



Portland Italian Businessmen's Club Newsletter

January 2010

L 'angolo della Cultura

Ferrari, Gucci, Brunello and Parmegiano Reggiano typify Italian products that are among the world's best. But there are things beyond food, wine, fashion and cars where Italy is in the forefront. A big ticket item is the construction of cruise ships, a multi-billion dollar a year industry (\$500 million to \$1.5 billion a ship), where Italy has been the leader for 20 years.



Holland America's Eurodam

Asian countries lead in producing merchant vessels by the dozens (container ships and tankers) and the US, and now China, lead in producing military vessels. But, in the high priced niche of cruise ships, Italy produces 40% of the total, followed by Finland, France and Germany.

Carnival, Holland America, Princess and Cunard are among the many cruise companies that have their ships produced by the Fincantieri company, headquartered in Trieste. With shipyards in all of Italy's major ports, Fincantieri also produces merchant ships, naval military vessels, submarines, large ferries, and megayachts (over 200 ft). Their core business is the construction of complex ships with a high-tech content, which defines a cruise ship.

Once a government company, now privately owned, Fincantieri's history goes back 200 years and 7000 ships. Even before that, the maritime provinces of Italy have been producing ships since Roman times, through the crusades and the Renaissance. In the 20th century, Italy's trans-Atlantic liners had been considered among the world's most beautiful.

At a conference several years ago, an executive from Holland America Line addressed the audience with a story about the building of their ships. The company initially expressed concern that when it came to building ships, the formal and rigorous processes of the Dutch conflicted with the seemingly more chaotic style of the Italians. They no longer cease to be amazed, stating that the Italians are able to build beautiful ships,... on time and within budget....and with high quality and a typically Italian style.

A quote from the Fincantieri website states it best, "to build a true masterpiece, it helps to be Italian".

IBC Christmas Dinner

Our Christmas dinner last month proved to be another great IBC evening with family and friends. The food and entertainment were excellent and every couple who bought a raffle ticket went home a winner, thanks to all IBC members who contributed gifts. It was good seeing some long-time members who haven't been able to make our monthly meetings, as well as guests from PSU and the Italian Vice Consul, Andrea Bartoloni.



Santa & an Italian reindeer

Next IBC meeting and membership news

Our next general meeting will begin at 6:00PM on Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at Caro Amico Restaurant, 3606 SW Barbur Blvd, Portland, a good choice to meet and have dinner. **We have important topics and ideas to discuss for 2010, and are encouraging your attendance.**

Help build IBC membership; invite someone to our meetings or ask us to send an introductory letter. For prospective members, Frank has put together an introductory letter explaining who we are and what we do and a new member packet to be given to new members upon being sworn in.

!!! Rescheduled Board Meeting !!!

The December IBC board meeting has been rescheduled to 6:30 on Tuesday, January 5, 2010 at Port City Pasta in Lake Place Center at 333 S State St. LO. All members are invited to attend and participate. The January board meeting on Jan 26 will remain unchanged; same place and time.

Updated IBC Web site and address

If you haven't been to our web site lately, please note that the URL has changed; it is now www.ibcpdx.org rather than www.ibc.com. Keith Armstead has volunteered and is working to update it, reflect changes in the club and in the web.

Mike Mignano hosts fund raiser

Mike Mignano sponsored a fund raiser for Little Children of the World, the charity that he is passionately involved with. Held at DaVinci's Restaurant on December 29, Mike hosted the food and wine event to benefit the charity in the Philippines. As he has done for several years, Mike will be traveling to the Philippines to help administer the program.

New Spella Caffè

Andrea Spella's new Spella Caffè is now open at 520 SW 5th Avenue in downtown Portland (corner of SW 5th and Alder). It's a cozy, sparkling and authentic Italian cafe with pastry by di Prima Dolci. Stop by and say hello to Andrea and have a cup of the best espresso in Portland.

IBC plans for 2010

At the last couple of IBC meetings, **Frank Genovese** brought up the idea of our club working with other Portland clubs on a fund raising project. Towards that effort, Frank attended a UNICO meeting and will be meeting with the **Italian Vice Consul, Andrea Bartoloni** and heads of some of Portland's Italian-American organizations this month. The object is to use the collected skills and membership within Portland's Italian-American community to support a common non-profit cause.

Key Events of Portland Italian-American organizations

The Portland chapter of UNICO International will be the sponsoring "Romancing... Broadway, Opera, and Jazz" with local performers, **Beth Donnelly and Douglas Feller** and their band. Well known in Portland's Italian-American community, Beth and Douglas will hold the event at The Old Church on SW 11th and Clay in downtown Portland on February 26th, 7:30PM. Tickets: \$15 Adults. 1/2 of all proceeds will benefit UNICO charities. For more information call 503.691.8505 or check out Beth and Doug's webpage at www.jeremiahproductions.com.



Beth Donnelly and Douglas Feller



The Scuola Italiana di Portland, a vital part of Portland's Italian-American community, will host its 5th annual Festa di Carnevale on Saturday, February 20, 2010. All ages are welcome at this family-friendly event which brings to life the Italian holiday with costumes, crafts, games, and traditional foods. It begins with a fun-filled afternoon for children and families and concludes with a delicious Italian dinner. All funds raised, including the Silent Auction, support the Scuola. Contributions are tax deductible.

The Scuola is seeking to broaden its base of support in bringing Italian language and cultural activities to people of all ages. Please join in this effort to preserve Italian heritage in an authentic, dynamic, and vibrant environment that nurtures the love for Italy from a very tender age!

For more information about the Carnevale, to enroll in a class, make a donation or inquire about volunteer opportunities, please visit their website www.scuola.us, or email at info@scuola.us.



Scuola Italiana Carnevale 2009