

# Malta Independent on Sunday - 9.09.12

WOULD you like to help improve restaurants in the Maltese Islands? By participating and voting for your favourite restaurants in the *Definitively Good Guide to Restaurants in Malta and Gozo* annual Restaurant Survey you will help to create Malta's number one restaurant guide, *The Definitively Good Guide to Restaurants in Malta and Gozo* sponsored by MTA, HSBC and Marsovin. Your support of your favourite restaurants will help to improve Malta's restaurant infrastructure by guiding locals and tourists to the good restaurants and therefore helping to improve their business.

During the month of September you can participate online at [www.restaurantsmalta.com](http://www.restaurantsmalta.com). Out of an incredible 1000 plus restaurants on the islands your top survey rated 150 restaurants will be included in the Guide.

Throughout the year we receive many complaints about restaurants – everyone has a bad restaurant experience to report – Now you will have

the opportunity to do something about it!

As in previous years you can win some fantastic prizes by participating: 7 nights at the Corinthia Hotel, St George's Bay, one night at The Hilton, Malta, St Julians, a lavish hamper from Dical House, Mosta and copies of *The Definitive (ly) Best Restaurants in Malta & Gozo*.

The Definitive(ly) Good Guide Restaurant Survey asks eaters-out to rate all the restaurants they have frequented in the last 12 months on a scale of 1-10 for Food, Service and Ambience. It invites you to answer additional questions including what you think is the best Maltese restaurant; best restaurant for business entertainment; best value for money restaurant; most romantic restaurant; most child friendly restaurant and the best restaurant restroom, as well as which are your favourite wine lists. It also invites more general comment. So log into [www.restaurantmalta.com](http://www.restaurantmalta.com) and prepare to get voting from 1st September!



restaurantsMalta.com

# De Mondion takes Top Prize

MaltaToday - 23.12.12

maltatoday, SUNDAY, 23 DECEMBER 2012

## De Mondion takes top prize at The Definitive(ly) Good Guide Awards



Left to right: Adrian Bonello, Kevin Bonello, Josef Formosa Gauci, Nicola Paris, Paul Steel, Joshua Borg, Joseph Marmara, Alfred Cuschieri and Lisa Grech

DE Mondion Restaurant has this year won the top overall Restaurant Award in Malta and Gozo for the third year running, on the basis of food, service and ambience in the annual survey conducted by the Definitive(ly) Good Guide to Restaurants supported by MTA, HSBC and Marsovin.

More than 1,300 regular diners took part in the survey – the largest response to date, voting for their favourite restaurants on the islands. As respondents eat out at least twice a week on average, this is the equivalent of more than 132,000 individual dining experiences. The 2013 edition sees 45 new restaurants entering the Guide. The results were revealed on 10 December when Josef Formosa Gauci, CEO of the Malta Tourism Authority, Paul Steel from HSBC and Alfred Cuschieri of Continental Purchasing presented awards supplied by Villeroy & Boch at the Guide's Gala Dinner – which has established itself

over the last twelve years as the most prestigious food event in Malta and the equivalent of the 'Oscars for Restaurants' – at the Grand Hotel Excelsior in Floriana.

The Guide and the updated version with the latest survey results of [www.restaurantsmalta.com](http://www.restaurantsmalta.com) were also launched on the evening. Denise Briffa on behalf of The Definitive(ly) Good Guide Co said of the Guide, said that for thirteen years, "the Definitive(ly) Good Guide to Restaurants in Malta and Gozo have been seeking out the best restaurants in Malta and Gozo by conducting a restaurant survey. The results each year are always very exciting with a number of restaurants continually being rated as well as a great number of new additions to the restaurant scene.

