

Dante Alighieri Society in Hong Kong

VOL. 8

MAY 2013



THIS IS A
MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER
FROM DANTE
ALIGHIERI
SOCIETY IN HONG
KONG

DANTE ALIGHIERI
SOCIETY IS AN
ITALIAN
CULTURAL
SOCIETY THAT
PROMOTES THE
ITALIAN
LANGUAGE
STUDIES AND
CULTURE
THROUGHOUT
THE WORLD.
WE PROVIDE
ITALIAN COURSES
FROM BEGINNER
TO ADVANCED
LEVELS TO ADULTS
AND CHILDREN.
TO SUIT YOUR
EXACT NEEDS,
WE CAN ORGANIZE
PRIVATE
ONE-ON-ONE OR
SMALL GROUP
LESSONS AND OUR
TEACHERS CAN
ALSO TEACH IN
YOUR COMPANY
AND TAILOR-MAKE
A COURSE TO SUIT
YOUR NEEDS.



Beautiful Bologna

By Joanna Hewitt

I had the *buona fortuna* to be in Bologna this March for the annual Children's Book Fair, and would officially like to apologise for the drizzle and arctic temperatures that obviously accompanied me in my Ryan Air 10kg carry-on.

Bologna is known as *la città rossa*, not only for its politics but for the sunset reds of its buildings. Extensive research (well, Google) failed to provide a conclusive reason for the uniformity of the colour scheme. However, one can presume that apartment owners with grand plans for a change in hue will be swiftly dealt with by the appropriate bureaucratic department. Aesthetics is as good a reason as any one supposes.

It is also known as the fat city. *La grassa* we do appreciate honesty, creamy pasta sauces and rich meat dishes, marvellous. I failed to try the most celebrated of Italian creations though. I'm sorry - artichokes were in season and *sangiovese* sauces were wafted under my nose. Such a build up could only have ended in disappointment. Note to stranieri - do not embarrass yourself by ordering spaghetti bolognese. "Tagliatelle al ragu" is what you need to utter to get your *bonafide bolognese* experience.

Of all cities to visit in the rain Bologna must rank *numero uno*. It is supported by an astounding 40km of painted porticos offering shelter and enticing you to enter its retail, cafe and restaurant burrows.

Equally thoughtful is a well-planned Roman layout making it easy for incompetent map readers, such as I, to navigate her way around. From medieval towers, to the main *Piazza Maggiore* to colossal *Basilica di San Petronio* and into a bar all done with ease, on foot and no need for a ghastly umbrella.

Bologna if you're this good in the rain I look forward to meeting you with my thermals off and my sunglasses on.

Joanna Hewitt is a travel writer and author of the "Dillon Zooms" children's travel book series. She is also a talented Dante Alighieri student.



Dante Alighieri Membership Card



Dear Members, Students and Friends of Dante Alighieri,

We are extremely happy to share with you a **remarkable breakthrough** in our **Dante Alighieri Membership scheme**.

New Benefits in Hong Kong

As you may already know, our DA members could enjoy many exclusive and special discounts in Hong Kong. We have recently reached the number of 30 sponsors. (For details, please check our web site: www.ladante.cc)

Enjoying Benefits also in Italy and Tokyo

We are delighted to inform you that from now on our Dante Alighieri Members will have immediate access also to the privilege list offered by our **Headquarter Dante Alighieri Roma** (please click http://www.ladante.it/sites/default/files/libro%20delle%20convenzioni_0.pdf) and that by **Dante Alighieri Tokyo** (please click: <http://www.il-centro.net/dante/convenzioni/giappone/index.html>).

