after receiving from Camenzuli but the Hibernians forward was too hesitant with the Israeli defence clearing the danger. On 42 minutes, Dimech was sent away on the left wing by Camenzuli but was denied by Raz Shlomo who blocked his effort in time. In stoppage time of the first half, Dimech's spectacular overhead kick, from a precise Busutill cross, was again blocked by the Israeli rear-guard. Five minutes into the second half, substitute Jodi Jones missed an opportunity to equalise with an accurate shot from inside the box, straight at substitute goalkeeper Yoav Gerafi. Malta kept on creating the best chances and, after a Guillaumier attempt sailed high, Dimech was sent through by Jones on 56 minutes but it was again Shlomo who cleared the danger. Just after the hour, Joseph Mbong's shot from the edge of the area was blocked by Gerafi. On 79 minutes, a Satariano header was cleared with difficulty by the Israeli goalkeeper after a free-kick action and two minutes later, after another wonderful build-up, Gerafi blocked a close-range Camenzuli attempt.

Finally, with six minutes regular time left on the clock, Malta equalised. The attack started with Luke Montebello on the left wing, who sent Jones away, passing intelligently to the unmarked Alex Satariano who tapped in from close-range. Two minutes later, Malta got what it deserved when another substitute, Ferdinando Apap, headed the ball behind Gerafi from an excellent Teddy Teuma corner.

A fantastic result for Malta after a turbulent day for all the wrong reasons. A big compliment however to the players, who responded well with a positive performance and showed that the hard work done is bearing fruit. Malta A National Team will play a friendly match against Ireland at the Ta' Qali National Stadium on November 20. Devis Mangia's side will use this friendly match as they prepare for the next international commitments in the UEFA EURO 2024 with qualifiers to start in March 2023. Malta is yet to know who their competitors in the UEFA EURO 2024 qualifying group stage will be. The draw will be staged in Frankfurt on October 9.

MALTA WILL PLAY IRELAND IN A FRIENDLY MATCH IN NOVEMBER 2022

Malta and Ireland met 7 times; 4 Euro Championship qualifiers, 2 World Cup 1990 qualifiers and a friendly match in 1990. Ireland claimed all the wins. The last match was played way back on the 8th of September 1999 at the Ta' Qali National Stadium. The match was a Euro Championship qualifier. The end result was 3-2 for the visitors. Coincidentally that was the only time that the Malta team found the net against Ireland. David Carabott and Brian Said scored the Maltese goals.





Fishing in 1960s Żurrieq Lonzu D'Amato

Charlo Pisani

These were 3 brothers. First one on the right is Alonzo known as Lonzu. He was a well built fellow. The middle one is Michelangelo known as Kalanġ. He was a chain smoker and a very reserved fellow. The first on left is Francis known as Frenċ, the smartest of the three. Their boat was burned out at Marsa where it was moored near the Salvatore Caruana warehouse. Later they had another one which was kept at Wied Żurrieq.

Visitors to our Malta in Transition exhibition by [Guido Stilon](#) recognised friends and family members in some of the photographs.

Ann Marie D'Amato recognised her great-grandfather, Lonzu D'Amato in a photograph of



fishermen laying out their nets alongside the road leading down to Wied iż-Żurrieq in the early 1960s.

Images of Lonzu D'Amato courtesy Anne Marie D'Amato and family

Born in 1895, Lonzu D'Amato was born and raised in Żurrieq, and lived there until his death at the age of 86. He and his wife Catherine had five children; Joseph, Ninu, Leli, Xandru, and Salvina. Sadly, Salvina died tragically at the age of 16 in an incident at Wied iż-Żurrieq.

The story goes that an unexploded mine had been found by a village man, near the Grotto known as 'il-Ħnejja'. He carried the mine to his warehouse where it exploded taking his life, along with that of one of his children, and the young Salvina who had been sewing on the doorstep at the time.

Lonzu made a living as a fisherman, and also farmed the land whenever the sea was too rough. One of his grandchildren recalls that 'Nannu Lonzu' raised his family by fishing from a kajjik with oars and sail; "I remember going inside those huge cane nets as we passed the needle whilst fixing the damaged parts."

Guido's camera captured the fishermen at work with the island of Filfla in the background. The shot captured the moment Lonzu stares into the lens – a moment made timeless as he looks at us from across the sea of time.

Explore the best hidden gems in Malta



WALK THE VICTORIA LINES

When my days **backpacking in Malta** were coming to an end, I only had one final place on my bucket list: to go hiking the Victoria Lines!

Also known as **The Great Wall of Malta**, the Victoria Lines were built in the late 19th century, the wall spans 12km dividing the north of the island from the south and mostly follows a geological fault that naturally divides the island. There's no sponsored content on this blog.

Nowadays many sections are broken and at times it can be hard to follow, but this is a wonderful hike that complements beautifully with all the coastal walks that can be done all over Malta.

