

JOURNAL FOR MALTESE AROUND THE WORLD



# MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER



Editor: Frank L Scicluna OAM MQR JP Email: maltesejournal@gmail.com



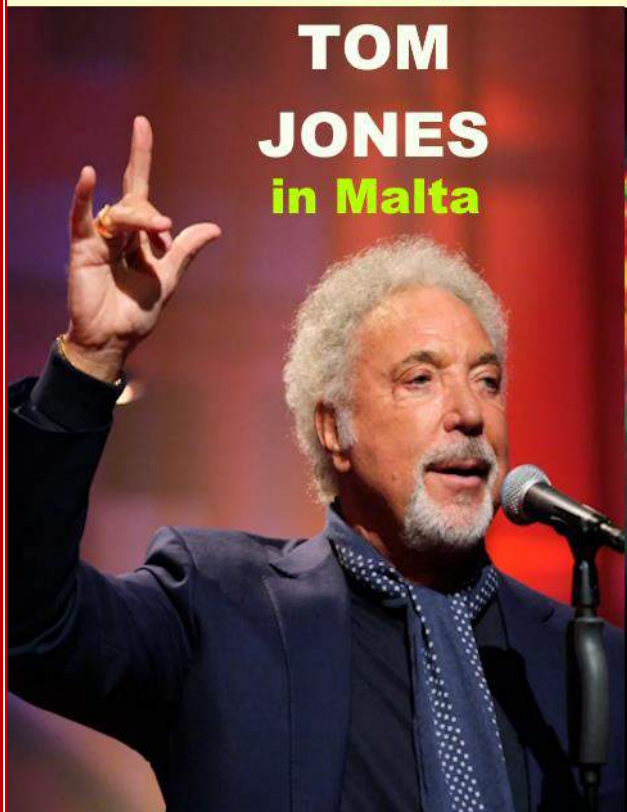
## When is EURO 2024?

The UEFA EURO 2024 final tournament is scheduled to take place from 14 June to 14 July 2024. The group stage runs until 26 June, with the knockout stage beginning on 29 June



Lorella Cuccarini

Una notte con le stelle a Malta



**TOM JONES**  
in Malta

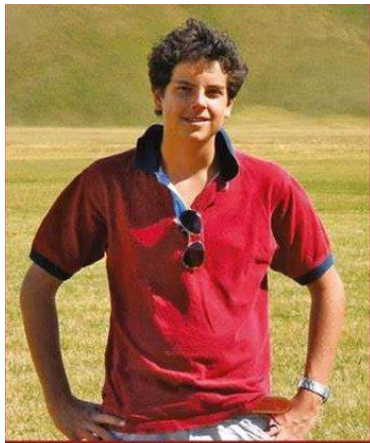


## BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS

A Saint in Sneakers  
*Patron of Youth and Computer Programmers*



St. John Ambulance and Rescue  
**MALTA**



**Blessed Carlo Acutis**  
1991 - 2006

# Blessed Carlo Acutis

By Francesca Pollio Fenton,

Pope Francis has recognized a second miracle attributed to the intercession of Carlo Acutis, an Italian teenager who died in 2006, paving the way for him to be canonized by the Catholic Church. A gamer and computer programmer who loved the Eucharist, he will be the Church's first millennial saint.

Carlo Acutis was born May 3, 1991, in London, where his father was working. Just a few months later, he moved with his parents, Andrea Acutis and Antonia Salzano, to Milan, Italy.

Carlo was diagnosed with leukemia as a teenager. Before his death in 2006, he offered his sufferings for Pope Benedict XVI and for the Church, saying: "I offer all of my suffering to the Lord for the pope and for the Church in order not to go to purgatory but to go straight to heaven."

From a young age, Carlo had a special love for God, even though his parents weren't especially devout. Antonia Salzano, his mom, said that before Carlo, she went to Mass only for her first Communion, her confirmation, and her wedding. But as a young child, Carlo loved to pray the rosary. After he made his first Communion, he went to Mass as often as possible at the parish across from his elementary school. Carlo's love for the Eucharist also **inspired a deep conversion for his mother**. According to the postulator promoting his cause for sainthood, he "managed to drag his relatives, his parents to Mass every day. It was not the other way around; it was not his parents bringing the little boy to Mass, but it was he who managed to get himself to Mass and to convince others to receive Communion daily." Salzano spoke to "EWTN News Nightly" in October 2023 about her son's devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. She said: "He used to say, 'There are queues in front of a concert, in front of a football match, but I don't see these queues in front of the Blessed Sacrament' ... So, for him the Eucharist was the centre of his life."

Carlo's witness of faith as a child led adults to convert and be baptized. Rajesh Mohur, who worked for the Acutis family as an au pair when Carlo was young, **converted from Hinduism to Catholicism** because of Carlo's witness. Carlo taught Mohur how to pray the rosary and told him about the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Mohur said that one of the things that most impressed him as a non-Christian was the witness of Carlo's love and concern for the poor — how he interacted with the homeless man who would sit at the entrance of the church and would bring tupperware dishes filled with food out to people living on the streets. Carlo wasn't afraid to defend Church teaching, even in situations when his classmates disagreed with him. Many of Carlo's high school classmates remember Carlo giving a passionate defense for the protection of life from the moment of conception when there was a classroom discussion about abortion.

Carlo was a faithful friend. He was known for standing up for kids at school who got bullied, especially kids with disabilities. When a friend's parents were getting a divorce, Carlo made a special effort to include his friend in the Acutis' family life. With his friends, he spoke about the importance of going to Mass and confession, human dignity, and chastity.

Carlo was fascinated with computer coding and taught himself some of the basic coding languages. He used his computer skills and internet savvy to help his family put together an **exhibition on Eucharistic miracles** that has gone on to be displayed at thousands of parishes on five continents. His spiritual director has attested that Carlo was personally convinced that the scientific evidence from Eucharistic miracles would help people to realize that Jesus is really present in the Eucharist and come back to Mass.

Carlo loved playing video games. His mother recalls that he liked Nintendo Game Boy and GameCube as well as PlayStation and Xbox. He had conversations with his gaming buddies about the importance of going to Mass and confession and limited his video game playing to no more than two hours per week. Carlo also liked Spider-Man and Pokémon.

Carlo died on Oct. 12, 2006, and was buried in Assisi. Initially, there were reports that Carlo's body was found to be incorrupt, but the **bishop of Assisi clarified before his beatification that his body was not incorrupt**. His body lies in repose in a glass tomb in Assisi where he can be seen in jeans and a pair of Nike sneakers. Thousands came to pray at his tomb at the time of his **beatification in October 2020**.

Pope Francis recognized a second miracle attributed to Carlo's intercession in a decree on May 23, 2024. **The miracle** involved the healing of a 21-year-old girl from Costa Rica named Valeria Valverde, who was near death after seriously injuring her head in a bicycle accident while studying in Florence in 2022. **The first**

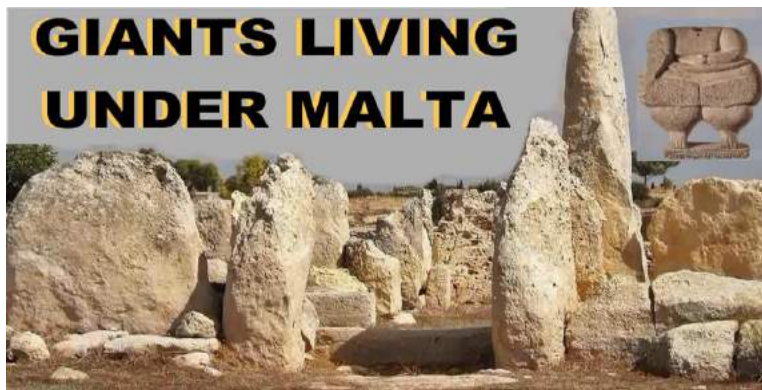


**miracle** that led to his beatification involved the healing of a 3-year-old boy in Brazil in 2013 who had been diagnosed with a malformation of his pancreas since birth.

