



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

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HOBZ BIZ-ZEJT U L-KUNSERVA
MALTESE BREAD WITH OIL
AND TOMATO PASTE

There's nothing like Maltese bread

HOW DO THEY DO IT IN MALTA

VINCECAMILLERI

How to Make Maltese Bread

Before you bake put plenty of flour on grease-proof paper put your dough on the paper & dust with flour, cover up with a T-towel and leave for 30 mins. Flour your hands and fold the dough into itself a few times and leave for a further 30 mins. Take the T-towel off and pick the dough up by holding on to the grease-proof paper, pulling it a little tightly, place in your pot. This will give you a huge loaf. *Ħobż tal-Malti* is a crusty sourdough bread from Malta, usually baked in wood ovens.

Although it can be eaten as accompaniment to food and with a variety of fillings, the typical and favourite way to eat it is as *Ħobż biż-żejt*, where the bread is rubbed with tomatoes (as with the Catalan *pa amb tomàquet*) or tomato paste, drizzled with olive oil and filled with a choice or mix of tuna, olives, capers, onion, *bigilla* and *gbejna*.

Qormi is the capital of breadmaking in Malta with several bakeries spread out in almost every corner of this beautiful town. In fact during the rule of the Knights Hospitaller, it was known as *Casal Fornaro* meaning the bakers' town. Nowadays an annually held festival, *Lejl f'Casal Fornaro* (a night at Casal Fornaro), takes place in Qormi in late September.

Veteran baker *Ġorġ "Il-Foqs"* is locally known as the best in his profession and his bread is very sought after. He is located in a corner on St.Catherine's Square in the older part of the city known as the *San Ġorġ* area .Other notable bakers like *Ġorġ "il-Boqboq"*, *Ġorġ "is-Sufa"* , *Leli "il-Paċċ"* and *Ġorġ "taz-Zinger"* are based in *San Ġorġ* On a humoristic note, the people of Qormi are teased as being "*nies sa Nofsinhar*" meaning that they are not to be relied on after noon due to most Qormi residents in the past being bakers and working late at night and in the early morning thus being very tired by noon. The reason for the Maltese bakers working at the small hours of day is that people wanted to have fresh bread ready to be bought as they were heading back home from the first mass of the day usually held at 5 am.

The common recipe is

3 Cups of Strong flour

10g salt

10g sugar

1 Table Spoon Olive Oil

15g yeast

3/4 cup of luke warm water

1/4 Cup of Milk

Mix the flour, salt and Olive Oil then yeast.

add the luke warm water, sugar and the milk.

knead the mixture well until the dough is white and elasticated.

Flour baking tray put dough direct on tray in a loaf shape (score if desired) cover with damp cloth, place in a warm place for about 1 hour.

Once Proven heavily dust with more flour Cook in oven at 150 oC for 40 Minutes then turn up to 230 oC for last 10 minutes making 50 minutes total.



HOBZ BIZ-ZEJT

“The national dish of Malta. Tasty, easy to make, ideal for picnics or days by the sea. The primary ingredients are bread, tomatoes, olive oil, salt and pepper. The other ingredients vary widely, although capers and olives are almost universally included. If using fresh tomatoes, make sure they are soft and juicy rather than firm to the touch. This simple dish is popular as a take-out meal but is also served as an appetizer in most restaurants, and as a bar snack in village pubs. In the latter cases the bread is often toasted, a bit like bruschetta. You can make anything from a single portion to a large-family size meal to a large event. Exclude tuna for a vegetarian/vegan version.”

INGREDIENTS

- **1 loaf crusty bread (the best kind is farmhouse style bread with a decent crust rather than soft, sponge-like fanc bread)**
- **olive oil**
- **6 juicy tomatoes (or 1 can thick tomato paste)**
- **salt and pepper**
- **pickled capers**
- **sliced ripe olives**
- **OPTIONAL**
- **1 (200 g) can tuna (optional)**
- **chopped fresh green pepper (optional)**
- **cheese (eg. cheddar, edam) (optional)**
- **pickled onion**



DIRECTIONS

1. Pour the olive oil into a plate.
2. Slice the bread, then dip one side of each slice into the oil. Squeeze out the excess.
3. If using fresh tomatoes, slice them in half then rub the cut side over the bread until it is red. If using tomato paste, just spread over the bread.
4. Sprinkle with salt and pepper.
5. Add capers, olive slices, flakes of tuna, chopped green peppers and other ingredients on top.

CONSULATE OF MALTA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Consul on the Move

The Consul-on-the-Move program was officially launched by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion of the Republic of Malta on 5th May 2016. The service intends to save members of the public a trip to the Consulate General in Sydney or Melbourne or the High Commission in Canberra and will offer consular services as detailed below;

1. Application for or renewal of biometric passport
2. Registration of Birth, Marriage, Divorce or Death
3. Application for Citizenship
4. Witness to signature.

Date, time and venue: on Thursday 24, Friday 25 and Saturday 26 May 2018 at the Maltese Cultural Centre, 6 Jeanes Street, Beverley SA. from 9 am till 4 pm

Kindly note that all services are by appointment; Please write to Frank Scicluna maltaconsul.adelaide@gov.mt or ring 08 8269 2948 or arrange an appointment by contacting the Malta High Commission on 02 6290 1724 or send an email to:

highcommission.canberra@gov.mt

STAR OF STRAIT STREET

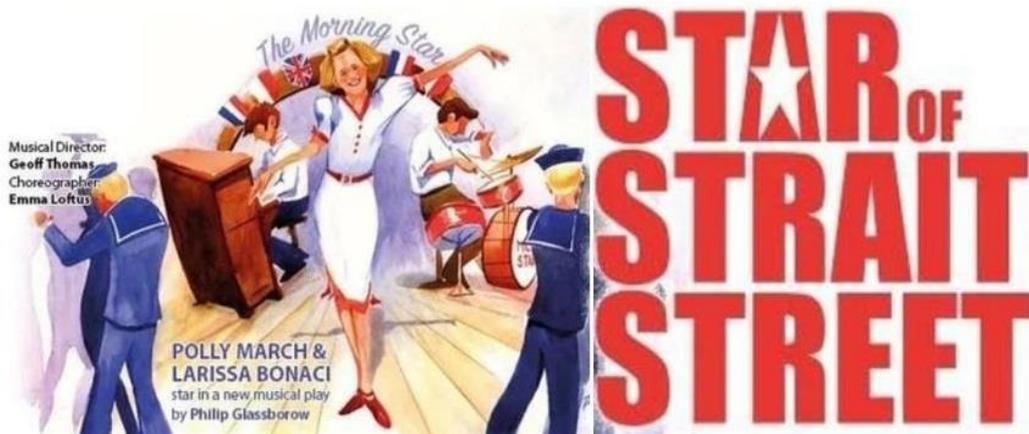
A MUSICAL SHOW FROM MALTA

Cultural Diplomacy Fund Project Australia 2018
Granted by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and
Trade Promotion of the Republic of Malta

