

# FOCUS FRANCE



- Agnès von der Mühl, Ambassador of France to Malta
- Maltese-French Chamber of Commerce
- Discovering the magic of Corsica
- French-Maltese festival *Respire*

## WELCOME

# Europe: our protection, our ambition

Agnès von der Mühll, Ambassador of France to Malta

As French President Emmanuel Macron pointed out at the last European Council under the French Presidency, “Europe in June 2022 is very different from Europe in January 2022.”

Different because the war waged by Russia against Ukraine within the European continent is a game changer. This unjustified, illegal, cruel war, in flagrant violation of international law, has been condemned by the Europeans, by our American and British allies and beyond by the international community as a whole.

The consequences of this war are the sole responsibility of the leadership of the Russian Federation.

Diplomatically, this great country, a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, is thus isolated more than ever and the authoritarian drift also hits hard the Russian population itself victim of an unprecedented repression, leading with the war of aggression to the exclusion of the Russian Federation from the Council of Europe.

Militarily, the geopolitical landscape has changed profoundly and Russia's neighbours have taken note of the threats weighing on their direct environment. NATO welcomed, at the end of June, at their request, Sweden and Finland, who will contribute significantly in return to the security of all Allies.

Economically, the war has clouded the global economic outlook, with food, fuel and energy prices rising sharply. In addition, the Russian blockade of Ukrainian grain export routes causes and aggravates food insecurity and malnutrition in the world. We must protect the most fragile among us and we must protect the most vulnerable populations abroad. Europe has taken initiatives in this direction. In order to guarantee food access for all, we have launched, in conjunction with our partners within the EU, the G7 and the African Union, the international Food & Agriculture Resilience Mission (FARM) initiative.

During its EU Presidency, France worked hard to provide a united and firm response to the Russian aggression against Ukraine, while continuing to work on the major projects for the future of our Europe, so that it can be more sovereign, greener and more human.

The EU has welcomed more than 7.6 million Ukrainian women and men, supported the Ukrainian army with the deployment of unprecedented military



Agnès von der Mühll, Ambassador of France to Malta.  
PHOTO: MEAE/JONATHAN SARAGO

aid (€2 billion), supported the Ukrainian economy, with assistance of almost €2 billion and provided massive humanitarian aid, of €335 million, in addition to member states' bilateral humanitarian aid of €1.28 billion.

We have also provided practical support to the Ukrainian authorities and international courts, including the International Criminal Court, to preserve evidence of war crimes. And we have granted Ukraine and Moldova the status of candidates for membership of the European Union.

We have adopted sanctions that have a massive impact on Russia and Belarus: six packages of sanctions against individuals involved in the aggression and against the financial, transport, defence and energy sectors. For the record, the sanctions do not target foodstuffs or fertilizers. European

sanctions aim to stop the financing of the Kremlin war machine, since Russian President Vladimir Putin seeks peace only on one condition, the surrender of Ukraine. As President Macron and many other world leaders have said, this could not and this should not happen.

Europe is also different now because we have all realized that European sovereignty is not just a slogan, it is now an imperative. Together we have taken several fundamental steps: strengthening our defence capabilities, in particular our defence industrial base; adopting the strategic roadmap of the EU (the “strategic compass”); reducing sharply our dependence on Russian gas, oil and coal imports; and building a stronger economic base. We have set a European sovereignty agenda for food products,

health products, critical raw materials or semiconductors.

We have made major progress on other issues crucial for our future: on migration with better control of our external borders, the reform of the functioning of the Schengen area and a better response to migratory flows into Europe; on the fight against global warming with the adoption of the Climate Package to reduce our emissions by 55 per cent by 2030 and the promotion of identical production standards for products manufactured in the EU and for imported products, via the introduction of mirror measures; in the digital field with the limitation of the distribution of illegal content and products online, with measures to end the economic dominance of large digital platforms and to promote consumers' freedom of choice; and on social issues, by introducing a minimum wage for workers in Europe, for gender equality in the business world, with the adoption of the ‘women on board’ text.



**France thanks Malta for its contribution to making Europe stronger in this dangerous world**

A presidency is obviously a collective effort. We have been able to build on the achievements of the Slovenian presidency and we wish the Czech presidency every success.

Each of the member states of the European Union, large and small, played its full part. France thanks Malta for its contribution to making Europe stronger in this dangerous world. We also extend our warm congratulations for her brilliant election to the United Nations Security Council.

We will have the opportunity to continue to work together to promote the stability of a region that is essential to our common security, the Mediterranean, and more broadly to peace and security in the world. We will act with determination so that the humanist and responsible voice of Europe can be heard, so that multilateralism and the rule of law prevail over brute force and international disorder.