"Thirteen years on, the Guide is still considered to be the number one Restaurant Survey and Restaurant Guide in Malta for objectivity and comprehensiveness".



restaurantsMalta.com



# Restaurant Awards

The Malta Business Weekly - 20.12.12

## Malta's Restaurant Awards

le Mondion Restaurant has this year won the top overall Restaurant Award in Malta and Gozo for the third year running, on the basis of food, service and ambience according to the annual survey conducted by the Definitive(y) Good Guide to Restaurants supported by MTA, HSBC and Marsosin.

More than 1,300 regular diners took part in the survey, the largest response to-date, voting for their favourite restaurants on the islands. As respondents eat out at least twice a week on average, this is the equivalent of more than 2,000 individual dining experiences. The 2013 edition sees 45 new restaurants entering the guide.

The results were revealed on 10 December when Mr Formosa Gauci, CEO of The Malta Tourism Authority, Paul Steel from HSBC and Alfred Cuschieri of Continental Purchasing presented the awards supplied by Continental Purchasing on behalf of Villeroy & Boch at the Guide's Gala Dinner, which was held at the Grand Hotel Corsica in Floriana.

Denise Briffa on behalf of The Definitive(y) Good Guide Co. said: "For 13 years The Definitive(y) Good Guide to Restaurants in Malta and Gozo has been seeking the best restaurants in Malta and Gozo by conducting a restaurant survey. The results each year are always very exciting, with a number of restaurants continually uprated as well as a great number of new additions."

The restaurants that received Restaurant Awards based on food, service, ambience and overall rating (in order from top rated) were:

Mondion  
Tarragon  
Frenck  
bekah's  
Zana  
dina  
azzo Preca  
ipe's  
ebo  
Villa  
ito's



**Winner of the Overall Best Restaurant in Malta and Gozo: de Mondion presented by sponsors MTA, HSBC and Continental Purchasing. From left: Adrian Bonello (chef de cuisine), Kevin Bonello (Group chef de cuisine), Josef Formosa Gauci (CEO of MTA), Nicola Paris (director of the Xara Palace), Paul Steel (HSBC), Joshua Borg (sommelier), Joseph Marmara (restaurant supervisor), Alfred Cuschieri (Continental Purchasing) and Lisa Grech, MD of Definitive(y) Good Guide Co**

Zest  
Tartarun  
Zeri's  
Blue Elephant  
Palazzo Parisio and Gardens –  
The Luna Collection  
Ta' Karolina  
Botteg del Vino  
Essence  
Grill 3301  
Nargile  
Sa Re Ga Ma  
Ristorante Da Marina  
Pintonino  
Merkanti Bistrot  
The Arches  
Giuseppi's  
La Capanna  
Tmun Mgarr  
The Boat House

The Lord Nelson  
Il-Mithna  
TemptAsian  
Parapett  
The Pegasus  
Rickshaw  
Paranga  
Guze' Bistro  
Duo  
Patrick's Tmun

Additional awards were made to:

- Best Food (sponsored by AirMalta) – de Mondion
- Best Service (sponsored by Charles Grech) – de Mondion
- Best Ambience (sponsored by F. Busuttill & Sons) – Palazzo Parisio and Gardens
- Best Maltese Food (sponsored by

Ministry for Tourism) – Ta' Marija  

- Best Business Entertainment (sponsored by The Catering Centre) – Tarragon
- Most Romantic Restaurant – Tarragon
- Best Children-Friendly (sponsored by the Malta Baby & Kids Directory) – Mamma Mia
- Best Restaurant offering Vegetarian options (sponsored by Good Earth Ltd) – Angka Cafe
- Best Restroom – Blue Elephant
- Best Value for Money (sponsored by Jolly Ltd) – Mamma Mia

Tarragon's wine list was rated for The People's Choice wine list. Patrick's was voted for best Pres-

entation and Accessibility wine list and best Overall wine list. De Mondion wine list was voted best for "fine wines" and Ta' Marija had the best list of Maltese wines. The wine awards were supported by Marsosin, who, with MTA and HSBC, support the Guide.