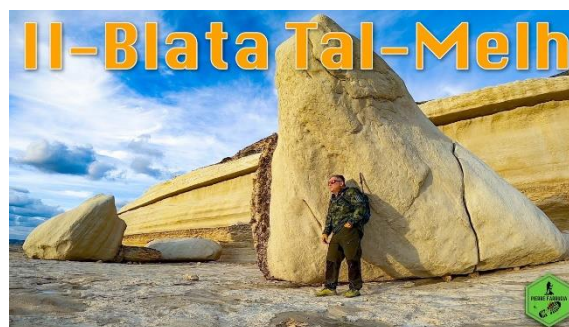
There are no many signs or maps out there to know how to hike the Victoria Lines, so be prepared for a bit of improvisation. Having said that, the hike is not really demanding and no special preparation is needed.

Definitely you don't need a guide for this hike. I saw one group with a guide on my day hiking the Victoria Lines and can surely tell you, if you're minimally used to go hiking out there on your own you don't need one. The hike described on this post is about 12Km long, not all along the wall, and can be done in 2-3 hours. Finishing in the town of Mosta.

EXPLORE THE LANDSCAPE OF BLATA TAL-MELH

If I had to choose a single secret place on Malta, this little wild region below the cliffs would be it. It was revealed to me one sunny spring day by an actual explorer, a guy I'd been on expedition with in Sudan.

We climbed down a steep hillside on a footpath made by hunters, and walked along the smooth worn stone at the top of the cliffs. We had to pick our way down a section of steps cut into the rock, holding a worn knotted rope in one hand. And at



one point we leaped over a narrow inlet where the sea crept a finger into the shore far below.

There were salt pans, boreholes, and a narrow passageway carved into the rock. No one knows how old the system is, but crystals of salt still collect in the sun when the sea is heaving and spumes of water spray over the flats through these deep man made holes.

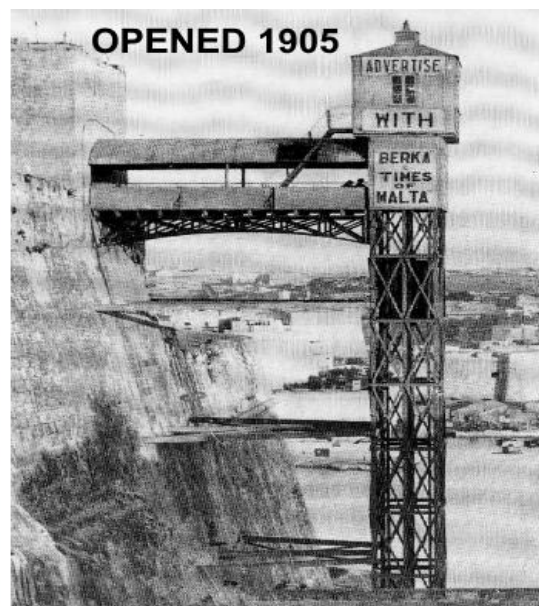
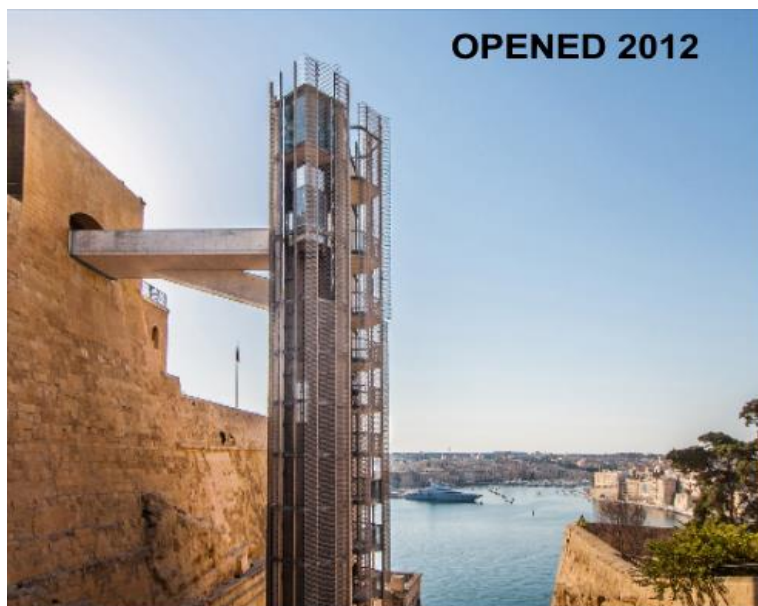
Blata tal-Melh is an isolated place, with views of the cliffs in both directions, and Gozo in the hazy distance. Wind and solitude and mists of salt spray. Plunging depths inhabited by pelagic fish like tuna and shark. A plaque on the rock in memory of a man who was swept away by heavy seas in the 1960's. And nature—something all too rare on this tiny island, unless you know where to look.

Up above, you'll find the isolated promontory of Ras Ir-Raheb. This flat point surrounded by sheer cliffs has been a sacred site since ancient times. And it has what might just be the most incredible views in all of Malta.

