



DANTE NEWS GOLD COAST

August/agosto 2023



LETTERA DEL PRESIDENTE

DATE CLAIMER

Saturday 12th August
Meet the author

Friday 8th September
Serata e Mercatino

16th September
School holidays

Dear Members and Friends

Welcome to our new members. I hope you are enjoying your Italian learning experience.

Thank you to the generous students and other members and friends for the fantastic donations for our raffles and **mercato**. There are some listed on Pagina 3. We are happy to receive more. Thank you to Luisa, Clelia, Lesley, Rena, Ester, Vilma, Robyn and all the other helpers who are organising our next fundraiser. We had a **Summer Serata** in 2021 and this year it will be a **Spring Serata**. There are many unique items in the mercato. The Mercato will be open on the Club terrace from 12 noon to 9 p.m. on Friday 8th September to give more people an opportunity to browse and buy during the day and also during the evening function **Serata**. Please keep the date free and tell your friends.

We have had a great response to the Meet the Author function on the 12th August. If you have not contacted me to add your name to the guest list please let me know as soon as possible.

In this newsletter are other articles by Deanna Nott and Jaquie Shelton. If you have just come back from Italy we would love to hear from you. I would like to organise an afternoon to share information and experiences of travelling in Italy.

Our Life Member, Tony Carnovale shares how to listen to radio programmes from all over the world, on Pagina 8.

The monthly Ladies Lunch organised by the Gold Coast Italo Australian Club was held on the 28th July. The meal was good, the company was great and the music trivia was interesting. Vilma and I came last in that. The afternoon finished with a birthday cake for Nives Ceccato and delicious *paste di mandorla* made by Marilyn Zavattin.

Cordiali saluti a tutti

Giovanna
Cav. Giovanna Santomauro
Presidente, Società Dante Alighieri Gold Coast Inc.

Società Dante Alighieri Gold Coast Inc

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Facebook Dante Gold Coast Australia

Instagram @dantegoldcoast

Ciao a tutti,

Thank you to our lovely students who find themselves in Italy at this time and are sending us photos of their wonderful holiday and beautiful places they are visiting. We are envious!!

Certificates from end of Semester 1

Students not present at their last class last semester, could you please make arrangements with me if you wish to collect them. Unfortunately, we are unable to mail these out.

Changes to -End of semester course certificates

Our courses run in blocks of 18 weeks and the Italian for Travellers courses is of 8 weeks. At the conclusion of these courses, we do prepare and give out Certificates of participation. Some of our long time students requested not to have these prepared and so in the past few years, we have only prepared for Italian for Travellers, Beginners 1, 2 and 3. As it is a certificate of participation, from this semester, we will only be preparing certificates for the **completion of at least 15 lessons of 18** for the semester courses and **at least 7 of the 8** for Italian for Travellers.

If you are in other levels and would like to receive a certificate for work reason etc, please let the teacher know at the end of the semester and a certificate will be prepared if you have completed the minimum number of weeks necessary.

Italian for Travellers

At the start of this semester, we did not have enough students to commence this course, but I am happy to say that both the day and evening classes will commence next week.

Conversation classes Online

If you are interested in these, please contact me.

Semester 2 Dates

Term 1 10 July - 15 Sept
Term 2 2 October- 24 Nov
Sept holidays - 16 Sept – 1 Oct

Private Classes

If you are interested in private classes, prices and the online form are available on the website.

Any questions or concerns about the school, please call me on 55270797 or email me:

info@dantegoldcoast.com



**ITALIAN
CONVERSATION
CLASSES ONLINE**

8-15-22 August
Tuesday 6.30 pm - 8.00pm

For all intermediate levels+

3 week course
Price - \$90

Book now
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info@dantegoldcoast.com.au

DA

Minimum numbers required

Rita

School Director

Serata e Mercatino

Friday, 08 September 2023

VENUE: Italo-Australian Club
18 Fairway Drive, Clear Island Waters

12.00 noon Mercatino on the verandah
(market will be open until 9 p.m.)

The Serata 6 – 9 p.m.

COST \$35

Includes:

- *fashion parade by DANAE boutique*
- *live music* raffles *
- *Assaggini (grazing table)*
- * lucky door prizes*

Money raised will go towards the Gold Coast Dante Alighieri School



One of the raffle prizes given in honour of Dante Life Member, Mariette Alda by Sonia Stradiotto Couture, Marina Mirage, a \$1000 costume jewellery accessory gift package. Some other prizes ➡



Lesley McCrae working in her studio

SOME RAFFLE PRIZES

Accommodation at Star Casino
\$300 gift basket from Italiquore
\$120 vouchers at Double Zero
\$50 voucher at Bumbles
\$15 voucher Scoop Gelati Bar
\$20 voucher Social Brew
and many more

