



Maltese eNewsletter

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The Voice of the Maltese Living Abroad



BONĠU

SAYING HELLO FROM MALTA
to all Maltese Living Abroad

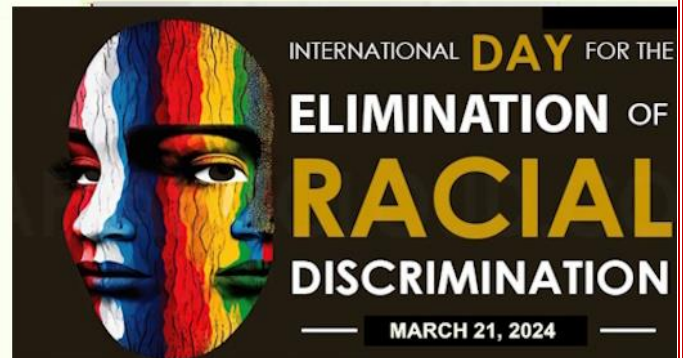


MALTESE FIGOLLI



**Mill-Qalb ta'
Emigrant**

**Poezija ta'
Jane Agius**



SPECIAL FEATURE

**Maltese Association
of Western Australia
Incorporated**



Spring over to Malta

By Sean Richardson

Ignore those advertisements that beckon tourists to flock to Malta to enjoy the summer sun for fun times. Summer in Malta is hot, baking hot. The smell of roasting limestone and concrete still fills my senses and the chill of the Mediterranean against my warm skin sends shivers over me. While summer is an exciting time to be in Malta, spring is the time to make the most of visiting all the island has to offer. Regardless of what you want to experience, it is available to enjoy in spring without the need to seek out

the 'AC'.

It is the perfect time to explore the dozen world heritage sites across Malta and Gozo that house the ancient megalithic structures. Avoiding the baking summer sun allows ample time to wander through the spectacular Ħaġar Qim complex, and even the opportunity to witness the spring equinox at the Mnajdra Archaeological Park. Visiting the remains of the Skorba temple, the open air structures of Tarxien or exploring the prehistoric



cave of Ghar Dalam can be more easily accomplished in the comfortable weather. The mild Spring weather allows time to appreciate the significance of these prehistoric structures which UNESCO describes as the "oldest free-standing monuments on Earth".

There is more than enough going on in spring and yet it is still warm enough to swim at the beaches and in the bays. You may not find all the kiosks, bars and nightclubs open compared to when the island is pumping in summer, but there are plenty of places to eat and drink in the most picturesque sites.

Visiting in spring means you can avoid the crowds that jam the streets in Valletta and enjoy a coffee in the café square adjacent to St John Co-Cathedral before visiting the magnificent church and the works of Caravaggio. Grab a pastizzi at Champs before entering the archaeological museum without the long lines or exploring the underground tunnels.

Walk the Sliema promenade, stopping for a meal looking out over the Mediterranean. Explore the winding, quiet streets of Mdina where there is not only the baroque architecture but also, the Fontanella offers spectacular views across the island to appreciate the patterns of green and brown before the dry summer heat turns the whole landscape brown.

Even when the weather turns a little nasty, it can be spectacular to see the angry sea smash into the rocky island spraying water over natural rock platforms and ripping at the man-made roads and paths.



Malta loves nothing more than a festival. Spring is the time of the Easter festivals from, the smaller Easter processions in the villages, to awe inspiring productions in the larger towns. We stood in the crowd on the streets of Rabat and amongst the families of Ghaghur to witness the impressive productions from the local church community.

Malta is the island of festivals. Apart from the renowned religious festivals, trawl the island visiting towns, which celebrate their local area and how they are best known for contributing to Maltese life. Try everything strawberry related at the Frawli Festival at Mgarr. Witness International fireworks displays and competitions on the coastline. Catch talented musicians preparing for the summer music season, releasing new music and playing small venues. Not to mention the local interest in the local representation competing in the Eurovision song contest.

Explore the island walking and trekking in areas away from the main towns to be amongst the Maltese and Gozitan countryside where you may come across both natural wonders and relics from rich Maltese history. Enjoy the Maltese summer heat but relish the opportunity to see and experience Malta in Spring time.

Find more of Sean's stories about Malta at seanrichardson.com.au and his novel *The Maltese Web* is available on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com).



Young generation need to keep the Maltese Culture Alive in Australia!!!

Thank you for a very informative e-newsletter.

I want to give you some feedback about the dwindling Maltese Culture – talking about Victoria Australia. I still want to be unanimous. I have been here in Australia for 39 years.

I have been involved and still involved in a number of areas in contributing to the Maltese Community.

It is disappointing to see that the younger Malteser generation are not interested.

The biggest problem is that the Maltese Council and Suburbia Maltese Committees don't do enough to encourage the younger generation.

Their interest is the older generations which kept and keep attending the functions until they can; however, the older generation is not being replaced.

I have never heard any radio announcements encouraging outings for the younger generation and involving the youngies in anyway.

Every committee just think of how they are going to make money and nothing else.

However, there is a lot of Maltese talent of singers etc, whom I am one of them and very capable, but obviously overlooked. I will be very surprised if there is a young member in any Maltese Committees around Victoria. We Maltese people don't know how to encourage others in coming on board and develop them in future Maltese Leaders.

I can assure you that there are a lot of young people with great capabilities and willingness.

This should have happened a long time ago in encouraging the sons and daughters of their own.

Especially in Victoria as in other States: Who are the Maltese broadcasters on radios? How long have they been there? Yes, it is an honour for them for what they are doing and appreciate what they have done and still doing. But have they encouraged anyone else? Need young blood to attract young people!!!!

I have never heard of a Maltese meeting for all the Maltese in Victoria in bringing ideas:

- of how to keep the Maltese Culture alive
- what can be done to encourage younger generations in building the Maltese Culture?
- organising song festivals and so many more.

I appreciate the Suburbia Maltese Committees who keep organising the Village Festa etc, but what involvement the younger generation has?? I am not complaining, but it is rather a criticism of our own Maltese Groups around Victoria who are not reaching out and listening to the younger generations.

I think the Maltese Council of Victoria should be leading the way for us here in Victoria Australia and open up and reach out to all Maltese. Also need a better way of communicating with the Maltese people in Victoria. The MCCV should have create a Maltese Census data base to keep the Maltese Culture alive.

This is about strong Malteser leaders who can reach out, build together with others, not to overlook people and their capabilities and to keep the Maltese Culture well alive not just with the older generation but more importantly the middle and the younger generations. I hope you take this criticism as constructive not destructive.

WE SALUTE AND THANK WHOLEHEARTEDLY THE PAST AND PRESENT LEADERS OF OUR MALTESE COMMUNITIES AND ASSOCIATIONS FOR THEIR STERLING WORK IN KEEPING THE MALTESE CULTURE ALIVE. WE HOPE THAT OUR YOUNGER MALTESE WILL CONTINUE THEIR WORK

PS: Opinions expressed by our readers are not necessarily those of the editorial team.



Mill-Qalb ta' Emigrant

Din il-poeżija nqrat minn Jane Agius
Fl-gheluq tal-Konvenzjoni għall-Maltin ta' Barra 2010



Il-miġja tiegħek għażiż San Pawl
Fethet l-imħuħ – imlietna bid-dawl
Għaddew stinkaw għal ħafna snin
Missirijietna bik emmnu, aħna kburin.

Għall-fidi wisq ħadmu u onoraw
Biex lilna sodi u kuntenti jaraw
Hawn illum flimkien miġburin
B'islenhom helu ilkoll imsaħħrin.

Int Malta fil-vini ta' ġisimna
Nieħduk fejn jimxu r-riglejn
Lehinna ngħollu mal-barrani
Għax ismek ħanin u setgħan

Nitlob għalik int li qed tmexxina
It-triq is-sewwa inti turina
Nitlob għalik quddiem is-salib
Id-don ta' saħħa u kuraġġ jagħtik.

U lilek, O Malta tagħna,
U lilek għezież emigrant
Żommu sod mas-salib u l-fidi
Il-paċi u sliem huma jagħtuk

Bierek, O Missier, il-midrub
Bierek il-ġhani u lill-misluħ
Bierek lill Malta għażiża tagħna
Dan il-Kungress biex jibqa' magħna

Viva Malta u l-Maltin
Viva Għawdex u l-Ghawdxin
Viva Ġesù u viva Marija



**MALTESE
E-NEWSLETTER**

MESSAGE FROM THE SA PREMIER



Harmony Week, 18-24 March 2024

From 18-24 March 2024, South Australian workplaces, schools, sporting clubs and community organisations will join the worldwide celebration of Harmony Week.

South Australia's profound cultural and linguistic diversity has always been amongst our greatest assets. We all benefit from the many contributions migrants and refugees make to the economic, social and cultural life of our state.

During Harmony Week, on 21 March, we also commemorate the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. In the

spirit of these special occasions, let us all recommit ourselves to doing what we can to advance equality and combat racism and discrimination in South Australia.