The megaliths have been incorporated into a later ancient site, and the foundations of a building begin on the seaward side, mostly covered in grass. A courtyard is clearly visible, surrounded by a wide corridor with a room branching off. There's a rock cut cistern too, and I could see the shine of water far below in the darkness.

No one's quite certain what this site was, but some incredible artifacts were unearthed here, including: an ivory plaque with a crouching boar that has been traced to 5th century Etruria; a pair of clay satyr masks; and a male figure with a lion skin tied around his waist, most likely representing Hercules.

Coins were also found on the site from the Sicilian Punic period, as well as a late Roman coin depicting Constantine II (337-361 AD). It's an amazing place to explore, in a very remote corner of the island. Unfortunately, this site of great historical importance isn't very easy to access.



Barrakka Lift - Valletta

[Architecture Project](#), Valletta, Malta

This twenty story high panoramic lift is located on the edge of Malta's historic fortified capital city of Valletta. As a new access point into the town, the project was made for residents and visitors travelling from the water's edge who can now travel over the city's fortifications and into the heart of the city. The lift was first built to connect the harbor with the town in 1905 during Valletta's heyday as a trading port. Today, the heavy demands of accessibility to the town require a much larger footprint,

and therefore, the renewed connection has a larger visual impact. The geometric qualities of the plan echo the angular forms of the bastion walls and the corrugated edges of the aluminium skin help modulate light as it hits the structure, emphasizing its verticality. The mesh masks the glazed lift carriages, recalling the forms of the original cage lifts, whilst providing shade to passengers as they travel between the city and the sea.



"Our uniqueness is primarily what every tourist comes to see. Of course, there's the Maltese language, food, dance and other cultural and heritage aspects but the urban landscape is reducing Malta and Gozo into one big construction site at a critical point. We need to have the maturity as a country to address it and to stop this haemorrhage."

Joanna Spiteri Staines – A Maltese architect

Bizet's Carmen features "star-studded" cast at Teatru Astra - GOZO**GO NEWS**

Georges Bizet's opera Carmen is a masterpiece of passion, jealousy and betrayal. All of this will be portrayed in the Teatru Astra's production on the 27th and 29th October, in Victoria, Gozo.

Renowned for its cluster of magnetic melodic inventiveness that has captivated audiences worldwide, Carmen showcases the dramatic thrill of opera intertwined with the sensually-endearing characters featuring in the plot.

This opera highlights two character types: the femme fatale, and the sentimental heroine.

Carmen, the beautiful yet daring and elusive gypsy who seduces Don Jose is the former, opposed by Micaela, young, naive and trusting, while also emotionally involved with Don Jose. Carmen is the perfect femme fatale; exotic, independent, and confident enough to use her sexuality to her advantage.

By contrast, Micaela is the ideal 19th-century woman; pure, modest, and above all, innocent. Performing a character analysis of these characters is a feat. Choosing suitable singers for the roles, is an achievement. This has been the primary evaluation behind Teatru Astra's choice of Sanja Anastasia for the title role, it said.

The Serb Mezzo is not a new face at the Astra, having performed in Aida and Il Trovatore to the delight of her patrons. The Astra noted that Anastasia was even chosen to sing this role at the Arena di Verona meeting international critical acclaim. "Her dark, rich, and strong voice is known to melt hearts everywhere, while her acting abilities admittedly get the audience overflowing with emotions." Her counterpart, Micaela, will be performed by Georgian soprano Tea Purtseladze, recognised for her performances at the opening of the 2020 Oscar nomination ceremonies alongside Andrea Bocelli, and for being chosen by tenor Marcello Giordani to play the role of Tosca alongside himself.

The Astra said that "Purtseladze is known to have the kind of voice that can conquer the opera world, having played the role in several of Europe's most prestigious theatres and festivals. Purtseladze was hailed by the mythical Renata Scotto as a great performer of Micaela's role, reminding Scotto of her very own artistic eloquence and stage presence."

Don Jose will be performed by Uruguayan tenor Carlo Ventre, another staple in the international cast line-up, performing frequently in Rome, Verona, Frankfurt, Munich, Budapest, Palermo, New York's Metropolitan, and above all Milan's Teatro alla Scala, where he found himself with Riccardo Muti as the conductor who chose him to play the role of the Duke in Rigoletto.

Ventre is a known lirico-spinto tenor, proceeding gracefully on the footsteps of illustrious forerunners such as Gigli and Bjorling,.

Escamillo, the glamorous torero who Carmen turns her attention to, consequently losing her attraction to Don Jose, will be played by Romanian baritone Serban Vasile, who albeit of quite a young age, has already left his mark on the opera world by winning several contests and appearing in the role of Escamillo in a myriad of productions worldwide.

Among others he has been featured in Decca's recording of Falstaff at the New York's Metropolitan under the baton of James Levine.

The Teatru Astra said that this production will also present local stars Nicola Said as Frasquita and Marvic Monreal as Mercedes, as well as Noel Galea and Gozo's emergent shining star Charles Buttigieg as Zuniga and Morales respectively. El Remendado and El Dancairo will be played by Alberto Munafo and Federico Parisi respectively.