The results of the Restaurant Survey can be found in the 2013 edition of *The Definitive(y) Good Guide to Restaurants in Malta and Gozo* and is now available to purchase online for €8 at [www.restaurantsmalta.com](http://www.restaurantsmalta.com). The cost will also entitle you to the Guide online and a free hard copy in the post. It is also available at leading stationers and bookshops in Malta and Gozo.



restaurantsMalta.com

# Restaurant Awards

The Malta Independent -15.12.12

## The Definitive(ly) Good Guide to Restaurants announces Malta's restaurant awards

de Mondion Restaurant, has this year won the top overall Restaurant Award in Malta and Gozo for the third year running, on the basis of food, service and ambience according to the annual survey conducted by *The Definitive(ly) Good Guide to Restaurants* supported by MTA, HSBC and Marsovin. More than 1300 regular diners took part in the survey - the largest response to date, voting for their favourite restaurants on the islands. As respondents eat out at least twice a week on average, this is the equivalent of more than 132,000 individual dining experiences. The 2013 edition sees 45 new restaurants entering the Guide. The results were revealed on Monday 10 December when Josef Formosa, Managing Director of The Malta Tourism Authority, Paul Steel from HSBC and Alfred Cuschieri of Continental Purchasing presented awards on behalf of Villeroy & Boch at the Guide's Gala Dinner - which has established itself over the last years as the most prestigious

food event in Malta and the equivalent of the 'Oscars for Restaurants' - at the Grand Hotel Excelsior in Floriana.

The Guide and the updated version with the latest survey results of [www.restaurantsmalta.com](http://www.restaurantsmalta.com) were also launched on the evening. Denise Briffa on behalf of The Definitive(ly) Good Guide Co said of the Guide: "For 13 years, *The Definitive(ly) Good Guide to Restaurants in Malta and Gozo* has been seeking out the best restaurants in Malta and Gozo by conducting a restaurant survey. The results each year are always very exciting with a number of restaurants continually being rated, as well as a great number of new additions to the restaurant scene. Thirteen years on, the Guide is still considered to be the number one restaurant survey and restaurant guide in Malta for objectivity and comprehensiveness".

The restaurants that received restaurant awards based on food, service, ambience and overall ratings (in order from top rated) were: de Mondion, Tarragon, Ta' Frenc,



The award presented for best restaurant offering vegetarian options (sponsored by Good Earth Ltd) - Angka Cafe

Rebekah's, Oceana, Medina, Palazzo Preca, Beppe's, Gazebo, The Villa, Pulito's, Zest, Tartarun, Zeri's, Blue Elephant, Palazzo Parisio and Gardens - The Luna Collection, Ta' Karolina, Bottego del Vino, Essence, Grill 3301, Nargile, Sa Re Ga Ma, Ristorante Da Marina, Pintonino, Merkanti Bistro, The Arches, Giuseppe's, La Capanna, Tmun Mgarr, The Boat House, The Lord Nelson, Il-Mithna, Temp-

tAsian, Parapett, The Pegasus, Rickshaw, Paranga, Guze' Bistro, Duo, Patrick's Tmun.

Additional awards were given to:

- Best Food (sponsored by Air-Malta) - de Mondion
- Best Service (sponsored by Charles Grech) - de Mondion
- Best Ambience (sponsored by F Busuttill & Sons) - Palazzo Parisio and Gardens
- Best Maltese Food (sponsored by

Ministry for Tourism) - Ta' Marija

- Best Business Entertainment (sponsored by The Catering Centre) - Tarragon
- Most Romantic Restaurant - Tarragon

- Best Children-Friendly (sponsored by the Malta Baby & Kids Directory) - Mamma Mia
- Best Restaurant offering Vegetarian options (sponsored by Good Earth Ltd) - Angka Cafe
- Best Restroom - Blue Elephant
- Best Value for Money (sponsored by Jolly Ltd) - Mamma Mia

Tarragon wine list was rated for 'The People's Choice', Patrick's was voted for best 'Presentation & Accessibility' wine list and best 'Overall' wine list. De Mondion wine list was voted best for 'fine wines' and Ta' Marija had the best list of 'Maltese wines'. The wine awards were supported by Marsovin, which, with MTA and HSBC, support the Guide.