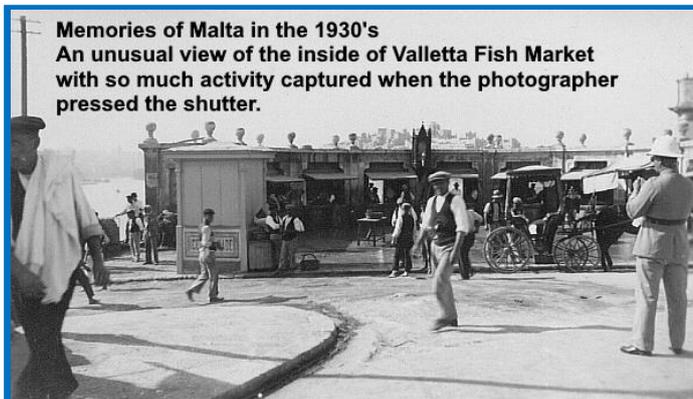
SUNDAY - 27 MAY 2018 from 2.00 till 5.00 pm
MALTESE CULTURAL CENTRE
6 Jeanes Street, Beverley SA

THE MALTESE QUEEN OF VICTORIES BAND WILL PARTICIPATE
TICKETS: \$10

It's a feast for theatre and music lovers, enthusiasts of Maltese history, and anyone for a good show. Definitely one to watch. The show takes us back to the wild days of Valletta' famous street in WW2



For tickets and more information contact:
Frank Scicluna - maltaconsul.adelaide@gov.mt



Memories of Malta in the 1930's
An unusual view of the inside of Valletta Fish Market with so much activity captured when the photographer pressed the shutter.



Memories of Malta in the 1930's
A policeman stands guard as Men and Boys pose on a street corner while decorations for the Festa are being erected, the street name reads Strada Reale.



Ryan Camilleri lifting the trophy. Photo: Dominic Borg

VALLETTA WIN PREMIER LEAGUE TITLE

Valletta were crowned champions for the 24th time in the history after the Citizens had the better of Gżira United 2-1 while their rivals Balzan were beaten by Hibernians 1-0 at Corradino.

Matteo Piciollo put the Citizens ahead after only seven minutes.

Kyrian Nwoko made all the damage as the Malta striker sped clear on the right to pick Raed Saleh who quickly fed Piciollo and the Italian striker made no mistake.

Valletta continued to dominate proceedings and they sealed the points midway through the second half when Santiago Malano play in Saleh and the Oman midfielder sent Curmi the wrong way to make it 2-0.

Gżira pulled a goal back ten minutes from time when Ryan Camilleri brought down Juan Corbalan and Andrew Cohen made no mistake from the spot. But that little mattered as Valletta held on for the win.

At the Corradino Stadium, Hibernians needed an early second half goal from Clayton Failla to kill Balzan's title dream. The wing back headed the ball past Balzan goalkeeper Sean Mintoff to earn the points to the Paolites.

Still it turned out to be a useless victory for Hibs who missed out fourth place to Birkirkara who came from behind to



overcome Hamrun Spartans 4-2.

In the other match, Floriana trounced Lija Athletic 6-2.

Empowering Malta's young people – President – H. E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca

Since the President's Trust was established in 2015, we have brought together a committed team of professionals, academics, private sector stakeholders and civil society activists with one common goal in mind.

This goal is the fight against poverty and social exclusion, and the promotion of equal and equitable opportunities, aimed at vulnerable children and young people in Maltese society.

The establishment of the President's Trust represents a milestone in this presidency, by providing support and inspiration to young people. The President's Trust is also

providing access to empowerment and enriching opportunities for young people to create a healthier, more productive and better quality of life for themselves and, by extension, for their communities.

There are many barriers and vulnerabilities that young people face in today's world. Contemporary life is changing at an unprecedented pace, and we must be bold and courageous in order to address these changes in ways that are beneficial and promote the values which define us as Maltese society.

The President's Trust provides another opportunity to put our nation's commitment to social solidarity into practice, by attempting to minimise the numbers of children and young people who fall through the cracks in our systems.

While much progress has been made, we must do more to ensure that no child or young person is left without an appropriate education, access to dignified opportunities for employment and chances to be empowered, in safe and respectful spaces.

The President's Trust provides another opportunity to put our nation's commitment to social solidarity into practice

The President's Trust endeavours to identify individuals who are at a heightened risk of being excluded from society, whether due to challenges arising from the particular circumstances of their upbringing, mental health difficulties, socioeconomic difficulties, those who have broken the law and are now being rehabilitated and others.

I believe that all of us, no matter our respective positions or capacities, have a responsibility to continue striving to make a significant and sustainable impact across the communities of our Maltese Islands to ensure no one is left behind. I believe that all of us, no matter our respective positions or capacities, have a responsibility to continue striving to make a significant and sustainable impact across the communities of our Maltese Islands to ensure no one is left behind.

Each of the initiatives by the President's Trust proposes innovative ways of meeting the particular needs of young people at risk.

I believe that we can also address these challenges most effectively by promoting processes of democratic participation, being champions of active citizenship and seeking opportunities for the empowerment of our younger generations.



IL-GAZZETTA TAGHKOM GHAMLET TANT SUCCESS GHAX HIJA:

❖ Mahbuba minn kulhadd Facli biex taqra u b'hafna ritratti Toqghod boghod mill-politika Imxerda mad-dinja kollha.... Imzewqa b'hafna artikli varjati fuq l-istorja ta' Malta, l-kultura, l-arti u tradizzjonijiet Maltin... Fiha ahbarijiet recenti u ta' nteress.... B'xejn imma tiswa mitqllu deheb.... Profili tal-Maltin li ghamlu unur lil Malta u l-Ghawdex. *Ganni l-Mosti*

THE FOUR TENORS OF MALTA

Tenor Joseph Calleja, the latest star in an illustrious line of successful tenors from the small island of Malta. In celebration of him and those before him, we present a special on tenors from Malta this month. Four tenors are featured, listed below in order of birth date.