This production will be under the artistic direction of Enrico Stinchelli, and will feature the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of John Galea, and the Teatru Astra Opera Chorus coached by Mariella Spiteri Cefai. The theatre's young Children's Choir, Piccole Stelle, under the direction of Sylvana Attard will also feature in this opera.

The production's double performance kickstarts the 19th edition of Festival Mediterranea.

Bookings can be done online through www.teatruastra.org.mt. More information is available on 2155 0985. The opera at Teatru Astra is supported by the Gozo Cultural Support Programme managed by the Arts Council Malta and the Ministry for Gozo.

Wardija

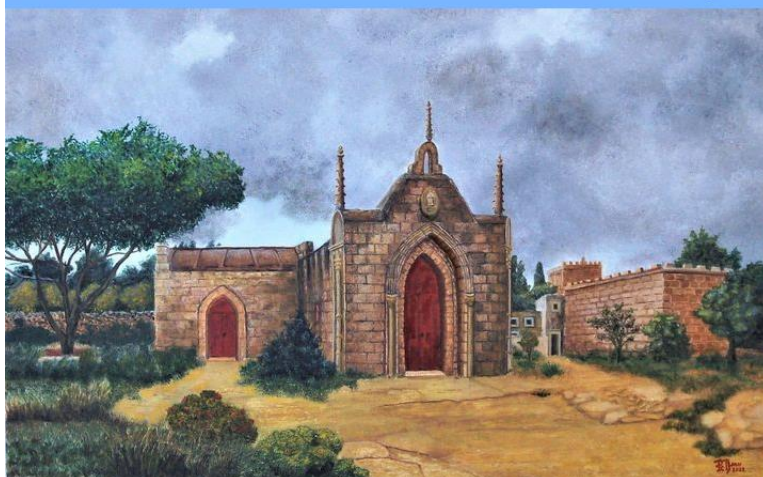
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Wardija is a [hamlet](#) in [St. Paul's Bay](#), Malta, about 363 feet above sea level. Its name is corrupted from the Sicilian or Italian word *guardia*, meaning 'to watch'). Although the name of the hamlet has Arabic lexicons, it was probably named later when Maltese, then an Arabic dialect, remained a dominant language. The hamlet is bordered with [Bidnija](#), [Buġibba](#), [San Martin](#) and [Pwales](#). Several archeological remains are found in the whereabouts, proving that it was inhabited in pre-history and the Roman period,^[5] and it has always been mainly a rural village. From the 16th till the 18th-centuries it saw a shift into a hunting zone with the construction of several hunting lodges and chapels.

A number of knights and noble families built their country residences, originally to be used for hunting and retreats. A number of 19th and 20th century structures were also erected in the

ST SIMON'S CHAPEL, WARDIJA

Patrick Caruana Dingli



area. Some houses are still owned by the descendants of the original builders, while others are now used for multiple purposes such as private homes, commercial accommodation, events and weddings receptions. There are two schools, one for local students and one for foreign students.

There are a number of public and private chapels dating from the rule of the [Order of St. John](#) till the 20th century. Some houses have buttressed walls, possibly for defense purposes or general support, while other have defense features exclusively for decorative intent. A [World War I battery](#) was constructed in the whereabouts of Wardija, and its gun emplacements are still on site. A rental complex, known as the *Wardija Hilltop Village*, and the Headquarters of the Ecumenical Order, known as [Castello Dei Baroni](#), are located at the inner part of Wardija.

Wardija consist of a low and high land, its hill is a plateau, and Qannotta Valley is located within its boundaries.^[9] Rain water in Wardija is vital for agriculture, as a primary source of production, while it also flows into areas around such as to the now defunct Xemxija Aqueduct.^[10] Some lands in Wardija enjoy a conservation status from the [Environment and Resources Authority](#), while there are also pre-historic cart-ruts enjoying



ON REEFS AND ERODED LANDS WE DANCED

ŻfinMalta's Artistic Director, Paolo Mangiola, opens the company's 2022/23 season with a new full-length work. Taking inspiration from the Svalbard Seed Bank – a vault built to contain the world's most prized crops in case of an apocalyptic event – this work explores the possibilities of what we as humans select and conserve as essential elements to protect and preserve life on earth. Collaborators include the Indian composer Goya, Maltese visual artist Matthew Attard, and dramaturg Victor Jacono. Paolo Mangiola is a choreographer, dance educator and performer working within ballet and contemporary dance practices. Operating in the interstices between codified dance and ordinary movement, Paolo is interested in exploring this relationship in the context of our interconnected society, drawing inspiration from various artistic sources, the web, and emerging movements. Paolo has created works for the Royal Ballet, Tanztheater Nürnberg, Aterballetto, Szczecin Opera Ballet and Balletto di Roma. He was



appointed Artistic Director of ŻfinMalta, Malta's national dance company in 2017.