## MALTA-FRANCE

# ‘Keeping the momentum going’

Malta shares the same concerns, values, and interests with France, says **Carmelo Inguanez**, Ambassador of Malta to France.

I am pleased to write this message to the readers of the Maltese – and am delighted to report on the exciting and interesting period through which Malta and France have passed through during these last months.

As we recovered from the coronavirus pandemic, diplomatic activity in Paris gathered momentum. Thanks to the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union which came to an end on June 30, we inherently had added activity, representation, and interaction between the members of the Maltese and French executive as well as public officials. Indeed, let me take the opportunity to congratulate the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the useful work done under their presidency and the excellent organisation of all meetings held in France including the informal ministerial meetings and the informal summit for Heads of State and Government.

I am glad to say that over a span of a few months, the Prime Minister of Malta Robert Abela visited France three times. In November of last year, Prime Minister Abela attended the Paris Peace Forum as well as the French co-sponsored conference on Libya. In February 2022 the Prime Minister participated in the One Ocean Summit held in Brest. And one month later in March 2022, Dr Abela attended the informal EU summit hosted by President Emmanuel Macron. This goes to show that Malta shares the same concerns, values, and interests with France and as such, is always ready and willing to partake in French European, regional, and global initiatives.

Recently we established relations with the Forum Franco-phone des Affaires (FFA). The FFA is one of the world's leading networks of international companies. Present on five continents, it brings together economic players by profession, by geographical area and by country. It aims to

contribute to the dialogue between business and politics, facilitate exchanges between companies and increase the influence of the private sector in the economy of countries. The FFA is a good reference point for those of you who would like to initiate or expand business ventures in France and in the francophone world. We have a bright future of collaboration together.



*In France we are blessed with a varied and spread-out Franco-Maltese diaspora*

In France we are blessed with a varied and spread-out Franco-Maltese diaspora. It gives me a sense of satisfaction and pride to see that while they are so passionate in being Maltese, they also contribute in the French political, economic, educational, and cultural well-being. I had the occasion to meet quite a number of them and we also had the opportunity to show some of their talents.

We are now looking forward to keeping the momentum going and we aim for an increased collaboration both in parliamentary and executive spheres but also in the commercial sector. Our Ministry is now responsible for trade and therefore it falls directly on us to see the trade figures increase. As always, but now it is our legitimate duty, we stand ready to give assistance in whatever you need from this end.

We do hope that the normal times that we have enjoyed after we came out of the pandemic continue so as to be able to realise our plans for the future.



Carmelo Inguanez, Ambassador of Malta to France.

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## MALTA-FRANCE

# Investing in relationships

My vision is to continue to build on the Chamber's position as valued player and influencer in the business relationships in Malta and France in a landscape that is continuously evolving, says **Joseph Bugeja, President of the Maltese-French Chamber of Commerce.**

This year marks the 33rd anniversary of the Maltese-French Chamber of Commerce and following several months of social hibernation, it gives me more pleasure than ever to, as president of the Chamber, to contribute to this year's edition of Focus France.

As a voluntary team, our council has been an important loop in the business chain that has embraced the excellent relationships between the two States. Our chamber has continued to be a dynamic and relevant organisation that meets the needs of our members and leads on key issues during challenging times. More than ever, now it is the time to be positive. My vision is to continue to build on the Chamber's position as valued player and influencer in the business relationships in Malta and France in a landscape that is continuously evolving.

Today we can proudly say that France and French companies play a significant role in the Maltese life. We also wish and work hard to ensure that Maltese companies in France can succeed in France. We embrace co-operation but we also need to encourage growth in both of these regions, and the Chamber is a valid contributor in making this happen.

The Chamber brings together companies and enterprises with interests in Malta and France to develop synergies and collaborative and innovative projects to enable the companies involved to take a leading position in their sector in Malta, France and internationally. The Chamber also facilitates networking and business partnerships and promotes bilateral relations between Malta and France.

We also keep in contact with our members through our regular publications and communication channels. The newsletter, website and social media keeps our community informed about current events in Franco-Maltese economic relations, our events and the last updates on our members. They are also a mean of gaining in visibility for our members. The publications are shared all our members and partners to en-

sure your visibility with a specific clientele, made up mainly of business leaders and economic decision-makers.

The Chamber also organises several networking events to enable clusters and associations to interlink with the Maltese community and exchange best practices and experiences. Such interaction will strengthen and support the Maltese business community's ability to smoothen the transition towards adoption of new regulations and policies that are constantly evolving all the time. We want our Chamber to meet the needs of our members and strive to lead on key issues that are most relevant to them.

