

# The results of the annual survey

First - Jan 2013



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 (ly) 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)



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# Gala Dinner at the Grand Hotel Excelsior

Malta Independent on Sunday 20.1.13

THE MALTA INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY  
20 January 2013

LIFE 2



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*Marie Benoit's Diary*

## Gala Dinner at The Grand Hotel Excelsior

**T**he team of that excellent publication *The Definitive (ly) Good Guide to Restaurants* this year held its award night at The Grand Hotel Excelsior. One may still object to this hotel's location which was so controversial because it killed a substantial part of the bastions forever and I am not the only one who finds some of its statues, shall we say, not very inspiring or artistic. But the hotel is spacious and yes, parking is rarely difficult. For, when I receive an invitation, unlike other women who immediately book themselves in appointment at the hairdressers and nail bar, I immediately think of the parking. Is it going to be bothersome? Will it cause me undue stress which will spoil the evening before it even starts? How far will I have to struggle on my heels (only three inches now!) before I arrive at my destination? All my very high heels have been abandoned but at 4 foot 8 inches a heel is a must. The Excelsior, in spite of its flaws, has a

place in my Little Black Book which is only reserved for people and things I like because anything I have eaten there has always been good and because parking is not difficult and service polite.

The Gala dinner was a 'strictly black tie' affair and I don't recall seeing anyone who was not in dinner jacket that evening. There is even a red carpet on the grand staircase leading to the extensive hall where we dined – giving the place a touch of Hollywood. The Maltese rise to the occasion and there were some elegant dresses – and make-up – worn for this important occasion.

I decided to wear a long dress and at the last minute, grabbed my mother's fox stole which comes out of its mothballs about twice a year. (I can almost hear it sigh with relief!) I am sorry to say I have no conscience when it comes to carrying fur. After all what is worse, skinning a mink or boiling a lobster? I don't expect an answer to that.



Denise, Lisa and Andrea who are behind it all

The white napped damask tables looked attractive as we walked into the huge multi-purpose hall which had been cleverly turned into a dining room. This after we had finished sipping the Cassar de Malte Brut. Jeremy Cassar, my eldest daughter's generation and now married and a father, was there for Marsovin was one of the sponsors of this event as were HSBC and the Malta Tourism Authority.

We shared a table with Denise Briffa who forms part of the Guide's clever team and Dr Philip Manduca, whose aunt Helen Caruana Galizia, though no longer



An Award for Palazzo Proca

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 *I Gattopardo*: 'Huge blond babas, Mont Blanes 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 diners too.



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



sa Grech with an award winner

living in Malta, is still very active in *Flinkien 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 crudite. 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



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# HSBC Malta extends support to Definitive(ly) Good Guide

Malta Independent 31.5.13

## HSBC Malta extends support to Definitive(ly) Good Guide

HSBC Malta renewed its support as a main commercial partner to Definitive(ly) Good Guide Co Ltd through a three-year partnership agreement.

The Definitive(ly) Good Guide to Restaurants is Malta's best-selling survey-based restaurant guide. Published annually as a printed booklet, as well as online at [www.restaurantsmalta.com](http://www.restaurantsmalta.com), the guide offers objective restaurant reviews based on public surveys submitted by restaurant goers in Malta and Gozo.

"HSBC Malta supports the Definitive(ly) Good Guide for its helpful and reliable restaurant reviews. We

also look forward to building further on this relationship with a view of promoting credit card usage among the best reviewed restaurants. This would be mutually beneficial to all parties, including HSBC customers who can enjoy the convenience and security that HSBC credit cards provide," said Paul Steel, Head of RBWM HSBC Malta.

More than 80,000 individual restaurant meals are surveyed in Malta and Gozo each year by the public, with around 150 of the highest ranking restaurants making it in each edition of the Definitive(ly) Good Guide.



HSBC Malta's Paul Steel signing the new sponsorship agreement with Denise Briffa of the Definitive(ly) Good Guide



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Malta Today 2.6.13

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

Sunday Times 2.6.13

## Lifestyle & Culture

A night at the theatre  
this Christmas in Gozo



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

Winners of The Definitive(ly) Good Guide to Restaurants 2013 Survey, sponsored by the Malta Tourism Authority (MTA) and supported by IESB, were recently presented with fantastic prizes. The first prize of two nights for two persons on bed and breakfast basis in a deluxe room at the Hilton Malta, St Julian's was awarded to Michelle Caruana, second prize, a one-night stay for two persons in a Deluxe room at InterContinental Malta including breakfast at Waterbiscuit to Revel Barker and third prize, a lavish gourmet hamper to the value of €200 from Dical House Fine Foods & Wellbeing to Claude Sapiano. Prizes of the stunning coffee table book *The Definitive(ly) Best Restaurants in Malta & Gozo* with photography by Kurt Arrigo were given to the next 10 best reviewers namely Derek Bolt, Gabi Mizzi, Ivan Zammit, Pat Attard, Maria Gatt, Maritza Conti, Nick Tonna, Alexander Farrugia and Alan Micallef, who returned their surveys with ratings and included the funniest, relevant and most informative comments.