ICILIO CALLEJA (1882-1941)

The number of tenors throughout the first half of the twentieth century considered great exponents of the role of Otello ever since Francesco Tamagno premiered Giuseppe Verdi's opera in 1887 at La Scala, can be counted on the fingers of one hand. Without a doubt, one of them was Icilio Calleja, who became the second tenor after Tamagno to sing this demanding role at the same opera house. Icilio was born in Corfu' of Maltese heritage. In Italy, one critic dubbed him the Napoleon of tenors – Il Napoleone dei tenori.



PAUL ASCIAK (1923-2015)

Paul Asciak was born in Valletta, Malta on January 28, 1923. His talent showed early enough and he spent years of singing in the famed St James Choir, Valletta. He sung with the very finest singers of the past century, from Maria Callas, Joan Sutherland to Piero Cappuccilli and Giulo Neri. A triumphant and long career marked by glowing reviews, which are featured richly in our biography.



ORESTE KIRKOP (1923-1998)

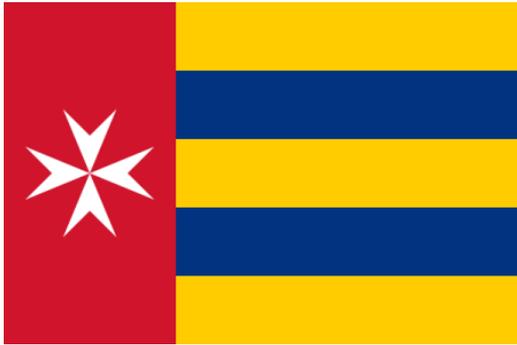
Malta's Oreste Kirkop, the island's singing ambassador of the Fifties, achieved international fame as a tenor and actor, the latter activity spent in Hollywood, where he starred in the popular film *The Vagabond King*. He was born in Hamrun. He was principal tenor of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in the period 1954-1958. He took part in the first telecast ever of Verdi's *Rigoletto* in 1958. "The Maltese tenor Oreste Kirkop proved himself to be a singer of real merit. Good tenors are scarce everywhere and worth their weight in gold. Not since Gigli's appearance in Cavaradossi's role, has this been so beautifully sung."



Joseph Calleja (1978)

The only contemporary singer in this special, Joseph Calleja made his debut at the very tender age of 19, after years of tutelage by another tenor in our special: Paul Asciak. His artful phrasing and radiant lyric tenor voice are praised by both reviewers and audience members. The voice is marked by a distinctively bright shine that very much reminds of his native Malta. Almost two decades into in his professional career, Calleja is a prolific performer and international star who continues to be in great demand at top venues around the world

KNIGHTS OF MALTA, RHODES AND CYPRUS



Holy Union of Malta, Rhodes and Cyprus

The Maltese imagery is a given here considering that these three islands were once controlled by the Knights Hospitaller. The three golden bars stand for the three constituent islands, while the two blue bars stand for the sea separating them.

In 1291 Acre, a port in northern Palestine, fell into the hands of the Mameluke Sultan of Egypt: it was the last remnant of the Christian Kingdom of Jerusalem: its loss led Pope Boniface VIII to call the first Jubilee Year, in 1300, which granted special indulgences to those sinners who visited Rome and prayed at St. Peter's tomb, thus replacing the pilgrimages to Jerusalem.

Two Christian military orders showed all their valour in the defence of Acre: the Templars and the Hospitallers (Knights of St. John). The latter order had as its primary objective providing shelter and medical care to pilgrims, but it also protected them during their journey, which accounts for its military organization: the knights who joined it came mainly from southern France: they were usually cadets of noble families who looked for an opportunity to serve their faith and show their gallantry. The Order was named after the first hospice which was dedicated to St. John (most likely St. John the Baptist). After the capitulation of Acre the Hospitallers went to Cyprus which at the time was a Christian kingdom ruled by the Lusignan family. The Order was able to reorganize its structure and its ranks there and in 1308, with the endorsement of Pope Clement V, the Hospitallers established themselves on Rhodes. In the following years they occupied Kos and some smaller islands and they built a fortress at today's Bodrum on the Asian mainland.

After the 1453 conquest of Constantinople by the Ottomans, the Hospitallers started to build new imposing fortifications at Rhodes and at other sites, fearing that the Ottomans would sooner or later attack them. An Ottoman siege of Rhodes in 1480 failed, but in June 1522 Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent landed on the island with an army of 100,000. After six months of siege Grand Master Philibert Villiers De l'Isle Adam agreed to surrender the town and all the other castles which were still controlled by the Order. On January 1, 1523 the Knights and the Catholic inhabitants of Rhodes left the town carrying with them their banners and their holy images.

When the Knights left Rhodes, the season was not favourable for sailing, so they reached Candia (Crete), a Venetian possession, where they waited for weather conditions which allowed them to reach Sicily. Grand Master Villiers de l'Isle then started a sort of pilgrimage across Europe to talk to the Pope, to the Kings of England and France and to Charles, who was at the same time Holy Roman Emperor (V) and King of Spain (I). The Grand Master hoped to be given another island or a maritime territory from which the Knights could continue to operate against the Ottomans and possibly reconquer Rhodes. Results of the mission were disappointing as all the leaders he met tried to make use of the Knights for their own profit. Eventually he accepted the proposal of Charles V who offered the Order: a) the County of Malta (Malta, Gozo and three nearby islets), which was a fiefdom of Sicily; b) Tripoli, in today's Libya, which the Spaniards had conquered in 1510.

Hopes of reconquering Rhodes soon vanished because of the political and religious divisions among the Christian Nations which were supposed to help the Knights. Tripoli was lost in 1551, so Malta became by necessity the permanent home of the Order of St. John. Città Notabile (today's Mdina) was the main town of the island and the see of its bishop, but it was

located inland so the Knights chose to place their headquarters at Borgo (the name in Italian indicates a settlement outside a town) which was well positioned inside a very large natural harbour. *Auberges*, hostels where the knights of each *tongue* (country) lodged or just met, were therefore built at Borgo, which was renamed Città Vittoriosa after having withstood an Ottoman siege in 1565. Consistent with the motto of the Order *Pro Fide, Pro Utilitate Hominum* (For the Faith, In the Service of Humanity), the Knights built a small hospital. The mission of the Knights during their stay at Malta focused on attacking Ottoman ships and raiding the coasts of Ottoman territories, especially those of Tunisia. They also confiscated goods belonging to Muslim or Jewish merchants on board Christian ships. Their constant aggressive behaviour was summarized by Emanuel Bowen, Royal Mapmaker to King George II of England.