The Vatican has yet to announce a date for Carlo Acutis' canonization. The ceremony could take place as soon as this October or during the 2025 Jubilee Year, which includes a special jubilee for youth and a jubilee for teenagers.

# Malta: Islands of Giants

written by [Timeless Travels](#)



Today we have another contribution from [Timeless Travels Magazine](#). On a recent visit to Malta's prehistoric temples, Garry Shaw endeavours to enter the minds of Malta's temple builders, once thought to be a race of giants by the local inhabitants.

Once upon a time, Sansuna, a giantess on the island of Gozo, went to the town of Ta' Cenc, placed huge stones upon one of her shoulders and carried them 4 km to their current resting place at Ġgantija, "the Place

of Giants". A multi-tasker, she did this while holding her half-giant, half-human baby over the other shoulder. Taking these heavy stones, she then built the temple complex of Ġgantija and afterwards allowed the local people to worship within. More unusually, and perhaps irrelevant to the story (but hey, it's often the little details that make a tale believable), she lived exclusively on broad beans and honey (though some versions replace the honey with water). As old legends go, it's an entertaining one but it's not the only explanation for Ġgantija's megalithic prehistoric temple complex. I had also read that it had served as a defensive tower, again built by a race of giants (naturally).

Entering the Ġgantija [archaeological](#) site in Gozo, Malta's sister island, I could immediately see why such legends had evolved. Approaching the temple from the rear along a modern walkway, the path alive with brightly coloured flowers, an enormous wall of grey interlocking monoliths, some weighing at least 20 tonnes, rose into view. Its lower course was formed of imposing vertical standing stones, while above, its upper levels were laid out horizontally. Taken together, it looked like an ancient game of giant Jenga, 6m tall, or perhaps a rapidly failing game of Tetris. Many of the monoliths were mottled by weathering as if they had been briefly dipped in sulphuric acid. Tufts of green grass protruded from the gaps between stones. Scholars, discounting the possibility of a giant-enhanced workforce, have estimated that 50 men were needed to erect a single one of these exterior megaliths and that the entire temple took around 30,372 days to construct. To add to its complexity, though appearing to mark a single building, this great wall is actually a D-shaped enclosure that encompasses two separate [temples](#) to the north and south, each with its own entrance from a common forecourt. It was a temple complex rather than a single building and it had rested on this spot since around 3500 BCE.

Taking the South Temple first, I walked down a central corridor flanked by four oval chambers (referred to as "apses" by scholars), two to each side. These led directly to a fifth apse at its far end, giving the entire arrangement the slight appearance of a shamrock. The walls stood tall above me, unchanged in thousands of years, though their rough appearance was once smoothed by plaster. During excavations, archaeologists had found ritual furniture in one of the South Temple's apses, including altars decorated with spirals but now heavily weathered. In the similarly designed but smaller North Temple, the entrance was originally very low, forcing visitors to crouch down as they entered, a feature bound to please the vertically challenged but surely with a greater purpose. As I explored, all I could think was: what was the meaning behind these curious features?

Luckily, my wanderings at Ġgantija were accompanied by Daphne Caruana, curator of Gozo's sites and Vince DeBono, my expert guide for the duration of my time in Malta. After viewing the temple complex we headed into Ġgantija's modern visitor centre where we came into the presence of some of Malta's famous "corpulent anthropomorphic figures", as the more scholarly literature calls them, or "fat ladies" as they are more popularly known. One obese figurine clutched her stomach, her prominent nose and eyes turned upwards to the sky. Another sat placidly, fat fingers locked in contemplation, resting on round thighs twice as big as her upper body. Her head was missing.

Close by was a single statuette depicting twin corpulent figures seated side by side on a couch, one holding a tiny representation of an equally corpulent individual. It had been excavated at the Xagħra Circle, a burial site close to Ġgantija. "*This is a very significant artefact,*" said Daphne. I brought my face closer to the glass. Their pleated kilts formed an almost unbroken chain and as with the other figures nearby, their arms rested on chubby legs. Unlike the others, however, their lower legs and feet had been painted with red ochre. "*As it's prehistory and we have no written records, it's very difficult to say what the artist or sculptor intended*", said Daphne. "*What we can see for sure is the high level of artistry behind it. It's quite exceptional.*" I agreed, and asked why the figures were carved so plump. "*This is very typical of the body shape that we find in Maltese Neolithic statuary*", she replied. "*For a long time it was interpreted as the mother goddess but we'd like to go a bit beyond that. In fact it's quite clear that, for example, this particular piece is very intentionally genderless. So it's either male or female. But there is a lot of emphasis on showing the corpulent lower body part. And that, I think, can very easily signify well-being.*" In prehistoric Malta, when resources were limited, I could certainly see how fat equalled prosperity.

Other objects were even harder to interpret. From the Xagħra Circle, a group of paddle-shaped figurines, each armless and legless and bound together when interred, had been unearthed. These had been designed to be held (they cannot stand on their own) and some had been purposely left unfinished. Because some are more complete than others, Daphne suggested that they might represent "the cycle of life, the idea of starting with nothing and then developing". But as she had earlier warned me, "*the figurines are so heavy with symbolism that you can't really just give a solid meaning and interpretation to what they could actually signify.*" As we talked, questions filling my mind, I wanted to discover more about Ġgantija's place in the development of Maltese prehistoric beliefs. And if possible, I also wanted to better understand the mind of the Maltese temple builders themselves. It was time to explore further.



## Lorella Cuccarini in Malta for first time

The popular Italian TV personality Lorella Cuccarini has visited Malta for the first time. A country, which in her words, is very welcoming and greatly resembles Italy.

Writing on social media Cuccarini said she came to Malta since in September she will be presenting a concert on the Granaries in Floriana.

Cuccarini announced that the concert, 'Una notte con le stelle', will take place on 28 September. Among those taking part will be Al Bano, I Ricchi e Poveri, Matia Bazar and Riccardo Fogli.

Addressing her followers online Cuccarini noted that the Maltese have always watched Italian TV with great interest. She remarked that many Maltese and Gozitans learned how to speak Italian in this way.

Cuccarini added that with this opportunity she will finally be able to join the Maltese people who have always followed her with admiration.





**Marisa Privitera OAM**

## Marie-Louise (Marisa) Privitera Awarded Order of Australia Medal

Receiving an honour from one’s country is a special occasion of which the recipient, the family and community should be proud of.

May I convey my warmest congratulation to Marie- Louise Privitera of NSW on her award of a Medal in the General Divion of the Order of Australia from the Australian Federal Government for her services to the Maltese community of New South Wales.

Ms. Privitera’s working background is in Administration in the Public Service of NSW with 32 years of secretarial and executive

administration service roles.

Over the last 20 years Marisa have been greatly involved in various roles within the Maltese community of the Western Suburbs of Sydney. For a number of years, she served on various committees and have held the position of Vice President of the Maltese Cultural Association of NSW (MCA). In addition to this, she was the Choir Director for the Maltese Community Council Choir for almost 20 years.

For several years Marisa held the role of the Secretary for The Friends of Providence House, NSW, the sole aim of which is since its inception to raise funds for Id-Dar tal-Providenza in Malta and to work closely with its Director, Fr Martin Micallef. Since 2011 this small group has succeeded in raising millions of dollars towards this charitable Maltese institution.