Thank you for the many ways you and your community continue to value, respect and support diversity in our proudly multicultural state. In doing so, you help make South Australia a more inclusive, culturally aware place where everyone can belong.

Peter Malinauskas
PREMIER – SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Zoe Bettison
MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Maltese Association of Western Australia Inc

Maltese migrants began to arrive in Western Australia in significant numbers in the early 1950's. The need for an organization to promote and protect the interests of the growing community became apparent.

The Association's inaugural founder was Joseph Calleja who migrated to Perth with his young family in 1947. In 1959 Joseph Calleja formally approached Father Galea a priest from The Missionary Society of St Paul' to assist in the formation of the club. Mrs Molly Asphar, who had been residing in Australia for over 25 years, suggested that the club should provide Maltese migrants with social outlets and official representation to Governments and other institutions. By 1958 the Maltese community in Bassendean and the surrounding districts continued to grow and they still did not have an organisation which could act and speak on their behalf. In those early days the Association had a number of different titles. The first attempt was the "WA Maltese Australian Club"; and this was in existence for twelve months. The club hosted one social function, and to its credit, one reception for a VIP from Malta. The club was disbanded thereafter. Again, Joseph Calleja approached the Missionary Society of St Paul's with the aim of forming a Maltese club. At this time Father Galea had been replaced by Father Cini. He agreed to assist and between them, they recruited Joseph Calleja's brother Felix and Fred Wright to form an interim Committee. The first meetings were held at Joe's home in Anzac Terrace Bassendean. Felix Calleja suggested "Maltese Settlers Association of Western Australia" as a title for the newly formed club which was unanimously adopted. Joseph Calleja was



MAWAI COMMUNITY CENTRE
1 May Holman Drive , Bassendean,
Western Australia, - Australia

The Maltese Association of WA
is a place where people
of Maltese descent can meet
and interact
mawai@bigpond.com



MALTESE ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.
COMMITTEE 2023-2024



ANTHONY SCIBERRAS
President



MARIO VELLA
Vice-President



CHARLES SULTANA
Treasurer



YOLA CODISPOTI
Secretary



GREG SULTANA
Member



VINCE DEBONO
Member



ALBERT MORRIS
Member

elected President, Fred Wright as Secretary and Father Cini as Treasurer. The first AGM of this new Association was held at the Australian Labor Party's hall in Broadway Bassendean on Sunday June 7th 1959 which later became their club premises.

With 53 members the Association was very active forming a Soccer team, a Youth brigade, a theatre group and held regular socials and receptions for visiting dignitaries. Women played a significant part in the formative stages of the club's life as indeed they do today. Although men occupied the Committee executive positions, women played an important role in the club's direction and growth. They did not intend to play second fiddle to the men and they made

their views known early in the formative years. The minutes of the AGM of 1961 showed this motion was moved and adopted "that women will be permitted to participate equally with men in any activity, meeting or functions". The motion was carried, although, partly contradicted a motion passed in July 1960 which stated. "If women members are successfully endorsed (as Committee members) there must be not less than two and no more than four".

Wreath laying ceremonies to commemorate the victories of the Great Sieges of 1565 and 1942 are a traditional part of the club's calendar, the first of these was held on September 9th, 1961, and the event received media coverage in the papers and on television and continues annually today.

The club then went through a number of lean years and minutes of meetings between 1966 and 1974 are missing. One may rightly assume that club activities during this period reached such a low level that no one bothered to keep records or alternatively that any minutes produced were mislaid. Correspondence indicates that the Priests from the Missionary Society of St Paul's took over the running of the Maltese Community along with the wreath laying ceremony being organized by the Society.

In the early 70's a rekindling of club interest and activities was emerging, but the main concern was securing some premises. A building fund was established however the funds were slow to come in so Peter & Carmen Farrugia generously loaned the club a substantial amount of money and the club was able to purchase the old Trades hall from the Labor party for \$70,000.00. Another name change was done on August 23rd 1972 from "Maltese Settlers Association" to the W.A Maltese Association Club (inc)". A constitution was conceived by Chris Sultana, John Calleja and Peter Farrugia and by 1975 the club had taken over the role previously carried out by the Missionary Society of St Paul's.

The membership expanded rapidly between the mid 70's and 80's and so began the monthly publication of an improved Bulletin magazine, the Maltese radio commenced, a Maltese dance group was formed, a cultural exhibition was staged and numerous activities were held. A grant of \$30,000.00 from the Federal Government was obtained and this was used to purchase club equipment. A name change again was done to the present name today of Maltese Association of Western Australia (Inc). But during this time the membership fell to a more constant level of approximately 100 members and produced a number of productive years for the Association.

Sponsorships were obtained from Mitchells Retravision (who is still a sponsor today), World Aviation and Singapore Airlines. This allowed the Association to boost its finances through raffles, social nights and the sale of Pastizzi & Ravyul. By the late 1990's the hall in Broadway, Bassendean had deteriorated to the point where serious consideration was given to demolishing it. Following lengthy negotiations with the Town of Bassendean, 2000 square metres of vacant land belonging to the Department of Land and Administration became available to the Association on a 44-year lease conditional on signing a legal agreement to demolish the old premises. During the year 2000 the old property was sold for \$65,000.00 and a Lotterywest grant of \$90,000.00 was obtained. Approximately 90 members were involved with many hours of volunteer labour and a low interest loan of \$60,000.00 from La Valette Investments Pty Ltd made it possible to begin construction of the new premises. Under the direction and supervision of Henry Wettinger, (a registered builder and member of the club) the Association erected a substantial Community Centre. The new location of the club was at 1 May Holman Drive Bassendean, and this was officially opened on December 7th 2003 by our Patron Dr Anthony Sciberras and the Mayor of Bassendean Ms Tina Klein, and the vision held by so many people, notably Tony Zammit had come to fruition. The Association will be forever indebted to Tony Zammit (La Valette Investments) for his vision and also to Henry Wettinger who gave almost 2 years of his life to build the premises. Since then a liquor licence has been granted and with regular fund raising through chook raffles and social functions improvements to the club have been achieved. Lotterywest has provided three more grants helping to furnish the office area, computer equipment and the installation of a library and display cabinet. The Association has now erected a children's playground extended the paving area and is hopeful of obtaining another Lotterywest grant to extend the existing patio area to include a BBQ facility and a stage area for entertainment. Another vision is to build a school room for the teaching of the Maltese language.

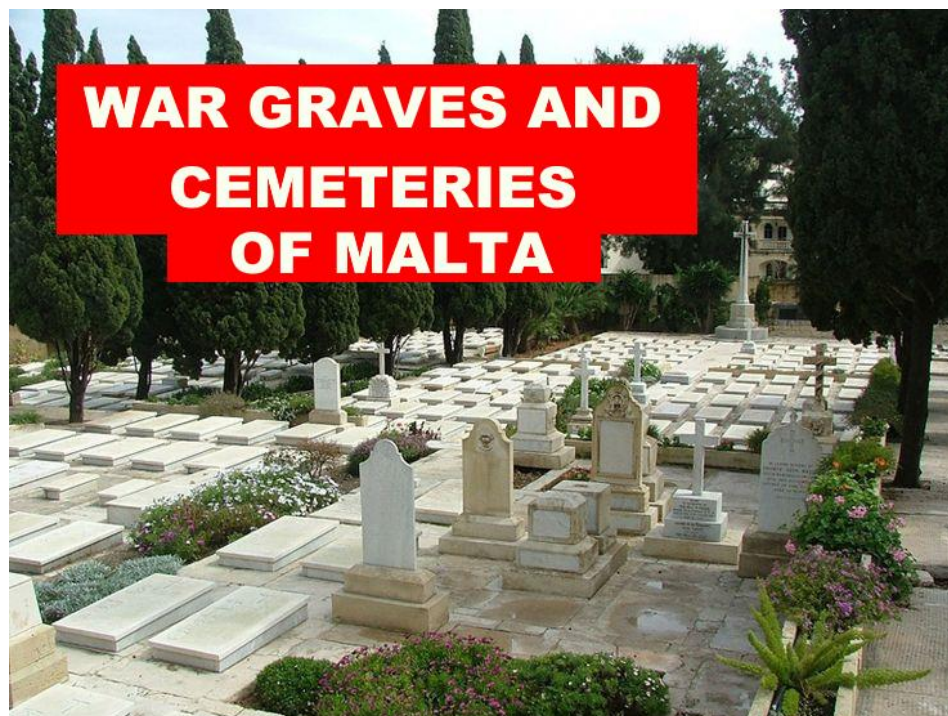
Whilst individuals may have the vision of what needs to be done, it is the collective action facilitated by an organization that gives the dream its best chance of success. Phone: [+61 8 93772902](tel:+61893772902)

Email: mawai@bigpond.com

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www.facebook.com/malteseassociationwa

WAR GRAVES AND CEMETERIES OF MALTA



Malta was the first place in the Empire to be attacked from the air and assaulted by sea, and during the long ordeal of the siege 432 members of the garrison were killed by enemy aircraft alone. There were numerous deaths among servicemen from other causes so that the Service war burials in Malta total 1512, of whom 181 are Maltese.