The 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the Restaurant Guide incorporating results of the 2013 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 1,980 people dining out on average of twice weekly to an equivalent of 205,920 dining ex-



Julian Diacono (director, Business Developments, Hilton Malta) presenting the voucher to first prize-winner, Michelle Caruana and Andrea Critien (The Definitive(ly) Good Guide)

On Monday, 9 December a Restaurant Award Ceremony Gala Dinner will be held at the Xara Lodge, 1/o Rabat, whereupon the top-rated restaurants for food, service, ambience and overall will be presented with awards. Also awards will be presented for the following categories including the top-rated Best Food Award sponsored by Airmalta, Best Ambience Award sponsored by Francis Busuttill & Sons Marketing Ltd, Best Service sponsored by Charles Grech Ltd, top-rated Maltese food restaurant sponsored by the Ministry for Tourism and Culture, Wine Awards sponsored by Marsovin Ltd, top-rated Business Entertain-

The Catering Centre, top-rated Best Value for Money restaurant sponsored by Meats & Eats Gourmet Butcher, Most Romantic restaurant sponsored by Vivian Corporation, restaurant offering the best Vegetarian Options sponsored by Good Earth Distributors Ltd, top-rated Best Restaurant Restroom/Cloakroom, top-rated restaurant for Lively Entertainment, top-rated Children-Friendly restaurant award sponsored by The Malta Baby & Kids Directory, top-rated Best Newcomer sponsored by Vini e Capricci and Most Mentioned Restaurant sponsored by SmartCity, Malta and the Colin Best award for the Most Consistently



Andrea Critien (The Definitive(ly) Good Guide), second prize-winner Revel Barker and Giuseppe Vincelli (general manager, InterContinental Malta)



Andrea Critien (The Definitive(ly) Good Guide), third prize-winner Claude Sapiano receiving the lavish hamper from Domnic Calleja (Dical House Fine Foods and



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Business Weekly 6.6.13

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reviews based on public surveys submitted by restaurant goers in Malta and Gozo.

"HSBC Malta supports the Definitive(ly) Good Guide for its helpful and reliable restaurant reviews. We also look forward to building further on this relationship with a view of promoting credit card usage among the best-reviewed restaurants. This would be mutually beneficial to all par-

ties, including HSBC customers who can enjoy the convenience and security that HSBC credit cards provide," said Paul Steel, head of RBWM HSBC Malta.

More than 80,000 individual restaurant meals are surveyed in Malta and Gozo each year by the public, with around 150 of the highest ranking restaurants making it in each edition of the Definitive(ly) Good Guide.



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# Restaurant survey in September

Malta Independent 28.8.13

## Restaurant survey in September

During the month of September, the public is once again invited to participate in Malta's largest annual restaurant survey, now in its 14th successful year. Out of an incredible number of over 1,800 restaurants on the islands, the top survey-rated 150 restaurants will be included in the new look, A5 format, 2014 Guide to Restaurants in Malta & Gozo sponsored by the MTA and HSBC. By logging on to [www.restaurantsmalta.com](http://www.restaurantsmalta.com) during September one will be able to rate all the restaurants one has visited over the past 12 months and determine which 150 restaurants will be included in the Guide and online.

Vote and send in your funny and informative comments and you could win one of these fantastic prizes: Two nights at the Hilton, Malta, St Julian's, one night at the In-

terContinental Malta and a lavish hamper from Dical House, Mosta.

Diners can rate all the restaurants they have visited in the last 12 months on Food, Service and Ambience on a scale from 1-10. We also urge you to answer additional questions which determine restaurant awards presented at the Annual Gala Dinner in December - including 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 the restaurants having your favourite wine lists together with your additional comments. So log onto [www.restaurantsmalta.com](http://www.restaurantsmalta.com) to get voting and make your opinion count - "your voice is important to us!"



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



# The Definitive(ly)Good Guide annual survey opens this month

Malta Independent on Sunday 1.9.13

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During this month you can once again participate in Malta's largest annual restaurant survey, now in its 14th successful year. Out of an incredible number of 1,800 plus restaurants on the islands your top survey rated 150 restaurants will be included in the new look, A5 format, 2014 Guide to Restaurants in Malta & Gozo sponsored by the MTA and HSBC. By logging onto [www.restaurantsmalta.com](http://www.restaurantsmalta.com) you will be able to rate all the restaurants you have visited over the past 12 months and determine which 150 restaurants will be included in the Guide and online.

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*So log onto [www.restaurantsmalta.com](http://www.restaurantsmalta.com) to get voting and make your opinion count – your comments are important to us.*



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



# Voting for Malta's best 150 restaurants kicks off

Sunday Times 1.9.13

## 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 on [www.restaurantsmalta.com](http://www.restaurantsmalta.com) during this month. The top rated 150 restaurants will then be featured in the eating out guide. People are asked to rate the restaurants they have eaten out at 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 Hilton Malta, one night at Intercontinental 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 and HSBC.



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

# Vote and help create The Definitive(ly) Good Guide for 2014

Malta Today 15.9.13

## Events

maltatoday, SUNDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 20

## Vote and help create The Definitive(ly) Good Guide for 2014

Vote for your favourite restaurant to help make it part of the Definitive(ly) Good Guide for 2014.

The Definitive(ly) Good Guide is Malta's only independent restaurant guide and is now in its 14th successful year of compiling the best restaurants in Malta and Gozo.