Bridge, project to be completed in four weeks



www.independent.com.mt

Emergency works are currently underway at the MISTRA BRIDGE after consultants and experts urged immediate action to address parts of the structure that were crumbling, Infrastructure Minister Ian Borg has announced.

The bridge, he said, was an important connection for Mellieha and Gozo to rest of Malta, especially during the summer months. The project is

expected to be completed in four weeks time.

The bridge was constructed in the 1884 and was widened in a redevelopment project in 1955, which saw the structure be reinforced with concrete.

The Minister lamented that there would have been no need for major intervention, had the necessary maintenance been conducted. However, he said that the project will be built in a way to avoid similar problems for future generations.

Referencing the proposed 700 million euro investment into the road network, Borg reiterated that the country's infrastructure is an absolute priority.

Frederick Azzopardi, who will be the CEO of the new Road Agency which will oversee the investment, said that urgent intervention has already been done.

One of the consultants on the project explained that the bridge had suffered severe erosion due to a number of factors, such as weather, vegetation, and thermal movements.

There was about 12 cm loss in stonework and parts of the outer wall had collapsed, exposing the structure's core.

The tarmac will be removed and there will be some excavation to construct the new road. With regards to potholes and the general state of the rest of the road leading up to Mellieha and down to Xemxija will undergo re-patching work.



INT SABIHA, O MALTA TAGHNA
MHUX GHAX MALTI MFAHREK JIEN
ISSEMMIK ID-DINJA KOLLHA
MAGHRUF GMIELEK KULLIMKIEN

IMGHOTTIJA BL-ISBAH SEMA,
L-OGHNA DAWL IX-XEMX TAGHTIK,
MA XXAWTEKX, BILHLEWWA SSAHNEK,
GID IGGIBLEK U TQAWWIK

GAN ANTON VASSALLO

Maltese-Canadian, 68, weathers storm to finish Boston Marathon



Joseph Camilleri already has his sights set on another target

He proudly flew the Maltese and Canadian flags the following day. Photos provided by Joseph Camilleri

Joseph Camilleri this week weathered the storm and managed to finish one of the world's most prestigious races at the age of 68.

The Maltese-Canadian, who last year

made it first to the finishing line at the BMO Vancouver Marathon within his age group, completed the Boston Marathon on Monday.

Mr Camilleri, originally from Hamrun, finished the race wearing a shirt that read "all it takes is all you got" before collapsing in the arms of a paramedic and being treated for hypothermia.

But he believes it was well worth it, and has already set his sights on an October marathon in Victoria, British Columbia, where he lives.

Mr Camilleri told this newspaper that between 1963 and 1969 he was considered one of Malta's top runners, representing the Alpines Athletics Club (Sliema). However, once he emigrated he stopped running altogether and did not start again until he was 60.

Then last year he took part in his first marathon – the BMO Vancouver one – where he made it first out of 47 men in the 65-69 category. Finishing at 3:30:45, he qualified for this year's Boston Marathon, which attracted some 30,000 participants.

Race day was the coldest start in 30 years

He noted that the race day turned out to be the coldest start in 30 years, with heavy rain, wind and frigid temperatures hampering the participants, where even some of the elite athletes were defeated by the elements.

"I started well enough by completing the first 21 kilometres in 1:46:11, however, by this time the weather had taken a turn for the worse, if that was even possible, with the freezing rain, strong winds and colder temperatures intensifying as the race progressed."

At around the 25-kilometre mark he started suffering from hypothermia by which time he discarded the idea of improving the time of his previous marathon and his only goal was to finish the race.

Mr Camilleri crossed the finishing line at 4:29:58 placing 220 out of 450 in his age group.

Once he completed the marathon, he had to be treated for hypothermia for more than an hour. There were several other runners who suffered the same fate.

He had to wait until the following day to celebrate by flying the Maltese and Canadian flags in Boston, but luckily enough, the day turned out to be sunny.

**MALTESE
Newsletter**

We thank our readers, supporters and contributors
If you have a story to share send it to us
maltesejournal@gmail.com



MaltaPost Europa stamp set issue – Bridges



MaltaPost will join other European postal administrations on the 3rd of May with the release of a philatelic stamp set bearing the theme – Bridges. Two bridges are featured, The Grand Harbour breakwater bridge and the Madliena Bridge in Hal Gharghur. Both

bridges were built when Malta was under the British Rule. Photographs: David P Attard. The €0.59 stamp features the Grand Harbour Breakwater Bridge also known as the St. Elmo Bridge. The €2.19 stamp depicts the Madliena Bridge, also known as the Wied id-Dis Bridge, built in 1880 by the British military forces to facilitate transportation of military equipment and also servicemen along the Victoria Lines. The stamps will be issued in two sheetlets each bearing 11 stamps. Each stamp measures 44mm x 31mm, has a 13.9 x 14.0 (comb.) perforation bearing the Maltese Crosses watermark. The sheetlets measure 158mm x 150mm. The stamps were produced by Printex Ltd in the offset process and the issue consists of 35,200 of the €0.59 stamp and 39,600 of the €2.19 stamp.

They will be available from all Post Offices in Malta and Gozo. Orders may be placed online at www.maltaphilately.com or by mail from the Philatelic Bureau, MaltaPost p.l.c. 305, Qormi Road, Marsa, MTP 1001; Telephone: 2596 1740, e-mail: info@maltaphilately.com GOZONNEW.COM.



On Sunday morning, TVM presents the popular program Malta u lil hinn minnha (Malta and further out), a production of CVC Media of Gozo. The program takes the TV audiences on a spectacular voyage around the Maltese Islands and beyond. The programme travels to Rhodes city and as far as Sydney in Australia and wherever the Maltese live around the world. The

program will shed light on national history and culture hidden to the naked eye.

Other features speak about the environment, nature and rural affairs such as the monitoring of air quality, and the production of poultry and eggs. The show will also features Maltese traditional cuisine.

