



DANTE NEWS Gold Coast

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Societa` Dante Alighieri Gold Coast

Febbraio/February 2012

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear members

I hope you had a peaceful Christmas and a wonderful start to 2012. January brought us a lot of rain and I hope that you were not inconvenienced or had water damage.

Our classes resume this month and I wish all the students a great year of learning Italian. I also encourage you to attend the social activities that are organised to enrich your learning experience. Our first social function is "Una Serata in Maschera" and it is too hot to wear a costume so mask only is expected (with your normal clothes) This will be a great opportunity to meet fellow Dante members. Your family members and guests are welcome. Please let Rita or Connie know numbers attending to help with the catering of the "Wine and Cheese". If you don't have a mask to wear, some are available for purchase at the Dante

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on a Thursday night this year so we hope that more members are able to attend and not disrupt your Sunday family day. Instead of including a Nomination and Proxy form with each newsletter we are making them available in the Dante rooms and also for you to download on our web site. This way we can reduce the amounts of paper usage.

In the newsletter this month we have a new section "Tips for Travellers" by Dr. Brian Bell. They are on an insert sheet so you can collect them all. Hope you find these useful. We would love to hear from you if you have experiences to share.

We would like to email the newsletters to our members, please let us know if you wish us to mail yours out.

Cordiali saluti

Giovanna

GOLD COAST ITALO AUSTRALIAN CLUB

Open for lunch and dinner from Tuesday to Sunday. Discount on meals to Dante members

(show Dante card) Ph. 55751966

www.italoaustralianclub.com.au

COMING EVENTS

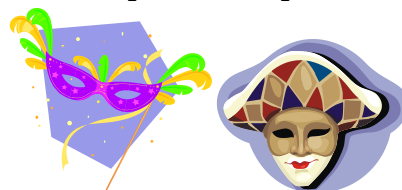
THURSDAY, 23RD FEBRUARY

I Musici – QPAC Brisbane

SATURDAY 25TH FEBRUARY

'Una Serata in Maschera'

6.30p.m. to 9.00 p.m.



THURSDAY, 15TH MARCH 7 p.m.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY 3RD NOVEMBER

OPERA NIGHT - CARMEN

**I MUSICI - VIVA ITALIA –
60TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR**

QPAC is thrilled to welcome to the Concert Hall Italy's legendary baroque string ensemble as they celebrate sixty years of vibrant and virtuosic music-making. Paying homage to their musical heritage with works by Italian masters Rossini, Donizetti and Paganini, this will be an unforgettable concert, culminating with their historic interpretation of Vivaldi's Four Seasons. **CONCERT HALL - QPAC - SOUTH BANK - THURS. 23rd FEB. 2012 - Cost \$89.00. Book with QTIX 136246**

ATTENTION OPERA LOVERS:

Join the Dante Alighieri as we go and see 'CARMEN' by Georges Bizet (sung in French) Lead singers: Kirstin Chavez & Konstantin Andreyev **Sat. 3rd Nov. 2012**, Lyric Theatre, South Bank. Cost: "A" Reserve - \$124.00 – Balcony \$86.00. Bookings taken now with: Connie Canale ccanale25@hotmail.com - or call 5575 8882.

2012 MEMBERSHIP IS NOW DUE



SCHOOL NEWS

Un caloroso Benvenuto to all our new and returning students to the Dante Gold Coast.

A big Thank You to all those who enrolled early or at Enrolment Days. It was great to see many took advantage of the Early Bird Special and many students regularly checking the Dante website for dates etc which answers their simple queries. My work was made so much easier without having to ring scores of students.

I hope you have a rewarding semester.

Semester Dates

Term 1- 6 February-30 March 8 weeks

Easter break- 31 March -14 April 2 weeks

Term 2- 15 April – 22 June 10 weeks

Children's Class

Unfortunately due to the low numbers, these classes will not be commencing at present.

If you know anyone who has little ones wanting to learn Italian the times are

2-5 yrs Thursday 3.25 - 3.55pm.

6-10yrs Thursday 4.00- 4.45pm.

Could you please ask them to contact me.

Conversation Classes-

These are \$60 per semester or \$10 a lesson if already enrolled in a semester course. For students not enrolled in a Semester course the cost is \$20 per lesson. The Advanced Conversation with Gilda will commence week 1. We will offer Beginners Conversation in the evening and day time once classes recommence. If we get enough response, we will offer these weekly too.

Scholarships

We have received some excellent scholarships to Italy already this year. Most of these have been quickly snapped up. More will arrive, so if interested call Giovanna or myself to find out what is available.

Student Welcome

The teachers and I would love to see as many of you as possible at the Student Welcome. Should be lots of fun!

Inability to Complete Courses

If through the semester, you are unable to complete the course, due to sickness/family situation etc, we are happy to give you a credit note but we do not give refunds.