Our close relationship with the Ambassador of France in Malta and Business France was instrumental to achieve our Chamber's objectives. Working together as team with French Embassy's officers, our Chamber's staff and Council members strived to create the ideal working environment for business from both countries to flourish. We want to enable them to maximise on bilateral trade opportunities between our two countries. We also look forward to the opening of new opportunities and continue to make our Chamber a force in the Franco-Maltese business landscape.

We want to continue to build on the Chamber's success stories and position the Chamber as a valued player and influencer in the business relationships between Malta and France. I want to ensure we understand the needs and interests of our members and be dynamic and agile in anticipation of the changing business environment. France and French companies play a big role in our Maltese life, and we aim to replicate this for the Maltese companies that have interests in investing in France.

We all know that one of our valued advantages as a Maltese business community is the ease of our relationships within our community as well as the decision-maker and the government. We aim to continue to support this by moving a step



***The Chamber also facilitates networking and business partnerships and promotes bilateral relations between Malta and France***

further and as a Chamber become more active in areas of interests of our members. We want to support further growth. We need to understand the needs and ideas of our members proactively and be dynamic and agile in anticipation of the changing business environment.

I would like, with the help of the excellent team at the Chamber, to continue to make this access easy and to facilitate our members and partners to business success. We appreciate each and everyone's contribution as we continue to bring relevant topics, debates and matters to the fore. As we continue to grow in



Joseph Bugeja, president of the Maltese-French Chamber of Commerce.

a number of ways as a chamber, I would encourage more new members and sponsors to embark this journey with us as we continue to be a compelling voice for the Franco-Maltese business community.

Finally, I would like to reiterate my gratitude to my colleague council members, members of the Chamber, as

well as the supporting entities for their contribution throughout all these years. Notwithstanding our Chamber's diminutive nature, and challenging moments we had to face over the past months, we are pleased to have somehow contributed to change the paradigm of our economic reality.

## TOURISM

# Tourism: the French market

Dominic Micallef, Director France,  
Malta Tourism Authority

Given the health situation, which had improved in 2021, the French market made a very good rebound compared to 2020.

For the very first time, France occupied second place in the ranking of Malta's outbound markets with 133,912 French tourists visiting Malta, an increase of +88.9 per cent (+63,038 French tourists) compared to 2020.

Traditionally Malta's fourth tourism source market after the United Kingdom, Italy and Germany, in 2021 France placed behind the United Kingdom (214,267 British tourists) but ahead of Italy (127,774 Italian tourists) and Germany (96,514 German tourists).

In 2019, a record year for tourism, Malta had welcomed 239,140 French tourists. The 2021 statistics therefore

represent 56 per cent of the 2019 figures, the best recovery among all the major source markets for Malta.

During the first four months of this year, from January till April 2022, Malta welcomed a total of 51,260 French tourists which represents 12 per cent of the total market share. During the months of March and June 2022 the Malta Tourism Authority office in France held Digital Out of Home (DOOH) advertising campaigns in French cities where there are currently direct flights to Malta from French airports: Paris, Lyon, Nantes, Toulouse, Marseille and Bordeaux.

A number of French television, radio and magazine journalists were invited to Malta and important joint promotional campaigns were held with major French



In 2021, post-pandemic, the French market made the best recovery among all the major source markets for Malta. PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

tour operators. Prospects for the summer months from France seem very promising.

I am very confident that very shortly – possibly by the end of this year – we can regain what was lost on the French market, because of the pandemic.



Dominic Micallef, Director France,  
Malta Tourism Authority.

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## EVENTS

# The Maltese-French Chamber of Commerce hosts a social event to welcome H.E. The French Ambassador to Malta



On Friday, April 29, the president and council of the Maltese-French Chamber of Commerce hosted a social event to welcome Her Excellency, Madame Agnes Von der Muhl, as the French Ambassador to Malta.

Joseph Bugeja, president, MFCC expressed his honour to host Ambassador Von der Muhl, this being her first attendance to the customary social and networking events the Chamber organises throughout the year.



The event emanated from the close collaboration that the Maltese French Chamber of Commerce and the Embassy of France have managed to forge





how much care and interest Her Excellency had shown in her past diplomatic placements and work in developing closer diplomatic relations between nations. The MFCC council was very much encouraged by all this experience and looked forward to share success stories and explore new ways how it could work together through the Embassy's expanded network and contacts. The council already noticed the sheer dynamism shown by Her Excellency during the various cordial meetings, and it was very honoured to work closely with the French Embassy 'as facilitators' and contribute to development of business relationships in the interest of both countries.

The Maltese-French Chamber of Commerce is a voluntary organisation composed of professional entrepreneurs who dedicate their personal time for the vision and objectives of the chamber. In 2019, the chamber celebrated its 30th anniversary from its establishment. We are pleased to note that our initia-



tives render added value to the Embassy as well as to its members. The council is presently working on several initiatives for the current year.