This means that in addition to the offers and discounts in Hong Kong, our DA members are also entitled to the benefits from the huge list of discounts and promotions all over Italy and Tokyo including several hotels, museums, theatres and cinemas, book stores, restaurants, travel agencies, home living, clothes shops and more... (**More than 200 sponsors in Italy and 14 sponsors in Tokyo!**)

Surprises from Member-get-member program

We are also thrilled to announce the launch of the **new Membership 2013 promotion "Member-get-member"**. By introducing us a new member, you will immediately receive vouchers and discount gifts from our sponsors. You will be also eligible to participate in our **summer lucky draw that will take place at Dante Alighieri Society on 31 Aug 2013**. The lottery will include gadgets from Italian companies, dining vouchers, free cooking and wine classes in our school.

Take action now! BE A DANTE ALIGHIERI AMBASSADOR! Help us to spread the news on how handy being a DA member is, and we will reward your precious help with loads of amazing prizes!

Thank you for your continuous support,
Dante Alighieri Society – Hong Kong



Dante Alighieri Society
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PRIVILEGES NOT TO MISS WHEN VISITING ITALY

DA members can enjoy the special offers from the below starred hotels:

Rome:

Ambra Palace Hotel ****
Atahotel Villapamphili ****
Colonna Palace Hotel ****

Palermo:

Astoria Palace Hotel ****
Cristal Palace Hotels ****

Siena:

Hotel Villa Scacciapensieri ****

Florence:

Hotel Villa La Vedetta *****
Hotel Londra ****
Grand Hotel Minerva ****
Hotel Monna Lisa ****

Bologna:

Palazzo Loup Hotel *****

Italians in Australia

by Tracy Chan


During my recent trip to Cairns, Australia, apart from the obligatory tour to the captivating Great Reef Barrier, I did something special, an Italian lesson with a young dedicated teacher, Giuliano Alberti.

Combining his genuine passion for teaching and his interest for the English language, Giuliano decided to settle down in Australia few years ago and he is now the Language Coordinator in Dante Alighieri Society in Cairns.

Giuliano has prepared us an absorbing lesson with a wealth of learning materials such as Italian grammar exercises, a presentation of the Liberation Day, film clips and Italian gestures.

Students came for different reasons but most of them were for reconnecting their ancestral roots and picking up the Italian language which has been sadly lost through generations of immigrant families.

Giuliano further explained to me that in Queensland, cities such as Innisfail are famed for sugarcane activities. Many Italians moved there for work opportunity.

Uncovering the eventful past and how the Italian language and culture are preserved in these cities become my compelling reasons to visit Australia again. 



(Above) Postcard from Cairns; Giuliano shares the Tiramisu flavoured biscuits with the students in class. Dante Alighieri Society in Cairns: www.dantecairns.com/



una serata italiana con... Savio Pesavento e Cristiano Maestrini



"Arte O Design?"

ESSESS
DESIGNERFABBRICA

by Savio Pesavento and Cristiano Maestrini from Essess DESIGNER FABBRICA

They will introduce us to the Italian Design, from the past to the modern trends and they will also share with us their experiences of Italian Design in Hong Kong.

Essess Designer Fabbrica has been in Hong Kong since 1998 and works to propose and supply the furniture, lighting and accessories from the best brands, supporting all phases of the project development. Today, Essess Designer Fabbrica has grown into a group of companies that also cater the retail industry through Kartell Hong Kong Flagship Store in Wyndham Street. To know more about Essess FABBRICA please click: <http://www.essessltd.com/>

Please don't miss this amazing opportunity!

Date: Friday, 24 May 2013

Time: 7:00 - 8:30 pm

**Venue: Essess DESIGNER FABBRICA Showroom,
608 Yu Yuet Lai Building, 43-55 Wyndham Street,
Central, Hong Kong**

For registration, please click:

http://www.ladante.cc/event_registration.html

una serata italiana con...



The Italian Actor: Mr. ENRICO LO VERSO

The famous Italian Actor, Mr. Enrico Lo Verso was in Hong Kong for "Hong Kong Salento International Film Festival 2013 from 8-12 May at THE GRAND CINEMA in Elements.




Edoardo Ponti, the son of the Italian actress Sophia Loren and Carlo Ponti, with Nastassja Kinski and Enrico Lo Verso.