The programme will not be entering in any kitchen, but will be bringing the Maltese kitchen into the streets, in an effort to reveal the goodness of Maltese cuisine, which enjoys such goodwill amongst all those who visit these islands. The programme will divulge the secrets of candied fruits, done the Maltese way. Malta u lil hinn minnha, a production of CVC Media, Gozo, is presented by Mario Coleiro, Cynthia Zerafa, Katya Scicluna and Paul and Denise Mintoff between 10am and 11.30am on TVM every Sunday and is repeated on TVM2 on Monday at 12,30pm and Friday at 8.30pm.



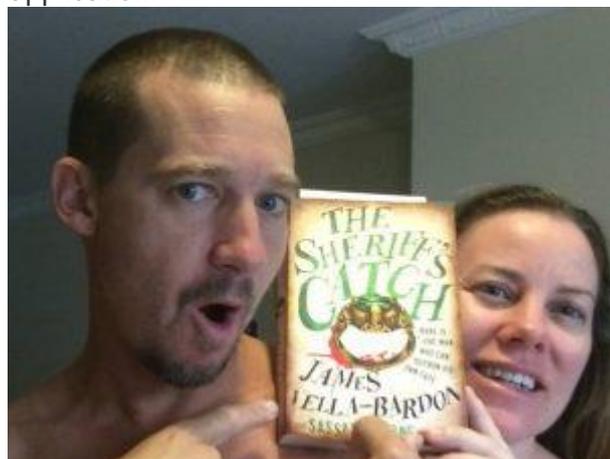
Maltese author's debut published in the UK

Maltese author James Vella-Bardon's debut novel, *The Sheriff's Catch*, has been published by UK award-winning publisher Unbound. It tells the story of a Maltese-born man forced to join the Spanish Armada who must flee fatal capture in 16th century Ireland.

The novel is also the first instalment of a five-part series called *The Sassana Stone Pentalogy*, a five-novel historical fiction series which is the product of nine years of rewriting and research.

On 8 January 2018 the novel was also accepted for a pre-release serialisation by London-based online book club The Pigeonhole. High profile bestselling author Ken Follett has also used this literary

platform to serialise *A Column of Fire*, a sequel to his widely popular *The Pillars of the Earth*. Novels serialised by The Pigeonhole are accessible to its online book club for one month through a digital application.



Following publication, over a score of five star reviews were subsequently posted on Goodreads from readers around the world.

Finland's Jeanette Heidenberg wrote that, "This is an excellent piece of historical fiction. I have not been this excited about a book series since *Game of Thrones*...I loved it and I'm eagerly awaiting the next instalment of *The Sassana Stone* series."

South Africa's Di Paterson noted that, "James Vella-Bardon's style is wonderful, his language era-appropriate", with her co-national Douglas Laing observing that "the writing maintains an absolutely breathtaking pace in this well researched historical thriller".

India's Devaki Khanna described the novel as "fast-paced, gripping and brutally honest" whereas Guatemala's Maria Rivas commented that "the book is obviously the result of immense research on the period".

Encouraging feedback was also obtained from Australia, with Gail Wylde remarking upon "a real roller coaster of a read and left me quite breathless at times", and her co-national Paul Rubens stating: "A super story that never stops. The excitement just goes on and on."

Feedback from UK readers was also positive, with Alison Cook describing the book as "an extraordinarily riveting fast paced historical genre story", and Shelagh Wadman observing that "James Vella-Bardon is a brilliant writer bringing to life the terrible reality of war, despair and revenge." English reader Jules Burnett observed, "this was so good I had to read it twice!" and Alison Risely remarked that the novel was "impossible to put down".

Local enthusiasm for the debut novel was also evident on Goodreads, with veteran Pigeonhole reader Claire Busuttill writing that "It is an emotional journey, dynamic and adventurous, while fellow Maltese reader Corinne Apap-Bologna observed that 'the pace is fast with lots of action, keeps you turning the pages'.

The novel is currently available from all leading UK online booksellers and will also be on sale in paperback copy from Waterstones' retail outlets in the UK and Ireland. James Vella-Bardon's debut novel is also being stocked by a number of independent bookstores internationally.

The Sheriff's Catch can also be found in Malta at Agenda Bookshop and at Merlin Library.

THE CASE OF ŻEPPI TAT-TUTTU

[Denise Formosa](#)



On the 5th July 1862 in a huge house opposite the Granaries in Floriana, the murder of Katerina Borg took place during the dead of the night. This house still stands today, and it is very close to the Parish Church of St. Publius.

Katerina worked as a servant for the opulent De Martino family. Mr De Martino was a very successful business man and used to keep money hidden away in his large house. Whenever the need arose for him to go out, he always told Katerina never to open the main door to anyone. He was always worrying that someone would rob him...

One day, Mr and Mrs De Martino were invited to Mrs De Martino's sister for dinner at Balzan. Since they were very happy with the invitation, as they rarely met each other, they accepted and started making the necessary preparations for them to attend. Before they left the house, Mr De Martino repeated his instructions to Katerina and told her not to open the door to anyone, not even a familiar acquaintance. Katerina told her employer not to worry and go and enjoy themselves. Besides taking care of the house, she was also in charge of the De Martino's two-year-old son.

The De Martinos had a wonderful time at the De Marcos. They had a lovely dinner and chatted the whole night through. When it was time to leave their hosts, they rode the "kaless" which was driven by a horse and a coachman and started their trip home.

As soon as they bid farewell to their coachman, as they had arrived at their home in Floriana, they were about to witness a frightful scene. Mr De Martino went up the four steps to their house and saw in horror that their main entrance door was open! Somebody had got inside their home! They quickly went indoors and discovered, that they had been robbed- all their money was taken and everywhere looked topsy turvy as the robbers had opened every single drawer and piece of furniture there was in the house.

As soon as Mr and Mrs De Martino fled upstairs to look for their son, they saw him unharmed crying on the floor. Katerina lay lifeless close to the bedroom. She had been mercilessly murdered and their son had witnessed the horrific events!