The majority of these burials were from the various hospitals which functioned there. In addition to the existing hospitals, No.90 British General Hospital was posted to the Island in April 1940 and was still there in December 1945. Nos.39 and

45 British General Hospitals arrived in September 1941 and January 1942 respectively, remaining until April and March 1944. Nos.161 Field Ambulance, 15 Field Ambulance and 57 Field Ambulance were stationed on the island also and 30 Coy. RAMC staffed the Command Laboratory.

Most of the casualties were buried in the naval and military cemeteries. These are Capuccini Naval Cemetery, Pembroke Military Cemetery, Mtarfa Military Cemetery and Pieta` Military Cemetery. At Pieta` are to be found war graves going back to the 1914-1918 War, when sick and wounded from Gallipoli and the Near East were brought to Malta. A few casualties from both wars are buried in civilian cemeteries in various parts of the island.

During both world wars burials were in collective or joint graves, although during the last war single graves were used to some extent when the air raids lessened as Malta is mainly rock and the earth shallow the graves were cut in rock. To mark the graves recumbent stone slabs - on which several inscriptions could be carved - were used instead of the traditional Commission headstone. For the sake of uniformity the same type of memorial was used on the single graves.

Those men whose graves, although known, are so situated that permanent maintenance cannot be assured, are commemorated individually on memorial plaques let into the base of the Cross of Sacrifice in Pembroke Military Cemetery. Their names number 52, although 53 names are inscribed in the memorial plaques as one who lies buried in Zurrieq (St Leo's) Cemetery is also commemorated there. Nineteen Maltese servicemen are buried in other cemeteries.

The Malta Branch of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission tends to the graves of British Commonwealth servicemen buried in the four military cemeteries.

The Cemeteries

(CAPUCCINI) NAVAL CEMETERY, KALKARA

This cemetery, which once belonged to the Admiralty, is located near Rinella, a bay across Valletta in the Grand Harbour and is close to a Capuchin monastery from which it takes its name. It is in two sections, Protestant and Roman Catholic. There is a triangular 1914-1918 War plot in the Protestant section in which stands a granite Cross of Sacrifice which was erected after that war. Most of the 1939-1945 War graves too are in the Protestant section, in a plot near the entrance and there is another group in the Roman Catholic section but there are a few others in scattered positions in this burial ground.

Capuccini Naval Cemetery, known locally as the Royal Naval Cemetery, Kalkara, contains the largest number of 1939-1945 burials in Malta; they total 734. The ten Merchant Navy non-war graves are those of men whose death was not due to war service. The 1914-1918 War casualties buried or commemorated in this cemetery number 346. This figure includes six casualties whose burial in the cemetery was not verified until after the publication of the 1914-1918 register, and one who was buried in the island of Pantellaria, but

whose grave was lost. This man is commemorated by a special memorial type E, which is inscribed to this effect, with the quotation "Their glory shall not be blotted out."

The cemetery is planted with trees and shrubs, which include pines, cypresses, oleanders and hibiscus. Low hedges line the main paths and around the 1939-1945 plots are low evergreen hedges of *atriplex halimus* (tree purslane) which has leaves of silvery green.

PEMBROKE MILITARY CEMETERY, ST. ANDREW'S

This burial ground, which was controlled by the War Office, is to be found close to the Pembroke Rifle Ranges and the former St Andrew's Barracks. It lies adjacent to the main road from St Julians to St Pauls. It was begun in 1908 by the military authorities, to serve the garrison and besides the 1939-1945 War graves contains nine 1914-1918 War graves. There are in all 318 casualties of the 1939-1945 War buried in the cemetery. In addition 53 servicemen, whose graves in other parts of Malta are so situated that permanent maintenance cannot be assured, are commemorated by name on marble plaques let into the plinth of the Cross of Sacrifice. A central plaque bears the dedicatory inscription which reads:

1939 - 1945

THE SAILORS, SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN WHOSE NAMES ARE
HONoured HERE DIED IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY
AND LIE BURIED ELSEWHERE IN MALTA.

This cemetery lies on sloping ground and is terraced. On the top terrace stands the Cross of Sacrifice approached by flanking steps.

MTARFA MILITARY CEMETERY

Just below Mdina, the former capital of Malta, lies Mtarfa Military Cemetery. This burial ground contains graves of both World Wars, the 1914-1918 War burials numbering 15 while the 1939-1945 burials total 262. The latter include six Service personnel and six members of the Foreign Office attached to the Prime Minister's delegation for the Yalta conference, who were killed in a flying accident on the way to the Crimea. The civilians are included in the figures for non-war graves.

The 1939-1945 War graves occupy a considerable area in which a Cross of Sacrifice has been erected. Pencil cypresses and a group of flowering shrubs form a background to the Cross. In front of it, bordering the main path, a low hedge of *bougainvillea* has been planted. Around the boundaries and in various positions in the cemetery are trees of several kinds, including pines, false pepper, *casuarina*, *lantana* and Indian lilac. Elsewhere are flowering shrubs to give colour and beauty, among them *spiraeea*, *plumbago*, *oleander* and *bougainvillea*.

PIETA' MILITARY CEMETERY

This cemetery is one of two in Pieta' and should not be mistaken with Ta' Braxia (non-catholic burials). Pieta' was the principal garrison cemetery and is laid out in rectangular paved terraces and planted with trees and shrubs.

Along the main paths pencil cypresses have been planted to form avenues, while in the plots, between the blocks of graves, are beds of oleanders and *lantana*. Oleanders form a background to the Cross of Sacrifice and along the north-eastern boundary and elsewhere in the cemetery are trees of various kinds, including pines, palms, *casuarina*, and *ceratonia* or carob-bean.

Here are buried or commemorated 1,304 casualties of the 1914-1918 War, in a section which contains the Cross of Sacrifice. The 1939-1945 War burials number 180 and this total is made up by 135 soldiers belonging to the United Kingdom Army, 31 men of the Malta Forces, 14 Yugoslavs, and 1 civilian.

Fred Vogels <http://www.maltaviationmuseum.com/>





'An island at the crossroads'

'An island at the crossroads' exhibition opening at the newly restored Malta Maritime Museum Vittoriosa (Birgu)

The exhibition, *An Island at the Crossroads* opens on Friday 9th February, 2024. It is centred around the concept of Malta's ideal position in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea. A position that distinguishes it from all other islands and that bestows on it a unique identity, making Malta and its people who and what they are, for they were wise enough to use the sea as a bridge and not a barrier. The artefacts that make up the exhibition are tied to twenty themes, each telling a story related to the sea.

To name but a few, among the exhibits one finds the 18th century bed shared by Rear Admiral Horatio Nelson and Lady Emma Hamilton at the height of their love affair in Naples, providing an excellent highlight of the turbulent two-year period (1798 - 1800) during which Malta changed hands three times, from the Order of St John, to the French, to the British; an ex-voto painting depicting the Battle of Lepanto which dates back to the 16th century and is probably the oldest one known on the island; the fascinating diary of Vincenzo Borg (Brared), one of the main insurgent leaders during the French blockade in Malta; the imposing figurehead of Gregorio Mirabittur; the typical toolbox of a mid-20th century Maltese Dockyard worker; and the beautiful leather-bound manuscript penned by the Bunbury sisters in 1872 to document their stop in Malta as part of the Grand Tour.

Several activities will be taking place each month in conjunction with *An Island at the Crossroads*. They include talks by ex-Dockyard workers, conferences, Taste History events, several activities for school children, and an opportunity to spend a night at the museum.

Admission to *An Island at the Crossroads* costs €8 for adults, €6 for seniors, students and concessions, and €4 for children. Holders of Heritage Malta's senior and student passports are admitted free of charge.

The **Malta Maritime Museum** is a maritime museum in Birgu, Malta. It is housed in the former **Royal Naval Bakery**, which was built in the 1840s as the main bakery for the Mediterranean Fleet. The museum has a collection of over 20,000 artifacts, and it is the largest museum on the island.

The exhibition is centred around the concept of Malta's ideal position in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea.

GuideMeMalta.com

This information was provided by Heritage Malta.

The Malta Maritime Museum, so aptly perched right by the sea from which it draws its inspiration, is in the process of being reborn following a closure of about four years, during which its halls have been stripped bare of their artefacts to enable a major overhaul throughout the museum.

Restoration and restructuring works have been divided in phases, with the initial phase partly financed through the EEA Norway Grants 2014-2021 for a total of nearly €2 million. This phase saw the restoration, demolition, reconstruction and rehabilitation of the dilapidated areas of the building, including the silos, warehouses, main staircase and roofs. Half of the Norway grant went into the setting up of a Digitisation Unit within Heritage Malta, and the purchase of a substantial state of the art digitisation hardware setup necessary for the digitisation of the Maltese Islands' maritime heritage.