She was also appointed by the Maltese Community Council of NSW (MCC) as its Welfare/Community Worker. Marisa continued to provide a welfare and referral services for the Maltese community of Sydney since 2012. This role has given her direct involvement at the ‘coal face’ of the Maltese community of Sydney and its surroundings especially among the elderly.

**Marisa is also a very active delegate of the Council for Maltese living abroad and a great supporter of the Maltese e-Newsletter – the only and unique journal for the Maltese Diaspora.**

She said, “I am very passionate about my Maltese heritage and culture and I continue to seize every opportunity to promote and share our culture in Australia”.



**H.E. President Myriam Spiteri Debono welcomed the High Commissioner of Australia, His Excellency Matt Skelly, for a courtesy call at Sant’Anton Palace.**





### Press Release

## St. John Ambulance and Rescue Hosts Charity Concert at The Basilica of Our Lady of Victories, Senglea

St. John Ambulance and Rescue is delighted to announce a special charity concert, "Classics at the Basilica," aimed at raising funds for the St. John Eye Hospital of Jerusalem. This event, organized in collaboration with the Band of the Armed Forces of Malta, will be held on Friday, June 21st at 7:30 pm at The Basilica of Our Lady of Victories in Senglea.

Under the expert direction of Captain Jonathan Borg L(Mus) F.L.C.M., the concert promises an enchanting evening of classical music set in one of Malta's most historic venues. The event will commence with a brief presentation on the invaluable work of St. John Ambulance and Rescue and the St. John Eye Hospital of Jerusalem.



### Event Details:

- **Date:** Friday, June 21, 2024
- **Time:** 7:30 pm
- **Venue:** The Basilica of Our Lady of Victories, Senglea
- **Admission:** Free (Donations to the Eye Hospital of Jerusalem are welcome)

**Supporting a Worthy Cause:** The St. John Eye Hospital of Jerusalem is the only facility providing eye medical services in East Jerusalem and Gaza, regardless of race or religion. With over 141 years of service, the hospital treats more than 142,800 patients annually and performed over

6,900 eye operations in 2022. Impressively, 80% of all eye conditions treated at the hospital are curable, making it a beacon of hope in the region. Its mission extends beyond clinical services, encompassing research, training, and community outreach to enhance eye health across the region. The hospital's work is crucial in an area where access to specialized medical care is limited, providing a lifeline to many and improving the quality of life for countless individuals. Through its efforts, the St. John Eye Hospital embodies a legacy of compassion, excellence, and humanitarian service, making a profound impact on the lives of those it serves.

**About St. John Ambulance and Rescue:** Founded in 1882, St. John Malta has a long-standing tradition of providing essential services such as first aid training, ambulance services, firefighting, and rescue operations. St. John Ambulance and Rescue is the only organization within the Venerable Order worldwide that offers specialized rescue and firefighting services, including Urban Search and Rescue, Fire Fighting, and Water Rescue.

The organization operates under a council led by Speaker Emeritus Dr. Michael Frendo, with Brigadier Clinton O'Neill serving as the Deputy Chairman and Commander. St. John Ambulance and Rescue's commitment to serving the Maltese community is demonstrated through its various volunteer services, aiming to enhance the health and well-being of people everywhere.

Join us for an unforgettable evening of music and charity and help support the St. John Eye Hospital of Jerusalem in its mission to provide exceptional eye care services to those in need. Your presence and contributions will make a significant difference in sustaining this vital institution's operations.

**St John Malta is a voluntary, humanitarian organisation working across the Maltese Islands to provide quality first aid training to the general public and Private entities, together with first aid and rescue services by our fully trained volunteers.**





In addressing the broader question of suffering, Bishop Gauci noted, "The message of Jesus tells us that no, God does not give us illness.

The limitation of nature does that." This explanation underscores a theological perspective that sees God as a source of comfort and guidance rather than a cause of suffering.

In a recent interaction, James, a student from OLSH Catholic College in Alice Springs, posed a profound question to Cathcroc, the beloved mascot known for engaging with the community on matters of faith and spirituality. The question was then directed to Bishop Charles Gauci, who provided a compassionate and insightful response.

James asked, "Why does God give cancer to children?" This heartfelt inquiry, filled with the innocence and curiosity of youth, was met with an understanding nod from Cathcroc, who promptly turned to Bishop Gauci for a thoughtful answer.

Bishop Gauci began by gently clarifying, "James, God doesn't give cancer to people or children or anyone. God doesn't give illness to anyone. Nature does that. Nature is limited. And as we know, things can go wrong in nature."

Drawing from personal experience, Bishop Gauci shared, "My sister died as a baby. My brother died as a four-and-a-half-year-old boy. God did not kill them. Illness killed them. Human reality took their life, not God's plan." His words highlighted a fundamental distinction between natural occurrences and divine intention, emphasizing that suffering and illness are not orchestrated by God.

Bishop Gauci offered reassurance by saying, "But what God has promised is to be with us and guide us even when these things happen."

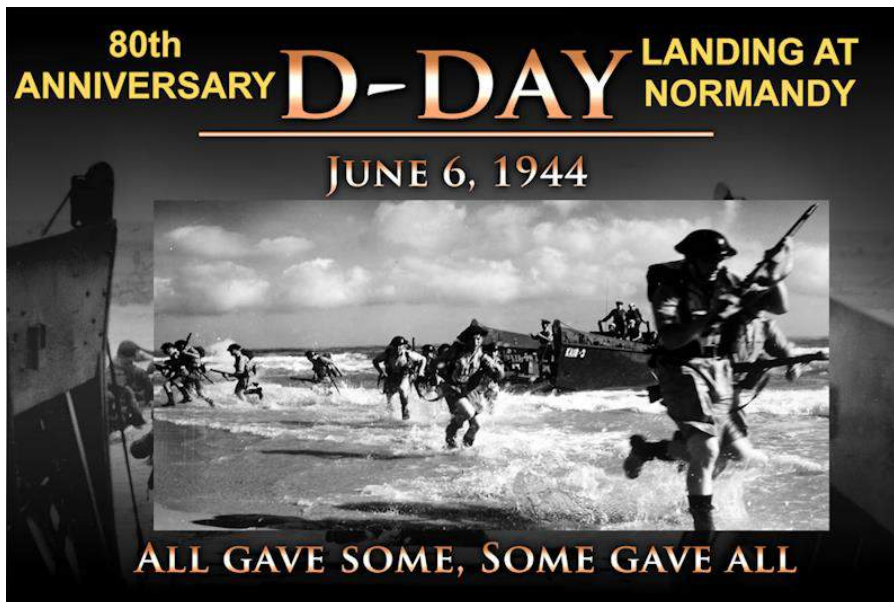
He conveyed a message of hope and eternal life, affirming, "I am sure I will see my sister in heaven and my brother in heaven because God is looking after them."

The session concluded with an invitation from Cathcroc and Bishop Gauci for further engagement. "If you have any questions about God and the beautiful creations around us, feel free to get in touch.

This interaction at OLSH Catholic College serves as a poignant reminder of the enduring questions that shape our understanding of faith, suffering, and the nature of God's presence in our lives. It also highlights the importance of compassionate dialogue in addressing the profound questions that arise from the experiences of pain and loss.



# Maltese who landed in Normandy



Undated file handout photographs show the flag of the Royal Navy beach party and British commandos disembarking carrying bicycles at an unidentified location in Normandy in northern France during Operation 'Overlord', 1944.

A number of activities are being held tomorrow and over the coming weeks in various towns in Normandy and elsewhere to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day and the acts of heroism of the Allied invaders and the French resistance fighters during the

invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944.