The president thanked the loyal members, who continue to

support MFCC activities through their membership and direct participation. He furthermore thanked the sponsors, namely Bank of Valletta, RCI Insurance, and Malta Government Investments.

over the past years. It also provided a unique opportunity to formally introduce the Maltese-French Chamber of Commerce to Her Excellency and acted as

an informal setting where all guests had the opportunity to network and personally meet Madame Von der Muhl. The president further recognised



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## ENVIRONMENT

# The air that we breathe



The second edition of French-Maltese festival *Respire* focuses on the Mediterranean and environmental issues.

Launched last year and inspired by a strong desire for freedom, creation and artistic stimulation after the months-long pandemic, the French-Maltese open-air festival *Respire* – jointly organised by the French Embassy in Malta and the Alliance Française de Malte-Méditerranée – has featured some 20 events in Malta and Gozo, celebrating arts, culture and sport.

This second edition has a strong focus on the Mediterranean and all its environmental issues. With the very active support of many French and Maltese partners from a wide range of backgrounds, such as the REMPEC, The Malta National Aquarium, The University of Malta and the Storeroom, the event strives to cover a multitude of themes of global scope to discuss the Mediterranean in all its dimensions, providing ideas and solutions, in addition to the observations already made.

Through, arts, culture and sports – such as round-table discussions, screening, music and boat races – the event aims to raise awareness on these crucial challenges.

One of the key events this year was entitled 'Bringing The Ocean To The People: Our Next Challenge.'

The ocean covers over 70 per cent of the world's surface. Yet too often it remains on the sidelines of major events on the international and European agenda. As a regulator of the major environmental balances and especially the climate, provider of all kinds of rich natural resources, a major channel for trade, a vital link between countries and human communities, the Mediterranean is today threatened by the effects of climate change, pollution and the over-exploitation of marine resources.

Last June, together with the Malta National Aquarium, the REMPEC and the University of Malta, the French Embassy covered a multitude of themes of global scope to discuss the ocean in all its dimensions. With various expert speakers, including Alain Deidun and Mark Galea Pace, the event