Independent diners review restaurants they have dined at over the last year for food, service and ambience among other categories.

Out of more than 1,800 restaurants on the island, 150 of the top surveyed restaurants are included in the Guide – an A5 guide to restaurants in Malta and Gozo, with a fresh new look that has been sponsored by MTA and HSBC. The guide is also available online.

Diners can rate the restaurants of their choice by logging onto [www.restaurantsmalta.com](http://www.restaurantsmalta.com) during the month of September and giving in 0-10 rating to restaurants they have dined at

over the last 12 months. Voters will be in with a chance to win one of the following prizes:

- 2 nights at the Hilton, Malta, St Julian's
- 1 night at the InterContinental Malta
- Lavish hamper from Dical House, Mosta

Diners are also encouraged to answer additional questions which determine Restaurant Awards presented at the Annual Gala Dinner in December – including 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 restaurants have the best wine lists together with additional comments.

Last year's awards were dominated by de Mondion at the Xara Palace, Relais & Chateaux. They walked

away with the award for Best Overall Restaurant, and also won the awards in the Food and Service category and came third in the Ambience category. Other restaurants that took home awards in 2013 include: Tarragon, Ta' Frenc, Rebekah's, Oceana, Medina, Palazzo Preca, Beppe's, Gazabo, Villa Brasserie, Pulito's, Zest, Tartarun, Zeri's, Blue Elephant, Palazzo Parisio and Gardens – The Luna Collection, Ta' Karolina, Bottega 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, Parapett, The Pegasus, Rickshaw, Paranga, Guze' Bistro, Duo and Patrick's Tmun.

Log on to [www.restaurantsmalta.com](http://www.restaurantsmalta.com) and be part of the 14th Definitive(ly) Good Guide to Restaurants in Malta and Gozo

Log on to [www.restaurantsmalta.com](http://www.restaurantsmalta.com) to fill in the survey online

THE DEFINITIVE(ly) GOOD GUIDE  
MALTA'S BEST-SELLING GUIDE FOR 14 YEARS

## RESTAURANT SURVEY 2013

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

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

2014 Edition  
in new A5 format

**H**ighlights Malta and Gozo's independent Restaurant Guide. This will be the 14th edition of the book and is now available in a new A5 format. The 2014 edition of the book will be published in November 2013. The book will be available in a new A5 format. The book will be available in a new A5 format. The book will be available in a new A5 format.

Deadline to return survey: 30 September 2013

You can also participate online at [www.restaurantsmalta.com](http://www.restaurantsmalta.com)

**PRIZES** for the best survey response with the best combination of number of restaurants rated, informative and witty comments and promptness



HSBC

MALTA



[restaurantsMalta.com](http://restaurantsMalta.com)  
Malta's Most Authoritative Survey-Based Restaurant Guide



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



# One more week to send in The Definitive(ly) Good Guide Survey

Malta Today 22.9.13

14

Events

maltatoday, SUNDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 2013

## One more week to send in The Definitive(ly) Good Guide Survey

Voting closes in just over a week, on 30 September. Vote for your favourite restaurant to help make it part of the Definitive(ly) Good Guide for 2014.

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Independent diners review restaurants they have dined at over the last year for food, service and ambience among other categories.

Out of more than 1,800 restaurants on the island, 150 of the top survey-rated restaurants are in-



Palazzo Parisio & Gardens - The Luna Collection won the award for Top Ambiance at the 2013 Definitive(ly) Good Guide Awards

**PRIZES**

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**FIRST PRIZE**  
Two nights stay for two persons in a Deluxe room at the Hilton Malta, St. Julian's

**SECOND PRIZE**  
One night stay for two persons in a Deluxe room at InterContinental Malta including breakfast at Harcourt

**THIRD PRIZE**  
A 4-course Gourmet Dinner to the value of €200 from Dical House, Fine Foods & Wellbeing House.

HSBC MALTA

to restaurants in Malta and Gozo, with a fresh new look that has been sponsored by MTA and HSBC. The guide is also available online.

Diners can rate the restaurants of their choice by logging onto [www.restaurantsmalta.com](http://www.restaurantsmalta.com) during the month of September and giving in 0-10 rating to restaurants they have dined at over the last 12 months. Voters will be in with a chance to win one of the following prizes:

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Diners are also encouraged to answer additional questions which determine Restaurant Awards presented at the Annual Gala Dinner in December

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Log on to [www.restaurantsmalta.com](http://www.restaurantsmalta.com) and be part of the 14th Definitive(ly) Good Guide to Restaurants in Malta and Gozo



[restaurantsMalta.com](http://restaurantsMalta.com)  
Malta's Most Authoritative Survey-Based Restaurant Guide



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

## Last chance to vote

There are just a few more days in which to log on to [www.restaurantsmalta.com](http://www.restaurantsmalta.com) and vote to help decide the top 150 restaurants that will be included in the new-look, 2014 edition of *Definitive(ly) Good Guide to Restaurants*.

Voters should rate all the restaurants they have visited over the past 12 months on food, ambience and service and send in their funny and informative comments for a chance of winning one of these fantastic prizes: Two nights at the Hilton Malta, one night at the InterContinental Malta and a lavish hamper from Dical House of Mosta.