During the past few years, thousands of artefacts from the Maritime Museum collection were digitised. A Collection Management System was also established, providing for the cataloguing of these collections with the aid of specialised software.

The second phase of the project – comprising the modernisation and design of the remaining spaces within the museum, including the permanent display and interpretation – is now in full swing. While it is being implemented, an impressive, one-of-a-kind exhibition has been set up inside the Maritime Museum to mark the completion of the Norway Grants project.

We can't wait for figolli! But did you know the history behind Malta's favourite Easter sweet?

Figolli used to be decorated with dyed eggs painted in homemade food colouring

Joanna Demarco

In this day and age, you'll find *figolli* - the traditional Maltese Easter sweet made out of soft biscuit and marzipan - available from a number of different shops and confectioneries, in a variety of shapes and sizes: butterflies, ducks, hearts, and even guitars! But where did this beloved Easter treat come from?

Figolli go back millennia, to pagan times, and the sweet is assumed to have originated in Sicily, (the name assumed to be derived from the Italian word *figura*, which means 'figure'). And this ties in with what a *figolla* is all about.

Particularly in the past, different shapes were tied to different meanings. For example, a fish was used as a symbol of Jesus Christ, while a basket was assumed to be a symbol of fertility.

In the past, they were made of sweet pastry and decorated with dyed eggs. Colour was always a signature feature of the *figolla*. Back in the early days of the *figolla*, eggs were made with coloured dyes derived from onion skin, vegetables and fruit, thus creating a variety of shades such as blue, green, red, yellow and brown. This concept of decorating *figolli* with



eggs is still practiced today, but the eggs have been replaced with chocolate eggs.

Icing and sugar are very much linked with the dawn of the 20th century, prior to which, sugar was seen as a commodity, since it was very expensive. In fact, *figolli* reportedly gained popularity when almond paste and icing or chocolate coating was added to the biscuit we know and love.

Throughout Easter time, you can find *figolli* at cafes, shops and confectioneries around the island, but, that being said, there is nothing better than a homemade *figolla* - and choosing the shape and decoration of it yourself makes it that much more creative and special. *Why not try your hand at making them this year?*



Maxine Pace wins Muzika Muzika 2024.

Maxine Pace has won the fourth edition of Muzika Muzika with *Mhux tal-Aħħar*, lyrics by Emil Calleja Bayliss and composed by Cyprian Cassar.

Mhux tal-Aħħar won 106 points on Saturday, followed by Kantera's *Vjaġġ Sabiħ* (90 points) and Cliff Zammit Stevens' *Fil-Qrib* (83 points). Maxine thus became the first female winner of the festival since the Maltese song competition was launched in 2021.

Maxine's emotional song is about grief and loss, and is in honour of her late mother.

"Baħar Ċimiterju 2024" Bring Attention to the Migrant Crisis in Malta's Waters



25 local organisations are calling on the Maltese authorities to prevent further human rights violations and deaths in the Mediterranean Sea. A gathering of activists calling for the Maltese authorities to stop the push back of migrants at sea. Photo: Moviment Graffiti

Press Release.

The Mediterranean Sea remains one of the deadliest border spaces in the world. Tens of thousands of people have died or gone missing attempting to cross the Med. At least 3,041(1) people died in the Sea in 2023, making it one of the deadliest years on record. The Central Mediterranean Route, from Tunisia and Libya to Malta and Italy, is especially dangerous. Eleven(2) children die every week, just on our horizon, along this route.

Maltese authorities, alongside the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, continue to contribute to these deaths by playing politics with people's lives at sea, delaying rescue, and using their platforms to espouse the rhetoric of being hard on migrants. These policies undermine our values, spread fear and hatred and endanger the lives of innocent people.

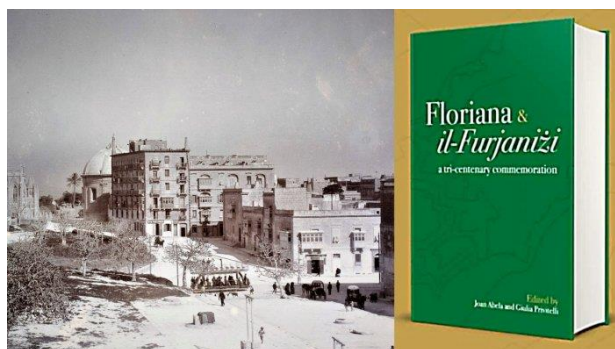
The Maltese authorities have also pursued a policy of externalizing the border to North Africa. Neither Libya nor Tunisia have robust legal frameworks that protect the rights of refugees or migrating people. Human rights violations in Libya, including torture, extortion sexual violence and enslavement, are well documented and especially shocking.

Nevertheless, the Maltese authorities collaborate with quasi-legal entities, such as the Libyan Coast Guard and militias to have people forcibly returned from within our search and rescue zone to Libya. For example, in 2023 the authorities began providing coordinates of vessels in distress in Malta's search and rescue zone to the Tariq Bin Zayed Brigade, a Libyan militia with a well-documented track record of human rights violations. Consequently, hundreds of people, many of them children, were intercepted in our waters and forced back(3) to detention and degradation in Libya. These actions amount to a violation of the legal principle of non-refoulement, enshrined in the 1951 Refugee Convention, the European Convention on Human Rights, and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights which prohibits the transfer of anyone to a place where they would face a real risk of persecution, torture or other serious harm.

The organisations are calling on the Maltese authorities to:

- Conduct and coordinate timely rescue of people in distress in our search and rescue zone
- Enact policies and espouse rhetoric that upholds the value of all human life.
- Immediately end the policy of coordinating pushbacks from Malta's search and rescue zone.
- Cease support for and collaboration with actors that violate human rights, such as the Libyan Coast Guard and the Tariq Bin Zayed Brigade.
- Stop criminalising humanitarian rescue organisations and start coordinating with them to save lives at sea.

**THIS JOURNAL IS THE VOICE OF
THE MALTESE LIVING ABROAD
READ, SUPPORT AND SHARE IT**



Frederick Zammit

Ritratt mill-Kollezzjoni ta' Dr Giovanni Bonello u l-faċċata tal-Ktieb Floriana u l-Furjanizi L-2024 hi sena ċentinarja għall-belt tal-Furjana. Fil-fatt fid-9 ta' Mejju li ġej se jtifakkar it-tielet ċentinarju minn meta l-Gran Mastru Portugiż, Antonio Manoel de Vilhena u t-tmexxija tal-Ordni tal-Kavallieri ta' San Ġwann ta' dak iż-żmien, approvaw id-dokument biex jagħtu l-kunsens tagħhom sabiex ikun jista' jsir bini residenzjali fiż-żona fejn eventwalment saret din il-lokalità.

Biex jtifakkar kif inhu xieraq dan iċ-ċentinarju, il-Kunsill Lokali tal-Furjana ħatar Sotto-Kumitat magħmul minn rappreżentanti tal-għaqdiet u entitajiet Furjanizi li hejja programm ta' attivitajiet li se jkunu mifruxa tul is-sena kollha.

Dawn l-attivitajiet bdew f'Jannar b'kuncert ta' muzika sagra li sar fil-Knisja Parrokkjali tal-Furjana li hi ddedikata lil San Publu. Sar ukoll *logo* għal tal-apposta.

Attività ewlenija f'dan il-programm se ssir nhar il-Ġimgħa 15 ta' Marzu fis-7.30 pm fir-Refettorju ta' Casa Manresa li hu l-isem proprju tal-binja fejn illum hemm il-Kurja tal-Arcisqof, fil-Furjana. Waqt din l-attività se ssir it-tnedija tal-ktieb '*Floriana & il-Furjanizi*' li kien ippubblikat mill-gazzetta '*IL-FURJANA*' għal din l-okkażjoni speċjali.

Il-hidma fuq dan il-proġett ilha għaddejja għal dawn l-aħħar kwazi erba' snin. Diversi akkademiċi u esperti ewlenin, fosthom ukoll wiehed barrani, aċċettaw u kkontribwew b'*papers* speċjalizzati għal din il-pubblikazzjoni ta' aktar minn 600 paġna.

Imbagħad hemm numru ta' kontributori Furjanizi li kitbiethom barra l-kontenut storiku, għandhom esperjenzi mgħajxa direttament.

Originarjament dan it-tieni grupp ta' kontributori kellu jkun jinkludi wkoll lill-mibki Prof Oliver Friggieri, li minn dejjem kien punt ta' referenza għall-amministrazzjoni attwali tal-gazzetta

Jitnieda l-ktieb Floriana & il-Furjanizi Fl-okkażjoni tat-300 sena (1724-2024) mit-twaqqif tal-Furjana

Furjaniza. Friggieri għal xi żmien serva wkoll bħala editur ta' din il-gazzetta lokali.

Meta Friggieri kien ikkuntattjat fil-bidu ta' Ġunju tal-2020, ftit xhur biss qabel ma ħalla din id-dinja, il-Professur Furjaniz faħhar l-idea ta' ktieb dwar il-Furjana u wiegħed li jkteb artiklu biex ikun ippubblikat f'dan il-ktieb. Iżda d-destin ried mod ieħor.

