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Wollongong became the first city in the southern hemisphere to be awarded the globally-recognised 'UCI Bike City' label.

Just 14 cities held the definitive label before the sport's governing body, **Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI)**, added Wollongong and three other cities to the prestigious list.

The award comes on the back of Wollongong meeting the two key assessment criteria –hosting UCI events (Wollongong will host the 2022 Road World Championships next September 18-25); and investing in a broad spectrum of cycling initiatives, including infrastructure, road safety, mass participation events and closed road events, and training for children. The world's best cyclists are coming to Wollongong in September 2022!

Malta will take part in the UCI World



Championship in Wollongong, Australia Malta. through two cyclists who live in Australia, will take part in the UCI World Championship in Wollongong. Malta was given the possibility of participation to two cyclists in the Time Trail and this is according to

the World ranking. The selected cyclists who will take part are Daniel Bonello and Alexander Smyth who both have Maltese passports.

Their race will be held on Sunday 18 September after midday over a distance of 34.2 km (21.3 mi). The time trial events will use courses similar to the Wollongong City Circuit, albeit avoiding the Mount Pleasant climb.

Daniel Bonello recently represented Malta during the Mediterranean Games held in Oran, Algeria. Last April he won the International Tour of Malta. On the other hand, Alexander Smyth who was the Maltese National Road Champion in 2019, just a few days ago represented Malta in the Giro d'Italia Amatori.

Taking care of this participation will be Joe Bajada, the general secretary of the Maltese Cycling Federation. Bajada will take part in the UCI Congress at the University of Wollongong Grand Hall on Thursday 22 September as one of the 45 voting delegates from around the world. During the same days, the Maltese participants will be invited to the Maltese Club in Wollongong. The Maltese Cycling Federation would like to extend a heartfelt thank you in advance to Louis Parnis, President of the Maltese Club for all the help and hospitality he will offer, as well as to Aldo Vella, a former cyclist for his support.

The men's individual time trial event at the UCI Road World Championships is the men's world championship for the road bicycle racing discipline. Introduced in 1994 by the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI), the world's governing body of cycling. The current male champion is Italian rider Filippo Ganna, who won the 2021 event.

Louis Parnis, the President of the George Cross Falcons Community Centre at Cringila wrote to us:

This is a huge event seeing around 300,000 people visiting the Illawarra area. It is known that all accommodation available in the area was booked over a year ago and also many vacated their houses for the riders, to make up for the shortfall.

I, living in the Wollongong district, made initial contact with the Malta Cycling Federation to welcome all to the Cringila Community Centre during their visit. Secretary Joe Bajada and 2 riders will be arriving before 18 September.

It is my pleasure of welcoming Mr. Bajada for the first 3 days of the program in my home where after that time Mr. Cassar joins the delegation. On behalf of the Community of the Illawarra, we welcome them to our City and wish Malta team great success.

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Kummissjoni Għolja tar-Repubblika ta' Malta

High Commission for the Republic of Malta

Press Release 15/2022 31/08/2022 Subject: 1st Virtual Youth Forum for Maltese Living Abroad held on 17 September 2022

The High Commission would like to invite all young Maltese, including young people of Maltese descent, to participate in the forthcoming 1st Virtual Youth

Forum to be held on Saturday, 17 September 2022, 00:15 hrs (CET), that is at 08:15 am (AEST).

The event is organized by the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade and it is linked to the Strategy for Malta's Foreign Policy, aiming at enhancing connectivity amongst Maltese youths from all over the world.

Malta's Foreign Strategy refers to the Maltese diaspora in its first pillar, focusing on youths working together and sharing ideas, on the chosen theme: I want to Connect: Maltese language, culture and identity. All Maltese youth living abroad are encouraged to fill in the online Registration Form of the Virtual Youth Forum (VYF) published on the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and Trade Affarijiet Barranin Facebook page link https://www.facebook.com/AffarijietBarraningovmt.

Once registered an information pack about the Forum and other relevant information will be received thereafter.



Valletta's iconic household shop closes down, prompting sadness and nostalgia <u>https://timesofmalta.com/.../vallettas-iconic-household...</u>

The First ANZAC Regatta in Malta in 2023



The University of Malta Rowing Club together with Malta ANZACs will be hosting the inaugural ANZAC Day Beach Sprints Regatta on the 25th of April 2023 at Rinella Bay, Malta.

Maltese living abroad and locals can play an important role supporting ANZAC sports in Malta by purchasing "as shown above" this beautifully designed limited edition Commemorative pin badge that can also be worn during ANZAC week. Firstly, many thanks to those who have purchased or ordered the limited-edition commemorative badge to mark the first ANZAC boatrace in Malta: U18 Rowing Regatta in 2023 commencing after ANZAC service -featuring best U18 rowers from NZ, Australia and Malta. Badges are just \$5 AUD plus P&H. ...contact me via email [malta.anzacs@gmail.com] to place your order and will provide P&H details.

For those Clubs and Businesses, you also have a one-off opportunity to promote your club and business by having your Logo appearing on our ANZAC new coastal boats as well as featuring on our website or if you just wish to offer a donation instead, you will also appear on our newly created website unless you wish to be anonymous. https://anzacregatta.com

In conjunction with Malta University Rowing Club, we will be having up to nine [9] boats: singles, doubles and quads - would love to see as many logos as possible and be part of our historical First ANZAC sports.

All logos submitted will be transferred onto an A4 waterproof label for a small fee and at the same time supporting future ANZAC sports - become part of our ANZAC sports journey.