The results of the Restaurant Survey can be found in the 2013 edition of *The Definitive(ly) Good Guide to Restaurants in Malta and Gozo* and is now available to purchase online for €8 on [www.restaurantsmalta.com](http://www.restaurantsmalta.com) which will also entitle you to the online Guide and a free hard copy in the post. It is also available at leading stationers and bookshops in Malta & Gozo.

This newspaper supports recycling and is printed on recycled newsprint and environmentally friendly water based inks that also keep your fingers clean  
Published by Standard Publications Ltd (+356 21345888)



restaurantsMalta.com



## The Definitive(ly) Good Guide to Restaurants 2012 Survey winners awarded

The winners of The Definitive(ly) Good Guide to Restaurants 2012 Survey sponsored by the Malta Tourism Authority and supported by HSBC and Marsovin, were recently presented with their prizes.

Gabi Mizzi won first prize, a voucher consisting of a two-night stay for two persons in a Deluxe sea view room at the Corinthia Hotel St George's Bay, St Julian's including a lavish buffet breakfast at the Fra Martino Restaurant.

The second prize, a one-night stay for two persons on Bed & Breakfast basis in a Deluxe room at the Hilton Malta, St Julian's went to Christian Zammit, while Miriam Galea won third prize, a €200 lavish gourmet hamper from Dical House, Fine Foods & Wellbeing, Mosta.

Prizes of The Definitive(ly) Best Restaurants in Malta and Gozo coffee table book (photography by Kurt Arrigo) were given to the next 10 best reviewers: Lisa Grech-Mahoney, Alan Micallef, Jeanette Scerri, Abigail Galea, Beverly Farrugia, Michelle Ellul-Micallef, David Magri, James D'Agostino, Jessica Cooke and Jackie Attard Montaldo who returned their surveys with ratings and included the funniest, relevant and most informative comments.

Prize of two tickets to the Gala Award Ceremony held on 10 December at The Grand Hotel Excelsior, Floriana were won by Renato Zerafa for sending in the correct reply for a competition that was held in conjunction with *Taste* magazine.

The 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the Restaurant Guide incorporating results of the 2012 Restaurant Survey will be published soon and will include the top survey rated 150 restaurants out of over 1,800 restaurants on the Maltese islands. There was an overwhelming response to the survey with 1,300 people dining out on average of twice weekly to an equivalent of 132,000 dining experiences in a year.



**First Prize:** The voucher for a two-night stay for two persons in a Deluxe sea view room at the Corinthia Hotel St George's Bay, St Julian's presented by (left) Stuart Chappell, general manager Corinthia Hotel St Georges Bay, (centre) Gabi Mizzi (winner) and Andrea Critien (The Definitive(ly) Good Guide Co)



**Second Prize:** The voucher for a one-night stay for two persons on Bed & Breakfast basis in a Deluxe room at the Hilton Malta, St Julian's, presented by (left) Hilton Malta director of operations Matthias Welzel, Christian Zammit (winner), and (right) Andrea Critien (The Definitive(ly) Good Guide)





THE MALTA INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY  
23 September 2012

# Last chance to vote in the Definitive(ly) Good Guide to Restaurants annual survey

The closing date of 30 September is fast approaching but you are still in time to vote for your favourite restaurants in the Definitive(ly) Good Guide to Restaurants in Malta and Gozo annual Restaurant Survey and help to create Malta's number one authoritative and objective restaurant guide, The Definitive(ly) Good Guide to Restaurants in Malta and Gozo sponsored by MTA, HSBC and Marsovin.