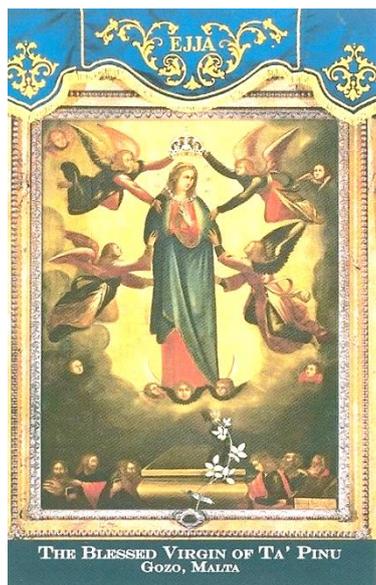
When the police inspector came to carry out the necessary interrogations, he asked the two-year-old who had hurt Katerina. The child kept repeating "Żeppi tat-Tuttu!" "Żeppi" in Maltese, is short for "Ġużeppi" meaning Joseph and "tuttu" in baby language is "horse".

After some time, the inspector realized that what the child was referring to was none other than the coachman himself. While the De Martinos were happily enjoying themselves at the De Marcos, he cunningly left the house of his employers and went to rob the De Martinos along with 2 friends.

Since the De Marco coachman was no stranger to Katerina, she had opened the door for him, as he had come up with the excuse that Mr De Martino had sent him to collect some stuff as they were going to sleep at their relatives' house. Katerina had paid a very high price, as although she had tried hard to defend herself, she was killed in front of the child!

Almost immediately a proclamation was issued and whoever had any news of the killing would be given a sum of money in exchange for information. One of Żeppi's friends went to the inspector and gave him all the details, as he had happened to have waited outside until his 2 friends committed the merciless deed.

Both men were sentenced to death by hanging and without going into whether it is humane to kill a man by hanging or not, we can say that justice was served.



MY ASSOCIATION AND EXPERIENCE WITH THE SHRINE AT TA' PINU by Richard Cumbo (Canada)

It all began in 1968. I was 20 years old at the time.

After having lived in Toronto since 1951, my parents and I were able to return to Malta for a visit. It was a wonderful trip. Malta at the time was still not completely developed and overrun by cars. It was still a slower pace of life. I was captivated by the Islands. How I had always envisioned a country should be was right there in Malta!

During our five-week long visit, the majority of it was spent in my parents' hometown of Sliema visiting relatives and friends. I was able to go to Gozo for a week with my mother's cousins, Eucharist and Mary Attard, and their four children. Eucharist was from Ix-Xagħra, Gozo and Mary, my mother's cousin, was from St. Julian's, Malta. The Attards lived in St. Julian's. Eucharist was headmaster of the then little school in the rural village of Baħrija, west of Rabat.

The week in Ix-Xagħra was idyllic. The Attards had an old farmhouse overlooking Marsalforn Bay. I used to walk down the side of the hill through Wied Ix-Xagħra to the Bay. Gozo at that time received few tourists, and as I walked down Gniien Imrik Street people would peer at me from behind their wicker door blinds. At one point,

Mary sent me to the village baker with a platter of ross fil-forn; he gave me a metal number and I was to return later to pick up the baked rice. It was all so quaint and the plate was quite hot.

During the week the Attards took me to the Shrine of Our Lady of Ta' Pinu at Għarb. As I entered the Shrine I felt the presence of deep love and contentment. I was overwhelmed by the joy which I felt. Then and there in front of the Holy Image of Our Lady I made a vow that every time Our Lady brings me back to Malta I would visit Her. Since 1968 I've been back to the Maltese Islands nearly 40 times, and always kept my vow.

When I returned to Canada I started to promote devotion to Our Lady of Ta' Pinu and to try to make her better known within the Maltese community and general Catholic population in Toronto. On many subsequent trips over the years I became a good friend of the then rector, Monsignor Benedict Camilleri. Leaving the Shrine, he always provided me with both small and large holy pictures of Our Lady, rosaries and other Ta' Pinu devotional material. I took every opportunity I could to promote Our Lady here in Toronto and wherever else possible. In the late 1980s I began framing pictures of Our Lady and donating them to Catholic Schools in the city. If I knew someone was visiting another town or city I would give them a framed picture to give to a school or hospital. I did whatever possible to promote Our Lady of Ta' Pinu, both here in Canada and in Malta, either through the printed or electronic media.

Over the years there have been many instances where individuals have told me how Our Lady has helped them. One, however, that has ingrained itself in my mind is the following.

I worked as a civil servant for the province of Ontario and usually every summer I would vacation in Malta. All the Catholics in the office where I worked at the time got to know about Our Lady of Ta' Pinu. A fellow workmate and friend, Vangie Mata, a Filipino, was having a terrible time. She was having emotional problems, gaining a lot of weight, having her skin breaking out in pimples, etc. Vangie was a wonderful, devotional and considerate person, but she needed help. She asked me to pray for her at the Shrine; of course, I told her I would.

On my last day of work before I left for my vacation she took my hand and said, "Richard, please do not forget to pray for me at the Shrine in Malta." I assured her I would not forget.

When I visited the Shrine that summer I did pray for Vangie and something made me aware of what date; it was mid-July. Weeks later I returned to Toronto then back to work. When I arrived at work there had been a huge transformation regarding my friend. I was astonished at the positive change in Vangie. She had lost a lot of weight; her skin had cleared; and she was in a very positive mood. I asked her if she was on medication or something, because she looked so great and was her bubbly self again.

Vangie said no; she said it was a bit peculiar; she said that in July she felt as if a huge weight had been taken off her. She had begun to feel better of herself, began losing weight and had become more confident. I told her that this was fabulous.

She said: "Had you prayed for me at the Shrine of Our Lady"? I asked her, "When did you feel this sudden change"?

She said, "I don't recall the exact date, but I know it was sometime in the middle of July."

When I heard this, I got goose bumps up and down my arms. Vangie noticed my reaction and asked me if I were all right. I responded, "Yes, just that I was praying for you in mid-July." Then it was her turn to look surprised. Our Lady had looked after my friend, and after that I became even more devoted to Her.



Madlene & Richard Cumbo in Front of Our Lady of Ta' Pinu Shrine, Gozo

In 1984 the province of Ontario was celebrating its bi-centennial. The Provincial Government in recognition of services to the community was awarding 1,984 gold medals (out of a population of then 8 million) to Ontarians. I was surprised to have been chosen as one of the recipients. The elaborate ceremony took place in the Amethyst Room at Queen's Park on December 7, 1984. On my next trip to Malta and visit to Gozo, I dedicated all my future volunteer work, etc. to Our Lady of Ta' Pinu. A frame stating this can be seen on the upper left-hand side of the Sanctuary at the back.