A4 Logo size Label: \$130 AUD Bank details:

Name: Malta ANZACs BSB: 015 203 Account: 414872802

Please email me a soft copy of the logo: malta.anzacs@gmail.com

Best Regards John Calleja. Mob. +61 [0]414932481



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HAPPY PARENTING - MALTA (FOR HAPPIER CHILDREN)

admin@happyparentingmalta.com 00356 77603330

Our Vision: to have Happier Children through Healthier Parenting for a more Prosperous Society. Our Mission: to improve family well-being through prevention, support and therapy PREVENTION is addressed through a number of events:

ANNUALLY

- an international experts' seminar on Changes for Family Wellbeing
- a 17-day awareness campaign on family violence and the need of children to have healthier parenting, organized during the Christmas month when families with difficulties feel the suffering even more. We visit different locations such as Parliament, Local Councils and Parish Centres. *OCCASIONALLY*
- recommending changes in the family law, training of professionals on early detection of child psychological abuse and the need for early intervention.
- group fun activities for all, such as sports, lunch, dinner, BBQs, visits to parks
- solidarity vigils

WEEKLY (FREE OF CHARGE):

- courses in parenting skills
- art and music sessions for students who have to stay afterschool hours at school
- art sessions and competitions for students with limited opportunities
- crafts club for grandparents, parents, youths and children
- **SUPPORT** is offered to parents and children in difficult situations through:
- weekly group empowerment sessions supported by legal and social care professionals
- one to one support and follow-up sessions
- provision of food and other essential items
 T H E R A P Y is made available through:
- one-to-one & group counselling
- one-to-one & group psychotherapy sessions
 PLANNING AHEAD 2023, 2024, 2025
 Enhancing on the above initiatives and introducing:
- activity-based therapy programmes
- re-unification therapy (proven to have a success rate of over 90%)
- psychiatric consultation sessions
- live podcasts as a discussion forum led by professionals in the field
- training on: planning to have a family; co-parenting; harmonious relationships.

Following our 4 year experience working in the field of Family Wellbeing, an increased number of professional support sessions are envisaged to be needed.

Happy Parenting – Malta (For Happier Children) caters for Malta and Gozo and we also support members who are living abroad.

In Malta we have various hubs for general use of our NGO where we organize education classes, group meetings, therapy sessions sorting and storage of food and other useful items. For meetings we currently make use of Attard Parish Centre and Local Council Halls. For sorting, storing and delivering food and essential items we have private garages, a large one in Luqa, two small ones at Mellieħa in Malta. Dar Christine in Gozo is used as our NGO Hub in Gozo for all purposes. All these premises are offered voluntarily with no cost for our use.

Any support is much needed and much welcomed :)

Visit our website on happyparentingmalta.com or join us on Facebook Happy Parenting Malta For Happier Children. Thank you Regards, Mary Gauci

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BirdLife – MALTA



Founded on 25th January 1962 as the Malta Ornithological Society (MOS), BirdLife Malta is the oldest environmental organisation in Malta.



In 1962, a small group of nature lovers came together as they could see the damage being done to Malta's diverse wildlife. MOS was founded with the main aims being the protection of birds and their habitats. This was a bold step at this time, as hunting and trapping were a popular way of life for all classes of Maltese society. But they didn't let this stand in their way.

The group's first success was achieved in 1966 when they managed to stop the building of a proposed road through the heart of Għadira wetland, now one of BirdLife Malta's Nature Reserves. For the group, this success

confirmed that birds could not be protected without the protection of their habitats too. Today BirdLife Malta manages another three nature reserves – Foresta 2000, Simar Nature Reserve and Salina, which is the latest reserve entrusted to the eNGO to manage.



Throughout their years of campaigning the group succeeded in many ways. Their persistent lobbying ensured a number of big successes for bird conservation including the little island of Filfla being turned into a strict nature reserve, the eradication of robin trapping, consistent campaigning against illegal hunting and the island of Comino declared as a bird sanctuary.

As the running of the MOS had always been carried out from the council members houses, as the organisation grew, the need for an official headquarters was becoming more and more apparent. In 1983 after hours and hours of hard work, a disused bakery in Valletta was transformed into an office

to house the MOS.

In 1992, MOS became a partner of BirdLife International and so changed its name to BirdLife Malta, in doing so, acquiring the backing of a worldwide partnership of bird conservation organisations.

After Malta's accession to the EU in 2004, the focus for BirdLife Malta became the issue of spring hunting, illegal in all EU countries except Malta. After years of campaigning, the referendum on spring hunting was held on 11th April 2015. Unfortunately, the referendum was won by the hunting lobby by only 2,200 votes and so spring hunting remains in Malta.

However, since some time ago, this is only permitted for one bird species (Common Quail) following a moratorium on the hunting of Turtle Dove which has now become a protected species after being red-listed by the IUCN as vulnerable to extinction.

In regard to trapping, on 21st June 2018, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) delivered a landmark judgement finding Malta guilty of infringing the European Birds Directive when it allowed the trapping of seven species of finch to reopen in 2014. This was the result of an infringement case initiated by the European Commission against Malta which in 2015 resulted in Malta being referred to the Court of Justice of the EU. To date, following this judgement, the Maltese Government has only opened trapping seasons for Golden Plover and Song Thrush. https://birdlifemalta.org/us/



MALTA - Verdala School's first refugee scholarship student graduates

Parents set up fund to sponsor refugee student to undertake school's IB diploma

Totty Aris, head, Verdala International School

Kenza Lina at the Verdala International School graduation ceremony – a deserving celebration at the end of a challenging journey.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has recorded an average of 125,000 refugees attempting to cross the Mediterranean over the last five years to what they hope to be a better

life, eventually landing in Italy, Spain, Greece and Malta. On average, 1,000 lose their lives in the process.

There is no sign that the refugee crisis will abate in future. Unfortunately, many are numbed by what is now repetitive news, leaving it to the government, charities or UNHCR to deal with the crisis. In schools, where global perspectives and international understanding is actively debated, the discussion is more than often followed by questions such as "how can we help?", or "what can we change?".

As an international school, we seek to foster a global mindset that through our anti-discrimination policy leaves our differences at the school gates. With 54 nationalities, there are many whose home countries are at odds with their neighbours. Our young people are growing up in a complex world where we need to find our common humanity and value peace and international mindedness.

At Verdala International School (VIS), we have students from many families who moved to Malta to make a new life, some from thriving countries, some from troubled regions. We use our students' experiences to enhance the curriculum and give real-life examples of culture, diversity and differences. In addition, our Service Learning programme seeks to underpin a community mindset that goes beyond the self and takes action to help others, for example by connecting with local projects as well as with the Women's Migrant Organisation and the Peace Lab. Indeed, some of our staff also get involved and offer their Monday nights to teach English to refugees in Valetta.