Answer additional questions to enable the publishers to determine the winners of the special awards presented at the annual gala dinner in December. These include 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 facilities, as well as the favourite wine lists and any additional comments.

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Additional questions in the survey will determine the winners of the Special Awards to be presented at a Gala Dinner in December.

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So log onto [www.restaurantsmalta.com](http://www.restaurantsmalta.com) to get voting before the end of the month.



# The Definitive(ly) Good Guide to Restaurants Survey Winners

Malta Today 8.12.13

44

## Events

maltatoday, SUNDAY, 8 DECEMBER 2013

## The Definitive(ly) Good Guide to Restaurants Survey Winners

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Prizes of the stunning coffee table book 'The Definitive(ly) Best Restaurants in Malta & Gozo' with photog-



Left to right: Julian Diacono (Director Business Developments, Hilton Malta) presenting voucher to first prize winner, Michelle Caruana and Andrea Critien (The Definitive(ly) Good Guide)

raphy by Kurt Arrigo were given to the next ten best reviewers Derek Boff, Gabi Mizzi, Ivan Zammit, Pat Attard,

restaurants on the Maltese Islands. There was an overwhelming response to the survey with 1,980 people dining

Maria Gatt, Martha Conti, Nick Tonna, Alexander Farrugia and Alan Micallef, who returned their surveys with ratings and included the funniest, relevant and most informative comments.

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Entertainment restaurant sponsored by The Catering Centre, top rated Best Value for Money restaurant sponsored by Meats & Eats Gourmet Butcher, Most Romantic restaurant sponsored by Vivian Corporation, restaurant offering the best Vegetarian Options sponsored by Good Earth Distributors Ltd, top rated Best Restaurant Restroom/Cloakroom, top rated restaurant for Lively Entertainment, top rated 'Children Friendly' restaurant award sponsored by The Malta Baby & Kids Directory, top rated Best Newcomer sponsored by Vini e Capricci and Most Mentioned Restaurant sponsored by SmartCity Malta and the Colin Best award for the Most Consistently Outstanding Restaurant.



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Malta Independent on Sunday 1.12.13

## Lifestyle & Culture

A night at the theatre  
this Christmas in Gozo



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

Winners of The Definitive(ly) Good Guide to Restaurants 2013 Survey, sponsored by the Malta Tourism Authority (MTA) and supported by HESB, were recently presented with fantastic prizes. The first prize of two nights for two persons on bed and breakfast basis in a deluxe room at the Hilton Malta, St Julian's was awarded to Michelle Caruana, second prize, a one-night stay for two persons in a Deluxe room at InterContinental Malta including breakfast at Waterbiscuit to Revel Barker and third prize, a lavish gourmet hamper to the value of €200 from Dical House Fine Foods & Wellbeing to Claude Sapiano. Prizes of the stunning coffee table book *The Definitive(ly) Best Restaurants in Malta & Gozo* with photography by Kurt Arrigo were given to the next 10 best reviewers namely Derek Bolt, Gabi Mizzi, Ivan Zammit, Pat Attard, Maria Gatt, Marika Conti, Nick Tonna, Alexander Farrugia and Alan Micallef, who returned their surveys with ratings and included the funniest, relevant and most informative comments.

The 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the Restaurant Guide incorporating results of the 2013 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 1,980 people dining out on average of twice weekly to an equivalent of 205,920 dining ex-



Julian Diacono (director, Business Developments, Hilton Malta) presenting the voucher to first prize-winner, Michelle Caruana and Andrea Critien (The Definitive(ly) Good Guide)

On Monday, 9 December a Restaurant Award Ceremony will be held at the Xara Lodge, 1/o Rabat, whereupon the top-rated restaurants for food, service, ambience and overall will be presented with awards. Also awards will be presented for the following categories including the top-rated Best Food Award sponsored by Airmalta, Best Ambience Award sponsored by Francis Busuttill & Sons Marketing Ltd, Best Service sponsored by Charles Grech Ltd, top-rated Maltese food restaurant sponsored by the Ministry for Tourism and Culture, Wine Awards sponsored by Marsovin Ltd, top-rated Business Entertain-

The Catering Centre, top-rated Best Value for Money restaurant sponsored by Meats & Eats Gourmet Butcher, Most Romantic restaurant sponsored by Vivian Corporation, restaurant offering the best Vegetarian Options sponsored by Good Earth Distributors Ltd, top-rated Best Restaurant Restroom/Cloakroom, top-rated restaurant for Lively Entertainment, top-rated Children-Friendly restaurant award sponsored by The Malta Baby & Kids Directory, top-rated Best Newcomer sponsored by Vini e Capricci and Most Mentioned Restaurant sponsored by SmartCity, Malta and the Colin Best award for the Most Consistently



Andrea Critien (The Definitive(ly) Good Guide), second prize-winner Revel Barker and Giuseppe Vincelli (general manager, InterContinental Malta)



Andrea Critien (The Definitive(ly) Good Guide), third prize-winner Claude Sapiano receiving the lavish hamper from Domic Calleja (Dical House Fine Foods and



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# The Definitive(ly) Good Guide to Restaurants Survey Winners

Sunday Times of Malta 8.12.13

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## Events

maltatoday, SUNDAY, 8 DECEMBER 2013

## The Definitive(ly) Good Guide to Restaurants Survey Winners

Winners of the The Definitive(ly) Good Guide to Restaurants 2013 Survey sponsored by the Malta Tourism Authority (MTA) and supported by HSBC were recently presented with fantastic prizes including first prize of two nights for two persons on bed and breakfast basis in a deluxe room at the Hilton Malta, St Julians to Michelle Caruana, second prize, a one night stay for two persons in a Deluxe room at InterContinental Malta including breakfast at Waterbiscuit to Revel Barker and third prize, a lavish gourmet hamper to the value of €200 from Dical House Fine Foods & Wellbeing to Claude Supiano.

