



Italian Businessmen's Club of Portland Newsletter

September 2011

L 'angolo della Cultura

Our world would be much different today if it weren't for the contributions of ancient Rome. Western language, government, laws, architecture, engineering and art are greatly influenced by Romans accomplishments.

Throughout Europe and the Near East ancient Roman structures and ruins still exist as reminders of "the glory that was Rome". None is more iconic than the **Coliseum**, a beautiful and majestic engineering marvel visited by millions of people yearly.



Completed in 70 AD, it was foremost among many projects during the reigns of Roman emperors Vespasian and his son, Titus. Though never failing to impress, its age shows at 60 years shy of 2000. Therefore, it is no surprise that earthquakes, plundering, wars and time have made it again in desperate need of repairs.

Beginning this month (September, 2011), a \$35 million dollar restoration begins. It being funded by a "shoemaker" ... though one who makes some of the world's most expensive shoes. Sponsoring the restoration is Diego Della Valle, CEO of Tod's, a spectacularly successful shoe company founded by his father in the 1920's and still operated from the region of Le Marche. Stated Diego, "A monument that represents Italy in the world must be restored, and a company that represents "Made in Italy" stepped forward..." He is hoping that his initiative will influence other corporations to help with many of Italy's other restoration projects of antiquity.

The Coliseum will remain open during the construction, which should take about two and half years. Besides significant structural restoration, a new reception area will be built and areas now closed will be repaired and opened to the public. This includes some additional upper areas and some of the labyrinth below ground where the gladiators and animals were kept.

IBC News and Happenings

21 members and guests attended the August meeting. Roger Cherry had the perfect spot and Alex provided another terrific dinner. The meeting was nicely run by Todd Salvo. Discussed was a review of Festa volunteers by Guy, our upcoming wine event (see next page), our Christmas dinner and other events being planned. Talk and laughs filled out a pleasant eve.



2011 Festa Italiana

↑ Guy and Bonnie LaCesa at the IBC table in the wine garden
↓ Jim Zuffrea and Frank Genovese at the IBC booth



The IBC Meeting for September will be a barbeque on the lake!

Our August meeting at Roger Cherry 's was fun and productive. Thank you Roger, Ilona and Chef Alex!

A committee is seeking a monthly meeting place and we hope to have one by October. For September "Doc" Sacco and his wife, Lottie, have stepped in and volunteered their beautiful lakefront home. It will be a lot of fun with sausage and peppers, salad and gelato prepared by Alex.

Cash or check payable to the IBC: \$15 (\$4 of which goes to the IBC fund) BYOBverage

Tues, Sept 13, 6:30 at Dr. Russell Sacco 1159 Lakefront Road, LO 97034, phone 503-635-3786

The agenda includes reviews of the Festa, prep for the Vendemmia, call for new officers, maybe a boat ride

directions: from 43 in LO, go west on McVey and first right on Lakefront to 1159

Park in circular drive, pull up as far as possible, also park to right of house, but not across the road



“Vendemmia”
Vineyard Harvest Celebration
Saturday, October 8, 2011 1:00 to 5:00
at beautiful Ardìri Vineyard

Presented by The Italian Businessmen’s Club and Tuscan Association

This will be the 4th of our popular vineyard events. If you haven’t been to one, this is your chance
Wonderful Italian food, Great Ardìri wines, music and dancing to John English, “The Voice”

The aroma of grapes in a vineyard setting that will remind you of Tuscany!

Don’t miss this popular afternoon ... and bring your friends
Italian “picnic” antipasto, lasagna, wine, salad, gelato, coffee

\$50 per person, pay: by check to IBC or call an officer listed below or
Paypal online at ibcpdx.org

Planning our IBC Christmas Celebration

Many members asked for a *weekend night* for our Christmas Dinner instead of our normal Tuesday meeting day, and here it is ... So no excuses. Tell your wife to save the evening of **Friday, December 16** for an elegant Christmas celebration at the historic and beautiful Benson Hotel in downtown Portland.

Anyone who was at last year’s dinner at The Benson will tell you that it was a great affair in all respects; the Christmas setting, a great Italian dinner, music and other festivities. More details will be provided in the next newsletters. **Save the date! Friday, December 16!**



Congratulations



to AJ and Marie Colasurdo
on their wedding anniversary

60 years!

Quite an achievement!



Thank you letter from PSU

The IBC Foundation has received a letter of appreciation from PSU for awarding a \$1500 scholarship in Italian studies. PSU Professor Angela Zagarella attended our July monthly meeting for the presentation to Prassede Kemp, of Abruzzese heritage.

It’s always nice to be reminded of what the IBC does for the Italian community.

Eating for a good cause

That’s Roger in the photo on the right. Due to his stellar military service and his great cooking skills, he was selected to judge the “Military Throwdown” at the annual Bite of Oregon at Waterfront Park last month, a benefit for Oregon Special Olympics.



The Throwdown is an “Iron Chef” style competition between Army and civilian chefs cooking against each other for 30 minutes. Judging next to Roger is Air Force Brigadier General Steve Gregg.

The judges chose the dish prepared by the civilian chef as the winner. I should certainly hope so or I know where to cut the military’s budget! The food during my military years was edible ... but definitely not award winning.

September 11, 2001

Please take a few minutes to remember those who died and those whose lives will forever be altered by the horror of that day 10 years ago.



KBOO’s Italian Hour on September 11 features new and old Italian favorites and happenings of the Italian community. Bob Iannacone will be sitting in for Lucia Galizia. 9:00 to 10:00. KBOO fm 90.7 or on the web at kboo.org.

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