A group of pro-active parents have formed the VISFund Scholarship charity that sponsors a post-16 student through their IB diploma. It was with great pride that we witnessed our first such scholarship student – Kenza Lina – graduating from VIS. She was a worthy recipient, whose family fled religious persecution in Algeria to Malta where they have attempted to rebuild their life. Initially integrated into a Maltese school, her Gozo headmistress spotted the VIS scholarship advertisement for 16-year-olds and recommended her.

The VISFund is focused on offering education to a refugee who is academically deserving and demonstrates both the social-economic need and potential to benefit from this endeavour. However, this does not come without its challenges. The IB diploma is already a rigorous pre-university course without the added stresses of transition, home worries and possibly waiting on essential status paperwork. In addition, migrants have a very different lens on the world than most of us. Things we take for granted, such as making decisions about the future when so many doors are closed or even how to pay for a new pair of glasses, can be monumental for a family doing their best to survive in a new country, with very little money and many limitations.

We were encouraged by the UNHCR to pay special attention to the social-emotional aspect of any scholarship student we took on. As an institution, we did our best to integrate and nurture our new pupil, keeping a quiet eye on her well-being and mentoring her throughout the journey. Thankfully, this is a success story, but it was not an easy one. As a faculty, we have been taught humility and perspective as she developed her resilience and finally achieved her diploma, despite the obstacles.

VISFund is now starting its next fundraising phase in the hope of sponsoring further VIS refugee scholarships. With the war in the Ukraine taking its toll, more refugees are making their way down

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towards Malta. Like many international schools around the world, VIS has been thinking about how we can support families who have taken in Ukrainian refugees fleeing the war. However, it does not matter where they come from, a refugee is a refugee; a displaced person who needs a fresh start and, in the case of children, definitely needs education.

The VISFund is considering applications for refugee scholarships for our sixth form IB courses starting this September. Anyone who wishes to apply should e-mail admissions@verdala.org by September 2. Anyone who would like to contribute or find out more about the VISFund scholarship programme may visit the website www.visfund.org.

Council restoration scheme



13 sites which vary from statues, niches, monuments. chapels and other historical structures found in various villages and cities will be restored through the 7th call of the Restoration Works Scheme for local councils by the Ministry for National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government.

Restoration Directorate and through th collaboration of the Directorate for Governme (Implementation of Strategy and Policy within th2. Xghajra (St. James Church), Local Government Division).

Minister for the National Heritage Owen Bonnici, an event during which the chosen localitie4. benefitting from the scheme were announced, sai5. the scheme has the aim of valorising historic 6. Gharghur (two niches - dedicated to St. patrimony which is found in various communitie: Historical artifacts found in the respective village and cities create pride in the communities and th7. scheme aims to safeguard those importai8. Kirkop (Salib tad-Deima), aspects of our heritage, Bonnici said. Bonnici said that contrary to previous years, th time round a decision was taken to implement a10. Zebbug (Madonna tad-Dawl Church), eligible projects, thirteen, on a two-year stretcl11. Zurrieg (Niche of St. Paul), "Very good submissions were made and thirtee12. Santa Venera (Aqueduct water tower)

He said the government is committed to keep delivering initiatives which preserve, restore and rehabilitate hostorical patrimony. He saluted the various entities forming part of the ministry "which put in a very strong effort to achieve this aim."

Parliamentary Secretary for Local Government Alison Zerafa Civelli praised the commitment of the workers of the Restoration Directorate to carry out this scheme.

"Through restoration on historical places and monuments, we are preserving the Maltese Cultural Heritage for the generations to come", added Zerafa Civelli, "while raising the value of our locations for residents, tourists and locals that visit these locations".

Local councils benefiting from this scheme are: The scheme issued in cooperation with th1. Tarxien (Façade of St. Joseph's chapel and

adjoining St. Jeanne Antide Foundation buildina).

3. Rabat (St. Paul's statue and the façade of St. Magdalene's church - both located on the church parvis),

San Gwann (Tal-Propostu chapel),

Żejtun (St. Clement's chapel),

Bartholomew and St. Paul - located in the main square of the village),

Marsascala (St. Joachim's statue),

9. Fgura (Statue dedicated to Our Lady of Graces),

projects merited a positive outcome," he said. 13. and Lija (Old Parish Church).



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Travel by Maltese residents after Covid John Paul Cordina NEWSBOOK

With restrictions effectively lifted, travel by Malta residents is now approaching pre-Covid levels, the latest statistics published by the National Statistics Office show.

The 139,083 outbound tourists in the second quarter of 2022 represent over 3.5 times the number -38,967 – which travelled overseas in the corresponding period last year, and represents nearly nine-tenths of the 158,161 outbound tourists in the second quarter of 2019.

With an average length of stay of 6.8 nights the total number of nights spent overseas by outbound tourists between April and June amounted to 951,051.

Close to two thirds of outbound tourists – 90,891 – stayed in rented accommodation, with 72,491 staying at hotels and other collective accommodation and 18,400 in other rented premises. But the 48,192 who stayed in non-rented accommodation, such as with friends and family, took far longer trips on average, so much so that they accounted for over 56% of the total nights spent by outbound tourists during the period.

During the three-month period, outbound tourists are estimated to have spent $\in 113.3$ million – an average of $\in 815$ per person – spending $\in 7.9$ m on package holidays, $\in 22.1$ m on air and sea fares, $\in 20.3$ million on non-package accommodation and $\in 63.0$ million to cover other expenses. Outbound tourists had spent $\in 131.7$ million during the second quarter of 2019, and $\in 34.5$ million during the corresponding period of 2021.

Neighbouring Italy remains the most popular destination, chosen by 86,827 tourists between January and June, followed by other perennial favourites the UK (26,239), Spain (15,715) and France (11,185).

During the second quarter, 105,181 travelled to EU destinations and 33,902 to non-EU destinations: a significant increase in the latter when compared to pre-Covid levels – 19,171travelled to non-EU destinations between April and June 2019 – largely reflects UK's exit from the EU.