The battle marked the largest airborne and seaborne invasion to date, with over 150,000 men landed on the first day, including one Canadian, two British and two American beachheads.

At the time, the Maltese were enjoying a relatively peaceful time as air raids on the island had practically ceased, following the invasion of Sicily on July 10, 1943.

But not all Maltese nationals were so lucky. A Maltese soldier by the name of John Galea, of Valletta, who had emigrated to Britain in the mid-1930s, was one of the first Allied troops to hit the beaches as a member of the Canadian Division. He was in the tank corps and survived to tell the tale, his Maltese nephew recounted to The Times. On his frequent visits to Malta, he was fond of relating his story to his interested Maltese relatives, describing in detail what it was like to be on the landing craft on that "grey, blustery, June morning" 60 years ago.

He is now survived by a daughter and two grandchildren, who live in the Midlands.

Charles Baldacchino, today 83 years old, also participated in the invasion, among many other battles, one of his five children said.

Mr Baldacchino survived D-Day but, 60 years later, almost to date, he was hospitalised, having suffered a stroke. Unfortunately, due to his ill-health, he was unable to relate his story, which he used to "love to tell" to his children. They remember snippets of exciting adventures on battleships in rough seas and other episodes of wartime suffering.

Mr Baldacchino began his naval career aged 14 and spent time in Greece and India. "He always wore his rosary beads without fail," his family recounted, highlighting the fact that his religious devotion got him through the war.

D-Day and the ensuing back-up operation - in which over a million men were landed on the coast of Normandy - was a turning point in the war and was followed by the liberation of Paris and most of France after the July breakthrough.

During the night preceding the invasion, airborne paratroops were dropped from hundreds of planes on either side of the landing grounds to protect the flanks of these beachheads. The drops were made up of two American and one British airborne divisions - the first Allied troops to land in France hours before the main seaborne force hit the beaches at dawn.

The news of the landings was flashed on the radio waves across the world at breakfast time on June 6.

The landings ran smoothly on some of the beaches, but at "Omaha" Beach, American GIs were pinned down a few metres from the shoreline for a whole morning and the best part of the afternoon and suffered



heavy casualties. It was only later on in the day that they managed to break through the seawall and barbed wire defences and push inland.

The Allied forces were contained around Caen for six weeks and it was only in the latter half of July that the Americans on the western flank managed to break through and overwhelm the stiff German resistance, which had made progress difficult.

The overall commander of operation "Overlord" - the code name for the invasion - was General Dwight Eisenhower and the field commander was field marshal Viscount Bernard Montgomery, both of whom had spearheaded the invasion of Sicily from the underground headquarters in Lascaris, Valletta, 11 months before.

### **What they said about D-Day**

Seventeen heads of state and government will attend ceremonies in northern France tomorrow marking the 60th anniversary of the D-Day landings by the Allied forces on June 6, 1944.

Following are quotes about the landings by leading figures of World War Two.

α "You are about to embark on the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of liberty-loving people everywhere will march with you."

General Dwight Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force, in an address to troops.

α "After much fighting, furore and pain, the decisive shock has come, the hoped-for shock. Of course, it is the Battle of France and it is the Battle of the French!"

General Charles de Gaulle, leader of the Free French Forces in exile and France's future leader, in a radio broadcast.

α "Almighty God. Our sons, pride of our nations, this day have set upon a mighty endeavour. A struggle to preserve our republic, our religion and our civilisation and to set free a suffering humanity. They will be sore tried by night and by day without rest until the victory is won. Some will never return. Embrace these Father and receive them, the heroic servants, into Thy Kingdom."

US President Franklin D. Roosevelt in a prayer broadcast by radio.

α "My dear friend, this is much the greatest thing we have ever attempted."

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in a cable to Mr Roosevelt before the start of the operation.

α "The news couldn't be better. As long as they were in Britain we couldn't get at them. Now we have them where we can destroy them."

Nazi leader Adolf Hitler's reaction when informed that the D-Day landings had begun.

"If we do not succeed in our mission to close the seas to the Allies, or in the first 48 hours to throw them back, their invasion will be successful... In the absence of strategic reserves and due to the total inadequacy of our navy and of our air force, we will have lost the war."

Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, commander of German Army Group B on the Normandy coast, after the start of the landings.



## Who will win? A supercomputer's top picks – Euro 2024

### England and France Lead the Charge as Germany, Spain, and Portugal Await Their Chance



With 24 nations vying for supremacy in Germany, Euro 2024 promises to be a thrilling spectacle. The

Opta Supercomputer, after 10,000 simulations, has highlighted five top contenders. Let's dive into the predictions to see who has the best shot at the trophy.

#### England: The favorites with unfinished business

The supercomputer gives England a 19.9% chance of winning Euro 2024. Gareth Southgate's squad, featuring stars like Harry Kane, Jude Bellingham, and Phil Foden, looks set to overcome their previous heartbreak against Italy. England's group stage, facing Denmark, Serbia, and Slovenia, is expected to be a breeze, with a 95.4% chance of reaching the last 16. Their chances of making the quarter-finals stand at 70%, and they have a 48.2% chance of reaching the semis. A potential semi-final against France could be the pivotal match.

#### France: The near favorites with star power

France, just behind England with a 19.1% chance of victory, are led by Kylian Mbappé and Antoine Griezmann. With Griezmann's 18 goal involvements since Euro 2016 and Mbappé's scoring prowess, France are a formidable team. They are predicted to top Group D 57.9% of the time and have a 48.1% chance of making the semis. A potential semi-final against England could be crucial.

#### Germany: Hosts with home advantage

Germany, with a 12.4% chance of winning, aim to leverage their home advantage despite recent struggles in major tournaments. Key players like Manuel Neuer and new talents could be decisive. Germany's performance in Group A, featuring Switzerland and Romania, will be critical. They have a 36.5% chance of reaching the semi-finals.

#### Spain: The strategic contenders

Spain, given a 9.6% chance of winning, are top picks from Group B, which includes Italy, Croatia, and Albania. Known for their resilience in knockout matches, Spain are expected to reach the quarter-finals 59.1% of the time. Led by Álvaro Morata, Spain's knack for grinding out results could see them through tough matches.

#### Portugal: The dark horses with Ronaldo's legacy

Portugal, with a 9.2% chance of victory, remain serious contenders. Cristiano Ronaldo aims to score in a record-extending sixth Euro tournament, supported by Bruno Fernandes' creative brilliance. Portugal's perfect qualifying campaign sets them up for a strong showing. They have a 93.6% chance of reaching the last 16 and a 33.6% chance of making the semis, making them potential surprise winners.





The collective age of the bride and groom was nearly 200. But World War II veteran Harold Terens and his sweetheart, Jeanne Swerlin, proved that love is eternal as they tied the knot Saturday inland of the D-day beaches in Normandy, France. Terens, 100, called it “the best day of my life.”

On her way into the nuptials, the 96-year-old bride-to-be said: “It’s not just for young people, love, you know? We get butterflies. And we get a little action, also.”

The couple, both widowed, grew up in New York City: she in Brooklyn, he in the Bronx.

They wed at the elegant stone-worked town hall of Carentan, a D-day objective that saw ferocious fighting after the June 6, 1944, Allied landings that helped rid Europe of Adolf Hitler’s tyranny.

Like other towns and villages across the Normandy coast where nearly 160,000 Allied troops came ashore under fire on five code-named beaches, it’s an effervescent hub of remembrance and celebration on the 80th anniversary of the deeds and sacrifices of young men and women that day, festooned with flags and bunting, and with veterans feted like rock stars.

Terens went to France as a 20-year-old U.S. Army Air Forces corporal shortly after D-day. He enlisted in 1942 and, after shipping to Britain, was attached to a four-pilot P-47 Thunderbolt fighter unit as the radio repair technician.