Surprisingly and fortunately, we could meet Mr. Enrico Lo Verso and ask some questions after the short movie, "The Nighshift Belongs to the Stars".

The event was organized by Salento Cinema in collaboration with the Consulate General of Italy in Hong Kong, and they also invited our Dante Alighieri Students to some of the movies!!!

We watched *STOLEN CHILDREN* by Gianni Amelio, Italy 1992, on

Friday 10 May and the successful comedy "It May Be Love But Doesn't Show" by two appreciated Italian comedians, Salvatore Ficarra and Valentino Picone; the drama about infanticide "Maternity Blues" by Fabrizio Cattani and the new 23-minute short-film "The Nightshift Belongs to the Stars" directed by

We organized the unforgettable dinner for Mr. Enrico Lo Verso with Dante Alighieri students. During the dinner students were able to talk with him and ask him questions in Italian. 





Upcoming Italian Language Courses, Cultural Events and Workshops

Una Serata Italiana con...

Savio Pesavento e Cristiano Maestrini

Date: Friday, 24 May 2013,
Time: 19:00 - 20:30

Venue: Essess DESIGNER FABBRICA Showroom,
608 Yu Yuet Lai Building, 43-55 Wyndham Street,
Central, Hong Kong

Opera Workshops

An Introduction to Aida and Ballo in Maschera

Date: Wednesday, 5 June 2013

"Prima la musica e poi le parole"

in collaboration with

Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

(Participants of this workshop can buy a discounted ticket of
Zone B for the Mozart vs Salieri Concert at \$238
- Please email to elisa@ladante.cc for further information)

Date: Tuesday, 11 June 2013

An Introduction to Gianni Schicchi e La Serva Padrona in collaboration with The Italian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong and Macao

(Participants of this workshop are entitled to a 10% discount
on the Opera Ticket - Please email to elisa@ladante.cc
for further information)

Date: Wednesday, 19 June 2013

All Opera Workshops

Time: 19:00 - 21:00

Fee: \$200 (\$180 for DA Current Students and Members)

Venue: Dante Alighieri Society in Hong Kong

Registration: http://www.ladante.cc/event_registration.html

New Italian Language Course

Intensive A1

Wednesday and Friday, 10:00 - 12:00, from 29 May to 30 Aug
2013 (No lesson on 12 Jun 2013)

Beginner I

Friday, 14:00 - 16:00, from 31 May to 6 Sep 2013

Beginner I

Saturday, 10:00 - 13:00, from 13 Jul to 14 Sep 2013

Beginner II

Friday, 19:00 - 21:00, from 21 Jun to 27 Sep 2013

Beginner III

Saturday, 14:00 - 17:00, from 29 Jun to 31 Aug 2013

Intensive A2

Monday and Thursday 10:00 - 12:00, from 17 Jun to 19 Sep
2013 (No lesson on 1 Jul 2013)

Beginner IV

Wednesday, 19:00 - 21:00, from 5 Jun to 18 Sep 2013

Intermediate I

Saturday, 10:00 - 13:00, from 6 Jul to 7 Sep 2013

Intermediate III

Saturday, 14:00 - 17:00 (3 hours), from 29 Jun to 31 Aug 2013

Intermediate V

Thursday, 15:00 - 17:00, from 9 May to 15 Aug 2013

Advanced III

Thursday, 19:00 - 21:00, from 4 Jul to 10 Oct 2013

Advanced IV

Monday, 19:00 - 21:00, from 26 Jun to 7 Oct 2013
(No lesson on 1 Jul 2013)

Prendiamo un caffè (The Italian Conversation Class)

Level and Date:

A1: 23 May 2013

A2: 30 May 2013

B1: 6 Jun 2013

B2 or above: 13 Jun 2013

Place: Unit A&B, 4/F Kiu Yin Commercial Building,
361-363 Lockhart Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong

Time: 19:00 - 21:00

Fee: \$180 (current DA students: \$150) per class

Dante Alighieri Society in Hong Kong

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