We are proud of our Maltese Achievers 🚽

The Journal of Maltese Living Abroad connecting communities around the world





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The French Invasion, Occupation and Surrender



On the 9 June 1798, a French fleet sailing to Egypt with over 30,000 men under <u>Napoleon</u> <u>Bonaparte</u> arrived off heavily fortified Valletta, ruled by the Knights of St John. A French Knight in Malta recorded the event in these terms: "the Maltese people saw from vantage points, the forest of masts which covered a vast expanse of sea....the sight petrified us." Grand Master Ferdinand von Hompesch refused Bonaparte's demand that his convoy be allowed to enter Valletta and take on supplies, upon which Bonaparte immediately

ordered his fleet to bombard Valletta and landed several thousand soldiers at seven strategic sites around the island.

Most French knights commanding various strategic localities and forts deserted the Order. However, many Maltese regiments resisted bravely in spite of the confusion. At Fort Tigne, the Maltese Cacciatori regiment threw back three times the attacking French forces. At Fort San Lucian at Marsaxlokk, the Maltese garrison fought fiercely for 36 hours and the 165 men only gave up when they ran out of water and ammunition. Although Valletta was strong enough to hold out against a lengthy siege, the weakened Order failed to mount a strong resistance and once the city of Mdina fell to Bonaparte, Hompesch surrendered Malta to the French on the 12th June 1798, in exchange for estates and pensions in France for himself and his knights.

Napoleon stayed in Malta for a few days establishing a French administration, dismantling the Knights' institutions, limiting the Bishop's influence to purely religious matters, expelling all foreign clergy, seizing church property, protecting family rights in a Civil Code of Laws, granting free education for all and establishing freedom of press. The French abolished nobility, slavery, the feudal system and the inquisition. Slavery was abolished and all Turkish slaves were freed. All aristocratic rights and privileges were abolished. Napoleon then sailed for Egypt, leaving a garrison of 3,053 soldiers under General Vaubois, but the Maltese



turned against the French due to lack of employment after the departure of the Knights, French failure to pay salaries and pensions that were due to their Maltese sailors and others, while monies intend for food supplies were stolen to fund the Egyptian campaign.

The Mdina nobles and Church leaders encouraged insurrection when the French began meddling with Maltese churches and looting them of their silver. The last straw came when on September 2nd, the French ordered the auctioning of the damask of the Carmelite Church at Mdina. This was opposed by an angry crowd and rioting broke out. Colonel Masson was attacked and thrown from a balcony in nearby Rabat, dying along with some of his men while Col. Masson's wife was only spared because she was expecting a child. The French troops took refuge behind the walls of Malta's fortified cities, where they were blockaded by the Maltese militia. French control of Malta had lasted less than three months!

Valletta was surrounded by approximately 10,000 irregular Maltese soldiers led by Emmanuele Vitale and Canon Saverio Caruana. The Maltese were armed with 23 cannon and a small squadron of coastal gunboats. Although there were some skirmishes between the garrison and the Maltese, the fortress was too strong for the irregulars

to attack.

When the French Mediterranean Fleet was destroyed at the Battle of the Nile on 1 August 1798, the British Royal Navy was able to start a blockade of Malta, assisting the Maltese rebellion against French rule. The French troops eventually ran out of food and had to eat cats and rats. Although small quantities of supplies arrived in early 1799, starvation and disease had a disastrous effect on the health and morale of the French troops.

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Portugal, Great Britain and belatedly, the King of Naples and Sicily, sent ammunition and aid to the Maltese stopping French convoys to and from Malta, forcing them to surrender to larger British squadrons in hard-fought battles. These defeats and lack of regular supplies weakened the French position in Valletta and on the 4th of September 1800 after a two-year siege, General Belgrand de Vaubois surrendered his garrison, exhausted by malnutrition and typhus disease.

On the 15th of June 1802, the National Congress of the people of Malta and Gozo placed the Maltese Islands under the sovereignty of the British Crown, drawing up a Declaration of Rights in which they agreed to come "under the protection



and sovereignty of the King of the free people, His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland". The Declaration also stated that "his Majesty has no right to cede these Islands to any power...if he chooses to withdraw his protection, and abandon his sovereignty, the right of electing another sovereign, or of the governing of these Islands, belongs to us, the Maltese alone, and without control".

By the terms of the Treaty of Amiens of 1801 Britain was to return Malta to the Order of St. John. The Napoleonic Wars with France began soon afterwards, partly due Britain's refusal to do so. The island subsequently remained in British hands until its independence in 1964.

Proud of our language: Learning Maltese



Learning Maltese for migrant students Ministry of Foreign and

Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

The Department for Maltese has developed a new resource for listening which has been added to the many other resources on www.malti.skola.edu.mt

This complements the resources for the induction level of Maltese for migrant students. This resource can be used by students with very little

guidance from the teacher and can provide them with opportunities for further practice when at home. Students will be able to practice vocabulary and common phrases required for basic communication such as vocabulary related to food, clothes, the living surroundings and school.

This resource is built on five graded levels.

- 1. In the first level, the student sees the picture and listens to nouns related to the theme.
- 2. In the second level they follow a series of pictures and listen to nouns and their article.
- 3. In the third level they listen to a phrase made up of a noun, article and adjective describing the picture.
- 4. In the fourth level a demonstrative pronoun is added to the phrase whilst
- 5. the last level is intended for revision.

Each theme is presented in the singular and plural version except for the theme II-Post Fejn Ngħix. For this theme the students require a little more input from the teacher in the third level since the visuals might present different interpretations for the adjective.

This resource can be accessed from the link: <u>https://malti.skola.edu.mt/malti-barranin/il-malti-ghall-barranin-primarja/smigh-mlb-primarja/</u>

Online Language courses by the University of Malta Language classes in the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Australia

11

Marsovin winery announces export of La Valette White



Photo : Marsovin -The Culture Of Wine Facebook

Marsovin Winery is proud to announce the export of their award-winning wine La Valette White to Systeme U – a French retailer cooperative with over 1000 hypermarkets and supermarkets across France.

After winning the Bronze Medal in the Best Wine Awards 2021, the next pleasant surprise was the interest in our wines by a well-established retailer such *Systeme U*.