On D-day, Terens repaired planes returning from France so they could rejoin the battle. He said half his company’s pilots died that day. Terens went to France 12 days later, transporting captured Germans and freed American POWs to England. Following the Nazi surrender in May 1945, Terens again helped transport freed Allied prisoners to England before shipping back to the U.S. a month later.

On Saturday, as the swing of Glenn Miller and other period tunes rang out on the streets, well-wishers — some in WWII-era clothes — were lined up a good hour before

## A World War II veteran marries near D-day beaches. He’s 100, she’s 96

the wedding behind barriers outside the town hall, with a rousing pipe-and-drum band on hand to serenade the happy couple.

After declaring “oui” to vows read in English by Carentan’s mayor, the couple exchanged rings.

“With this ring, I thee wed,” Terens said. She giggled and gasped, “Really?”

With Champagne flutes in hand, they waved through an open window to the adoring crowds outside.

“To everybody’s good health. And to peace in the world and the preservation of democracy all over the world and the end of the war in Ukraine and Gaza,” Terens said as he and Swerlin clinked glasses and drank.

The crowd yelled “la mariée!” — the bride! — to Swerlin, who wore a long, flowing dress of vibrant pink. Terens looked dapper in a light-blue suit and pink pocket square.

The couple enjoyed a special wedding-night party: They were invited to the state dinner Saturday night at the Élysée Palace with French President Emmanuel Macron and President Biden.

“Congratulations to the newlyweds,” Macron said, prompting cheers and a standing ovation during the toast praising French-American friendship. “[The town of] Carentan was happy to host your wedding, and us, your wedding dinner,” he told the couple.

The wedding was symbolic, not binding in law. Mayor Jean-Pierre Lhonneur’s office said he wasn’t empowered to wed foreigners who aren’t residents of Carentan, and the couple, both American, hadn’t requested legally binding vows. However, they could complete those formalities back in Florida if they wish.

Lhonneur likes to say that Normandy is practically the 51st state, given its reverence and gratitude for Allied soldiers and the sacrifices of tens of thousands who never made it home from the Battle of Normandy.

“Love is eternal, yes, maybe,” the mayor said, referring to the newlyweds, although his comments also describe the feelings of many Normans for veterans. “I hope for them the best happiness together.”

**WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF OUR MALTESE ASSOCIATIONS AROUND THE WORLD?**

**PLAN AND SURVIVE**

## Valetta Pageant of the Seas returns!



22 June 2024

Quarry Wharf, Grand Harbour, Valletta

The fifth edition of the Valetta Pageant of the Sea will be held on Saturday 22nd June 2024 at the Grand Harbour. This year's edition will offer an impressive show in the Grand Harbour featuring the biggest water fountains we have ever seen in Malta, projections on the ramparts of Fort St Angelo, a synchronised fireworks display, and a light show.

Under the theme "Save the Sea," environmental threat in the seas around the world as far as plastic and microplastic are concerned, the event will present an animated narrative

brought to life with an original score, powerful water fountain displays, and a grand fireworks finale, all guaranteed to illuminate the Grand Harbour.

Events will begin at 8:45pm with a show featuring traditional dghajjes tal-pass and regatta boats as nighttime falls. This will be followed by a light projection featuring an animated narrative complemented by Cyprian Cassar's original music.

The show will continue with a spectacular water fountain by Aquatique primarily inspired by the nature of water and closes with a grand fireworks display.

Don't miss this event set against the historic backdrop of Valletta's Grand Harbour.

## Valetta Design Cluster this June

Throughout June

Valetta Design Cluster

This June, join us at the Valetta Design Cluster for a series of informative events as our Studio Sessions continue. Transform your community projects with William Grech's [Problem Tree Analysis](#) workshop and build on your problem-solving skills. Explore mid-20th century Sliema's youth culture through Joseph Darmanin 'Il-Gululu's photography. In [The Place we Knew Isn't Far Away](#) - a talk by Magna Żmien, we'll be exploring Sliema then and now through Darmanin's portraits of his friends in his hometown which are snapshots of an area that has played a vital

role in the cultivation of youth culture in Malta for decades.

On the last Wednesday of the month come celebrate [The Art of Fermentation](#) with Mark Cassar's natural winemaking and Jean Bickle's craft beer brewing as part of the FiftySix Design Talks series. Don't miss these unique opportunities to learn, connect, and be inspired!



## Imnarja Kubana

29 June

Strait Street, Valletta

Following their triumphant Strada Stretta premiere last year, the Hoskuban team makes a resounding comeback in the Valetta Cultural Agency's Strada Stretta Cultural Programme for 2024. Expect an even grander musical spectacle as their unmatched fusion of Afro-Cuban rhythms, Salsa, and Jazz takes centre stage. Building on previous success, this talented ensemble promises an exhilarating auditory experience. Join us for an unforgettable evening and experience the magic of Hoskuban as they light up Strait Street with their incredible

performance. Stay tuned for more details and be sure to mark your calendars for this highlight of the cultural season. Hoskuban's resounding comeback in the Valetta Cultural Agency's Strada Stretta Cultural Programme for 2024. Expect an even grander musical spectacle as their unmatched fusion of Afro-Cuban rhythms, Salsa, and Jazz takes centre stage. Building on previous success, this talented ensemble promises an exhilarating auditory experience. Join us for an unforgettable evening and experience the magic of Hoskuban as they light up Strait Street with their incredible performance. Stay tuned for more details and be sure to mark your calendars for this highlight of the cultural season. Entrance is free.



## Maltese Language Schools federation launched - 2008



At the historic meeting that was held at the Malta High Commission in Australia and New Zealand in Canberra the Federation of the Maltese Language Schools of Australia was inaugurated. The delegates from the States of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and Queensland unanimously approved the establishment of the Federation on Saturday 2 August 2008 after

many months of discussion and preparation for this event.

The main objective of the Federation is to coordinate the work performed by the Maltese language schools and to assist them in working together in the spirit of better co-ordination and cooperation so that the Maltese language and culture will continue to grow and to reinforce the solid foundations of these institutions.

The delegates showed their great appreciation to the High Commissioner H.E. Francis Tabone and the Convenor Mr. Frank Scicluna for their solid work and guidance so that the Federation will be formed and for generating such interest in every State and region in Australia.

After the approval of the constitution the first executive of the Federation was elected as follows:

President: Frank Scicluna OAM JP (South Australia)

Vice President: Edwidge Borg (Victoria)

Secretary: Lawrence Dimech OAM JP (NSW)

Treasurer and Public Officer: Alfred Flask (ACT).

Roseanne Pirota (Victoria) was appointed coordinator of the senior classes where the students are prepared for a public examination in Maltese in various States.

*In the photo above: The members of the executive Committee from left to right*

*Alfred Flask (ACT) Edwidge Borg (Victoria) Frank Scicluna (SA) and Lawrence Dimech (NSW)*



As guardians of over 8,000 years of history, Heritage Malta is the **national agency for museums, conservation practice and cultural heritage.**

With a portfolio that encompasses archaeological sites, baroque auberges and palaces, catacombs, forts, natural landscapes and UNESCO listed Neolithic monuments, Heritage Malta is the face of the Maltese Islands. More than simply advancing the stock of intellectual and cultural capital, its vocation is to offer a mirror to society through a heritage which is 'Part of Us', because we are our history and

this is our cultural identity.