Iżda jekk bla dubju dik tal-Prof Friggieri kienet telfa kbira għal dan il-proġett ambizzjuż, mill-banda l-oħra kienet kisba importanti dik ta' Dr Joan Abela, Furjaniza u minn Balzunetta wkoll bħal Friggieri, li aċċettat l-istedina biex tkun l-Editur ta' dan il-ktieb li kien se jkollu daqstant akkademiċi (bħalha) fost il-kontributori tiegħu.

L-esperjenza u l-*background* akkademiku tagħha għenu mhux ftit biex il-prodott finali jilhaq livell kemm jista' jkun għoli. Fl-aħħar fażi tal-proġett, Dr Abela kienet meghjuna fil-hidma tagħha minn Ms Giulia Privitelli li hi magħrufa ħafna fil-qasam tal-pubblikazzjonijiet lokali li għandhom x'jaqsmu mal-arti u l-istorja ta' pajjiżna.

Il-ktieb '*Floriana & il-Furjanizi*' kien iddisinjat u ssettjat minn Kite Group, waqt li l-istampar sar minn Print.It.

Dan il-ktieb hu t-tielet wiehed li ppubblikat il-gazzetta ('*IL-FURJANA*' PUBLICATIONS) f'dawn l-aħħar kwazi għaxar snin. Iż-żewġ kotba ta' qabel kienu 'Il-Knisja ta' San Publu – Storja u Arti' li kien ippubblikat fl-2015, u l-ktieb 'L-Ark ta' San Publu tal-Furjana – 1899-2019' li kien ippubblikat f'Diċembru tal-2020.

Min jixtieq jakkwista kopja tal-ktieb il-ġdid, jista' jċempel fuq in-numri 79339649 jew 99821494, jew fuq l-indirizzi elettronici sanpublu@gmail.com u annofre@gmail.com. L-indirizz postali hu '*IL-FURJANA*', 44 Triq il-Kapuċċini l-Furjana FRN 1033.

Sa nhar il-Ġimgħa 15 ta' Marzu se tibqa' valida l-offerta ta' qabel il-pubblikazzjoni. Sa dakinhar kull kopja tista' tinxtara bil-prezz ta' 80 Ewro. Wara dik il-ġurnata, l-prezz jitla' għal €95. Jiġifieri kull min jibbenefika minn din l-offerta jkun qed jiffranka €15.

In Praise of a Uniquely Exceptional Service to the Gozitan Diaspora Dr. Raymond Xerri

Date March 12, 2024

Dear Editor,

I have known many Maltese and Gozitan migrants for most of my life in the Province of Ontario and throughout continental-Canada. They truly are migrants that helped built Canada into the country it is today.

I have also learned that there are tens of thousands in other countries like Australia, the United States, France, the United Kingdom and others. When the Gozitans return back to their home-island Gozo, they are especially welcomed back with a uniquely exceptional service offered by the Ministry of Gozo and Planning by means of the Gozo Diaspora & International Office.

This Office, exists exclusively to assist Gozitans who migrate, return to Gozo, those who wish to re-emigrate and a whole range of free services related to the countries where most of Gozo's diaspora is found; - Australia, the US, France, the UK and Canada - where I was born and where I lived until moving to Gozo recently.

My husband and I were assisted in gaining residency to live and start our business here in Gozo by an official I first heard about while he served in Toronto - Dr Raymond Xerri, the former consul general of Malta to Canada. The service offered by Dr Xerri, similar to his exceptional service in Canada since his reputation proceeded him, was simply fantastic, friendly and very efficient.



Gozitans, wherever they live, should be thankful to have a professional like Dr Raymond Xerri that passionately works towards the betterment of Gozitans in Gozo and the Gozitan Diaspora As a client and as a Rotarian, I strongly commend Raymond and his work and suggest to the Maltese Government to open a similar service for the Maltese once they return to Malta (as I'm told this as yet doesn't exist.)

The Pride of Gozo Award for Community Service he recently received from the Gozo Rotary Club is very much well deserved. Dr Raymond Xerri's care for his fellow countrymen is reflected in the passion he puts to assist them as he did to my family.

A heartfelt thanks goes to Dr Xerri - and to the Ministry for Gozo & Planning for creating this very useful service for Gozitans in Gozo and around the world.

Tracy Lamourie PR
CONGRATULATIONS
Dr. Xerri



**We thank our readers who sent a contribution
towards the production of this journal**

If you would like to send a donation these are the bank details

Bank - Commonwealth (Australia) BSB - 065 106

Account - 0050 2597 Name - Frank Scicluna



Author, James Vella-Bardon, represents Malta Inaugural Manly Writers Festival at NSW



Sydney, 16 March 2024 – Malta proudly showcased its literary talent as its bestselling author James Vella-Bardon took to the stage at the inaugural Manly Writers Festival, held from March 14th to 16th. This esteemed event, headlined by the

internationally renowned Tom Keneally of 'Schindler's List' fame, attracted local writers and authors from around the globe.

Vella-Bardon, an increasingly lauded figure in the literary world, participated in a captivating talk titled "The Lure of the Past." Joined by award-winning author Mirandi Riwoe, the discussion was expertly hosted by Professor Victoria Haskins of The University of Newcastle. Focused on historical fiction, Vella-Bardon delved into the intricacies of his sprawling pentalogy, *THE SASSANA STONE*, which was affectionately referred to as 'The Irish Shogun' during the engaging discourse.

During the talk, Vella-Bardon offered insight into his creative process and the enduring relevance of the historical fiction genre, while sharing some fascinating anecdotes on the history of Malta and other nations. His compelling presentation sparked a flurry of questions from the audience, who eagerly gathered around the bookstore afterwards to procure signed copies of his titles.

Mark Nees, a fan from New Zealand, described Vella-Bardon as 'a natural with the microphone,' while Justine Williamson, hailing from the UK, praised him as 'oozing charisma.' Such accolades are a testament to Vella-Bardon's talent and magnetic presence.

Excitement is mounting for Vella-Bardon's next literary venture, *HERO OF ROSCLOGHER*, set to be released internationally by his Sydney-based imprint, Tearaway Press, in April. As anticipation builds, readers worldwide eagerly await the opportunity to immerse themselves in his latest work, which has been receiving glowing advance reviews on Goodreads.



**THE MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF NSW ATTENDED
THE PREMIERS'S HARMONY DINNER DANCE**

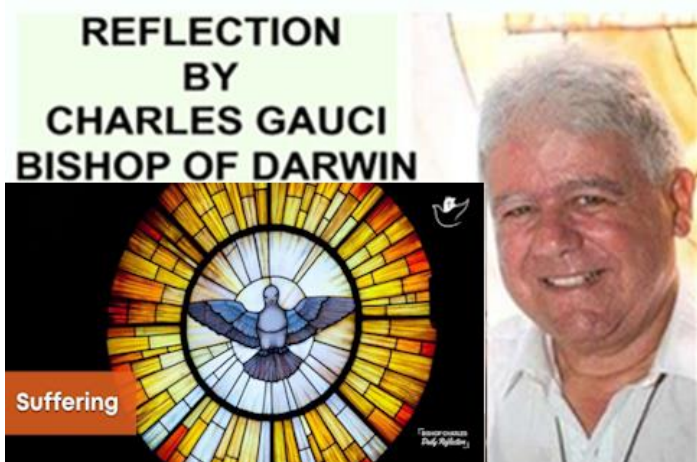


The Maltese Community Council of NSW (MCC) was represented at the Premier's Harmony Dinner by President, Miriam Friggieri; Treasurer Michael Zammit; Assistant Treasurer, Neville Zammit; PRO, Sandra Grech; Life Member, George Bartolo; Maltese Language School Admin, Lisa Bright; and MCC Radio Team Member, Maria De Carlo.

It was a privilege for the reps to be present to witness the late Lino Vella being added to the Honour Roll for his outstanding service to the Maltese community. Most notably for his dedicated work producing the Maltese

Herald for over 40 years. The award was accepted by Lino Vella's son Paul. Paul attended the dinner accompanied by his daughter, Jillian. Mr Paul Vella, accepting the Premier's Multicultural Honor Roll on behalf of his father, the late Lino Vella AM and long-time Editor of The Maltese Herald.

Pic courtesy of Miriam Friggieri



Suffering is part of life. The very act of birth has suffering connected with it.

There are imperfections and limitations in nature. Intertwined with the beauty, awesomeness and mystery are also limitations.

In today's Gospel, there is a clear reference to the soon-to-happen passion and death of Jesus. His humanity is deeply affected by this.

We are told in the second reading that he cried out to the Father. We are also told that

his prayer was heard! He was given the strength not to be crushed by the suffering. As followers of Jesus, we share in his mission. We are called and enabled also not to be crushed by our suffering. We are called to be wounded healers, living reminders of hope and trust that all will really be well! Often we cannot see a clear way ahead.