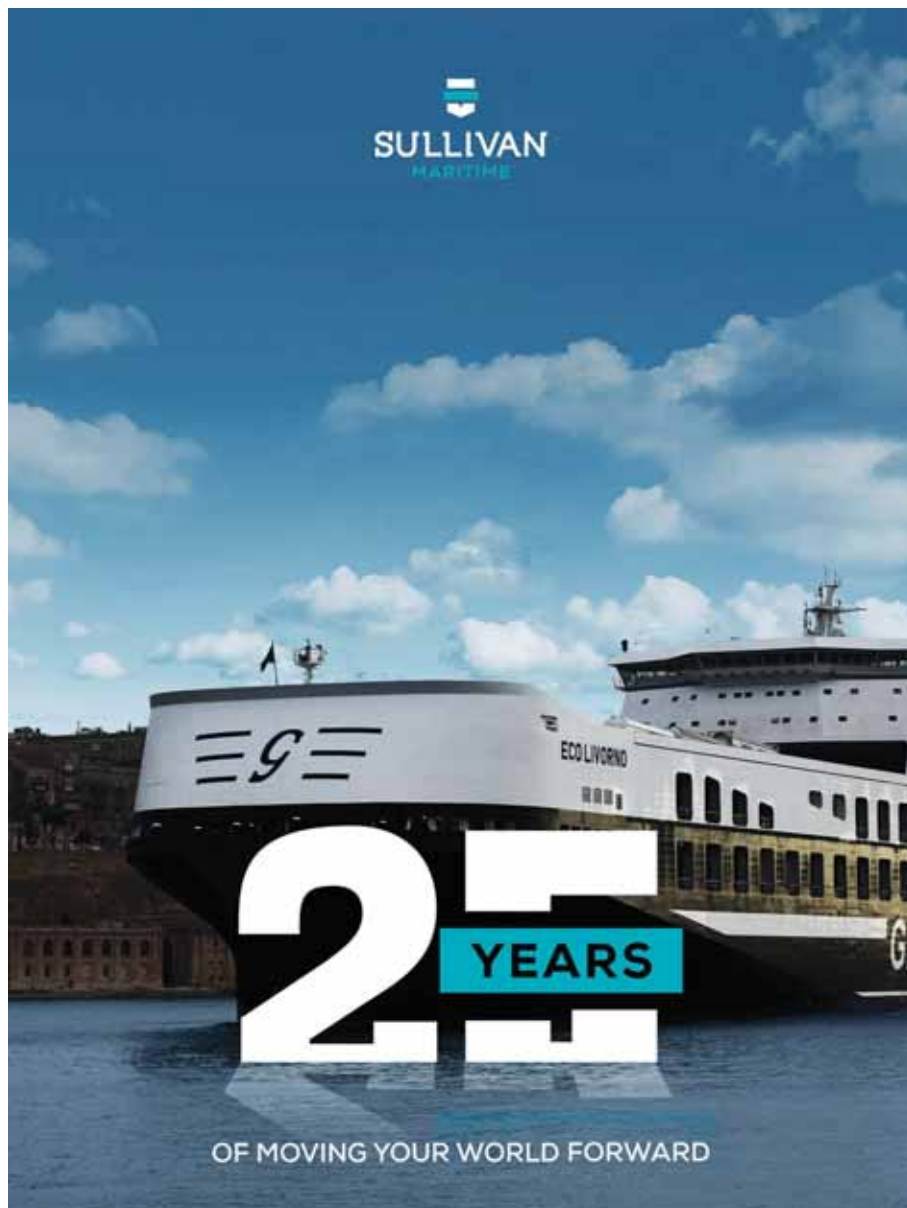


aimed at presenting several major initiatives launched by individuals, NGOs, businesses and countries, to protect marine ecosystems and sustainable fishing activities, fight pollution, address the effects of climate change and promote better governance of the oceans.



**Presenting several major initiatives launched by individuals, NGOs, businesses and countries, to protect marine ecosystems**

The objective was to discuss the theme: 'How do you, at your own level, act for the Ocean, how one may bring the Ocean to the people?' by touching on many perspectives during the talks. Galea Pace, responsible for various clean-up activities in Malta, discussed his many concrete actions as an individual. Daniel De Castro underlined the numerous activities and projects launched by the Malta National Aquarium aimed at the general public, to inspire people to protect the ocean and utilise marine resources sustainably. Professor Deidun, marine biologist by training and Malta's first-ever Ocean Ambassador, gave some insights through his positions as both an ambassador and an academic at the University of Malta. Representing Rempec, Franck Lauwers gave a Mediterranean approach, featuring a few regional and collective actions.



## TRAVEL



PHOTO: ATC-ALOÏS BOLOU



PHOTO: FOTOLIA

# Corsica: An island with a thousand faces

This beautiful island with its magnificent mountain range allows you to enjoy a wide range of sports activities while you get close to nature.

Choose from gentle or more sporty activities – at sea or in the mountains, indulge in local products and specialties throughout the towns and villages of each of the regions to discover the island's history, and enjoy the many cultural events which are at the heart of the island's identity. Corsica's treasures have earned it the nickname of "island of beauty". It's a land that can be enjoyed throughout the year.

## FOUR SEASONS OF ACTIVITIES

Whether you visit as a couple, or with family or friends, the activities on the island are suitable for everyone, in idyllic surroundings, 365 days a year. Make the most of the sea breeze in the summer and enjoy sailing, kayaking or paddle boarding. The fresh air and tranquillity of the mountain lakes will help you relax as you stroll along the paths meandering through the aromatic maquis.

In winter, you can learn cross-country skiing on the snow-covered plateaus overlooking the sea. Such magical moments await you. And if skiing is not for you, try a snowshoe walk in the heart of the forest. Spring and autumn are the perfect seasons for a mountain hike. The freedom of the mountains, and spectacular views over the peaks match the mellow temperatures of these months.



*This is a land of exceptional gastronomy*

The island's most famous hiking route is the GR20, connecting Calenzana in the north to Conca in the south. It is known to be one of the most challenging in Europe, but there are simpler courses such as Mare a Mare and Mare Monti. There are six mid-mountain routes in total which can be covered in five to 10 days of four to six hours

walking per day. If you prefer to cycle, the GT20 is an adventurous and exhilarating ride. It connects the north to the south, from Bastia to Bonifacio, over 12 stages along the 600 km route, surrounded by breath-taking landscapes. "A traversata maiò" is within everyone's reach – it's much easier if you ride an e-bike.

## AUTHENTIC FLAVOURS

The many flavours of Corsica are often surprising. There are seasonal citrus fruits, outstanding charcuterie produced in the traditional way, and envy-inducing cheeses of character. This is a land of exceptional gastronomy and it's also a land of vineyards which produce many internationally recognized wines.

To the north is the Patrimonio wine route with 33 vineyards and domains, including the oldest and most famous vineyard on the island. The vineyards of Cap Corse offer magnificent views over the sea while the east coast of Moriani in Solenzara, the south of Ajaccio and the south of Corsica



PHOTO: SEBANADO-SUNMADE

produce a different variety of wine thanks to the granite and limestone soil.