La Valette is a well-established wine in Malta, first launched in 1964, with a label designed by one of Malta's most prestigious artists, Envin Cremona. Since then, the wine has remained a favourite amongst many Maltese.

La Valette White is produced with locally grown grapes – mainly Chardonnay, Trebbiano, Moscato and Girgentina, from family-owned vineyards across Malta, classified as an I.G.T Maltese Islands White wine. "As Maltese wine producers, we are extremely proud that a retailer with over 1000 establishments across France has chosen to sell our product. It is a great achievement for us as we continue to put our small country on the wine map in such a prestigious wine making country such as France." Jeremy Cassar – CEO at Marsovin.

Marsovin produces an extensive selection of Maltese wine, with many prestigious wines such as Grand Maitre, Marnisi, and Primus. For the Cassar family, La Valette is a historic wine which the winery is very proud of, especially now that the quality of this wine is also being appreciated by one of the top wine making countries in the world, France.

content supplied by Marsovin Winery



Large flocks of Black Kites "massacred" over Gozo and Malta – BirdLife

BirdLife Malta have sent an open letter to the Prime Minister Dr Robert Abela following what it said was "the massacre of 40 protected birds over the Maltese Islands during the past two days with enforcement practically nonexistent, and Police stating that they have no resources."

The eNGO has demanded that the hunting season should remain closed till the 15th of October. BirdLife Malta explained that two large flocks of Black Kites arrived on the Maltese Islands on Monday and Tuesday.

In Gozo, on Tuesday evening a flock of 28 were seen coming in and circling around the Ramla Bay valley. BirdLife Malta said that "hunters were aiming their guns on these magnificent birds." "When contacted to report this, the Gozo Police explained that they had no resources to be on site." BirdLife Malta stated that, "this lack of law enforcement allowed the hunters to easily hunt down every single bird that tried to roost in the valley."

BirdLife Malta in their letter to the Prime Minister stated:

"The situation of bird protection has not been as bad since the 1980s. The way hunters are being given all they desire and in the same time enforcement and regulations are weakened is not only shameful but also illegal. This goes against the legal obligations of Malta as an EU member state.

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"We have written to the Prime Minister to remind him of this obligation and if Dr Robert Abela cannot reassure that illegal hunting will be fought against with strict enforcement and better laws then Malta should not have hunting seasons.

"The Prime Minister should immediately condemn what has happened. The least he could do is to suspend the opening of the hunting season till after 15th October to safeguard the migration of protected species like raptors and herons. This needs to be supported by law enforcement units present in the countryside to monitor those who are still willing to break the law.

"The hunters have proven once again that they have taken the Government as hostage. The people of Malta, whose majority are against hunting, deserve better and the Prime Minister should show he has not lost control over this lobby with immediate effect." – Mark Sultana CEO BirdLife Malta.



Dr. Alexander (Sandy) Cachia Zammit (1924 – 2014)

Born in Birzebbuga on 11 August, 1924, Alex studied at the Lyceum and the Royal University of Malta where he graduated MD in 1946. He joined the public service before leaving to take up private practice in 1949 in Zejtun. He contested the 1955, 1962, 1966, 1971, 1976 and 1981 general elections.

He was returned on two districts in 1962. Under Gorg Borg Olivier, Cachia Zammit was appointed Minister for Labour and Social Services and in 1966, health minister.

He retired from politics after the 1987 elections and was subsequently nominated ambassador to the Holy See and to the Sovereign Military Order of St John. In December 1992, he was appointed officer of the National Order of Merit.

He was president of the Beland Band Club of Zejtun since 1960. He died in July 2014.



He visited the Maltese Migrants in Australia on August, 1963. The Maltese Minister for Labour and Social Welfare, the Hon Alexander Cachia Zammit, MD, MLA arrived in Sydney to commence his official visit to Australia. He was accompanied by the Permanent head of the Maltese Department of Emigration, Labour Social Welfare, Mr and JM Rossignaud, and by his private secretary, Mr JL Bonnici.Melbourne. On his arrival at Essendon Aerodrome, Melbourne, Dr Cachia Zammit was met by a group of newly arrived Maltese migrants

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From September 9-12 Dr Zammit stayed in Melbourne where he discussed aspects of Maltese migration to Australia with State authorities and leaders of the Maltese community.

In the photo on the left Dr Zammit is speaking with the Matron of the Maltese Government Hostel, Mrs Melita Trapani, and some of the girls (Left to right); Tassie Micalley, Mary Rose Borg, Carmen Scuereb, Josephine Conti and Doris Conti

Dr Alexandria Cachia Zammit, MLA, visited the Canberra, ACT. He was accompanied by the permanent Head of the Maltese Department of Emigration, Labour and Social Welfare, Mr JM Rossignaud, the Commissioner for Malta in Australia, Captain George Stivala and by his private secretary, Mr JL Bonnici. During his visit Dr Cahia Zammit was guest of the Australian Maltese Association. In the photo on the right he is pictured with Mrs Jenny Tonna, formerly of Malta, left, and Miss Mary Tonna, who migrated to Australia from Rabat last year

The 'lampuki' season starts



LAMPUKI OR DOLPHINFISH IN ENGLISH ARE ALSO KNOWN AS DORADO AND MAHI-MAHI.

If *festas* and fireworks are the soundtrack to a Maltese summer, then fish is the final ingredient that completes Malta's hot, sunny months by the sea, and *lampuki* are the *plat du jour* from mid-August onwards.

At Marsaxlokk, the whole operation does not start before Holy Mass is celebrated on the waterfront by the local parish priest, who then boards

a small *kajjik* and sails out to the middle of the bay to bless every single *luzzu* and its crew. Yes, August is the time when all Maltese and Gozitans start thinking of *lampuki*. It is the time when these fish are caught, sold and eaten – the fresher, the better.

People wait for the fishmonger, who arrives with a large wicker *kannestru* (a round crate made of cane). It would be full of different fish placed neatly, one next to the other, on a bed of seaweed and covered with a large, wet piece of hessian sack to keep them cool and fresh.