Every generation, monument, artefact, language, specimen, and celebration have a story to share. Heritage Malta ensures that these stories are preserved for posterity and are made accessible for everyone,

everywhere to experience and enjoy. Visit - [heritagemalta.mt](http://heritagemalta.mt)

## *Maltese as a Foreign Language to Juniors (Level A1, Beginners)*

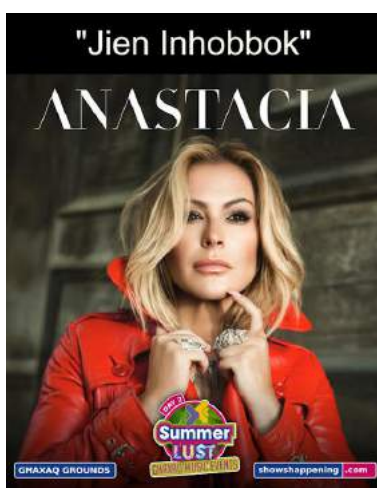
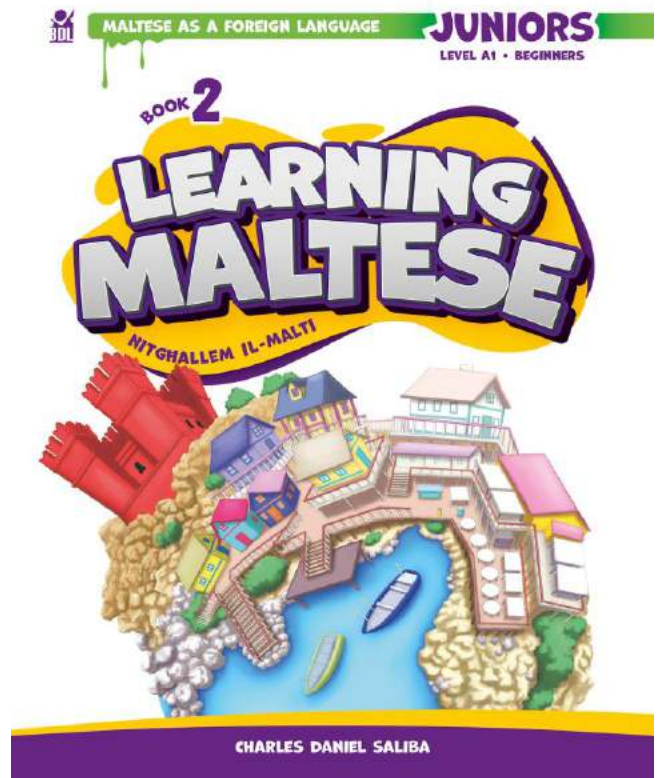
Charles Daniel Saliba is well known for his publications to teach Maltese as a Foreign Language and Medical Maltese; however, this time, together with BDL Publishing, he has embarked on a new series, aimed at a junior audience, named: *Maltese as a Foreign Language for Juniors*.

The first level of this bilingual series (Maltese/English, Level A1, Beginners), which is based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), includes two books: *Learning Maltese 1* and *Learning Maltese 2*.

The first book is a complete guide for beginners to learn the Maltese language and culture while the second one builds upon the previous book emphasising a progressive learning approach. With these books the learners can learn the Maltese alphabet and master its sounds; learn basic word families while building vocabulary; master basic grammar rules using a thematic approach; hear each dialogue/context read in Standard Maltese by native speakers; familiarise themselves with Maltese culture; use different practical activities for effective learning and revision; practise the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing; and use the Learning Outcomes section to verify whether they achieved the aims of the unit. These books are ideal for beginners and are suitable for use by individuals, by groups or in a school setting.

These books come with audio files so learners can listen to native Maltese speakers reading the text and acting out the dialogues. In addition, Saliba has also devised an answer booklet, for the exercises found in these books, which can be downloaded for free from this website: [www.bdlbooks.com](http://www.bdlbooks.com) For more information please visit, [www.charlesdanielsaliba.com](http://www.charlesdanielsaliba.com)

The books in this Series are approved by the National Literacy Agency.



## **Anastacia Speaks Maltese at Summer Lust Concert**

Anastacia (Anastacia Lyn Newkirk) born in September 17, 1968 in Chicago, Illinois, to a showbiz family and is an American [singer songwriter](#). Anastacia has been highly successful in Europe, Asia, South Africa and South America, but has not had as much success in her native United States. Her debut album, [Not That Kind](#), released in 2000, achieved multi-platinum sales in Australia, New Zealand and much of Europe.

On Saturday, 18th May, 2024 she performed at the grand finale of the Summer Lust Music Festival. Superstar singer-songwriter Anastacia once again thrilled her audience at Summer Lust concert in Ħal-Għaxaq Malta by speaking a few words in Maltese.

In a video, Anastacia reached out to the audience and asked, "What could I say to the audience in Maltese?" After being taught how to say "I love you" in Maltese, the 55-year-old singer turned to the crowd and declared, "jien inhobbok." The crowd erupted into applause and cheers in response to her efforts. Following her successful attempt at speaking Maltese but Anastacia said that she would prefer to sing in English.





## John Aquilina

All her own work. The perseverance of Ann Aquilina, wife of John, Malta's Ambassador to Brazil, paid off with a significant contribution to the charities supported by G.C.C.M, the Association of the Spouses of the Heads of Mission in Brasília. Today's Annual G.C.C.M. Bazaar was attended by thousands. Malta's table was a sellout, not an item left. Ann shopped for, prepared, and cooked everything: jams, marmalade, and chutneys, all in high demand. Thank you also to the Ambassador's Personal Assistant, Fabiana, who worked

tirelessly throughout the day. The funds raised at this year's Bazaar will assist some of the needy and disadvantaged of this vast nation.

## Malta's one of the sunniest places in Europe



[Jet2holidays and Visit Malta](#) Published Jun 3, 2024, 7:16am

Mellieħa bay is just one of the stunning areas to explore in Malta. From sparkling waters to unspoilt coastline, ancient temples to mouthwatering cuisine, Malta is a mesmerising mix of cultural wonders and raw natural beauty.

And with more than 300 days of sun a year, this dazzling archipelago in the heart of the Mediterranean attracts visitors all year round with *Jet2holidays*. Wondering whether to make it your next holiday destination? Here are seven reasons why it should be...

### Baroque beauty

Valletta boasts honey-glow façades, cobbled streets and architectural marvels

As Europe's smallest capital city, Valletta is a joy to explore. Built by the Knights of St John in the 16th century, it's a beguiling blend of honey-glow façades, cobbled streets and architectural marvels, from the dazzling St John's Co-Cathedral to the imposing Grand Master's Palace. The whole walled city is a UNESCO-listed Baroque masterpiece.

Take a short ferry ride or hop on a colourful wooden *dgħajsa* boat across the harbour to the Three Cities; Vittoriosa, Senglea and Cospicua, where you'll find a quieter side to the island. Alternatively, you can head inland to Malta's original capital city, Mdina. At sunset, it's breathtakingly beautiful, when the 4,000-year-old town is bathed in a lamplit glow.





### Gorgeous coastlines

Whether you want to relax on golden sands, explore coves by kayak or try deep sea swimming, Malta has a coastline for you. Malta's coastlines are delightfully diverse, peppered with golden-sand beaches, secluded coves, rugged cliffs and coastal villages. Along the northwest shores of the main island, Għajn Tuffieħa Bay is a crescent-shaped beauty, the perfect showcase of Malta's natural splendour.

At the northernmost tip of the island is Armier Bay and Mellieħa Bay, where shallow, crystal-clear waters await. These two are ideal for families, while the sheltered rocky beach, Qawra Point, is excellent for deep-sea swimming.



### Fabulous food

Malta has a thriving gastronomic scene, with seven Michelin-starred restaurants (one with 2 stars!) as well as countless local eateries serving delicious dishes like the stuffed flaky filo-styled pastry *pastizzi*.