Prizes of the stunning coffee table book 'The Definitive(ly) Best Restaurants in Malta & Gozo' with photog-



Left to right: Julian Diacono (Director Business Developments, Hilton Malta) presenting voucher to first prize winner, Michelle Caruana and Andrea Critien (The Definitive(ly) Good Guide)

raphy by Kurt Arrigo were given to the next ten best reviewers Derek Bolt, Gabi Mizzi, Ivan Zammit, Pat Attard,

Maria Gatt, Martha Conni, Nick Tonna, Alexander Farrugia and Alan Micallef, who returned their surveys with ratings and included the funniest, relevant and most informative comments.

The fourteenth edition of the Restaurant Guide incorporating results of the 2013 Restaurant Survey will be published beginning of December 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 1,980 people dining

out on average of twice weekly to an equivalent of 205,920 dining experiences in a year.

On Monday, 9 December a Restaurant Award Ceremony Gala Dinner will be held at the Xara Lodge, Ħa Rabat, whereupon the top rated restaurants for food, service, ambience and overall will be presented with awards. Also awards will be presented for the following categories including the top rated Best Food Award sponsored by Airmalta, Best Ambience Award sponsored by Francis Busuttill & Sons Marketing Ltd., Best Service sponsored by Charles Grech Ltd, top rated Maltese food restaurant sponsored by the Ministry for Tourism and Culture, Wine Awards sponsored by Marsovin Ltd, top rated Business

Entertainment restaurant sponsored by The Catering Centre, top rated Best Value for Money restaurant sponsored by Meats & Eats Gourmet Butcher, Most Romantic restaurant sponsored by Vivian Corporation, restaurant offering the best Vegetarian Options sponsored by Good Earth Distributors Ltd, top rated Best Restaurant Restroom/Cloakroom, top rated restaurant for Lively Entertainment, top rated 'Children Friendly' restaurant award sponsored by The Malta Baby & Kids Directory, top rated Best Newcomer sponsored by Vini e Capricci and Most Mentioned Restaurant sponsored by SmartCity, Malta and the Colin Best award for the Most Consistently Outstanding Restaurant.



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# Tarragon wins an unprecedented nine restaurant awards

Malta Independent 12.12.13

## Definitively good guide

## Tarragon wins an unprecedented nine restaurant awards

The awards scooped by Tarragon this year include the Overall Best Restaurant in Malta, Best Food, Best Service, Most Mentioned, Best Business Entertainment, Most Romantic, Best Vegetarian options, People's Choice wine list and Best Maltese wine list.

The Definitive(y) Good Guide to Restaurants Awards Ceremony held at the Xara Lodge on Monday 9th December celebrated the outstanding achievement of Malta & Gozo's top survey rated restaurants as voted by diners out who participated in the Malta & Gozo Restaurant Survey online at [www.restaurantsmalta.com](http://www.restaurantsmalta.com). Out of over 1800 restaurants on the Maltese Islands only 150 make it to be included in the latest 2014 new look edition of the Definitive(y) Good Guide to Restaurants in Malta & Gozo and their official portal [www.restaurantsmalta.com](http://www.restaurantsmalta.com).

The results were revealed by Lisa Grech MD of the Definitive(y) Good Guide Co and presented by Mrs Michelle Muscat, Mr Josef Formosa Gauci CEO of the MTA, Mr Brian Toriell from HSBC and Mr Alfred Cuschieri of Continental Purchasing on behalf of Villeroy & Boch who supplied the beautiful commemorative award plates for the occasion.

The Malta & Gozo Restaurant Survey was conducted in September and had a fantastic response of over 1980 surveys returned, with reviewers who dined out on average 2 times per week equivalent to over 205,920 dining experiences in a year! Of the survey respondents 52% were women and 48% men. This year sees 33 new restaurants to the new look, larger sized, altogether more colourful *The Definitive(y) Good Guide to Restaurants in Malta & Gozo* with a stunning front



that the Restaurant survey is now open for voting throughout the year at [www.restaurantsmalta.com](http://www.restaurantsmalta.com) giving diners the opportunity to vote directly after the meal.