## HISTORIC CULTURE

Over the centuries, many foreign influences have shaped the landscape of the island. The Romans and Genoese left their legacy via the Romanesque chapels of Castag-

niccia and the many Genoese towers dotting the island's coastline. The island's heritage is conveyed through Corsican polyphonic songs as well as the unique language which keeps the local identity alive. The Corsicans are proud to preserve the history of Corsica, to share it in museums, on archaeological sites and even in the organisation of their daily life.

## EVENTS



# A flow of ideas

The first edition of the **Night of Ideas** celebrated collectiveness in creation

The French Embassy in Malta, together with Spazju Kreattiv, the Alliance Française de Malte-Méditerranée and the French Institute in Paris organised the first ever Night of Ideas in Malta on

Saturday, March 12 at Spazju Kreattiv in Valletta.

During the Night of Ideas, places of knowledge and culture around the world are invited to celebrate the free flow of ideas by offering conferences, screenings and artistic performances.

After two years punctuated by the coronavirus pandemic and its repercussions, with the whole planet experiencing closed borders, lockdown, suspended activities, another aim of the Night of Ideas was to address the challenge of reconnecting together. One of the answers, particularly illustrated by artists and thinkers, was given through the collectiveness in creation.

On the first roundtable, Sandro Debono, culture advisor to President George Vella, Dr Matthieu Quiniou, Laura Besançon, visual artist, together with moderator Margerita Pulè explored the notion of being an author in the frame of a collective creation: from a historical perspective, by questioning the notion of copyright across ages and geo-cultural areas, to the interactive and participative creation of today.

Gaëtan Le Coarer, PHD student in digital arts, presented two VR projects about heritage in Valletta between the two roundtables.

The second roundtable gave the floor to Caldon Mercieca, former manager of the Valletta Design Cluster, Eugénie Drion, dancer and member of the NFT platform DoinGud, Lucie Duriez, deputy director of La Friche Belle de Mai in Marseille, and moderator Toni Attard, to discuss initiatives that share the good practices for co-creation.

Another highlight was the collaboration between Besançon and the French Embassy.

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Night of Ideas

# Ideas

## s in Malta

Born in 1993, Besançon is a Maltese-French multidisciplinary artist, with an MA degree from the Royal College of Art. Her practice includes photography, moving image, installation and participatory projects. Central to Besançon's practice are notions of play, connectivity and place explored through a playful approach which often utilises various communication tools as part of the process.

Besançon participated in the Night of Ideas with her project 'Alone, together'. Her participation followed an invitation by the French Embassy – and she participated not only as a speaker, but also through an artistic residency, shared with Egyptian musician Yunis. During a full creative week hosted by the Spazju Kreattiv, they explored traditional Egyptian mythologies, rituals and material culture – particularly the use of archaic, anthropomorphic dolls as praxis during rituals. The outcome of their research took the form of a performative, participatory and public installation, called 'I will make a bride for you'.

After this exciting collaboration with the French Embassy, Besançon applied to a programme of artistic residency in Paris, at Cité Internationale des Arts – she was selected with the continuation of her work-in-progress 'Alone, Together.' With the support of the French Embassy and the French Institute in Paris, Besançon will spend three months in the French capital, to further develop further her artistic research and connect with a whole Parisian and French artistic network. Besançon is the first Maltese beneficiary of this programme.