Duration: 70 minutes Age: 5+

Production

team:

Choreography: Paolo Mangiola Visual artist /

set design: Matthew Attard Original

score: Goya Light design: Moritz Zavan

Stoeckle Costume design: Louie Noir & Emma

Walker

Visit website; <https://www.zfinmalta.org/>



THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER
We thank the readers, supporters and contributors
of the Journal of and for all Maltese Living Abroad

AHNA MALTIN BHALKOM

(By Popular demand) WHEN in Malta Eat like a local Imqaret (Date Slices) recipe

Remember the legendary valletta dates kiosk?

Are you craving Maltese food after your [holidays in Malta](#)? Or perhaps you are booking your [flights to Malta](#) and are looking for a taste of traditional food? Look no further because the following treat will perhaps be one of the most delicious choices you have ever made.

Imqaret is one of the traditional remnants of the Arab world that was left behind in Malta. Cut in fine rectangular shapes, this is a delightful recipe consisting of date filled pastries. The dish name itself is the plural of 'maqrut' which derives from the Arabic word meaning diamond.

If you're lucky enough to have tried this recipe in Malta, you know that you can find it almost everywhere in restaurants, cafés, and even in the kitchens of the Maltese. Street stalls selling imqaret are also a staple of every Maltese festa. These goodies are especially appetizing during the Christmas season, along with a nice cup of tea. Read this guide to cook this wonderful sweet from the heart of Malta, wherever you are! Ingredients

Pastry:

- 320 ml water 200 grams butter 1 tsp baking powder 1 tbsp lightly crushed aniseeds
- 830 grams flour Vegetable oil and Icing sugar

FILLING:

- Pitted dates chopped
- 800 grams pitted dates chopped
- 2 lemon, 2 orange, and 2 clementine
- 1 tbsp lightly crushed aniseeds
- 1 tbsp aniseed liqueur
- Juice of 2 oranges and 2 clementine
- 2 tsp vanilla essence
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 2 tsp cloves

Instruction:

1. Mix the baking powder and the flour to prepare the pastry. Add the aniseeds together. Mix well.
 2. Rub in the butter with the flour mixture until it resembles bread crumbs.
 3. Add in the water. Mix until the dough starts to form.
 4. Leave to rest and start preparing the filling
 5. Add in a small pot: pitted dates chopped, oranges, lemons, clementine, crushed and liqueur aniseeds.
 6. Add 2 tsp of each: vanilla, cinnamon, and cloves.
 7. Cook the mixture on a stove for 20 minutes. Let it cool for around 30 minutes.
 8. Cut the pastry into 6 pieces.
 9. Roll the pastry into a rectangle shape and spread the filling along half of the pastry. Leave enough space to fold the other half. Fold this other half over and seal the ends.
 10. Do this for the other 5 pieces of pastry.
 11. Deep fry the imqaret in a pan using vegetable oil, for around 1 minute each side. Fry always in a moderate heat so you do not burn the pastry.
 12. If baking the imqaret, preheat the oven to 200°C and with a pastry brush, brush the imqaret with vegetable oil. .
 13. Place the imqaret into the oven for 18 minutes.
 14. Top them with icing sugar.
- Serve these pastry diamonds on a tasteful looking plate, and serve them on their own or with ice cream. Now with the holiday season soon approaching, why not try these Maltese delicacies at home? With imqaret, you will surely exceed your guests' dessert expectations.





Maltese community in the Holy Land celebrates the 58th anniversary of Malta's Independence

Reference Number: , Press Release
Issue Date: Sep 22, 2022

The Embassy of the Republic of Malta in Tel Aviv organised, on 22nd September 2022, a reception for the Maltese Community in the Holy Land at the Pontifical Institute Notre Dame of Jerusalem Centre. Those present at the gathering were welcomed by H.E. Cecilia Attard-Pirotta, Ambassador of the Republic of Malta to the State of Israel.

Prior to the gathering, Mass was celebrated by Prof. Josef Mario Briffa, S.J., after which the Maltese Community sang the Maltese National Anthem. Before addressing those gathered for the event, Ambassador Attard-Pirotta read out the Independence Day message by the Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade, Dr Ian Borg.

During her address, Ambassador Cecilia Attard-Pirotta spoke on Malta's recent election to serve as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the term 2023-2024. Ambassador Attard-Pirotta explained how during this tenure, Malta was committed to support the UN as a neutral Member State, actively pursuing peace, security, and social progress among all nations, in the Holy Land, and across the world.

Ambassador Attard-Pirotta thanked the members of the Maltese community for being active Maltese emissaries and recognized the valuable work conducted amongst local communities by Maltese clergy members in the holy land



We are proud of our Maltese Achievers



Young Maltese artisan Christian Muscat showcased his macramé products at the [Artigianato e Palazzo](#) in Florence, after his application – submitted with the support of the Malta Crafts Foundation – was among the select few that were chosen by a panel of experts from Blogs & Crafts Europe to participate in this event. Christian, who has been learning his craft from local artisan Alda Bugeja, had the opportunity to participate in various workshops and training sessions, as well as having a number of bloggers

write about his talent – all provided by the organizers with the aim of helping young artisans grow their business and enhance the sustainability of their craft.