Award restaurants were chosen from the highest rated restaurants, both overall, and in the various price categories for Malta and Gozo, taking into account not only the Overall rating but also individual Food, Service and Ambience ratings, the number of people rating, value for money, comments and other data from the survey. Restaurants to win award plates in order from most highly rated included:

- Tarragon
- Medina Restaurant
- Quadro, Westin Dragonara
- The Villa Brasserie
- Oceana, Hilton Malta
- The Terrace Restaurant, Westin Dragonara
- Grill 3301 Corinthia, St. George's Bay

- Beppe's
- Blue Elephant, Hilton Malta
- Palazzo Preca
- Sa Re Ga Ma Indian Restaurant
- La Capanna
- De Mondion Restaurant, Xara Palace
- Le Bistro, Radisson Blu
- Palio's - Westin Dragonara
- Rebelah's Restaurant
- Ta' Frenc Restaurant
- Temptation, The Palace
- Zest, Hotel Juliani
- Pintonino, Waterfront
- Guze' Bistro
- La Mere
- The Arches Restaurant & Wine Bar
- Rickshaw, Corinthia Palace Hotel & Spa
- The Boat House, Gozo
- Giuseppe's Wine Bar
- Waterbiscuit, InterContinental
- Villa Corinthia, Corinthia Palace Hotel & Spa
- Capistrano
- Zeri's

- Rubino
- The Lord Nelson
- iPlace
- Admiral's Landing, Excelsior
- Luna at Palazzo Parisio and Gardens

Additional awards were made to:

- Best Food (sponsored by AirMalta) - Tarragon
- Best Service (sponsored by Charles Grech) - Tarragon
- Best Ambience (sponsored by F Busuttill & Sons) - Medina
- Best Maltese Food (sponsored by Ministry for Tourism) - Gulu
- Best Business Entertainment (sponsored by The Catering Centre) - Tarragon
- Most Romantic Restaurant (sponsored by Vivian Corporation) - Tarragon
- Most Children-Friendly (sponsored by the Malta Baby & Kids Directory) - iPlace
- Best Restaurant offering Vegetarian options (sponsored by Meats & Eats) - iPlace

- Best Newcomer (sponsored by Vini e Capricci) - Waterbiscuit
- Most Mentioned (sponsored by SmartCity) - Tarragon
- Best Restroom - The Blue Elephant
- And in memory of Colin Best - co-founder of the Restaurant Guide who sadly passed away in 2013 The Colin Best Award for the Most Consistently Outstanding Restaurant in Malta & Gozo for 2013/2014 - de Mondion

The Definitive(y) Good Guide to Restaurants in association with Marsovin Wine Awards were as follows:

- The People's Choice Wine List taken from the results of the returned surveys - Tarragon.
- The Best Maltese Wine List - Tarragon.
- The Best Value for Money Wine List - La Mere
- Best Hotel Wine List of the year - de Mondion
- Best Restaurant Wine List of the year - Patrick's who has won wine awards for 10 years in succession.

The results of the Restaurant Survey can be found in the 2014 edition of *The Definitive(y) Good Guide to Restaurants in Malta and Gozo* and is now available to purchase online for 8 Euros at [www.restaurantsmalta.com](http://www.restaurantsmalta.com) which 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 & Gozo.

New to the readers this year is that we are opening the survey not for the month of September but for the year. The survey is now open for voting and will close at the beginning of



restaurantsMalta.com

# Diners just love Tarragon

Times 17.12.13

## Diners just love Tarragon

A restaurant in St Paul's Bay can safely say it is simply the best, having just won an unprecedented nine awards.

Tarragon was declared Overall Best Restaurant in Malta at The Definitive(lly) Good Guide to Restaurants Awards ceremony.

It was also rewarded for best food, best service, most mentioned, best business entertainment, most romantic, best vegetarian options, people's choice wine list and best Maltese wine list.

The winning restaurants are chosen by diners who take part in an online Malta & Gozo Restaurant Survey ([www.restaurantsmalta.com](http://www.restaurantsmalta.com)). The survey was conducted in September and attracted more than 1,980 respondents who dined out on average twice a week, equivalent to over 205,920 dining experiences in a year.

The survey is now open for voting throughout the year, allowing diners to vote immediately after their meal.

The results can be found in the 2014 edition of The Definitive(lly) Good Guide to Restaurants in Malta and Gozo, which this year includes 33 new restaurants.



Marvin Gauci, Tarragon's chef patron (second from right), with (from left) Joshua Borg, Michael Sultana and Bernard Muscat holding the People's Choice Wine List certificate.



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# Tarragon wins big at restaurant awards

Sunday Times of Malta 22.12.13

THE SUNDAY TIMES OF MALTA | December 22, 2013

Food and Drink | 13

## News

# Tarragon wins big at restaurant awards

Tarragon has won nine restaurant awards, including the overall best restaurant in Malta, best food and best service at the Definitive(y) Good Guide to Restaurants Awards Ceremony held at the Xara Lodge last week.

The restaurant, run by chef Marvin Gauci, also won the most mentioned, best business entertainment, most romantic, best vegetarian options, People's Choice wine list and best Maltese wine list categories.

The ceremony celebrated the outstanding achievement of Malta and Gozo's top survey-rated restaurants as voted by diners who participated in the Malta & Gozo Restaurant Survey online at [www.restaurantsmalta.com](http://www.restaurantsmalta.com) during September.

Award restaurants were chosen from the highest-rated restaurants, both overall and in the various price categories for Malta and Gozo, taking into account not only the overall rating but also individual food, service and ambience ratings, the number of people rating, value for money, comments and other data from the survey. Restaurants to win award plates in order from the most highly rated included:

Tarragon; Medina Restaurant; Quadro, Westin Dragonara; The Villa Brasserie; Oceana, Hilton Malta; The Terrace Restaurant, Westin Dragonara; Grill 3301 Corinthia, St George's Bay;



Marvin Gauci of Tarragon (second from right) with, from left, Victor Kovalchuk, Stephen Ellul, Laura Ferrer Sans, Joshua Borg, Malcolm Caruana and Zoran Crncevic.