As soon as he/she would reach our street, the vendor walks around the villages, shouting at the top of his voice '*ħajjin...*' (alive), to try to attract anybody interested in buying the fish, all caught in the Mediterranean sea around Malta.

Bogue (*vopi*), Mediterranean horse mackerel (*kavalli*), grouper (*ċerna*), sea needle or garfish or garpike (*imsell*), octopus (*qarnita*), squids (*klamari*) and even sea urchins (*rizzi*) and common limpets (*imħar*) were among the fish that earned the Maltese fishmonger a living all year round.

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ANTONIA SPITERI THE 100000th MIGRANT FROM MALTA TO AUSTRALIA - 1965

On February 4, 1965, the Minister for Immigration, Mr Hubert Opperman, wished the 100 000th migrant to leave Malta for all countries since the war, every success in Australia. The migrant was Miss Antonia Spiteri, 20, who shortly after arrival in Australia, late in January, started work as a laundress in Richmond, a Melbourne suburb. Miss Spiteri told Mr Opperman that she was impressed by the size of

Melbourne, and the beauty of the Royal Botanical Gardens. Mr Opperman said that he looked forward to visiting Malta later that year, as part of his overseas tour. Mr Opperman presents Miss Spiteri with a copy of Frank Hurley's picture book on Australia.





On Sunday 11th September 2022, the Festa of the Bambina will be held at St. Mary's Star of the Sea Church, North Melbourne. At 2.30 pm start the Rosary, followed by Eucharistic Celebration and procession. Everyone is welcome to attend for this event. Fr Lonnie Borg mssp

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Maltese Feasts – the Islands' Most Visual Cultural Festivities



Religious feasts or 'festas' are an important part of Maltese culture and tradition held throughout the vear across both Malta and Gozo. Festas are both religious and profane, being organized by the local parish together with local band clubs, and are

an iconic part of the Maltese summer with church ceremonies, massive firework displays, processions with marching bands and great revelry.

Each festa typically has the same structure. Five days of festivities revolving around the patron saint of each parish build up to the weekend feast itself. In addition to elaborate church ceremonies, band marches are an integral part of the celebration as bands performing festa favourites, many composed by local maestros, march through the streets followed by crowds.

Devotional church services include nine-day novenas to the saint, asking for blessings and protection. The ceremonial highlight of any festa is the carrying of the statue of the parish saint. *Festa* devotees bid for the privilege of hoisting the statue out of the church, paying big money for the honour and privilege of carrying the statue. All monies raised go to a charity or to defer some of the expenses incurred in the celebration of the *Festa*.

The crowd-pullers are however the fireworks displays, the culmination of the evening lighting up the night sky to the sound of 'oohs' and 'aahs' from the crowd. Malta is well known for its pyrotechnic ability, showcased at the village feast where villages vie with each other for the most colourful and noisiest fireworks.

Food stalls line the streets serving everything from candy floss and hot dogs to traditional fare – healthy eating is not a feature of the village feast. Try some **mqaret** – sinfully delicious deep fried date cakes. Another local treat is nougat sold from traditional dark wooden stalls with antique weighing scales to serve the sugary treat. Lively and colourful, *festi* are a much-awaited occasion in the village's social and religious calendar of great community importance. In Malta and Gozo, the village church is the pride of each villager. Inside the church, a bevy of activity takes place. Walls are hung with red *damask*, the silverware is brought out and polished and the crystal chandeliers are cleaned to a sparkle. The statue of the parish patron saint which occupies a niche in the church is decorated and displayed to the public.

Flags are flown from rooftops and statues are placed all around the village, banners are hung out, and coloured lights are strung across roads. It is really the most beautiful time to visit a village, when everything comes alive with celebrations.

The feast frenzy reaches every home; front rooms are scrubbed and polished, entire homes often get a new lick of paint. The neighbours will be out in full force and relatives who have moved to other villages and even emigrated overseas descend upon the village, getting together with their friends and extended family, the proud housekeeper ensures that her home appears perfect

The importance of festas in village life seems to be increasing rather than diminishing with time, becoming epic celebrations that everyone visiting Malta needs to experience at least once. It's so easy to get caught up in the atmosphere and with all the young people in their festival t-shirts and the dancing and drinking it can be easy to forget that these are religious celebrations.

A detailed program of each local feast is usually found on the relevant village parish and band club websites. Local tour operators often arrange evening festa excursions to coincide with the feast of the Assumption or simply 'Santa Marija' on the 15th of August. Another favourite is Our Lady of Victories held on the 8th September, celebrating the defeat of the Turks at the end of the Great Siege of 1565 which also coincides with the end of blitz in Malta and with the feast of the Birth of the Madonna. The highlight of this great day is the Regatta (boat race) held in the Grand Harbour. Both are great times to visit Malta if you can take the summer's heat!

Enjoy the experience and do not be alarmed if you are woken up by loud bangs – Malta is not at war, it's only festa petards being let off for your entertainment! (culturemalta.org)

<u>Jurgen Balzan</u>

A procession in honour of Our Lady in Muslim Tunisia

French, Maltese, and Italians community joins in the celebrations

Our Lady of Trapani procession is an traditional festival that the Tunisian Christian community



celebrates on the 15th of August of each year at Saint-Augustin and Saint-Fidèle's church in the city of La Goulette in Tunis.

Historical background According to Catholic and Orthodox belief, Virgin Mary, mother of Jesus, did not die but rather ascended to heaven during her lifetime or entered directly into the glory of God (what we would commonly translate as "ascent to heaven"). According to the story, the procession took place in Ephesus, in the house of the apostle John, which is also referred to as

the House of the Virgin Mary.

All over the world, and for centuries, Christians have celebrated the procession annually on the 15th of August, the date of the consecration in Jerusalem of the first church dedicated to Mary in the fifth century, after the Council of Ephesus (431).

The celebration In Italian popular culture, Our Lady of Trapani is the protector of the Italian city of Trapani in Sicily. She has been venerated by the Italian and Sicilian community of La Goulette since its arrival in the sixteenth century. In 1848, a church was built following a donation of land from Ahmed Bey.^[3] The building was initially dedicated to Saint Fidèle, patron of Fidèle Sutter, apostolic vicar of Tunis from 1844 to 1881. However, and considering the diversity of the local Christian community, the space got divided and each of the three chapels got dedicated to a Virgin Mary: Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady of Mont-Carmel and Our lady of Trapani for the French, Maltese, and Italians, respectively.