Your support of your favourite restaurants will help to improve Malta's restaurant infrastructure by guiding locals and tourists to the good restaurants and therefore helping to improve their business. The top 150 rated restaurants will be included in the 2013 guide and the top 40 of these will receive the prestigious awards at the Definitive(ly) Good Guide to Restaurants Awards Ceremony in December.

The Definitive(ly) Good Guide Restaurant Survey asks diners to rate all the restaurants they have frequented in the last 12 months on a scale of 1-10 for Food, Service and Ambience. It invites you to answer additional questions including what you think is the best Maltese restaurant; best restaurant for business entertainment; best value for money restaurant; most romantic restaurant; most child friendly restaurant and the best restaurant restroom, as well as which are your favourite wine lists.

As in previous years, with your comments, you could win some fantastic prizes: two nights at the Corinthia Hotel, St George's Bay; one night at The Hilton, Malta, St Julian's; a lavish hamper from Dical House, Mosta and copies of The Definitive(ly) Best Restaurants in Malta & Gozo. Log on to [www.restaurantsmalta.com](http://www.restaurantsmalta.com) to register and participate.

## { THE DEFINITIVE(LY) GOOD GUIDE *Malta's best-selling guide for 43 years* }

# Restaurant Survey 2012

 [restaurantsMalta.com](http://restaurantsMalta.com)

Malta's only objective restaurant guide  
with top 150 survey-rated restaurants

**H**elping locals and tourists to discover the best restaurants in Malta and Gozo is the mission of the Definitive(ly) Good Guide to Restaurants. The guide is published annually and is the most authoritative and objective restaurant guide in Malta and Gozo. It is the only restaurant guide that is based on the opinions of thousands of diners who rate the restaurants they have frequented in the last 12 months on a scale of 1-10 for Food, Service and Ambience. The guide is published annually and is the most authoritative and objective restaurant guide in Malta and Gozo. It is the only restaurant guide that is based on the opinions of thousands of diners who rate the restaurants they have frequented in the last 12 months on a scale of 1-10 for Food, Service and Ambience.

Deadline to return survey: 30 September 2012  
You can also participate online at [www.restaurantsmalta.com](http://www.restaurantsmalta.com)

PRIZES FOR THE BEST DINERS' RESPONSE WITH THE BEST COMBINATION OF NUMBER OF RESTAURANTS RATED, POSITIVE AND HONEST COMMENTS AND PRIZES

**FIRST PRIZE**  
A two-night stay for two persons in a Deluxe Sea View room at the Corinthia Hotel St George's Bay, including a lavish hamper from Dical House, Mosta and copies of The Definitive(ly) Best Restaurants in Malta & Gozo.

**SECOND PRIZE**  
One night stay for two persons in a Deluxe room at The Hilton, Malta, St Julian's, including a lavish hamper from Dical House, Mosta and copies of The Definitive(ly) Best Restaurants in Malta & Gozo.

**THIRD PRIZE**  
A lavish hamper from Dical House, Mosta and copies of The Definitive(ly) Best Restaurants in Malta & Gozo.

The Definitive(ly) Best Restaurants in Malta & Gozo.

 **MARSOVIN**  
The Caters of Malta

 **HSBC**  
The World's Local Bank

 **MALTA**  
The Island of the Sun



[restaurantsMalta.com](http://restaurantsMalta.com)



# Xara Palace Restaurant Top Overall

The Malta Independent on Sunday - 23.12.12

THE MALTA INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY  
23 December 2012

FOOD & DRINK 33

## Xara Palace's de Mondion Restaurant wins prestigious 'Best Overall Restaurant' award

deMondion Restaurant at The Xara Palace Relais & Chateaux, Mdina was the winner of four prestigious awards from The Definitive(ly) Good Food Guide 2012, Best Fine Wine List, Most Popular for Best Food, Most Popular for Best Service and the prestigious Best Overall Restaurant Awards.