Malta has a medley of culinary influences, from Sicilian and Arabic to French and Spanish, with a hint of British cuisine too.

Maltese cooking draws on its abundance of fresh produce for inspiration, with its rich soil, clean waters and warm climate creating the ideal conditions for wonderful produce.

The island has a thriving gastronomic scene, with 40 restaurants tipped in the country's Michelin Guide and a total of six one-Michelin-starred restaurants, and one restaurant with two-Michelin stars.

But you don't have to rely on upscale dining experiences for a true taste of Malta – for that, just one taste of a *pastizzi* will do. This flaky filo-styled pastry generally comes filled with savoury ricotta or subtly spiced mashed peas and is beloved on the island as an on-the-go snack.



### Ancient temples

Explore the mysterious and atmospheric buildings of Unesco-listed Ħaġar Qim

With a past that stretches back over 7,000 years, Malta is a treasure trove of temples, ruins and historical wonders. Here you'll find some of the oldest free-standing temples in the world, as well as an underground Roman cemetery, atmospheric catacombs and enigmatic archaeological sites.

Explore the incredible sites of UNESCO-listed Ħaġar Qim and Mnajdra Archaeological Park, while Għar Dalam contains the earliest evidence of human habitation in Malta, and the 6,000-year-old underground cemetery Ғal Saflieni Hypogeum is a must-visit.

### Outdoor adventure

Malta is consistently named among the best dive destinations in the world

There are so many ways to enjoy Malta's 300 days of sunshine a year. Thrill-seekers should hire a quad bike or head out on horseback and explore the island's rolling landscapes. For deep-sea adventures, you'll find some amazing diving and snorkelling experiences all over the island – Malta is consistently named among the best dive destinations in the world.





# Renowned Chef Bruno Barbieri tries Maltese Bigilla



As part of his 11th entry into the 'Viaggio a Malta' series, world renowned Italian chef Bruno Barbieri tried out traditional Maltese bigilla.

In an episode centred all around cheese and winery, Barbieri was treated to the traditional Maltese dish from an iconic bigilla van.

## Bigilla recipe, make your own traditional spicy beans dip

This delicious [broad bean](#) dip recipe is a Maltese delicacy, packed with flavour from beans, mint and chilli. In Malta, they use local beans known as *Ful ta' Ġirba* to make this [dip](#), but dried fava beans make an excellent alternative if you can't get your hands on any. This recipe is the one of the **most popular Maltese dips** on the island. Ideal to share with friends around a table accompanying a drink and olives. It can be also **spread on bread** for a sandwich to bring to the beach!

### Ingredients to make your own Bigilla:

- 1 lb dried broad beans
- 2 sprigs parsley
- 1 head of garlic crushed
- 1 chili pepper
- a dash of Tabasco
- 1 tbsp of mixed marjoram & mint, finely chopped
- 2 tbsp olive oil

### Don't worry, it's easy to prepare Bigilla:

Soak beans overnight and replace water the next day when you are going to prepare the recipe. Bring to boil in salted water and keep simmering until beans are soft. Drain the beans and mash them lightly. Allow them to cool off a little and place them in a serving dish. Pour olive oil on top and mix well until you get a creamy sauce. Add other ingredients to taste.





## Grand Master's Palace Regeneration Project in Malta Wins Awards



Written by [Linda Hohnholz](#)

**The Grand Master's Palace Regeneration Project in Valletta, Malta's historic Capital,**

has been awarded the

**2023 Malta Architecture and Spatial Planning (MASP) Awards. This project won the prestigious Public Vote Award and received a special commendation for its extensive restoration efforts.**

Launched in 2019 by the Planning Authority, the Malta Architectural and Spatial Planning (MASP) Awards, under the Patronage of the President of Malta, recognize outstanding contributions to architecture and the environment built by architects, interior designers, and other professionals. The jury praised the project, stating: "The enhancement of its valorization, through a meticulous conservation, restoration and rehabilitation agenda, deserved this commendation."

Helga Ellul, Chairperson of the MASP Awards jury, presented [Heritage Malta](#) with an official brass plaque to commemorate this achievement. The plaque will be affixed at the Grand Master's Palace.

Presentation of the brass plaque at the Palace by MASP jury Chairperson, Helga Ellul

[Heritage Malta's](#) CEO, Noel Zammit, expressed his gratitude: "We are particularly honored to have won this award."

"The Agency exists to ensure that our common heritage is restored, preserved and rendered accessible, and we regard this award as a vote of confidence by the public in our work, which fuels us to do even more."

[Heritage Malta](#) is currently actively working on

other significant projects, including Villa Guardamangia, the Malta Maritime Museum, Villa Portelli, and the Bigghi Ex-Royal Naval Hospital Conservation Centre.

Aspects of the new visitor center

### About [Malta](#)

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 7 Michelin-starred restaurants and a thriving nightlife, there is something for everyone.





## Tom Jones to give concert in Malta

June 5, 2024

Singer Tom Jones, known as 'the tiger of Wales', will give a concert in Malta on the 16th of July.

The concert will be staged at the Conferences Centre, the MFCC, in Ta' Qali.

Tom Jones's chart-topping hits have earned him a special place in the

hearts of millions worldwide. This concert offers fans the chance to witness his incredible talent live in a performance that promises to be unforgettable.

Throughout his career, Jones has received numerous honors, including a Grammy Award, several Brit Awards and the Music Industry Trust Award.

The Jones concert is being organized by greatt and NnG.

Tickets for the Tom Jones concert can be purchased [here](#).



## High Commission & Consulates of Malta in Australia

### High Commission of Malta - Canberra

H.E. Mr. Mario Farrugia Borg  
High Commissioner for Malta to Australia  
38 Culgoa Circuit, O'Malley, ACT 2606

(02) 6290 1724 / 1426 / 1573

0433 799 746

[www.foreign.gov.mt](http://www.foreign.gov.mt)

[highcommission.canberra@gov.mt](mailto:highcommission.canberra@gov.mt)

### Consulate General - Sydney

Mr. Lawrence Buhagiar (Consul General)  
St. Martins Tower, Suite 10.04, Level 10, 31 Market St, Sydney NSW 2000

(02) 9262 9500

0430 402 177

(02) 9264 4722

[maltaconsulate.sydney@gov.mt](mailto:maltaconsulate.sydney@gov.mt)  
[lawrence.c.buhagiar@gov.mt](mailto:lawrence.c.buhagiar@gov.mt)

### Consulate General - Melbourne

Dr. Gioconda Schembri (Consul General)  
Suite 613, 6th Floor, 343 Little Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

(03) 9670 8427

0430 378 407

(03) 9670 9451

[maltaconsulate.melbourne@gov.mt](mailto:maltaconsulate.melbourne@gov.mt)

**Thanks for your donation**

**A PRINTED COPY OF THE JOURNAL IS SENT TO ALL DONORS**

**My bank details are Bank Commonwealth (Australia)  
BSB- 065106 Acc No - 00502507  
Name - Frank Scicluna**



## Kunċert Mużikali

Ismu llum jinsab imferrex  
Mal-gzejjer helwin minn tagħna;  
Leħnu jidwi u jirbombja  
Għal snin twal se jibqa' magħna!

U l-Ordni tal-Kavallieri  
Ta' San Pietru u San Pawl  
Dejjem sejra u tistinka  
Lil qlubna timla bid-dawl

Illi darba dawn l-Appostli  
Xerrdu, qassmu fost il-ġnus  
Sakemm ċarċru demmhom kollu  
Kif tal-Knisja xtaq l-Għarus.

Dawn it-tnejn spicċaw biex ċarċru  
Demmhom għal Kristu l-Mulej  
Riedu biss l-Imgħallem jixbhu,  
Le ma qagħdu jaraw x'għej.