Patrick's; L'Oriolan, Kempinski San Lawrenz; Beppe's; Blue Elephant; Hilton Malta; Palazzo Preca; Sa Re Ga Ma Indian Restaurant; La Capanna; De Mondion Restaurant, Xara Palace; Le Bistro, Radisson Blu; Palio's, Westin Dragonara; Rebekah's Restaurant; Ta' Frenċ Restaurant; Temptasian, The Palace; Zest, Hotel Juliani; Pintonino, Waterfront; Guzé Bistro; La Mère; The Arches Restaurant &

Wine Bar; Rickshaw, Corinthia Palace Hotel & Spa; The Boat House; Giuseppe's Wine Bar; Waterbiscuit, InterContinental; Villa Corinthia, Corinthia Palace Hotel & Spa; Capistrano; Zerf's; Tartarum; Ta' Karolina Restaurant; Il-Horża; Rubino; The Lord Nelson; iPlace; Admiral's Landing, Excelsior; Luna at Palazzo Parisio and Gardens.

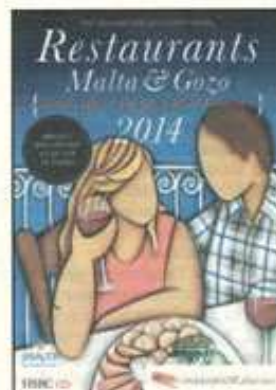
Additional categories included:

**Best ambience** - Medina

**Best Maltese Food** - Gulu  
**Most children-friendly** - iPlace  
**Best value for money** - iPlace  
**Best newcomer** - Waterbiscuit  
**Best restroom** - The Blue Elephant.

**The Colin Best Award for the Most Consistently Outstanding Restaurant in Malta and Gozo for 2013/2014** - de Mondion.

**The best value for money wine list** - La Mère



**Best hotel wine list of the year** - de Mondion

**Best restaurant wine list of the year** - Patrick's who has won wine awards for 10 years in succession.

Out of over 1,800 restaurants in Malta and Gozo, only 150, including 33 new ones, made it to the latest 2014 edition of the guide, which comes in a larger and more colourful format. Hard and soft copies are available for purchase at €8 from [www.restaurants-malta.com](http://www.restaurants-malta.com). The guide is also available at leading stationers and bookshops in Malta and Gozo.

During the ceremony it was announced that restaurant patrons can now vote online for their favourite eateries throughout the whole year, not only September.



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

# Tarragon wins an unprecedented 9 Restaurant Awards

Malta Today 15.12.13

## Tarragon wins an unprecedented 9 Restaurant Awards

INCLUDING the Overall Best Restaurant in Malta, Best Food, Best Service, Most Mentioned, Best Business Entertainment, Most Romantic, Best Vegetarian options, People's Choice wine list and Best Maltese wine list.

The Definitive(ly) Good Guide to Restaurants Awards Ceremony held at the Xara Lodge on Monday 9th December celebrated the outstanding achievement of Malta & Gozo's top survey rated restaurants as voted by diners out who participated in the Malta & Gozo Restaurant Survey online at [www.restaurantsmalta.com](http://www.restaurantsmalta.com). Out of over 1800 restaurants on the Maltese Islands only 150 make it to be included in the latest 2014 new look edition of the Definitive(ly)

Good Guide to Restaurants in Malta & Gozo and their official portal [www.restaurantsmalta.com](http://www.restaurantsmalta.com)

The results were revealed by Lisa Grech MD of the Definitive(ly) Good Guide Co and presented by Mrs Michelle Muscat, Mr Josef Formosa Gauci CEO of the MTA, Mr Brian Tortelli from HSBC and Mr Alfred Cuschieri of Continental Purchasing on behalf of Villeroy & Boch who supplied the beautiful commemorative award plates for the occasion.

The Malta & Gozo Restaurant Survey was conducted in September and had a fantastic response of over 1980 surveys returned, with reviewers who dined out on average 2 times per week equivalent to over 205,920 dining experiences in a year!

Of the survey respondents 52% were women and 48% men. This year sees 33 new restaurants to the new look, larger sized, altogether more colourful The Definitive(ly) Good Guide to Restaurants in Malta & Gozo with a stunning front cover commissioned from local artist Stephanie Borg. Announced on the evening was that the Restaurant survey is now open for voting throughout the year at [www.restaurantsmalta.com](http://www.restaurantsmalta.com) giving diners the opportunity to vote directly after their meal.

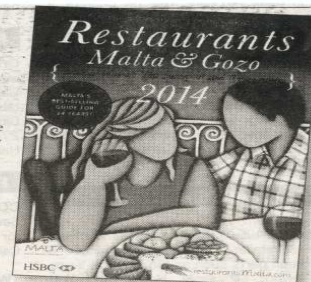
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The results of the Restaurant Survey can be found in the 2014 edition of The Definitive(ly) Good Guide to Restaurants in Malta and Gozo and is now available to purchase online for €8 at [www.restaurantsmalta.com](http://www.restaurantsmalta.com) which will also entitle you to the Guide online and a free hard copy in the post.