We sometimes do not know where we are going... what lies before us, and we can at times even feel somewhat lost. However, it does not really matter since we are lost in the heart of our creator.

Indeed, at the end of the Holy week is Easter!

Marvellous Malta: a love letter to the Mediterranean island



Tracey Davies takes a step back in time and visits the island where her Navy father was stationed
BY TRACEY DAVIES

AAPSKY//GETTY IMAGES

When I was tiny, my mum used to call me her little Malteser. I assumed it was because I was such a sweet little poppet, but no, I was a 'souvenir' from a conjugal visit to my Navy dad stationed in [Malta](#).

A tiny rock peeking out of the [Mediterranean Sea](#), Malta is brimming with an unadulterated charm, somewhat defying its

tiny stature. With its walled cities and grand Moorish architecture, a sheer abundance of Renaissance art, and cherry-red telephone boxes, Malta is a curious combination of Arabic, Italian and British influences but still with a unique identity.

Located just south of [Sicily](#) and north of North Africa, this tiny archipelago former of Malta, Gozo and Comino, is blessed with a big personality.

It's a big year for Malta. Under British rule for more 150 years, it's 60 years since it became an independent nation in 1964, 50 years since it was declared a republic and 20 years since it became member of the European Union. I fully expect it to be a year of celebrations... something else the Maltese do very well indeed.



Tracey Davies

I'm staying at the [Malta Marriott](#), a swish hotel and spa overlooking Balluta Bay in St Julian's. Now a fancy holiday resort, St Julian's was once a quiet beach town where my parents would stay when Dad was on shore leave in the early Seventies.

A 20-minute drive south along the coast from Valletta, it's now considered the entertainment hub of the island and is dotted with beachfront bars, nightclubs and old-school pubs like the City of London, which has been watering thirsty Brits since 1914.

From the ER embossed pillar boxes, driving on the left-hand-side of the road, to speaking English as their official second language, it's easy to see why us Brits still flock to Malta in our hordes. It was also a firm favourite of our late monarch, Queen Elizabeth II. Like my father, Prince Philip was stationed here as a naval officer between 1949 and 1951 before Princess Elizabeth acceded to the throne.

Princess Elizabeth and her husband Prince Philip at Villa Guardamangia in 1949

The Queen is said to have described her time in Malta as "one of the best periods of her life" as it was the only time she was able to live normally.

They lived in Villa Guardamangia, an 18th-century seaside villa in Pietà, a suburb of Valletta. It is now owned by the Maltese government who, along with Heritage Malta, is restoring the home to its former royal glory. Nearby is Villa Frere, the former home of Sir John Hookham Frere, an 18th-century diplomat, scholar and philanthropist who retired to the island. Run by a team of passionate volunteers, the Baroque-style garden is currently being restored and open to the public once a month.

Valletta is the smallest –and possibly the most beautiful– capital [city in Europe](#). Built on a hill between two natural harbours, its Renaissance design was conceived by the Knights of St. John, a Catholic military order which dates back to 11th-century Jerusalem. A formidable force during the Crusades, the order settled on Malta in 1530 and has influenced the island ever since.

Valletta

Stepping through Valletta's 16th-century honeyed stone walls, which glow golden against a laser-blue sky, I'm welcomed by wide clean streets spidered with narrow alleyways hiding all manner of ornate Knight's palaces, rustic auberges and churches.

A must-see is St John's Co-Cathedral, a beautiful Baroque church famed for its heavily frescoed ceiling, easily rivalling Rome's Sistine Chapel. It's also home to Caravaggio's 'The beheading of St John the Baptist', a rather macabre scene which hangs in the Oratory, the only painting signed by the troubled artist after a brief time exiled to the island.

Advertisement - Continue Reading Below

St John's Co-Cathedral

Wandering through the streets of Valletta, past red pillar boxes, familiar shops (Marks & Spencer still have a stronghold on the island) and tiny hole-in-the-wall restaurants serving traditional rabbit stew, I start to feel a real affinity to my Maltese beginning. My dad spoke often –and fondly– of his postings on the island, not least its raucous nightlife.

Tucked behind the Grand Master's Palace is The Pub, a Royal Navy bar made famous by the late Oliver Reed, who sipped his very last pint here before he died. As I ponder over his demise over a pint of Cisk, I spot a naval tally (hat ribbon) from HMS London, my dad's ship, and grin, knowing my dad would have sunk a few in here, too.

One afternoon, I venture over to Gozo, a 25-minute ferry ride from Malta. Measuring barely nine miles by five, the island is packed with quaint medieval villages, beaches and secret coves, yet its history dates back to 3600 BC. Older than the pyramids of Egypt, Ġgantija is , megalithic temple complex built from coralline limestone and considered one of the oldest freestanding stone structures in the world.

Gozo

I spend my last morning on Malta in the walled city of Mdina, the former island capital which is some 4,000 years old. Now home to just 300 residents, mostly descendants of the island's noble families, it's called the 'silent city' and its labyrinth of winding, narrow streets, omnipresent churches and secret gardens have quiet serenity about it.

Stopping for one last coffee in the Fontanella, Mdina's most charming tea garden, I concede that like both the popular confectionary (and infant me), Malta is small, perfectly formed and utterly irresistible.

For more information [visitmalta.com](https://www.visitmalta.com)

Malta Tourism Authority Showcases “Luxury Malta” in New York

by [Linda Hohnholz](#)



Peter Greenberg - CBS News Travel Editor, Brad Simmons - NY Dir. Sales & Marketing, The Surrey (Corinthia), NYC; H.E. Amb. Vanessa Frazier - Permanent Representative of Malta to the UN; Pradeep Raman - Managing Director, The Surrey (Corinthia), NYC, Michelle Buttigieg - Rep. NA, MTA; and

Christophe Berger - MTA Dir. VisitMalta Incentives & Meetings – image courtesy of Malta Tourism Authority Malta Tourism Authority hosted a media and travel industry event on Thursday, March 7, 2024, at the new home of the Malta Permanent Mission to the UN in New York City. The focus was on Malta's growing luxury product, new-5-star hotel openings and curated experiences.

Michelle Buttigieg, North American Representative of the [Malta Tourism Authority \(MTA\)](#), welcomed guests and noted that the 2023 total number of visitors from the U.S. was 55,096, an increase of 35.6% over 2022 and a 9% increase over 2019 pre-COVID numbers. Canada also showed a 36.3% growth (20,820) over 2022 and an increase of 7.5% when compared to 2019 (pre-COVID figures). Buttigieg credited the increase with support of Malta's travel industry partners such as Virtuoso, USTOA (United States Tour Operators Association), Travel Agent Academy, as well as MTA's diverse but targeted promotional campaigns.

Buttigieg then introduced H.E. Ambassador Vanessa Frazier, Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations in New York, who delivered remarks on Malta's growing recognition in the international community and more specifically in the U.S. Ambassador Frazier said that she was very pleased to host MTA's first official event at the new home of Malta's Permanent Mission to the UN and looks forward to hosting more tourism focused events. *Hidden Anymore*

A video message from MTA CEO Carlo Micallef, noted that "Malta, for many years, was considered the hidden gem of the Mediterranean, but through the hard work of our MTA Representative in NY, Michelle Buttigieg, her team and our partners in the U.S., Malta isn't so hidden anymore."

Luxury Malta panellists: Jason Allan, MD, Exclusively Malta; H.E. Amb. Vanessa Frazier; Christophe Berger; Michelle Buttigieg; and Rodolfo Cresta – Corporate & PREMIUM Sales Director, ME Melia)

A panel discussion focused on "Luxury Malta," starting with Christophe Berger, Director of VisitMalta Incentives & Meetings, who discussed the expansion of Malta's luxury hotel product, and noted that Malta continues to maintain its position as a leader in yacht & superyacht registration, as the largest register in Europe, as well as part of the top 10 registered in the world. Berger also noted that the partnerships with the Forbes Guide and inclusion of Malta in the Michelin Guide have also put Malta on the luxury travel map. Jason Allan, from Exclusively Malta, a Virtuoso Preferred Supplier, shared insights into luxury curated experiences that take advantage of Malta's rich history, culture, diversity and gastronomy. He noted that "luxury is not defined by a price tag and that travellers are seeking to experience Malta through the locals and their storylines." Rodolfo Cresta, of Melia Hotels International, provided an overview of the upcoming new hotel opening named ME Malta by Melia in St. Julians, further enhancing the country's luxury hospitality offerings.

Luxury Malta panellists: Jason Allan, MD, Exclusively Malta; H.E. Amb. Vanessa Frazier; Christophe Berger; Michelle Buttigieg; and Rodolfo Cresta – Corporate & PREMIUM Sales Director, ME Melia)

Malta and its sister islands Gozo and Comino, an archipelago in the Mediterranean, boasts a year round sunny climate and 8,000 years of intriguing history. It is home to three UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including Valletta, Malta's Capital, built by the proud Knights of St. John. Malta has the oldest free-standing stone architecture in the world, showcasing one of the British Empire's most formidable defense systems, and includes a rich mix of domestic, religious and military structures from the ancient, medieval and early modern periods. Rich in culture, Malta has a year-round calendar of events and festivals, attractive beaches, yachting, trendy gastronomical scene with 6 Michelin-starred restaurants and a thriving nightlife, there is something for everyone.



