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News

Dinner with a difference

The Accademia Italiana della Cucina hosted a dinner on the theme rice at the Phoenicia Hotel in Floriana.

Guests included Italian Ambassador Giovanni Umberto de Vito, French and Russian Ambassadors Michel Vandepoorter and Boris Yu Marchuk and Italian Cultural Institute director Salvatore Schirmo.

Dinner was prepared by the hotel's executive chef Saul Halevi. Massimiliana Tomaselli, from the academy, said the dinner brought together various threads and connections.

"Gastronomy is part and parcel of culture and says a lot about civilisations," she added.

The academy devoted detailed research on this year's theme, rice, which resulted in a book on the subject.

"Rice is not viewed as a simple cereal but one which has a story behind it, the cultivation of which is ancient," Tomaselli said.



Ludmila Marchuk, Giovanni Umberto de Vito, Massimiliana Tomaselli, Italicco Rota, Marie Vandepoorter, Albert Storace and Michel Vandepoorter.

The many courses served to the guests all had a particular variety of rice as a basic ingredient. Adding to the experience was Halevi's

explanation about what was behind the preparation of each course.

The book can be downloaded from www.accademia1953.it.



Moira Delia and Geordie Schembri with Nectar Group employees at the sanctuary, inset.

Employees help dog sanctuary

As a corporate social responsibility gesture, Nectar Group employees this year decided to buy dog food for The Island Sanctuary at Tas-Silg in Marsaxlokk.

The group enjoyed a visit to the animal sanctuary, where they met Moira

Delia, an avid animal lover and presenter of *Animal Diaries*, and her co-presenter Geordie Schembri.

DLH art exhibition launched



An art exhibition on the Gran Soccorso, organised by *Din l-Art Helwa*, was inaugurated at the Casino Maltese in Valletta.

Thirty artists donated their works to raise funds for the heritage NGO, which will be celebrating its 50th anniversary next year.

The Prime Minister's wife Michelle Muscat inaugurated the exhibition, which will eventually be transferred to Din l-Art Helwa's premises in Melita Street, where the works of art will be available for viewing and purchase.

Michelle Muscat admires one of the oil paintings at the exhibition.

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