Activities The celebration changed before and after Tunisia's independence. According to the archives of the Catholic Church, it reached its peak in 1909. It used to begin with the exit of the Madonna from the church on the shoulders of believers, who make her cross the streets of La Goulette, walking up to Tunis, all accompanied by a musical troupes.^[3] Some people used to follow this procession barefoot, to fulfill a wish. Then a fireworks show and a concert on Ahmed Bey square in La Goulette took place. According to popular culture, the prostitutes of the city came in the evening, accompanied by their pimps, to prostrate themselves at the feet of the cross, thus performing the so-called rite of the Madeleine.

The festivities take place simultaneously in Trapani in the same way, but what distinguishes the Tunisian version is the diversity of the participants who, in addition to Christians, also include Muslims and Jews in Tunis. The latter even attend mass inside the church.

The tradition of the procession was abandoned in the 1960s, due to the decrease in the number of Christians living in La Goulette, and until 2017, when the celebration resumed after Mass, but in a less visible way, in the interior courtyard of the church. Wikipedia

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Baked Stuffed Marrows/Zucchini (Qarabagħli mimli fil forn)

By Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci USA

I love this time of the year when home gardens and farmer's markets are filled with the bounty of summer. Recently I visited a farmer's market in Port Sanilac, MI and came

across a gigantic zucchini that inspired this month's recipe. One of my favourite varieties of squash is zucchini. Normally you would not use a zucchini this large, but I just couldn't help myself and had to take it home with me to stuff for this recipe.

I wasn't quite sure what to call this recipe because depending on where you live, the main ingredient has many different names, i.e., marrows, courgettes, squash, or zucchini. In Europe the most common term is courgettes or marrows. I never knew the difference between them so, I did a little research. On one website it stated that courgettes and marrows are both members of the same species. Both are <u>Cucurbita pepo</u>. But they are not the same. Just as a pug and a beagle are both dogs, they are not the same. It's about breeding. The difference is in the physical characteristics but both are the same <u>species</u>. Some are bred to be harvested small and are normally called courgettes. Those bred to produce fruit that is bigger when it is ready to harvest are called marrows. However, courgettes could never be marrows and vice versa. Another website says that zucchini and courgettes are the same. Courgettes that have been allowed to grow larger, which completely contradicts the first website I mentioned. So yeah, I'm still confused.



In Malta, garabagħli mimli is traditionally made with marrows. Marrows are round in shape like small pumpkins as opposed to the long slender shape of the zucchini. Unless you grow your own, marrows are not available in most North American markets. Zucchini is readily available year-round and makes an excellent

substitute.

Stuffed marrows originated in the region of the former Ottoman Empire from the Balkans to the Levant and Egypt. The Ottoman Empire was one of the mightiest and longest-lasting dynasties in world history. This Islamicrun superpower ruled large areas of the Middle East, Eastern Europe and North Africa for more than 600 years so it doesn't surprise me that this recipe has made its way into Maltese cuisine and is very common in the Maltese household. Stuffed marrows can be stuffed with meat or rice and sometimes breadcrumbs and cheese. They can be cooked on the stovetop in a broth or in the oven and baked to delicious perfection.

Marrows, courgettes, squash, or zucchini, whatever you call them, I hope you take advantage of this year's harvest while they are in season and make this recipe for you and your loved ones.

These are the measurements I needed to fill my extra-large zucchini, but this recipe can easily be cut in half to make a smaller batch.

INGREDIENTS:

8 zucchini/marrows or 1 very large zucchini 1 lb. ground beef 1 lb. ground pork

2 large <u>onion</u>s, finely diced 2 cloves of <u>garlic</u>, minced 4 dry bay leaves 6 large <u>tomatoes</u>, diced

4 Tbs. tomato paste 4 eggs 8 Tbs. of grated parmesan cheese 4 Tbs. vegetable oil 2 Tbs. olive oil 1 cup bread crumbs as needed salt and pepper for seasoning Cooking spray (not pictured)

DIRECTIONS:

- 1. Heat the vegetable oil in a large pot. Cook the onion, garlic and bay leaves on medium high heat until soft.
- 2. Add the tomato paste and cook for a few minutes to get rid of the raw taste.
- 3. Add the chopped tomatoes, salt, and pepper. Simmer for 5 minutes.
- 4. Add the beef and pork to the onion and tomato mix and cook on medium high until the liquid is completely reduced and all moisture is gone. This will take some time, so stir often to avoid scorching the bottom of the pot.
- 5. While the meat is cooking, cut the zucchini lengthwise in half and scoop out the seeds with a spoon and discard.

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- 6. Now scoop out about half of the flesh leaving some flesh around the edge.
- 7. Roughly chop the zucchini flesh, place in a clean cheesecloth or tea towel and twist tightly to remove the moisture. You may have to do this in several batches.
- 8. Taste the meat mixture for seasoning. Add more salt and pepper if needed.
- 9. Stir in the chopped zucchini flesh with the meat mixture.
- 10. Immediately remove from the heat and allow to cool. The zucchini will cook in the oven.
- 11. Once cool, fish out the bay leaves.
- 12. Beat together the eggs and cheese.
- 13. Add the eggs and cheese to the mixture. Stir to combine.
- 14. Taste for seasoning and add if needed.
- 15. If the mixture is too loose, slowly add up to 1 cup of breadcrumbs until you get the consistency needed.
- 16. Preheat the oven to 350° F
- 17. Rub the zucchini shells on all sides with the olive oil and season with salt and pepper.
- 18. Fill the zucchini halves with the mixture.
- 19. Place in a baking sheet prepared with cooking spray.
- 20. Add about 1/2 inch of water in the baking dish. This will help cook the zucchini and prevent it from burning.
- 21. Bake on the middle rack for 45 minutes to 1 hour or until the meat mixture is golden and crisp. Depending on the size, you may need more or less time. My giant zucchini took over 1 ½ hours. Smaller ones may need less time.
- 22. Serve with your favorite marinara sauce and top with more grated cheese. COOKS NOTE: Many Maltese cooks make a one pot dish by adding potatoes. (Qarabagħli mimli fil forn bil patata) Simply layer the bottom of the baking dish with peeled & sliced potatoes and onions that have been tossed in olive oil, salt, pepper, garlic powder, fennel seeds, and a little tomato paste. I would still add some water to the baking dish to aid in the cooking process. Place the stuffed zucchini on top and bake.