MEET ALDA BUGEJA, THE GOZITAN AWARDED WEAV



Posted by [flora](#)

Once upon a time, in the Homer myth, the Odyssey, is told that Ulysses, who had left Itaca for the Trojan war, was awaited for years by his faithful wife Penelope.

Queen Penelope threatened by the suitors, promised that she would contract a new marriage only after completing the shroud for Laertes (Ulysses' father).

Penelope, who embodies the symbol of cunning and feminine fidelity, during the night used to unravel the woven fabric (which was made at day), so that the work never ended. In this way she could keep her promise for 20 years to not marry another man, and to wait faithfully for the return of her husband Ulysses.

In Gozo, the island of legends and myths where Ulysses seemed have lived for a while with Calypso the nymph, I met my Penelope, Alda Bugeja. Alda Bugeja is a woman of a kind and a real treasure of Gozo! She is the modern Penelope who keeps alive the love of the old tradition and the mastery of the wonderful art of weaving!

Alda welcomes Jessica and I in her **Studio** at **Dun Pawl Micallef Street, 16, Victoria** with her serene

and peaceful smile. **What an enchanting lady! Alda is the weaver of the Gozitan hystory**, some of the patters she design on her cloths reproduce the old drawings found on the neolithic pottery. **Entering in her Studio is like entering in the heart of the weaver secrets, it is so fascinating!**

"Weaving is the oldest craft in the Maltese archipelago" – she explains us.

"As early as prehistoric times the Maltese weavers were famous for their craftsmanship and for many centuries weaving remained an important industry in our islands". Every family had its loom and every member of the family gave his share of work in this craft. Men planted and harvested cotton, children helped in washing the local sheep's wool and women worked on the looms".

Alda started familiarizing with the loom when she was just five years old, mirroring her mother she learnt slowly slowly this beautiful art. We can see her in the picture below washing the wool by hands not so many years ago.

Her skills and her devoted dedication to the hand weaving brought her to be awarded "for her



outstanding performance in the craft sector” with the prestigious **National Award for Achievement in Industry** on the 2nd November 2000! Lately she won two other prestigious Awards in the year 2014.

Support Local Artisans and Artists

She will enchant you! And her gentle humbleness and kindness will not hide the magic power of being the amazing artist that she is!

You will be captured by the intricate patterns on the colourful fabrics that she transforms in stunning **rugs, blankets, curtains, bedspreads, wall panels and much, much more!**

Alda can really weave any project you have in mind and the beauty to support a local artisan and artist like her it is explained by her beautiful words: **“when you buy something by us, you receive back love”!**

“Creativity connects you and settle your mind”

I was truly impressed by Alda’s serenity, I mean you really need to have lot of patience to carry on for all these years in this art, my mind wouldn’t not even rest for a minute.

She lovingly looked at me and she said: **“Flora, you can actually settle your mind only when you do something creative. Because through creativity your mind is connected to the source of everything and with the people you are weaving something for and you don’t even realize that time flies while you are at the loom”.**

“If they see it, they do it” in things that require to slow down, we want everything fast even if we lose in quality and traditions. Children too are too busy with technology and the weaving art is now substituted by video games and all sorts.

Again, she wisely answered me: **“Well actually the young generation does what is expose to. If they see it, they do it, however unfortunately now children do not connect that much with people as they are spending their times on mobile and tablets and even parents they don’t take notice of them. My mission is to let children and adults alike to come and see, to get in touch with this tradition, to feel the fabric and to try to weave too!”**

Traditions can be passed to the new generation if we let them see them, if we let them participate.

I invite you when in Gozo to go and visit Alda’s Studio and personally feel the texture of her hand made materials.

You will find a wide range of designs and items for your home in different sizes and customizable on your preferences.

Featuring below Alda’s son and his fiancée wearing outfits woven for them by Alda in cotton for their pre-wedding pictures.

I tried myself too a lovely coat (I couldn’t resist) and Alda told us that all her cloths and items are washable in the washing machine and surely durable.

Alda also organizes every Tuesday and Thursday for locals and tourist a workshop of two hours from 10 to midday, where you can learn to weave and make a piece of fabric for your home too!

For more information about Alda’s Studio, creations and initiatives please find her on [FACEBOOK](#) or call her at (+356) 79552907.

Find below the map. A quick tip. It is very easy to get to Alda’s Studio. It is a 5 minutes walk from St Francis Square to Vajringa Street towards the Augustine Church, then proceed to Don Gwann Bosco Street and then straight to D. Pawl Micallef Street.



The 3 Maltesers

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Variety Night Extravaganza, by
THE 3 MALTESERS
Showcasing non-stop entertainment.

DJ George Houndog, Charlie Camilleri AND
Voted 3-time winner at the Elvis Festival, is Australia's
leading Elvis Presley Impersonator, Paul Fenech.