In May 1998 a Gozitan friend of mine, Mr. Reno DeGiorgio, told me he had commissioned Irish-Canadian painter James McCarthy to paint a reproduction of Our Lady of ta' Pinu. The 4' x 6" (1.2 m by 1.8 m) oil painting had been painted a few years earlier and Reno, a devotee of Our Lady of Ta' Pinu also, was now looking for a home for the painting. He had told me that he had approached the Maltese church of St. Paul the Apostle at 3224 Dundas Street, West in Toronto. He was told by the pastor, Father Jimmy Zammit, O.F.M., that there was no space in the church for it. I told Reno not to worry. I approach our then parish administrator, Father Michael Holmes, of St. Pius X Church at 2305 Bloor Street, West. Father Holmes came to see the painting and immediately said yes, he would accept the painting. On June 27, 1998 a special blessing of the painting took place during the 12:10 Mass, and the painting in its gold frame was hung on the left side of the main altar. A plaque commemorating this event was hung just



below the painting. The plaque was paid for by the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto, which was established in 1922. When a new parish administrator, Father Martin Pereira, came to St. Pius X he had the painting taken down, much to the disapproval of many parishioners, and stored in the boiler room. With the restoration of the church, the painting was finally rehung in the choir loft.

There have been many and varied experiences and episodes in my relationship with Our Lady of Ta' Pinu. During an extremely stressful and difficult court case that lasted six years, regarding a property in Malta, the odds were against me as I did not live on the Island and there was the egotism, etc., of the person who initiated the case. I did win, however, and the case was settled on November 9, 2006. Every day that I attended court Our Lady of Ta' Pinu was with me. Unlike the opposition not once did I lie under oath and was always forthright and honest. In 2016, through the initiative and dedication of Father Manuel Parnis, MSSP, the pastor of Toronto's St. Paul the Apostle Maltese Parish, not only was space found in the church, but a chapel was dedicated to our Lady of Ta' Pinu. The main focus of this beautiful chapel is an excellent reproduction of the original 1619 painting of Our Lady's Assumption by Maltese-Canadian artist Mr. Paul Debono.

Paul Debono and Richard Cumbo in Our Lady of Ta' Pinu Chapel with Mr. Debono's Painting in the Background October 24, 2016(Images provided by Richard Cumbo)

June 22, 2018 marks the 135th anniversary since Our Lady beckoned Karmni Grima as she was walking past the original 16th century chapel near the village of Gharb on the island of Gozo, Malta.

Editor's note: Richard, who lives in Toronto, is a member of our club and has been a strong supporter of our club for many years.

Dar Charles Miceli officially opens its doors

The home will be offering a new aftercare service, led by Caritas Malta



Bishop Charles Scicluna officially opening the home

Dar Charles Miceli, which will be offering an aftercare service, operated by Caritas Malta and available 24 hours a day, including during weekends, was officially opened today.

Through this service, people who followed a recovery programme but are encountering difficulties in the process will be able to seek refuge at the home. The service is also available to those who didn't follow a Caritas Malta programme, but instead had embarked on a programme with other operators in the sector.

The home was dedicated to the late Charles Miceli, in celebration of his legacy, activism, and the voice he gave to those in the margins of society.

Enjoy family parks without leaving rubbish and leave you mobile at home

BY [GOZO NEWS](#) · MARCH 27, 2018



"If one watches TV, in Maltese talk shows, apart from many topics, often we talk of cleanliness in Malta. Radio and TV presenters, Prime Minister and many other prominent people urge the Maltese citizen and visitor alike to keep our dear Malta clean.

I would like to add to this choir of people in adding my pennies' worth. I suggest that in family parks where families go

there on purpose to spend some hours to relax NO Bins should be out there!

When one prepares to go to this park one takes with him all food, plates, forks and knives, drinks, glassware and so on. Including with these provisions they should also take empty garbage bags and take the garbage home with them as they take the plates and glasses and separate the garbage. This is my first suggestion for family parks.

We are becoming snobs, more precisely phone snobbers or Phobbers. Phobbing is a word created to describe those people who disregard the others and blend in with the mobile becoming one with such gadget.

This is today. This is now. Before it was chatting, dialoguing, pulling one's leg, expressing one's opinion, discovering your friend's charm and so many other specialities and qualities, asking advice, opening up, being a member of a family/friend community.

Yes, this was before the introducing of phobbing. I suggest that if you love yourself and want to experience something great which is nearly lost yet, so elevating and exquisite, leave your mobile at home when you go for a picnic.

Throw yourself on the ground, cook, eat, play and talk to your friends and give yourself the greatest regenerating gift of humanity which you can give.

Take your garbage home with you, including cigarette butts which drastically harm the soil with its contaminated chemicals in it, and do not phobb but switch off your mobile and switch on instead your mind and heart. Happy living.”



MDINA MAIN GATE

CITTA' NOBILISSIMA E SINGOLARE



On the 3rd February, Malta crowned Christabelle as the winner of the Malta Eurovision Song Contest 2018 with her song Taboo.

During the last 4 weeks an intensive process started in order to come up

with a video concept, film it, edit the footage and today will see the final product. The production team had very intense and challenging filming sessions, especially when wind, rain and cold battered on them.

Filming took place in 4 different locations with the presence of around 200 extras for a total of more than 72hrs of filming.

The concept behind the music video was to represent different factions of society and their own personal struggles. Their leaders are exploiting their weaknesses by forcing them to battle each other, whilst exposing them to the emperor, a representative of the society which decides to blindly judge the tribes in the video. The cheering crowd symbolises individuals who would rather choose to believe the prejudices in society, rather than forming their own opinion.

The box is a representation of the state of mind one goes through when fighting his personal battles. Christabelle willingly enters the ring, on a mission to break the taboo and leads the rest of the factions to winning over their own personal struggles, without the fear of seeking help.

Follow Christabelle and her achievement here <https://www.facebook.com/EurovisionSongMalta/>





Eurovision 2018: Jessica Mauboy releases long-awaited song We Got Love

YOUTUBE: [Youtube: We Got Love](#)

Australia's representative at Eurovision 2018 in Lisbon, Portugal will be pop singer Jessica Mauboy. Her official song for Eurovision 2018 has been revealed, whipping fans of the pop star and the flamboyant competition into a frenzy 'WE GOT LOVE'.

The Darwin-born singer will perform We Got Love at the contest in Portugal this May.