You need to contact me as soon as possible to let me know, not the teacher. If too much time has passed before contacting me, I will only give credit from the time you contact me.

Any questions, please call me- 55270797

Rita

School Director

VENEZIA

Maybe you've heard the saying :” ...a movie is only as good as the walk back to the car....”

Well, that's how I feel about the Venezia – Udine, October 2011 experience. I am still thinking about it, and savouring the memories.

*Even though I had been to Venice several times before, like most of us, it was only for a few days at a time. A few days when one walks about with jaw dangling open, just content to follow others' footsteps because wherever one goes the magic is still always there. This time though it was different. We woke to the morning noises of Venice preparing itself for the day. From our windows and balcony, footsteps, snatches of private conversations and images of students hurrying to their classes was ours for the taking. Employees dressed formally, walking to their *lavoro*; distant motor sounds of the city's innards at work, and the odd smug turista in jogging gear and camera ...*

*But we, dedicated group of students of the Venice Italian School, had deadlines to meet. Scurrying down stairs, stepping over little bridges, past Campo San Barnabas, cautiously eyeing the miserable fruit vendor on his boat, over the bridge and into the sunny Campo Santa Margherita, a salutare la simpaticissima Signora Paola ,(always standing behind her son's fruit stand), ready with a smile for us and a” Buon Lavoro, Buona Giornata”. Negotiating our way over bridges, along narrow *calli*, past tantalizing coffee smells and wares in windows...Nothing deterred us from our goal. Perhaps I don't just speak for myself in saying that the 10 days (10 for me) a Venezia, gave me a sense of belonging, belonging to that wonderful and inimitable city that is known by so many names.*

I'm planning to go back in October 2012.

Luisa Liussi

Over the next few editions of the newsletter, there will be a series of articles that hopefully will make travelling to Italy easier for those students who are thinking of going over there and putting their language skills in to action. Each month there will be a new theme, and I intend to cover the following: Flights, Accommodation, Insurance and visas, Public transport, Supermarkets and markets, Restaurants, Money, Photography, Electrical appliances, Schools and scholarships, Internet, telephones and Skype and last minute things to do before you leave. If there are other items that may be of use, then I am happy to research them and write on them too.

In this edition I will concentrate on the topic of “Flights”. For the first or second time that you go to Italy, I would recommend that you take an escorted trip, such as the one that Giovanna escorts most years. This will give you an excellent orientation to Italy and also allow you to relax without having to worry about organising flights, accommodation and local tours etc. It will let you feel the general ambience of this beautiful country and hopefully stimulate you to want to go again soon. When you do want to go again, the first thing to really think about is how you are going to get there.

For novice travellers, I would recommend that you use a Travel Agent. If you are wanting to get the most out of your trip, and also to do it most economically then you need to do some homework before going to the agent, else you won't get the best deal. The initial things that you need to think about is your budget, when you want to go, how long you want to go for and where you want to go to. The temptation is to try and see as much of Italy as you can in one go. Try to resist that temptation, as Italy is a large country and there is much to see.

The cost of flights is seasonal, the cheapest being in the colder months and the most expensive in their summer. Italy can be very hot and crowded in summer, so the shoulder seasons are better value and less crowded. In general, the longer the time between booking and travel, the cheaper the fare. You need to work out whether you wish to travel economy, premium economy or business class. In round figures, economy flights are approximately \$2,000 and business class approximately \$8,000. Within economy, there are multiple levels. The seats are all exactly the same and can be anywhere in the aircraft, however there are different restrictions depending on the price. For example, there may be restrictions on how long you can stay away for, or restrictions on whether or not you can change your itinerary once you have booked it.

There are several good search engines on the internet such as: www.webjet.com.au or www.jetabroad.com.au that will give you a general idea of the cost of flights and the timetables. Remember though that these search engines do not search all airlines, so if you have a specific airline that you prefer, it may be best that you search that specific airline's site. After you have a general idea of which airline you would like to fly with, I would recommend that you check that airline's site as it will give you more information regarding stopovers and also the conditions of the tickets. If you are a member of an airline's frequent flyer program and you wish to fly with an airline of that program, check each of the airlines sites that belong to that group. For example, if you are a Qantas frequent flyer, then you are a member of the Oneworld Alliance and you should check the sites of Qantas, Cathay Pacific, British Airways and Finnair. Some other airlines do code-share with these airlines, however, unless it is ticketed as one of these flights, then you cannot use the Oneworld lounges or get frequent flyer points.