5-hour Event from 6.30pm to 11.30pm. Doors open 6.30pm.
Maltese food (Borgs Cakes Handmade Pastizzi's) and drinks
(Kinnie), for sale before Entertainment at 7.30pm, with a fully
stocked Bar.

DANCING, SOCIALISING AND FUN ALL NIGHT !!!

Date: Saturday, 12th November, 2022
Venue: Greensborough Cricket Club
Address: 28 McDowell Street, Greensborough

Parking: Free
Prices: Pre-Sale \$45.00 / Door Sale \$50.00

Tickets: Alison @ Maltese Events Victoria
0406 751 869
malteseeventsvic@yahoo.com

EXTRAVAGANZA

THE CAREER OF MARY GRECH

Mary Grech. Background photos - Archives; Coloured Photo: Viktoria Nikolla

Mary Grech Born in Gozo on 2 nd, May, 1937.

After some years her family settled in Paola, Malta. Her first interest in the arts started years ago, while still at school. As a young girl she always loved plays and drama and for that reason she joined the Liliputian group. It was the Barunessa Giuseppina Attard Montalto who founded it and she always made sure that the productions she put up were appropriate for children. However, I always tried to look older than my age and when I first met Victor Grech, today my husband, through this children's group he proposed that I join the adults' company. Which, of course, I was only too happy to do. At the time, Victor was a prompter for the children's company, but he was also active with the "grown-ups".

And so it came about that I joined Wattie Cachia's company. Wattie was definitely one of the best, he even used to sing at the Royal Opera House. And I was the youngest member, you can imagine what a fuss they all made of me. Wattie started me off with a leading part in *Id-Dell tad-Destin* and it was here that I sung for the first time on stage. But my heart was more in acting than in singing and I didn't pursue that line.

Suddenly I had all sorts of options open in front of me. I was studying short-hand and other secretarial skills, because I was quite keen on a career in that field. But at the same time I started becoming more and more interested in theatre. I joined the re-diffusion, where I met big names such as Effie Ciantar, Charles Arrigo and Victor Galdes for the first time. And I started working with Twanny Scalpello, experimenting even with operas. I still remember rehearsing with Maestro Manche, who was THE Maestro at the time. And so, of course, slowly but surely I started neglecting that other office career and the stage took all the time I had. I did stop for two years, when I was still young and unsure and decided to go for a short holiday in Canada, visiting my brothers. The short holiday, much to my mother's dismay, turned into a two year stay.

But eventually I realised that I did miss Malta and so back I came. Only to find that all my friends had married and settled down, except for Victor! Still not having any firm plans I took an office job. But it wasn't long before I married Victor and he convinced me to put in an application with Xandir



Malta. I was certain that they'd never pick up my application out of those thousands.... Yet, after a whole five months of auditioning, they did.

And so I was there with all the first ones when Xandir Malta started transmitting on the 29th September of 1962. This was the very first day of television and it was a historic event for everyone. And to think, that I, together with Charles Abela Mizzi, had been chosen out of 2,000 people! My full-time career there lasted exactly sixteen years, throughout which I tried my hand at everything: I did music programmes, I read the news, I covered Parliament... Any kind of job going, I would take it.

My career on stage was put on hold. You have to consider that I in the meantime I'd had two kids, Josef and Christianne. Which meant that for a long while juggling a full-time job, two kids and a house was all I could cope with. I was rather lucky because Victor and I worked different hours – Victor would be back home by one on the afternoon while the bulk of my work was in the evening – and so we never had to "dump" the kids at their grandparents'!

Of course, eventually the theatre pulled me back and three years ago I accepted my first part on stage after such a long time. And then *Ipokriti* came along – actually my involvement in *Ipokriti* came about through my husband, who had joined the cast before me. They needed more actors and I accepted Iva's part. So many people have told me that I shouldn't have accepted the part, because the woman I portray is so unlike me. In fact, Iva is a bitch through and through, though mind you, the audience should expect some surprises in that respect. Let's just say that my character will become more mellow in the future.

But it's funny how so many people don't distinguish between acting and real life. I mean, I've had people asking my maid whether I am as bitchy to her as Iva is in *Ipokriti*! If only they knew how un-Iva I am. But this phenomenon is not limited to Malta. When I used to watch the *Bold and the Beautiful*, back in its hey days, I remember one incident when Sheila (one of the nastiest

characters) was literally stoned by a mob during some event or other...

But people who know me well joke about the dissimilarities in our characters. Believe me it's not easy to take on such a bitchy role when you are unaccustomed to it. Before filming I have to psyche myself up into the role, I try to irritate myself so that Iva's lines come natural. But I have to say that I'll be extremely happy when her character softens up a bit!

This work has given me a whole new lease of life. Those years after I finished working with [PBS](#) and found myself with time on my hands, I can't say I enjoyed them. Although I'm getting on, I'm really not one to retire and still feel that I have a lot more to contribute. Now I'm starting off a new radio show about children's music: the subject promises to be lots of fun and I'm in my element. It all came

through thanks to my grand-child Timothy, with whom I spend so much time watching children's videos. Yes, the media, I've discovered, is completely under my skin.