# A taste of honey

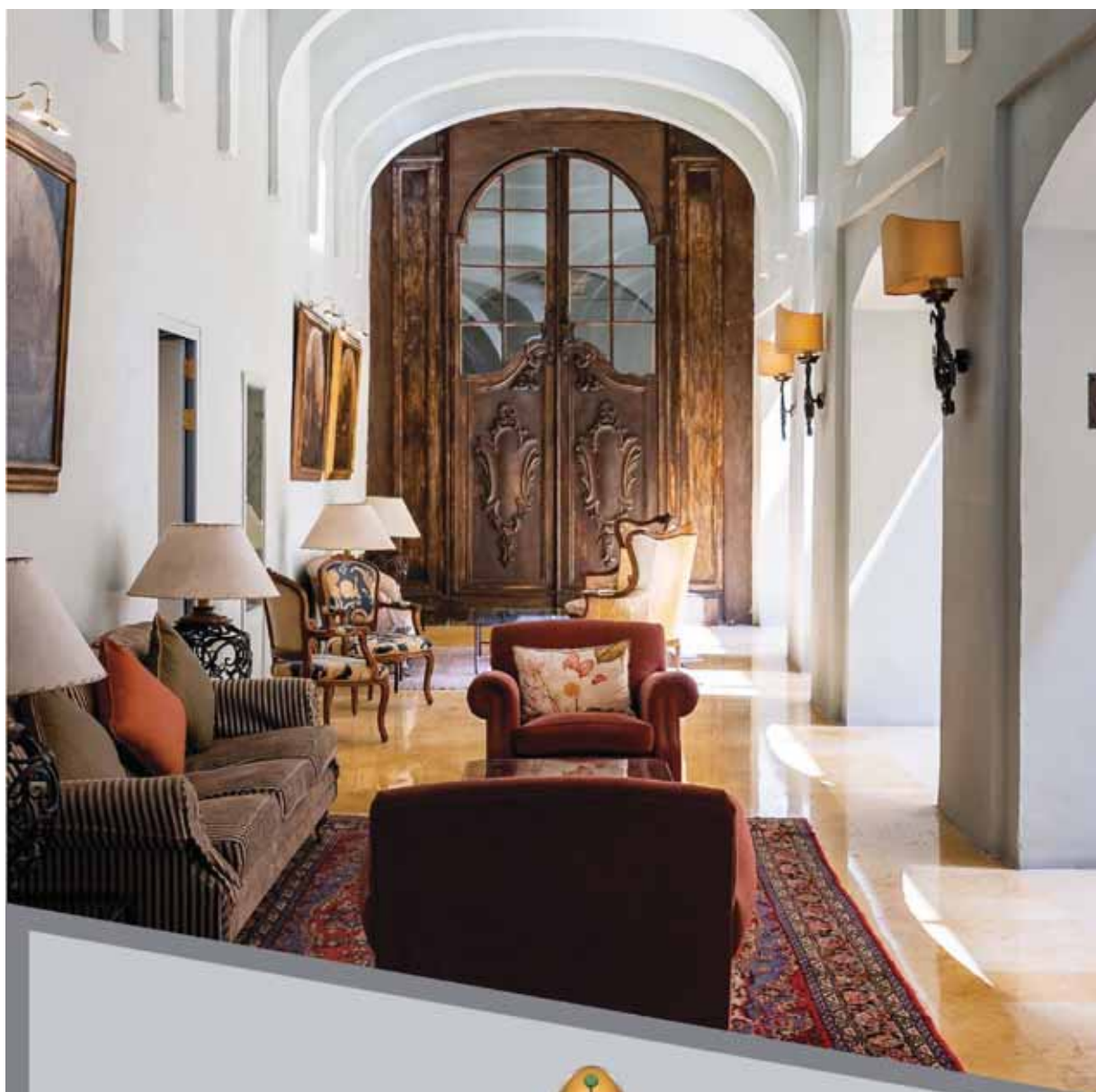
French beekeeper Paul Fert in Malta.

The French Embassy in Malta has invited French beekeeper Paul Fert for two events in Malta and Gozo combining talks, honey extractions and tastings

As part of the Respire festival and all its environmental and Mediterranean dimension for this second edition, the French beekeeper Paul Fert was in Malta to address these issues through the prism of bees. On Wednesday, July 6, at the Valletta Design Cluster in Malta

and also at Vini e Capricci by Abrahams in Gozo, the two events for the general public combined conferences, honey extractions, honey tastings and discussions.

Paul Fert exchanged views and insights with the Italian beekeeper and resident in Gozo, Ermanno De Chino, allowing a double analysis, sometimes crossed, often common, of the numerous current challenges impacting the bees in Europe.



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## ART &amp; CULTURE

# Discover French in Malta

The Alliance Française de Malte-Méditerranée is an association promoting the French culture and language since 1959 in Malta. It offers French courses and examinations to more than 400 students every year, as well as cultural events.

The association found its roots in 1946 at the University of Malta, with the Circle named Amis de la Culture Française at the time. It is the only accredited centre in Malta for the DELF and DALF examinations, which are French certifications awarded by the French Ministry of Education. It also proposes examinations such as the TEF and others from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Paris and La Sorbonne Nouvelle.

Through its aim of promoting the French language and cul-



ture, the Alliance Française de Malte-Méditerranée organises cultural events throughout the year, such as the French Film Days festival which offers French film screenings every month, or the Beaujolais Nouveau wine tasting event, the Respire festival, and many more.

The Alliance Française de Malte-Méditerranée offers courses for all levels and all ages, and during different sessions throughout the year. The Summer Course Session started on July 4 and will end the first week of September. The course offers are available on the website, and the winter session will be announced at the end of the summer.

## CINEMA EVENTS WITH THE ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE

### French Film Days

This year again, in collaboration with the Institut Français, the Alliance Française Malte-Méditerranée along with the French Embassy in Malta and Spazju Kreattiv has screened a va-

riety of French movies during the fifth edition of the French Film Days, held every third Wednesday of the month between September and July. This festival started with *Antoinette dans les Cévennes* and will end on July 20 with *Il se passe quelque chose*.