Armed with all of this information, go and visit your Travel Agent and see if they can match or better your prices or if they know of any special deals. These days there are low commissions (and hence little chance of a further discount) on international air travel and you must pay for your tickets within a few days of booking. Many agents will charge a commission if you pay via a credit card, so it may be worth you paying in cash or with a bank cheque



CARNEVALE DI VENEZIA 2012

“LA VITA E’ UN TEATRO – TUTTI IN MASCHERA”

The “**Carnevale di Venezia**” is an annual event that is steeped in history, dating back to the 1200’s and earlier. In 1296 The “Carnival of Venice” became an official event, and the Senate of the Republic of Venice declared the day before Lent as a public holiday. Although it has not always taken place yearly, since its revival 1979 it has been an annual occurrence.

Even way back in the 17th century the “Carnival of Venice” has been a top tourist attraction, attracting wealthy Northern Europeans who came to the city to enjoy themselves. The fact that masks were worn meant that people could remain relatively anonymous, and it allowed the lower classes of Italian society to rub shoulders with the upper classes. This type of celebration combined elements of earlier Roman and Pagan festivals such as Saturnalia where festival-goers could let loose and enjoy debauchery!

Like Carnivals around the world the specific dates for the “Carnival of Venice” are dictated by Easter and so they vary somewhat from year to year. For 2012, the Venice Carnival will take place from the 11th to the 21st February. This year’s theme is: “**La Vita e’ un Teatro – Tutti in Maschera**” which means: “**Life is a Theatre – Everyone in Masks**”.

The whole of Venice becomes a platform for the Carnival with different events happening here and there. St Mark’s Square is usually the hub, and during the nearly 2 weeks you’ll find people wearing masks all over the city. Of course Venice is one of the world’s most popular cities when it comes to attracting tourists anyway. One can combine the Carnival with sightseeing around this truly beautiful city, enjoy a gondola ride on the canals, cross the famous Rialto Bridge, or marvel at the architecture of St Mark’s Square. Visitors can also enjoy the arts by visiting some of the many excellent museums, ballet, theatre, music and shows performed during “Carnevale”.

The masks however remain the trade mark of the “**Carnevale di Venezia**” and there are many excellent shops in the city where one can buy a mask - from the most beautiful and elaborate to the most frightening! Masks are on sale throughout the year, not just during Carnival time, though obviously during Carnival there are more choices and are in much higher demand! They are great as a gift idea, or to take home and hang on the wall.

The origin of the word “Carnevale” is disputed, some say that it comes from the Latin “carne vale” meaning “farewell meat”, others say it comes from the Italian phrase “carne levare” meaning “remove meat”. The idea was that the Carnival was a way of using up rich foods and meat just before Lent, as the forty days of Lent was a time when no rich foods, fats, dairy, meat or sugar should be consumed, and no parties or other celebrations could take place. So the whole community would get together, have a huge party, and eat, drink and be merry!

Connie Canale

2012 Membership

Annual memberships of the Dante Alighieri Society (\$20 single \$25 family) are now overdue. Forms at the Dante office or downloaded from the Dante’s web-site: www.dantegoldcoast.com

Sponsors

We invite sponsors for our newsletter and for the web site. Contact Tony on 55398940.

*Societa` Dante Alighieri Gold Coast Inc.***NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING****7 p.m. Thursday 15th March 2012****Dante Rooms, rear of Gold Coast Italo Australian Club,
18 Fairway Drive, Clear Island Waters****Nominations for 2012 Committee****Members are invited to nominate for election to the Committee. The two nominators and the nominee must be financial members.****At this meeting, officers will be elected to the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and general Committee Members. All Nomination Forms must be in the hands of the Secretary seven (7 days) before the Annual General Meeting. (8th March 2012)****Nomination forms are available, on request,
from the Dante office or at www.dantegoldcoast.com****RENAISSANCE PAINTINGS AT THE NATIONAL
GALLERY OF AUST. - CANBERRA**

Anyone who will be visiting Canberra is encouraged to visit the National Gallery of Australia to view these paintings on loan from their home at The Accademia Carrara in Bergamo. The paintings are by Renaissance artists such as Raphael, Botticelli Ballini, Titian and others.

It is the only time they have been outside of Italy and we are fortunate to have them in Australia.

Paintings on show from now till 9th April 2012. Cost \$25.00. There is limited entry at one time. Book a date and time at: www.nga.gov.au

Hanno detto ,,,,

Le lacrime sono lo sciogliersi del ghiaccio dell'anima.
Hermann Hesse

Se vuoi che la gente pensi bene di te, non parlare bene di te stesso.
Blaise Pascal

Non aspettare il momento crealo!
George Bernard Shaw



*To welcome Students and
Dante friends
"Una Serata in Maschera"*

*You are invited to an
Italian Wine and Cheese
In Maschera
Saturday 25th February
6.30 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Dante Courtyard*

*Sample some of Italy's best
wines and cheeses and enjoy
the Carnevale atmosphere!!*

*Cost \$10 per person
No special attire but mask
a must! (Masks available at
the Dante)*

*Prepaid admission
RSVP*

*Rita 55270797
Connie 55758882*