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New to the readers this year is that we are opening the survey not for the month of September but for the year. The survey is now open for voting and will close at the beginning of



September giving restaurant patrons the opportunity to vote directly after their meal.

For more press information please contact Lisa Grech at [lisa@restaurantsmalta.com](mailto:lisa@restaurantsmalta.com)



restaurantsMalta.com



# The Definitive(ly) Good Guide to Restaurants Awards Ceremony

Malta Independent on Sunday 5.1.14

The Malta Independent on Sunday 5 January 2014

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## Lifestyle & Culture



## malene D. Diary

### The Definitive(ly) Good Guide to Restaurants Awards Ceremony

**C**hristmas has come and gone and my thoughts turn, with reassuring inevitability to my diet which started the day I was born, or so it seems. These thoughts are accompanied by one resolution after another to cut less and detox now that the Season's orgies are almost over. Scrooge might have survived on gruel but not the rest of us. We are bombarded by food everywhere we go. I am always trying to dodge it but am not agile enough.



Mrs Muscat with some of the sponsors and the Tarragon winning team

One of my daughters remarked that she has noticed, especially in supermarkets, that the Maltese are getting fatter and fatter. I noticed it too. The really fat ones, men and women, are not a pretty sight especially when they go shopping, especially in some old and shapeless tracksuits and white running shoes or 'slippers' as some call them, pushing heavily laden trolleys groaning with carbs and sugar. As we nearly crash into each other my trolley looking as if I am perilous, when compared to them, I am even more determined to return to my diet and to think twice before adding something very fattening to take home.

As a nation we are becoming fatter not only because so much more food is available but there is also the fact that in winter there is less swimming and walking and more carbs. But yes, with new supermarkets opening everywhere there is more variety and everyone wants to try out something new.

I have to say, my journalist's card saved the day and I parked in one of the entrances but not before making certain that I was not blocking anyone.

I went with my friend Milica who was chic as usual. Everything was very well organized starting from the cloakroom where we left our coats, which was most efficiently managed by several people, so there was no waiting. The beautifully ruffled tables looked most inviting and each time I attend this or similar events I wonder how the team in the kitchen survive it all.

Let it be said that the wines were sponsored by Muscat and Charles Grech came up with their excellent Acqua Panna and San Pellegri. The event was sponsored by HSBC and MTA. Another sponsor was Mr Alfred Cuschieri of Continental Purchasing, on behalf of Villenoy & Boch who supplied the beautiful commemorative award plates for the occasion.



Mrs Michelle Muscat and Ms Lisa Grech



The artist Stephanie Borg and Dr Mehdi Fahmi



Mrs Andrea Critien, Ms Denise Briffa, Mrs Michelle Muscat and Ms Lisa Grech



The writer and hypnotist Deborah Marshall-Warren and Dr Philip Manduca

Yes, winter is lethargic, though I love it. Charles Dickens of course encourages cosiness in many of his novels: a wood fire, wine and snug armchairs - in contrast with the wind and storm outside. He has always promoted hearth and home. I do, too, except that the reality of staying indoors means a great many more walks to the fridge, mugs of hot chocolate and the urge to have another slice of cake or the last of the mince pies.

Mrs Michelle Muscat presided. She wore a becoming black dress which had a flattering neckline. In contrast to the black she carried a most original contrasting necklace. Lisa Grech, looking like a Greek goddess, wore a blue dress with lovely 'churchill' straw earrings.

We had an interesting table with Andrea Critien and her husband amongst other couples. I remember her being Miss Malta years ago and she hasn't changed much in spite of having several children. On our table too, there was the energetic artist Stephanie Borg and her partner, Dr Mehdi Fahmi, an Egyptian Copt and a most interesting and articulate personality who has been living in Malta for a good many years. Stephanie had been commissioned to design the attractive cover of the latest edition of the Restaurant Guide.

And so to the food. The starter was a Carpaccio of Scottish King Scallop with some interesting trimmings. This was followed by a Pasta Ragù filled with Hallbut

Mousseau and again with delicious trimmings. The main dish was a Duo of Local Pork - filled with Jerusalem Artichokes, beetroot terrine and so on. What is more delicious than Maltese pork when cooked well? Dessert came in the form of a Yoghurt and Honey Parfait - but it was far more complicated than that with different textures and tastes. It is a sign of a well thought out menu when diners do not get up from the table groaning and feeling as if they are about to burst. Even after coffee and several chocolates I sprang up to leave: playing that my car had not been towed away.

The highlight of the evening was really the award ceremony which celebrates the outstanding achievement of Malta & Gozo Restaurant Survey online. Out of over 1800 restaurants on the Maltese islands only 150 make it to be included in the latest 2014 new look edition of the popular Guide. The survey was conducted in September and 1980 surveys were returned. It is interesting to note that 52% were women and 48% men. The overall winner was Tarragon Restaurant which won an unprecedented 9 restaurant awards. We never stopped clapping as it truly is an incredible achievement. Lisa said a few meaningful



Mr and Mrs Robert Critien

words about the late Colin Best. After all it was Lisa and Colin who went ahead with this idea years ago. Who would have thought then, that it would be such an incredible success?



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