The service is polished, the cuisine refined and the wine choices the best in Malta, it is with these attributes that the de Mondion continues to win award after award. The Team expertly led by Chef de Cuisine Kevin Bonello and Food & Beverage Manager Paul Lawrence Attard, have achieved yet another brilliant success for the de Mondion Restaurant at The Xara Palace Relais & Chateaux, Mdina, after claiming the Runner-up Award for the Best Dining Boutique Hotel in the World in London last November.

The menu and the wine list at the de Mondion display a clear vision – a celebration of the senses and ultimately to create memories for patrons. The innovative dishes display a talent for marrying textures and flavours. Rounding up the world-class dining experience is an exceptional wine list, with a pleasing emphasis on local wines, an elegant dining room, a terrace with spectacular views of Malta and service which is



effortlessly intimate and polished.

Xara Palace director Nicola Paris comments: "I would like to thank and congratulate Kevin Bonello and his brigade, Paul Lawrence Attard and his team and the rest

of the team at Infinitely Xara for all their commitment, hard work and passion in continuously delivering excellent products and service and developing our Brand Awareness and vision to deliver unique

experiences in a united spirit as a family. It is our team that makes our vision a reality. A special thanks to our guests and patrons for their continued support and loyalty and to our suppliers for their endless service."



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## Voting for Malta's best 150 restaurants kicks off

The Definitive(ly) Good Guide to Restaurants in Malta and Gozo's annual survey has kicked off.

Voting can be done online during this month at [www.restaurants-malta.com](http://www.restaurants-malta.com). The top rated 150 restaurants will then be featured in the eating guide.

People are asked to rate all the restaurants they have frequented over the past year, on a scale from one to 10, for food, service and ambience.

Online voters can also vote for additional features, such as best Maltese restaurant, best restaurant for business entertainment, restaurant with best value for money, most romantic restaurant, most child-friendly restaurant and best restaurant restroom.

Prizes can also be won: two nights at the Corinthia Hotel St George's Bay, a night at the Hilton Malta, a hamper from Dical House and copies of *The Definitive(ly) Good Guide to Best Restaurants in Malta and Gozo*.

The guide is sponsored by the Malta Tourism Authority, HSBC and Marsovin.





# De Mondion Wins Top Award

The Sunday Times - 30.12.12

THE SUNDAY TIMES | December 30, 2012

Food

## News



Management and staff of de Mondion restaurant celebrate after having won the top award for the third time.

## De Mondion restaurant wins top award for third time

The de Mondion restaurant, Mdina, won the top overall Restaurant Award in Malta and Gozo for the third year running, on the basis of food, service and ambience in the annual survey conducted by the Definitive(ly) Good Guide to Restaurants.

Forty restaurants received awards during a gala dinner held recently at the Grand Hotel Excelsior in Floriana.

The top awards were won by de Mondion - best food (sponsored by Air Malta) and best

service (sponsored by Charles Grech); Palazzo Parisio and Gardens - best ambience (sponsored by F. Busuttil & Sons); Ta' Marija - best Maltese food (sponsored by the Ministry for Tourism); Tarragon - best business entertainment (sponsored by The Catering Centre) and most romantic restaurant; Mamma Mia - best children-friendly (sponsored by the Malta Baby & Kids Directory) and best value for money (sponsored by Jolly Ltd); Angka Cafe - best restaurant offering

vegetarian options (sponsored by Good Earth Ltd); and Blue Elephant - best restroom.

Tarragon's wine list won the people's choice, while Patrick's was voted as having the best presentation and accessibility wine list and best overall wine list. De Mondion was awarded for having fine wines, while Ta' Marija had the best list of Maltese wines.

More than 1,300 regular diners took part in the survey.