Agerola, in Campania nel sud Italia, è conosciuta come la 'piccola Svizzera' per il suo bellissimo paesaggio montano, l'aria fresca e le strade alpine. All'interno del suo comune si trova Bomerano, un piccolo borgo, la porta d'accesso al 'Sentiero degli Dei'. Una targa nella piazza indica dove inizia la passeggiata. Il sentiero è ben segnalato con cartelli e indicatori rossi e bianchi. Il sentiero attraverso una delle gole più spettacolari e selvagge della Costiera Amalfitana con panorami mozzafiato su Capri e sul Golfo di Napoli. Accanto, ci sono grotte scavate nella roccia e terrazze che scendono dalle scogliere verso il mare e profonde valli. Non è per i deboli di cuore o gli inadaptati in quanto è irregolare, roccioso a volte e ci sono molte scale. Alcuni punti pendono letteralmente oltre il bordo della scogliera. Il sentiero prosegue verso Montepertuso, dove si immerge lungo un antico vicolo lastricato fino al mare di Positano (per tornare, prendi un taxi!).

A dispetto del nome, il sentiero è un monumento all'opera dell'Uomo che, nel corso dei secoli, ha saputo domare e insediare anche i luoghi più impraticabili della Costiera Amalfitana.

Il sentiero è ancora utilizzato da pastori, contadini e boscaioli. Agerola ha ancora boschi di castagni, frutteti e vecchi vigneti aggrappati alla montagna. Qui si coltivava il vitigno più antico della Campania ('ped'e palomma'). Storicamente, Agerola era conosciuta per la sua coltivazione di un particolare tipo di rosa, la bianca 'rosaria', utilizzata per realizzare raffinate essenze profumate, per l'allevamento dei bachi da seta, la muratura, la posateria e gli abitanti erano considerati i migliori ceramisti. Oggi è conosciuta per la sua razza bovina locale, chiamata 'mucca agerolese'.

Ufficialmente riconosciuto nel 1952, viene utilizzato per la produzione di latte.

Se siete ad Agerola il Venerdì Santo, cercate la 'processione dei Battenti'. I Battenti erano frati, così chiamati perché anticamente usavano battersi la schiena con una doppia corda di canapa e vestivano con un cappuccio bianco. Gli abitanti festeggiano questa tradizione, passeggiando per le stradine del paese accompagnata da canti popolari e liturgici.

Agerola, in Campania in southern Italy, is known as 'little Switzerland' for its beautiful mountain landscape, cool air, and alpine-like streets. Within its municipality is Bomerano, a small village, the gateway to the Path of the Gods. A plaque in the piazza indicates where the walk starts. The path is well-marked with signs and red and white markers. The path crosses one of the most spectacular and wild gorges of the Amalfi Coast with breathtaking views of Capri and the Bay of Naples. Alongside, there are caves hollowed into the rock and terraces dropping from the cliffs to the sea and deep valleys. It is not for the faint-hearted or the unfit as it is uneven, rocky in places and there are many stairs. Some spots literally hang over the edge of the cliff. The path continues towards Montepertuso, where it plunges along an ancient, paved alley to the sea in Positano (suggest getting a taxi back!). Despite the name, the path is a monument to the work of Man who, throughout the ages, has been able to tame and settle even the most impracticable places on the Amalfi Coast.

The path is still used by shepherds, farmers and woodsmen. Agerola still has chestnut woods, orchards and old vineyards clinging to the mountain. The most ancient grape vine in Campania ('ped'e palomma') was cultivated here. Historically, Agerola was known for its cultivation of a special type of rose: the white 'rosaria', used to make refined perfume essences, for breeding silkworms, brickwork, cutlery and the locals were considered the best ceramicists of the coast. Today it is known for its local breed of cattle, called 'mucca agerolese'. Officially recognised in 1952, it is used for milk production. If you are in Agerola on Good Friday, look out for the 'procession of the Battenti', friars, so-called because in ancient times they used to beat their own backs with a double hemp rope and used a white hood to cover their faces. The locals celebrate this ancient tradition, walking all around the village's narrow streets accompanied by popular and liturgical chants.

Jaquie Shelton (Lingua Cultura e` Societa`)

Dreaming of Liguria – Lerici and its delightful surrounds

By Deanna Nott

After a wonderful stay in San Casciano, it was time to head off to Lerici.