<u> Pawlu Degabriele il-Bies – Magna Żmien</u>

Musician Oliver Degabriele wrote that he had acquired recordings of his great grandfather who, he'd found out, was none other than the renowned *għannej* Pawlu Degabriele *il-Bies* (The Hawk).

As he had always wondered where his musical inclination had come from he was only too happy to write some words and share his story with us.

Pawlu I-Bies was a renowned *għannej* (folksinger) from Żejtun who was born on the 11th April 1908 in Żejtun. He worked in various jobs, including the laborious task of coal-heaving in the Grand Harbour and later on as a tinsmith. Unfortunately, he went blind in his early twenties. He passed away in 1980, aged 72. He remains a favourite among folk enthusiasts for his yearning and passionate voice and his artistry in delivering his poetic verses.

It's hard to talk about someone you've never met, and I have never had the luck to meet my great grandfather who passed away the same year that I was born. Pawlu I-Bies is a folk hero, especially in Żejtun (where he has a bust dedicated to his memory) and sang II-Bormliża with a unique voice which forces you to sit down and listen. He is especially known for "Id-Destin", a song that speaks of how he lost his vision (at the age of 21) and how he never saw the faces of his children, except his elder one year old son (my grandfather) Being a musician myself, I always had an inkling towards music and playing by ear from a very early age. I always questioned where this attraction came from since none of my immediate family play any instrument. Now I realise I have my great grandfather to thank for passing down some of that magic.

Zewg stanza mid-destin "F'ħajti jien kemm kont imqareb, issa kelli noqgħod kwiet. Kull fejn jiena ndawwar wiċċi, ma narax ħlief dlamijiet.

Hamest itfal ma' rajtx 'il wiċċhomm,Anke tal-kbir kont insejt.Kemm hu ikrah bniedem għama,Min hu bħali jaf xi jgħid."OliverDegabrielehttps://www.magnazmien.com/stories/



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MAGNA ZMIEN - Preserving memories of Malta's audiovisual heritage

During the twentieth century, the world began to capture events of everyday life on film and tape. The Maltese were no exception, recording moments of family life, society, language and identity on photographic film, 8mm film and audio-tape. Today these artefacts and their content have become part of our intangible heritage.

The Magna Żmien project was set up as a grassroots movement in 2017, advocating for the digitisation and preservation of these unique home audio-visual collections to form a community archive accessible to researchers and artists.

Magna Żmien set out to salvage Maltese memories that lay neglected and deteriorating on their original analogue carriers, freeing them from obsolete playback formats by converting them to digital files. By offering a free digitisation service to the public, we give individuals and communities access to previously lost images, sounds and narratives. This content is shared on our platforms and through our activities, preserving it for future generations, while being careful to credit and respect the wishes of the donor. We believe that all the material that we gather in our archive is part of our shared heritage, and that this heritage must be properly cared for.

X'Ahna sbieh min jaf jarana - E. Cilia u Kor (C.Satariano)

from Malta's Lost Voices- Recordings of Maltese music from the early 1930s by <u>Andrew Alamango</u> <u>1931 released on 78rpm ZONOPHONE</u>



X'ahna sbieh min jaf jarana Malta nqalbet ta taht fuq, Kulhatt jghamel li jfettillu, Liberta fuq kull mahluq. II-misthija m'ghadiex mghana, X'ahna sbieh min jaf jarana..

L'ulied jghamlu dak li jridu Ghaliex nieqsa mill-bastun Liberta ghandhom izzejjed, Kollha jimxu minghajr tmum.. Dan il-gwaj qed jirvinana.. X'ahna sbieh min jaf jarana...

Tal BONTON ajma xi ksuha, Din la nglisa trid tixxala Tikber ftit lill-papa' titlob Biex tat-TENNIS tixtri pala..., Min dal-loghob qatt m'hi xebghana; X'ahna sbieh min jaf jarana...

Jekk guvni jibda jistudja Ghal tabib jew avukat, Jikber ftit mohhu fil-FOOTBALL, jew fil-CRICKET jew namrat johrog hmar min tat-tuzzana.. x'ahna sbieh min jaf jarana..

Kekk familja ikolla xbejba flok jghallmuha I-bzonn tad-dar Lilha jghallmu kif tinnamra biex tingabba ma xi hmar.. lilha jghidu tkun sultana X'ahna sbieh min jaf jarana...



ilatelic

ociety

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GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY Exhibition

The Gozo Philatelic Society is inviting all those interested, even if not yet registered members, to participate in its 23rd annual Exhibition in the Gozo Ministry Halls (Victoria's Pjazza San Franġisk) from Friday 4 to Friday 11 November.

All exhibitors are free to choose their class, while there is as usual a Junior category. Prizes will be distributed to all. Regulations and application forms can be requested on <u>secretary@stamps-gozo.org</u>.

Wirja Filatelika f'Għawdex

Is-Soċjetà Filatelika t'Għawdex (*Gozo Philatelic Society*) tistieden lil dawk kollha interessati (anki jekk ma humiex diġà membri) għall parteċipazzjoni fit-23 Esibizzjoni annwali tagħha fis-swali tal-Ministeru għal Għawdex (Pjazza San Franġisk) bejn il-Ġimgħa 4 u l-Ġimgħa 11 ta' Novembru. L-esibituri huma liberi li jagħżlu l-klassi, waqt li bħas-soltu jkun hemm ukoll il-kategorija taż-Żgħar. Jitqassmu premijiet lil kulħadd.

Ir-regolamenti u I-formli jinkisbu minn secretary@stamps-gozo.org. 28 8 2022

FROM THE FACEBOOK PAGE OF PETER BORG - ADELAIDE



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