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# Old City Restaurant Wins Top Award

The Times - 17.12.12

THE TIMES | Monday, December 17, 2012

ational

## Old city restaurant wins top award



Nicola Paris holds the Overall Best Restaurant in Malta & Gozo Award won by the de Mondion. From left: Adrian Bonello and Kevin Bonello (from de Mondion), MTA CEO Josef Formosa Gauci, Ms Paris, Paul Steel, from HSBC, Joshua Borg and Joseph Marmarà (from de Mondion), Alfred Cuschieri, of Continental Purchasing, and Lisa Grech, from the Definitive(ly) Good Guide.

The de Mondion Restaurant, located in the old capital city of Mdina, has just been voted the best eating place in Malta.

It won the top overall Restaurant Award in Malta and Gozo for the third year running, on the basis of food, service and ambience in the annual survey conducted by the Definitive(ly) Good Guide to Restaurants, supported by the Malta Tourism Authority, HSBC and Marsovin.

More than 1,300 regular diners took part in the survey, the largest response to date, according to the promoters.

Forty restaurants received awards during a gala dinner held at the Grand Hotel Excelsior in Floriana.

The top awards were won by the following restaurants: de Mondion - best food (sponsored by Air Malta) and best service (sponsored by Charles Grech); Palazzo Parisio and Gardens - best ambience (sponsored by F. Busuttill & Sons); Ta' Marija - best Maltese food (sponsored by the Ministry for Tourism); Tarragon - best business entertainment (sponsored by The Catering Centre) and most romantic restaurant; Mamma Mia - best children-friendly (sponsored by the Malta Baby & Kids Directory) and best value for money (sponsored by Jolly Ltd); Angka Cafe - best restaurant offering vegetarian options (sponsored by Good Earth Ltd); and Blue Elephant - best restroom.

Tarragon's wine list won the people's choice; Patrick's was voted as having the best presentation and accessibility wine list and best overall wine list; de Mondion was awarded for having fine wines and Ta' Marija had the best list of Maltese wines.



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# Awards Ceremony

The Malta Independent on Sunday - 20.01.13



Christine Briffa with the Theuma's of the Catering Centre and sponsor of the Best Business Award



Christine Grech with an award winner

living in Malta, is still very active in *Flimkien Għal Ambjant Aħjar* with Astrid Vella (she makes the best Tiramisu around I promise) and other brave, hardworking people who don't mind rocking the boat. Helen is also left-wing and a woman after my own heart who still attends demonstrations and sits in London. She is a graduate of the London School of Economics and therefore not surprising at all that she leans firmly to the left when it comes to politics. Philip is pragmatic and tolerant and erudite. Like his aunt he is a voracious reader.

This must be the most prestigious food event in Malta – and the equivalent of the 'Oscars for Restaurants' and much attention must have been given to the menu for the kitchen team were feeding award winning chefs and their friends and families after all.

We started off with Roast Pumpkin Soup but this was served with a lot more panache than the one I make at home in which I include coriander – at last we can get it in Malta. It was served with a bread wafer, drizzled with garlic and pepper oil. A great Yum. I sent a few kisses to the chef, in my mind and hoped he was good looking at least. This was followed by

## An Award for Palazzo Preca

Freshly Sliced Bresaola. Now I know we can get that at a good supermarket – of which there are enough – with promises of more to come. But this Bresaola was served with sweet melon panna-cotta and spicy nut crumble, crisp fried shrimp terrine with lemon scented mascarpone. Ah! I love details especially when they are edible. "Everything," Jean Anouilh wrote, "ends this way in France – everything. Weddings, christenings, duels, funerals, swindlings, diplomatic affairs – everything is a pretext for a good dinner." It is the same in Malta. But this was truly an excellent occasion for the celebration of food.