CRUCIFIXUS

Wirja tal-Gimgha l-kbira
 Kollezzjoni ta' erba' mitt-Kurcifiss differenti
 Mejda tal-Appostli u Statwi *Lifesize*.
 Post: Fi Triq il-Miratur, Birgu
 (Taht il-Kunvent tas-Sorijiet tal-Klawnsura)
 Mit-18 sa-29 ta' Marzu.
 Granet u Hinijiet tal-Ftuh:
 Mit-18 sa-21 ta' Marzu mil - 4:30pm sa - 8:00pm
 F'Jum id-Duluri sa Tlieta 26 ta' Marzu
 Mid - 9:00am sal - 10:00pm
 L-Erbgha tat-Tniebri - mid - 9:00am sal - 11:00pm
 F'Hamis ix-Xirka - mid - 9:00am sa - 12:00pm
 F'Jum il-Gimgha l-kbira - mid - 8:00am sal - 11:00pm

Din il-Wirja giet Imtella' minn Marco u Clayton Agius

Brothers Keith and Fabian Demicoli Team up for New Show on Maltese Food in Australia



Maltese cuisine has always been a cultural cornerstone, bridging generations and continents with its rich flavors and hearty recipes. Now, in an unprecedented televised adventure, brothers Fabian and Keith Demicoli are set to embark on a culinary journey like no other, traveling 15,000 kilometers to Australia to explore the vibrant Maltese community thriving in the land down under.

Dubbed “Brothers in Australia,” this new television program promises to showcase the powerful connection between Maltese food, family, memories, and the enduring love for Malta. With a natural and authentic style, the Demicoli brothers will delve into the heart of Australian Maltese culture by visiting families and cooking alongside them to prepare traditional Maltese recipes passed down through generations.

From the bustling cities of Sydney, Melbourne, to Brisbane, Fabian and Keith will encounter a diverse array of Maltese expatriates, some of whom left the Maltese islands decades ago but still hold Malta close to their hearts. These individuals, with their unwavering love for Maltese customs and cuisine, exemplify the enduring spirit of the Maltese diaspora.

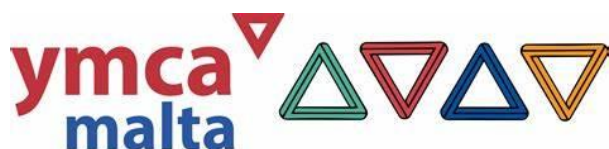
In their culinary explorations, the Demicoli brothers will encounter families who have

preserved the essence of Maltese cuisine, from homemade macaroni to bread with oil, pastries, fried rabbit, and mqaret. They will also meet individuals who have achieved great success in Australia while remaining deeply rooted in their Maltese heritage, as well as children of Maltese immigrants who proudly speak the Maltese language and continue the tradition of producing artisanal cheese.

According to the latest census, Australia is home to approximately 235,000 people of Maltese descent, a testament to the enduring legacy of Maltese culture in the country. “Brothers in Australia” seeks to celebrate this vibrant community and showcase their contributions to Australian society while honoring their deep-seated connection to Malta.

Supported by the Kultura TV fund within the Maltese Council for the Arts, “Brothers in Australia” is a collaborative effort produced by Emotive Media. The series promises to be a captivating exploration of culture, identity, and the universal language of food.

Don't miss the premiere of “Brothers in Australia” airing from April on ONE TV, as Fabian and Keith Demicoli invite viewers on a captivating journey of culinary discovery and cultural exploration. #MaltaDaily



ymcamalta.org/

HOMELESSNESS IN MALTA

YMCA – MALTA provides professional counselling and basic living services to those experiencing homelessness, as well as those who may just need extra spiritual or material support. Our drop-in centre offers self-service laundry, bathing and cooking facilities, as well as access to lockers, internet and

clothing/linen donations. We also offer generic social and youth work services, besides regular activities and workshops for general wellbeing.

The YMCA movement was originally founded by George Williams in London in **1844** to nurture the **mind, body and spirit** of workers of the Industrial Revolution. YMCA Malta was founded in **1976** in Valletta and has been known in the past as YMCA Valletta and/or YMCA Homeless.

Services provided

OUTREACH brings our care directly to those in the community in need of assistance, providing them with practical necessities of life such as food, clothing and educational materials, as well as helping them access employment services. We also provide educational activities and fun events, aimed to lighten the load of modern life. Outreach is also responsible for raising awareness about social issues as a preventative measure, both nationally and at the EU level.

PREVENTION offers psychotherapeutic, counselling and educational services to vulnerable people in the community, including youth experiencing mental health issues and couples and families, where an escalation of conflict could result in homeless/rooflessness. Our prevention work aims to involve people and foster a sense of belonging to a broader community. Sometimes just the feeling of being supported is all that an individual may need to keep their head above water.

RESIDENTIAL The YMCA Homeless Project has been in operation for several years and one of its core programmes is to provide specialised accommodation at its shelters. YMCA Malta currently offers three active residences providing shelter, care programmes and (re)integration to individuals and families experiencing homelessness or rooflessness. We are also currently refurbishing 'Dar Simon Soler': semi-independent communal living for the elderly and those living with a disability. It will eventually host an additional **10** individuals.

COMMUNITY provides professional counselling and basic living services to those experiencing homelessness, as well as those who may just be in need of extra spiritual or material support. Our drop-in centre offers self-service laundry, bathing and cooking facilities, as well as access to lockers, internet and clothing/linen donations. We also offer generic social and youth work services, besides regular activities and workshops for general wellbeing.

AFTERCARE provides ongoing support to those who are transitioning back into the broader community after experiencing hardship. These services utilise our network of healthcare, employment and learning professionals, giving individuals and families getting back on their feet the best possible chance of sustainable reintegration into independent living. We want all our clients to profit from their hard work, long after they have accessed our services.

The YMCA spokesperson told *Times of Malta* there should be a temporary place for homeless people who are discharged from hospital, prison, or a rehabilitation centre where they can stay for a year or so to get back on their feet. This was especially needed for women, many of whom did not end up roofless as they sought shelter with people who might have abused them in the past.

One can support YMCA with their time or money. One can donate via Revolut (BIC: REVOLT21; IBAN: LT 6132 5001 9883 319 222); SMS (to donate €4.66 send a blank message to 5061 8088 and to donate €11.65 send a blank message to 5061 9212); or by calling 5170 2068 for a donation of €15, 5180 2007 for a donation of €25 or 5190 2073 for a donation of €50. One can also donate via Mobile Pay on 7955 0065. Log onto <https://ymcamalta.org/> for more information on other ways to donate.

Malta Opens First Edition of Maltabiennale.art 2024

Written by [Linda Hohnholz](#)



The inaugural edition of maltabiennale.art 2024 officially opened, inviting the art lovers the world over to come to Malta and join in this rich and diverse celebration of contemporary art and heritage running until May 31, 2024.

Bringing together over 100 acclaimed international and local artists, the biennale will unfold across 20 esteemed heritage sites in Malta and Gozo, promising a tapestry of unique artistic visions, where each painting, sculpture, video installation, and more is set to breathe

new life into these historically significant locations.

The central theme of maltabiennale.art “white sea olive groves” will play out within the biennale’s Main Pavilion, an artistic exploration that comes to life across many locations and through four intertwined sub-themes:

C; and The Matri-archive of the Mediterranean.

Each sub-theme provides a canvas for diverse perspectives, all of which collectively strive to challenge preconceptions about the role of art in society, explore how contemporary art can shed new light on our heritage, and offer new perspectives into Maltese and Mediterranean identity. The Main Pavillion’s carefully curated journey sees artworks which both contrast with and complement one another, creating a multi-spectrum experience for visitors that is as thought-provoking as it is. As part of the Main Pavilion, international artists such as Cecilia Vicuña, Ibrahim Mahama, Pedro Reyes, Republic of Suez Canal, and Tania Bruguera, alongside notable Maltese talents like Austin Camilleri, Raphael Vella, Aaron Bezzina, and Anna Calleja, will showcase their exhibits in iconic locations. Running in parallel to the Main Pavillion are several national and thematic pavilions, each focusing on specific themes that showcase the ethnologically diverse expressions of artists hailing from various corners of the globe, including China, Ukraine, Italy, Spain, and Poland.

In Valletta, artworks grace the Grand Master’s Palace, MUZA, the National Museum of Archaeology, Tal-Pilar church, Main Guard, National Library, Fort St. Elmo, Underground Valletta, and Auberge d’Aragon. The Three Cities host exhibits at Dock 1, The Armoury, Fort St. Angelo, the Inquisitor’s Palace, and Villa Portelli in Kalkara. Gozo features installations in various sites within The Citadella, including Gozo Cultural Centre and the Grain Silos, as well as at Ġgantija temples.