Wieħed spicċa rasu 'l isfel  
Mislub m'għuda ta' salib;  
L-ieħor spicċa b'rasu barra  
Biex miet għall-aqwa ħabib.

Fin-Nadur insibu statwa  
B'dawn iż-żewġ kolonni kbar –  
Fid-disgħa w għoxrin ta' Gunju  
Lilhom tqimhom sat-tfal żgħar.

U llum minn ġewwa s-Sema  
Qed iħarsu lin-Nadur;  
Fomm kulhadd lilhom ifaħħar  
Ma' kull rokna l'inti tmur!

Nagħlaq billi ntenni l-grazzi  
Li lqajtu l-istedina  
Jalla dal-kunċert jinżlilkom  
Ad unur tal-Qalb Ħanina!

**Kav Joe M Attard**  
**Rabat Għawdex**  
**Gunju 2024**

Ġejt mistieden mill-ħbieb tiegħi  
Sabiex nikteb poeżija;  
Qbadt il-pinna w ħażiżt waħda  
Għal dil-lejla mistennija.

Kif stajt nirrifjuta x-xewqa  
Ta' sħabi l-Kavallieri  
Illi rispett għandi lejhom –  
Dan il-fatt żgur ħadd ma jmieri!

U għalhekk illejla ltqajna  
F'dil-knisja minn ta' Gesu'  
Sabiex lilu nfaħħru, nsellmu –  
Għajn ta' mħabba u virtu'!

Bl-għotja illi qegħdin nagħtu  
Nghinu 'l ħutna fil-Peru'  
Illi Raymond lilhom jgħallem  
U jressaqhom lejn Gesu'!

Dan is-Saċerdot ħabrieki  
Infatam mill-gżira tagħna  
Sabiex jgħin lill-proxxmu mbiegħed  
U jehilsu mis-sikrana.

U idahħlu ġewwa l-merħla  
Illi jirgħa l-Feddej  
Illi miet għall-poplu kollu –  
Tal-imghoddi w għal li għej!

Biex iferraħ lill-miġemgħa  
Magħna għandna lit-tenur  
Illi b'vuċi soda w ħelwa  
Lilna dlonk sa jferraħ żgur.





## distinct culture in Malta - motoring

### Art meets Art'

On Sunday, June 2, the Valletta Concours took centre stage in St George's Square, Valletta. This annual event, fueled by a collective love for art, Valletta's rich history, and vintage and classic cars, unfolded amidst the grandeur of the city's baroque architecture.

The Concours d'Elegance was more than just a spectacle of vintage and classic

cars; it was a homage to the rich heritage of Valletta. As part of the Concours, a Collective Art Exhibition added an extra layer of charm to the classic car event. Centered around the theme 'Valletta and Classic Cars,' this week-long exhibition showcased the creative talents of sixteen local and foreign artists. Their artworks depicted various facets of Valletta's landscape intertwined with the allure of classic automobiles. Their creations adorned the walls of Saint Dominic Hall at the Kings Own Club, offering a glimpse into the soul of the city. A thrilling Live Painting session took place during the Concours D'Elegance, where artists competed to capture the essence of the Concours in real-time.

On Sunday, the Valletta Concours stood as a testament to distinction, unmatched in Malta. Sixty-five meticulously preserved classic cars graced St George's Square, each telling a story of elegance, history, and authenticity. From the sleek curves of Jaguars to the timeless allure of Rolls Royce cars, these automotive treasures stood as testaments to a bygone era.

At the heart of it all was the judging panel, led by the esteemed Jeremy Jackson-Sytner. With an eye for originality and authenticity, they meticulously assessed each car, honouring the dedication of their owners to preserving automotive history. Among the distinguished panel of judges were internationally renowned figures, including legendary car designers Peter Stevens and Harm Lagaay. These luminaries were joined by marque experts, motoring journalists, and organisers of world-class concours events, such as Wheels at the Palace in the Netherlands and the Sydney Concours.

Their collective expertise and discerning eye for automotive excellence ensured that each vehicle was meticulously evaluated, setting the standards for elegance, authenticity, and historical significance in the world of classic cars. With such esteemed individuals at the helm, the judging process was a testament to the passion and dedication of the global automotive community.

The categories were diverse, from Elegance to Preservation, Pre-war Class, Post-war Class, Jaguar Class, Porsche Class, Popular Classic Class, Sports Car Class, and Super Car Class, each showcasing the diversity of automotive excellence. And for the first time, classic motorcycles and pedal cars joined the fray, adding a new dimension to the competition.

Participants from around the globe, including India, Japan, Germany, and Italy, added an international flair to the competition, joining local enthusiasts in showcasing their prized classic cars. The Valletta Concours became a melting pot of automotive excellence, with entrants from diverse cultural backgrounds vying for top honors.

Among the winners, the coveted title of Best in Show was awarded to the exceptional Rolls Royce Phantom 1 17EX, proudly owned by Yohan Poonawalla. This magnificent vehicle, which graced St George's Square, captured the hearts of judges and spectators alike with its unparalleled beauty and craftsmanship.

Such stellar performances from international competitors not only elevated the prestige of the Valletta Concours but also set a new standard of excellence unseen before in Malta. Their participation underscored the event's growing reputation as a premier destination for classic car enthusiasts from around the world.

The prestigious Best Restoration Award found its deserving recipient in the meticulous hands of local restorer Arch. Chris Cachia. His dedication and attention to detail were evident in every inch of the restored classic car, earning admiration from judges and enthusiasts alike.

The Valletta Concours proudly showcased the fruits of its labour, achieving its mission to elevate the standard of car restoration in Malta. The success stories of local participants venturing abroad last year, to compete in renowned events like Pebble Beach in the USA and concours in the Netherlands served as undeniable proof of the Concours' impact. Watching Maltese entrants triumph among world-class competition highlighted the growing recognition of Malta's automotive restoration prowess on the global stage.

But the Concours wasn't just for enthusiasts; it was for everyone who cherished art, history, and nostalgia. A Retro Clothing Competition welcomed participants from all walks of life, inviting them to showcase their finest attire and become part of the living tapestry of the event.

As the day came to an end, a sense of camaraderie filled the air. Awards were bestowed, accolades given, but above all, memories were made. For in that fleeting moment, the Valletta Concours became more than just an event; it became a timeless ode to the beauty of the past.



**Mnarja 2024**  
**South Australia**  
**30<sup>th</sup> June 2024**  
 Maltese Mass @ 2.30pm  
 Christ the King Catholic Church  
 Lockleys  
 Followed by Mnarja Celebrations in  
 Church Hall.  
**Food**  
 Please bring a plate to share with family and friends.  
**Drinks**  
 Drinks will be available from the Bar at reasonable prices.  
**Great Raffle Prizes & Exhibition/Wieja**  
 Please contribute to the exhibition by bringing your favourite  
 arts/crafts/produce to display. - Hall open from 11am for set up.  
 Fun for the whole family!  
 Prickly Pear Jam & other Jams for Sale.  
 Lucky Door Prize  
**ALL WELCOME**  
 Grazzi Hafna for supporting this wonderful celebration.  
 Note: All monies raised at all functions go towards funding future MCFG functions.

In spite of this journal is apolitical we are aware that many Maltese living abroad are interested and eager to know what is happening in the political arena. The situation in Malta does impact, directly or indirectly, us who live thousands of kilometres away from our homeland and most of us have relatives and friends living in Malta. Thanks to social media we are able to keep up with the latest news and information. Therefore, we urge you to go online and connect to TV, Newspapers, Radio, Facebook etc to stay informed