Given it was only a couple of hours of driving, we decided to break our journey in Vinci, a charming village known as the birthplace of the legendary Leonardo da Vinci. As we ventured through the streets of Vinci, after eventually finding a free car park behind the local primary school, we couldn't help but feel inspired by the profound influence of this genius artist, scientist and inventor. We visited the museum dedicated to Leonardo's legacy, which showcased replicas of his most famous works. It was truly a fascinating experience that allowed us to delve into his brilliant mind and artistic genius. We also climbed a few dozen stairs to the top of the bell tower to take in the spectacular Tuscan countryside. From the top, you had a 360° view of the spectacular rolling green fields and small townships that were far off in the distance. While we were there, and you can see it on our @aussiesinitalia Instagram page, it happened to be *mezzogiorno*, so the bells of the adjoining church were ringing out, which added a delightful, authentic soundtrack to our videos and photographs! We also drove about 10 minutes outside of Vinci - it would've been five minutes if a tourist bus had not blocked our way out of the main town - to visit his actual birthplace, a small yet well-appointed historic home. It was so well-preserved. We purchased a pass at the museum entrance that let us into all of the top spots – it was good value at 12 Euro per adult.

From Vinci, we made our way to Lucca, a picturesque city with medieval charm. During our visit, we couldn't resist stopping at Gelateria Paniko, Trip Advisor's top pick for best *gelato* in Lucca. We indulged in the mouth-watering *cioccolato* of their handmade *gelati*, and it was a treat to discover that the owner's mother meticulously crafts each batch. The son spoke excellent English, but I insisted we must speak Italian! The *gelato* was simply divine and added an extra touch of sweetness to our time in Lucca. This cute town, with a brilliant cathedral with an unusual embossed labyrinth on the wall as you enter (just look to the right), was also a fantastic spot for shopping - I bought a gorgeous crocheted yellow jumper from a random designer outlet! One of the highlights of our visit to Lucca was exploring the impressive city walls. We had wanted to take a leisurely stroll along the fortified perimeter, admiring the panoramic views of the city and soaking in the unique atmosphere. The only problem was that it started to bucket down rain, so it was rather a quick run/walk around before we sprinted to our car that had been strategically parked on the outskirts. While it took a while to find a car park, it was reasonably cheap and relatively convenient.

After our time in Lucca, we ventured to the charming coastal town of Lerici, where we spent five unforgettable nights. We stayed at the delightful Piccolo Hotel Del Lido, which provided us with stunning views of the Bay of Poets, where Lord Byron and Mary Shelley wrote so many of their classics. It was the perfect base for our explorations and a cosy retreat to relax after a day of learning and adventure. The beauty of this hotel is that it only has 12 rooms, and each one has its own personal sundeck! We sure took advantage of that and the delicious never-ending breakfasts. Sandy and her staff were truly amazing and made the stay one that we want to replicate as quickly as possible!

During our stay in Lerici, we took a day trip to Carrara, a town famous for its marble quarries. We visited the Caveo Museo Fantiscritti, where we learned about the arduous work that young children used to undertake in the marble industry. It was a humbling experience that deepened our appreciation for the craftsmanship and dedication that goes into this ancient art form.

We also visited Sarzana, a charming town near Carrara. Nestled between the Apuan Alps and the Mediterranean Sea, Sarzana boasts a captivating blend of history and natural beauty. Its medieval heritage can be taken in at every turn - well-preserved architecture, narrow alleys, and ancient walls encircle the town. Sadly, we arrived during *la pausa*; so most of the cute shops were closed. That said, it was worth a quick visit

(Continued on Pagina 6)

Dreaming of Liguria – Lerici and its delightful surrounds (Continued from Pagina 5)

When it came to dining in Lerici, we discovered a multitude of gastronomic delights. We tried the marinated anchovies wherever we went, and of course, we were always looking for the ultimate *aperitivi*!

Ristorante Il Frantoio was a standout, offering exquisite Tuscan cuisine that delighted our taste buds. My favourite was the pesto and pea pasta! It was also particularly cool because it had an original olive oil press immediately behind us in the dining room.