In addition to these exhibitions of contemporary visual art, maltabiennale.art also presents a vastly diverse program featuring over 100 curatorial and endorsed events, taking place each week until May 31, 2024. Spanning theatrical performances, insightful art films, informative lectures, interactive workshops, and family-friendly activities for kids, this varied program invites audiences and artists alike to immerse themselves in an extended celebration of arts and culture in all their glorious forms and expressions across Malta and Gozo. Among the highlight events from Public Cultural Organisations, which have been officially endorsed by maltabiennale.art are Toi Toi’s annual Easter concert *A Dream’s A Wish* at Teatru Manoel; ZfinMalta performances *Dances for Gozo* and *Geographers of Solitude*; the biographical show *L-Ghanja li Hadd Ma Jsikket*: Ray Mahoney; and this year’s edition of the Malta Spring Festival.

For the full schedule of exhibitions, events, artists' details, and locations, visit the official website and become a part of this extraordinary arts and culture experience. The journey begins at maltabiennale.art. [Maltabiennale.art](http://maltabiennale.art) artwork [About maltabiennale.art](http://maltabiennale.art)

maltabiennale.art is a Heritage Malta initiative through MUŻA, the Malta National Community Art Museum, in partnership with Arts Council Malta. maltabiennale.art is also presented in cooperation with the Ministries for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade, National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government, and Gozo, as well as with Visit Malta, Malta Libraries, MCAST, Festivals Malta, Valletta Cultural Agency and Spazju Kreattiv. With the participation of Malta School of Art, AUM, ŻfinMalta, KorMalta, Teatru Manoel, Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, Franco La Cecla, IULM University, Milan, Department of Humanities Studies, Faculty of Arts and Tourism, Underwater Department Heritage Malta, Archaeological Department Heritage Malta and Maritime Museum Heritage Malta.

Seven unmissable beach spots in Malta and Gozo

Dive in to some of the best swimming, sunbathing and strolling spots on this island nation **Lucie Grace**

Malta and its surrounding islands make up one of the smallest countries in Europe – but what it lacks in size it certainly makes up for in personality. The Mediterranean archipelago is chock full of natural beauty, and is rightly proud of its 8,000 years of fascinating history. Home to Megalithic temples, medieval Arabic fortresses, ornate Baroque cathedrals and British red telephone boxes (Malta was colonised by the British empire from 1800 to 1964), the multitudinous influences left by invading civilisations give Malta its unique, sedimentary language and culture. But aside from its diverse architecture and history-steeped capital, Valletta, Malta is also known for its sun, sea and sand options. Bang in the middle of the Med, with its nearest neighbours being Sicily and Tunisia, Malta is famously sun-drenched for more than 300 days of the year and is home to a wide variety of beaches that'll satisfy any visitor, whether you love sandy or rocky shores, busy bays or secluded spots. Here's our pick of the best beaches in Malta and Gozo to get you started.

GOLDEN BAY

Malta's sandy beaches are scant, but the few that exist are pretty magnificent. The most popular is Golden Bay on the northwest of the island. It's one of the most family-friendly options as it's comparatively easy to access, via a short flight of steps down from the car park, and has everything you could need for a full day out on the sand: handy cafes, sun loungers and umbrellas, plus a solid range of thrill-seeking activities, from paragliding to jetskiing. stay for the sunset; it's known to be one of the island's most spectacular.

GHAJN TUFFIEHA

Next to trusty Golden Bay, rugged neighbour Ghajn Tuffieha (aka Riviera Beach) is much less developed, with 250 metres of rolling red sand overlooked by wild local flora and not much else. Umbrellas are available and there are snacks to be had, but the lengthy old stretch of steps down to the beach makes it quieter than its busy neighbour. Hike up to the 17th-century Ghajn Mixkuka watchtower between the two beaches for consistently splendid sunset views.

ST PETER'S POOL

The undisputed favourite with Gen Z tourists, St Peter's Pool is photography heaven. A local secret until the invention of Instagram, the craggy cove now gets pretty packed and it's easy to see why – the clear, aquamarine waters are out of this world, and the steep rocks make an excellent platform for jumping into the Med below. One famous local resident does just that: for years, Carmelo has been wowing crowds (and the internet) by cliff-diving alongside his Jack Russell dogs; Little Tina, his newest, is currently in training.



GHAR LAPSI

Less beach, more fab swim spot, Ghar Lapsi is loved by Padi divers and snorkellers as the settled little bays are home to turquoise waters and some of the best reef life on the island. It's also a favourite with keen swimmers, as the large pools are sheltered from the open sea so you can get some decent lengths lapped. There's not a great deal of sunbathing space on the shore of what was once a small fishing dock, but you'll likely want to escape the heat in the water anyway, or snack at the quaint 1960s cafe that overlooks it.

RAMLA BAY, GOZO

Regular ferries run to Malta's pretty idyllic smaller island of Gozo from capital city Valletta or Cirkewwa in the northern cape, so it makes sense to check it out. The rusty red sands of Ramla Bay are lush to say the least; the sprawling beach is undoubtedly Gozo's finest. The seaside vistas have been attracting visitors since ancient Roman times, which we know thanks to the unexcavated remains of a Roman villa in situ. It's a nice accessible beach, too – jump on a bus from Nadur or hire some handy mopeds, then it's a short wander down an easy slope.

DWEJRA, GOZO

One of the wonders of the Maltese archipelago, the Inland Sea, aka Dwejra pool, is a circular natural expanse of seawater that flows in through an arch in the cliff that overlooks it. There's plenty of room around the edge for sunbathing and picnicking, and it's a great spot for novice snorkellers, as the rock formation that walls the sea makes the waters nice and calm. More experienced swimmers might even want to glide through the arch out into the open sea.

QAWRA POINT (AKA TA' FRA BEN)

Malta's best-kept secret, this petite pebble beach is lovingly known as Ta' Fra Ben to locals, after the stalwart beach bar that overlooks it. It's a dinky spot, but the still, blue waters are ultra-appealing – the shore is defended from the wilds of the sea by a rock jetty that was formerly used for military target practice by the British. It's very easy to reach via bus, plus there are loads of comfy sun loungers available and, of course, top-notch snacks from Ta' Fra Ben themselves.

IL-PURCISSJONI S-SEWDA THE BLACK PROCESSION



On the initiative of the Vittoriosa Good Friday Commission and in collaboration with Heritage Malta, the old streets of Vittoriosa witnessed the revival of a procession that was known as 'Il-Purciissjoni s-Sewda' (The Black Procession) and the re-enactment of the translation (the transfer of relics from one place to another) of a highly venerated reliquary.

This procession had been discontinued in 1879 by Bishop Carmelo Scicluna after he ordered that only one Good Friday procession may be held in each parish.

Il-Purciissjoni s-Sewda used to involve the participation of several people, men and women, all dressed in black, who were either penitents or else

doing a penitence, sometimes by enduring severe sacrifices during the procession. Even the participating confraternity members used to dress in black.

According to Filippo Cipriani, secretary to the Inquisitor Paolo Passionei, it was Fr Mikiel Grima, a great devotee of the Passion of Christ, who collected the various sacred relics which form the renowned reliquary. He spent two years searching for them across Rome and all of them have a connection to the Passion of Christ. This reliquary arrived in Malta in 1753 on the insistence of the Inquisitor Paolo Passionei and it was welcomed with many celebrations, both at the Inquisitor's Palace and at St Lawrence's Parish Church, both in Vittoriosa. Up to this day, the reliquary retains considerable devotion.

After 140 years, the Inquisitor Palace's chapel received again this historical reliquary which was left exclusively exposed to visitors along the day. During the evening, members of the Collegiate Chapter of St Lawrence gathered at this chapel to recite prayers and then carry the reliquary throughout the procession.

Confraternity members led the procession, followed by the reliquary, and a huge crucifix which was carried by a number of individuals with hooded faces.

A considerable crowd participated in this procession which ended at St Lawrence's Parish Church for the Holy Blessing in front of the reliquary.



Family Fun

Fundraising for Therapy

Mary Rose Attard, awarded Grandma of the Year by Gaffiero Productions, is organizing a Family Fun Fundraising activity in aid of Happy Parenting Malta for Happier Children. The family event will be held on

Sunday 24th March from 8am to 12.00 noon at Mamo Garden situated behind Birkirkara Parish Church. There will be live music by MalteBrass, Liston and Kapitlu 13. Liana Agius will be demonstrating the first steps to playing the Ukulele. Ryan Galea will assist in creating and drawing Easter Cards. There will be on sale Bring and Buy Gifts, Figolli and other Easter Delicacies. *Those who can help by donations or volunteering please contact 77603330 / 99565730. Any profits will be directed to pay for assessment and therapy.*

Happy Parenting - Malta (For Happier Children) VO/1819 HappyParentingMalta.com

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