The main course was Slow cooked Loin of Veal served with bits and pieces. I hardly touch red meats these days – one way of trying to extend my life a little longer but I do eat veal since it doesn't seem as ferocious as some of the red meats I see at the butcher's which, even by looking at them, seem to fill my veins with cholesterol. I'd rather get it from chocolate and creamy desserts. For dessert we had 'Exquisite Forest berries creations'. Most desserts

come in a small group of three these days but they are light and colourful... delicate, subtly flavoured... a litany of pleasures and different to the ones described by Giuseppe di Lampedusa in *Il Gattopardo*: 'Huge blond *babas*, Mont Blancs snowy with whipped cream, nuts, hillocks of chocolate-covered pastry...' Yum! I want to finish this and go to my sisters for tea. She always has something delicious at hand.

I was happy to see when the awards were announced that my favourite restaurant *de Mondion* at the Xara Palace won the top overall Restaurant Award in Malta and Gozo for the third year running, on the basis of food, service and ambience in the annual survey. More than 1300 regular diners took part in this survey – the largest response to-date, voting for their favourite restaurants on these islands.

The evening was beautifully organized and came to an end only too soon. One has to appreciate the hard work behind the *Guide* as well as this very special evening. Life has few pleasanter prospects than a good meal. May the guide continue to prosper – and the dinners too.



Alighiero Boetti

## Alain Despert exhibition at Auberge d'Italie

I am writing this to urge you to go and see this refreshing and joyful exhibition. The walls were painted yellow and it was warm enough for the door of the lovely courtyard to be left open on the day of the *vernissage*. It is open until the 8 February and I promise, you will love it.



Steve and Jeanette Briesse, Linda and John Cordina, the artist Alain Despert and his wife Karen





# The results of the annual Survey

First - January 2013

## ■ SOCIAL WHIRL [1] ACTION & LIVING



1 HRH Prince Edward & Baroness of Tabria Christiane Ramsay Scicluna 2 Pierre Stafrace, Mr Rizzardi, Christophe Berger 3 Peter Darmanin, Pierre Stafrace, Mr Rizzardi

→ The Duke of Edinburgh's Award World Fellowship Dinner, hosted by His Royal Highness Prince Edward Duke of Wessex, was held at Palazzo Parisio in late November. In the same month, a Guerrieri Rizzardi Wine Tasting Dinner was held at the adjacent Luna di Sera restaurant. →



1 Denise Briffa, Lisa Grech, Andrea Critien 2 Philip Grech, Mixa Drury, Joe Glanville, Martin Farrugia, Doreen Grima 3 Mr & Mrs Alfred Cuschieri, Denise Briffa

→ The results of the annual survey conducted by the *Definitive(y) Good Guide to Restaurants* supported by MTA, HSBC and Marsovin were announced at a gala dinner held at the Grand Hotel Excelsior last month. *de Mondion Restaurant* won the overall Restaurant Award for the third year running. The 2013 edition of the guide features 45 new entries. [www.restaurantsmalta.com](http://www.restaurantsmalta.com) →



1 Ray Vassallo, Netty Skok-Farrugia, Patricia Cassar, Alfred Mallia Milanese, Maria Vasallo, Walter Cassar 2 Herbert Skok, Austrian Ambassador Petra Schneebauer, Netty Skok-Farrugia 3 Sister Assunta with the Volksbank front office team at the donation presentation

→ Volksbank Malta once again brought a bit of the Austrian Christmas spirit to Malta by inviting customers, business partners, all staff members and the German-speaking community to join them at their annual Christmas Concert at the Salesian Theatre in Sliema. Attendees made a donation in aid of the Ursuline Grèche in Sliema during the concert. →



1 Ms Gaia la Cognata from the Italian Embassy receiving the trophy on behalf of the Italian winner 2 Grabial Cremades from the Spanish Embassy receiving two trophies on behalf of two Spanish winners, from Mr Julian Zarb with Mr Vincent Lungaro Mifsud of the Malta Cine Circle in the centre

→ Five Golden Knight Trophies were awarded at a screening of the winners of the annual short film festival at the Le Meridien Hotel & Spa in St Julians last month. The awards were presented by Mr Julian Zarb from the Malta Tourism Authority. Winning films came from Germany, Italy, Spain and Holland. →