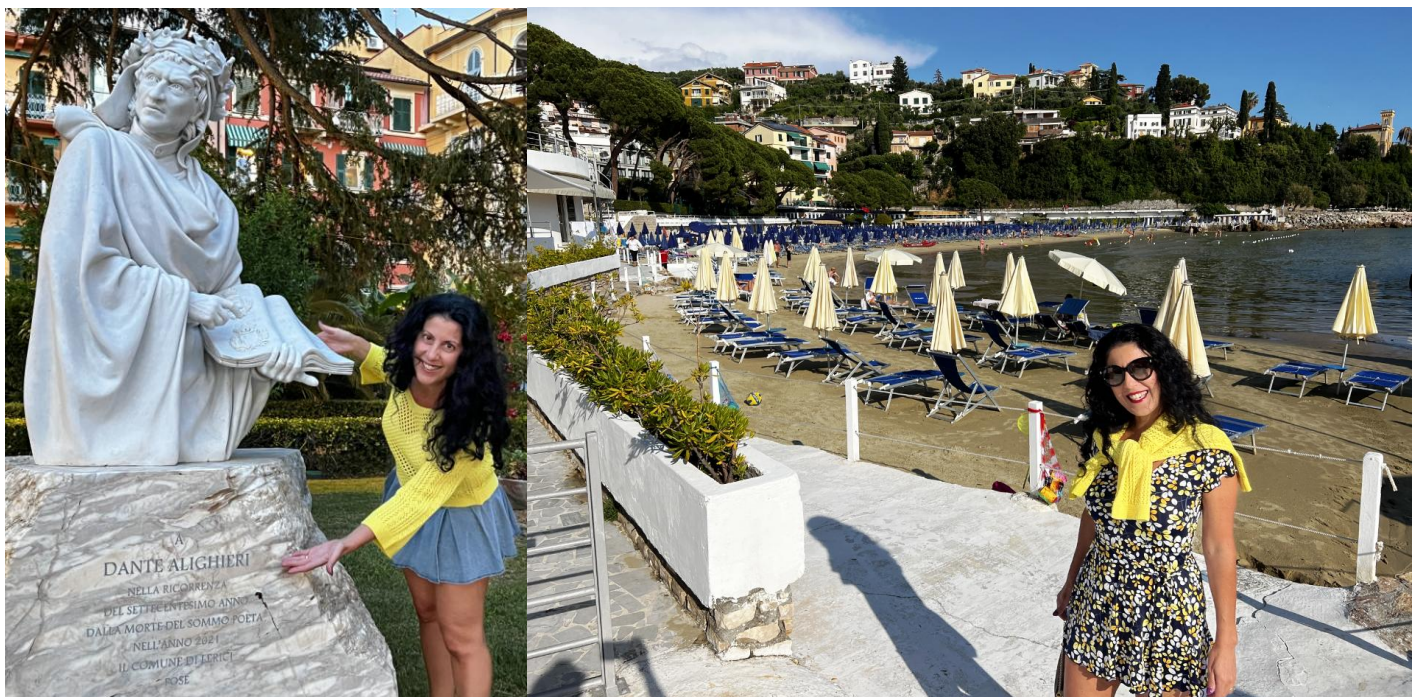
Another notable dining experience was at La Conchiglia, a charming seafood restaurant with a breathtaking view of the bay. And for those seeking a more budget-friendly option, we highly recommend Osteria Del Vicolo, where we enjoyed delicious food and a long chat with a local fisherman, while savouring the *vino della casa*.

Naturally, if you have not visited this area, we would highly encourage you to visit Portovenere and the beautiful Cinque Terre... But you must remember that it is not what it used to be... we were told by locals to avoid it given it is now so full of tourists.

Next stop... we return to Rome...

Addresses to take note of:

- Leonardo da Vinci Museum (Museo Leonardiano): Via Montalbano, 4, 50059 Vinci FI, Italy
- Gelateria Paniko: Via San Paolino, 101, 55100 Lucca LU, Italy
- Piccolo Hotel Del Lido: Lungomare Biaggini, 24. - 19032 - Lerici (SP)
- Ristorante Il Frantoio: Via Montebello, 48, 19032 Lerici SP, Italy
- La Conchiglia: Piazza Garibaldi, 10, 19032 Lerici SP, Italy
- Osteria Del Vicolo: Via del Vicolo, 27, 19032 Lerici SP, Italy
- Caveo Museo Fantiscritti: Via Fantiscritti, 40, 54033 Carrara MS, Italy



At Lerici with the statue of Dante Alighieri

In Lerici at Bay of Poets

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PIANTA MADRE CATTIVA- Bad Mother Plant

In some parts of Italy this plant is called Bad Mother, *Pianta Madre Cattiva*. It encourages its offspring to find nourishment early in life, thus leaving it to its own devices.

Luisa Liussi



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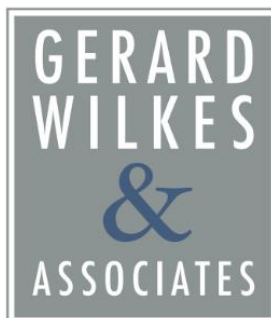
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Last month we celebrated Dante Life Member, Tony Carnovale's birthday. Tony wrote this for us.

Thank you Giovanna, Judy, Pam and John for the coffee and cake to celebrate my birthday.

I joined Giovanna on a visit to Connie Canale who for many years was the social secretary and helped organise many enjoyable functions and Opera outings. We found her in good spirits and she sends her regards to all at the Dante. She is at Arcare Helensvale.

If you would like to listen to a radio programme from Russia, China, Sicily or Scotland log in on your computer to "Radio Garden" rotate a globe of the world to where you want to go. The little lights will be a station in that country. Good listening!!



LADIES LUNCH at Club



CORO LADIES



LADIES LUNCH at Club