We encourage all Maltese living abroad to support their active associations which are striving to keep alive the history, language, culture and heritage of the Maltese Islands for future generations



Dinner Dance
ST. NICHOLAS FESTA COMMITTEE
PLUMPTON NSW
Come & Dance the Night away.
Live Entertainment by: Charlie Muscat & Joe Xuereb
3 Course Meal
Drinks purchased on the night.
Sat 19 Nov 2022 Doors open 7:00pm
Good Shepherd Parish Hall
130-136 Hyatts Road, Plumpton NSW
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For more information please contact:
President: Emanuel Vello 0405 577 064
Public Relations Officer: Stella Vello 0434 188 226
Tickets: Adults \$45, Children Under 10: \$20
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**CHILDREN'S MALTESE CLASSES
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Share the joy of speaking the Maltese language and learning about the culture, lifestyle, cuisine traditions and amazing history of the magnificent Mediterranean islands of Malta and Gozo.
All children's classes are online via Zoom. Classes for children aged 6 years and over are on Monday evenings 5pm - 6.30pm.
Call Lisa with any queries on 0419 418 547 or email mls@mccnsw.org.au for an enrolment package. See you in class!



FEAST DINNER DANCE
Stella Maris Maltese Association Inc.
Saturday 15 October 2022
At Emerald Receptions
6.30pm till 1.00am
Welcoming drinks and Savories,
4 course meal, beer, wine, orange
juice and soft drinks
ENTERTAINMENT:
Dj Dominic and
MMG Concert Band of Victoria
Tickets -
members \$75, non-members \$80, children under 12 \$30
For bookings call
Antonette - 0430 515 116 or Charlie 9308 3308



PACE CLAYTON CAMILLE KRISTEN
ID-DESTIN
DAK LI HEMMI MIKTUB OHALINA...
The Maltese Cultural Association of NSW
film in Maltese with English subtitles
9 October 2022 at 1.30pm
at La Valette Social Centre Blacktown NSW



Melite Civitas Romana Project: *Excavation of a Roman Villa in Malta*

Dr. Davide Tanasi

Professor of Digital Humanities &

*Director of the Institute for Digital Exploration (IDEx), Dept. of History
University of South Florida*

In 1881, the remains of a large peristyle house containing rooms adorned with very fine mosaic floors in a late Hellenistic style were uncovered at Rabat in Malta. Excavation carried out in 1920-1925 pointed out that the **Domus Romana** must have been occupied in the mid-first century CE by a person who undertook the expense of adorning it with statues of the Emperor Claudius and his family.

In the summer 2019, after almost a century, a long term international collaborative interdisciplinary research project (**Melite Civitas Romana Project**) was formed to reassess the site. It started out

with an overall remote sensing campaign including **Terrestrial Laser Scanning** and **Drone Photogrammetry** of the entire archaeological site and **Digital micro-photogrammetry** to create high quality 3D models of the mosaic floors of rooms C, D, E and F. In addition, 128 archaeological artifacts kept in the *Archaeological Museum of the Domus Romana* were 3D digitized thus creating an online collection for global public enjoyment. The exploration finally resumed after two years in summer 2022, focusing on four areas in the lots of land adjacent the main site, recently



Photos: Davide Tanasi.

acquired by the Maltese government, and previously investigated through geophysical prospection, with the aim to define the full planimetric extent of the architectural complex.

Davide Tanasi is an archaeological scientist and digital archaeologist specialist of ancient Sicily and Malta.

THANKS TO ALL OUR READERS AND CONTRIBUTORS



Old Aloysians meet in Sydney

A fourth reunion open to all St Aloysius College (SAC) Malta alumni and former college staff members residing in Sydney was held on August 27.

This particular reunion was much anticipated, following two years of postponements due to COVID lockdowns.

The reunion was hosted at the residence of professor Stephen Gatt in Kensington and was also attended by Mario Farrugia Borg, Malta's High Commissioner in Australia. Other attendees included former SAC Malta alumni from the business, professional and creative fields.

Maltese favourite food, including *bigilla*, *pastizzi*, *kannoli* and



From left: James Vella Bardon, Mark and Lisa Fiorentino, Jennifer and Pierre Fenech, Patrick Ellul (special guest), Paul Farrugia, Michael Azzopardi, Mario Farrugia Borg, Robert Tagliaferro, Dery Sultana, Stephen Gatt (kneeling), Ingrid German and Philip Micallef.

żebbuġ mimli (stuffed olives), were served throughout the pleasant evening, all washed down with Cisk lager and Kinnie.

Many laughs and memories were shared, as well as stories and various experiences from bygone days at SAC

Malta. The event was a great success, with all attendees looking forward to the next get-together.



FORT CAMBRIDGE - SLIEMA



MODERN MANDRAGGIO - VALLETTA



RESIDENTIAL BUILDING - SLIENA