"I wanted to create something that could be universally understood ... LOVE," she wrote on Twitter today. Having been affected by recent world tragedies, the 28-year-old said she wanted to perform a song of "healing".

"All of these things we see online, whether in our Indigenous communities, past and present, and how the world is turning, made me angry," she said.

"But what affected me more was the love coming from people, seeing people standing tall and strong."

We Got Love was leaked by Eurovision fan clubs onto YouTube on Tuesday, before SBS and Mauboy's label, Sony, quickly pulled the audio offline.

Meanwhile online campaigns and advertising in major cities focusing on the hashtag [#WeGotLove](#) have prompted Australian fans to take to social media to express their support for Mauboy and the song.

And the song leak has only increased talk about the tune.



Thousands sing 'Happy Birthday' to Queen Elizabeth II

The audience at Royal Albert Hall got a rare treat Saturday — the chance to sing "Happy Birthday" to the longest reigning monarch in British history.

Queen Elizabeth II, with her eldest son Prince Charles at her side, waved to the crowd as they celebrated her 92nd birthday in song. Charles got an enthusiastic response when he introduced her as: "Your majesty, mummy."

The queen took center stage after a varied pop concert featuring British singers Sting, Tom Jones and Jamie Cullum along with Australian star [Kylie Minogue](#), long a fan favorite here.

Shaggy and Craig David also performed, and the festivities took a long stroll down memory lane, with audio from a speech Elizabeth made on her 21st birthday and video from her Golden Jubilee, when roughly 1 million people gathered outside Buckingham Palace to honor her.

She was flanked in the royal box by Charles, heir to the throne, and [Prince William](#), next in the line of succession. [Prince Harry](#) and fiancée Meghan Markle also attended, generating a roar of applause when they took their seats. The couple will wed May 19 at Windsor Castle.

Prince William's wife Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, did not attend. She is expecting the couple's third child. The queen's husband, Prince Philip, was also missing. He is recovering from hip replacement surgery.

The show featured contemporary tunes, but included songs from earlier eras, including selections from "My Fair Lady" — one of the queen's favorites — and a sentimental rendering of "Wonderful World." Earlier in the day, honorary gun salutes were staged at Hyde Park, the Tower of London, a castle in Wales and the town of Windsor to mark the occasion.

The queen celebrates two birthdays every year: Her actual birthday on April 21, which she usually marks privately with her family, and her "official birthday" in the summer. That usually falls on the second Saturday in June, when she joins the Trooping the Color military parade in central London.

Elizabeth's real birthday this year came on the tails of the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting, which brought the leaders of the 53 Commonwealth countries together in England.

The queen has led the disparate group, made up of Britain and its former colonies, since she took the throne in 1952. This story has been corrected to show that Saturday was the queen's actual birthday, not the "official" birthday she observes in June.

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER
The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

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Maltese violinist performance in front of Queen and Commonwealth leaders

MTV Report: Mario Micallef

Nadine Galea performed to Madonna, at the X-Factor finals, to Prince William and Kate Middleton. She also accompanied with the violin tenor Joseph Calleja and last year she performed as a soloist with the United Nations orchestra. On Thursday, young violinist

Nadine Galea played in front of the Queen and the Commonwealth Heads of Government.

Nadine Galea was among seven violinist who played the English traditional piece, Shepherd's Hey, at the Buckingham Palace ballroom to a distinguished audience who included Queen Elizabeth II, the 53 Commonwealth leaders and other guests for the official CHOGM inauguration.

Nadine said, "we enjoyed ourselves. The energy between the group was very strong; we did not know each other, coming from different backgrounds. Even from the musical aspect. My colleagues said that they saw Canada's Prime Minister doing a thumbs up, even Theresa May".

"I received an email, out of the blue, requesting me to participate in this occasion. We met daily since last Monday, preparing a musical arrangement together. This was the first occasion I played for the Queen; previously I played for Prince William and Kate Middleton", Nadine said.

Hailing from Birkirkara, at 16 years of age Nadine Galea started her music studies in Italy and two years later went to London. She studied for six years at the Royal College of Music graduating in Bachelor's and Master's degrees, and today she is a professional violinist and teaches at a school.

"I do a lot of concerts in London and outside the capital. One of our clients in fact was popstar Madonna; we played at her London home for her and her children". Nadine has also participated in various private and public concerts in a number of European countries.

She says music is her life. "It gives me great satisfaction. There is a lot of work people do not see; it is a difficult career, although it seems easy. I exchange it for nothing".

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San Anton Gardens – one of the most beautiful gardens in Malta

San Anton Gardens are a lovely outing for a family with kids or for a romantic walk. Lots of space to run about, massive mature trees, ponds with swans, benches to relax... and it's free. Also pop over to the next door Kitchen Garden with a play area for kids and a cafe serving drinks and snacks.

The San Anton Gardens in Attard are probably the best known of the islands' public gardens. The formally laid out gardens beautifully contrasting with some rustic touches invite you to wander around its many walkways to explore its wide variety flowers and mature trees from around the world, some of which are over 300 years old!

As you stroll along gazing at the myriad of flourishing flora, you are bound to stumble across beautiful stone sculptures, old stone urns and fountains. Sit on a park bench for a while, enjoying the lazy sunshine in the company of a sleepy cat community and amuse yourself by observing the antics of an extended family of ducks and swans swimming around an ornamental pond and their goldfish and turtle companions. There is also a small aviary in the inner section of the garden.

Of particular interest is the San Anton Palace to which the gardens pertain, which was built between 1623 and 1636 by Grand Master Antoine de Paule during the 17th Century. It was the residence of the British Governor from 1802 until 1964 and now it is the official residence of the Maltese President. The gardens were opened to be enjoyed by the general public in 1882, and includes numerous plaques marking the ceremonial tree planting by various heads of state who have visited the Maltese Islands. In 2005, Queen Elizabeth II stayed at this palace during her visit in Malta, just as she did in previous Royal visits in 1954 and 1967.

Meanwhile, Traditions Malta, located within the gardens, provides the perfect opportunity to discover the roots of the Maltese people with a beautiful exhibition of moving hand-made models depicting Maltese traditional trades, crafts and arts.

San Anton Gardens is also the venue for the Annual Horticultural Show and the spacious central court functions as an open-air theatre for drama, dance and musical performances during the warmer summer months.

The gardens are open daily from 7.00am till 6.00pm June to September, and from 7.00am till 5.00pm October to May. Entrance is free