Our French Film Days are also coming to Gozo, where we'll meet you soon with brand new French film screenings. Follow us on our social media and visit our website to stay updated on that matter, and on our next French Film Days program at the Spazju Kreattiv Cinema.

### EUNIC

The EUNIC Malta Cluster was launched a year ago, in July 2021 and comprises several European Embassies and Cultural Institutes in Malta. EUNIC, the European Union National Institutes for Culture, aims at facilitating European cooperation and integration. The first event organised by the cluster was the European Film Festival in November 2021, which will happen again this year from October 11-16 in collaboration with Spazju Kreattiv and will focus on sustainability. On this occasion the Alliance Française de Malte-Méditerranée will screen *Rouge*, a contemporary film which deals with the topic of industrial pollution.

For the first edition of the festival in 2021, the Alliance Française, in collaboration with the French Embassy in Malta, invited French director Patrice Leconte. After a masterclass brilliantly moderated by Maltese director Kenneth Scicluna, the public enjoyed the screening of his movie *L'homme du train* and short film *Johnny Johnny* directed by Angélique Muller.

Both directors took part to a Q&A after the screening and answered the many questions of the audience.

## THE ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE AND ITS PARTNERS

### Din l-Art Helwa

The Alliance Française Malte-Méditerranée launched back its collaboration with Din l-Art Helwa this June, after the forced break due to the coronavirus pandemic. The collaboration was celebrated by a violin and cello concert on June 12 at the historical church Our Lady of Victory in Valletta. Many events are flourishing between the two associations, such as a hiking event in September where participants will hike between the Red and

White towers before stopping for a creative writing workshop, animated by the teacher and author Maëlle Audric.

### Lireka

The Alliance Française Malte-Méditerranée announced this June its new partnership with the universal online bookstore, Lireka!

Created by a team of two passionate entrepreneurs and the independent bookstore Arthaud in Grenoble, Lireka is the first online bookstore to offer more than a million books in French to readers from all around the world, with free shipping. This online bookstore comes from the simple fact that French expatriates often struggle to buy books in French, especially in non-French speaking countries.

Thanks to the partnership between the Alliance Française Malte-Méditerranée and Lireka, members of the Alliance Française Malte-Méditerranée benefit from a 10 per cent discount on all their orders on Lireka's website. To access this discount, simply ask for the discount code at [info@alliancefr.org.mt](mailto:info@alliancefr.org.mt) and fill it in while ordering on Lireka's website [lireka.com](http://lireka.com). If you're not yet a member, e-mail the same address to become one and benefit from the various advantages offered on our courses, events and at our partner's shops!

### The promotion of French language in Maltese schools

The Alliance Française Malte-Méditerranée is leading a campaign to promote the French language in Maltese schools. With the support of the French Embassy in Malta, the French Department of the Ministry of Education, The Secretariat for Catholic Education, the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade, the French Teachers' Association in Malta and private sponsors, the Alliance Française Malte-Méditerranée will launch the campaign next October, and organise visits in various schools in Malta and Gozo. Taster lessons will be delivered to Year 5-6 students and an informative talk delivered for senior school students. The schools, teachers of French and students will be given resources to decorate the language classes and pedagogical material to complement their teaching/learning resources as well as French books for their prize days.

If you want to offer your contribution to this campaign, contact directly the director, Isabelle Colin at [director@alliancefr.org.mt](mailto:director@alliancefr.org.mt).

# SUMMER SALE



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## NEWS



Citroën C5 Aircross SUV



Citroën C5 X



Peugeot 408

# Leading innovation

## CITROËN Ê-COMFORT

As we spend more and more time in our cars combating stress and fatigue, improving 'comfort of mind' is vital. Citroën therefore aims to create calm and refined spaces where ergonomic and functional highlights filter out the external environment. Citroën has a history of innovating comfort in the automotive industry, by focusing on suspension and seating as key elements. In 1919, the Citroën Type A had a novel suspension system to offer superior road comfort. Citroën was the first manufacturer in Europe to mount its engines on rubber blocks to reduce vibration to the cabin.

The recent launch of New C5 X and New C5 Aircross SUV reiterates the brand's vision to find a perfect filtration of the road, like being on a magic carpet. The Citroën Advanced Comfort® programme ensures that comfort remains a key element in the brand DNA, with Progressive Hydraulic Cushions®, struc-



Citroën Type A

tural body bonding and innovative seats significantly improving the vehicle's ability to filter out bumps and dips in the road. These innovations reassert Citroën's expertise regarding comfort.

## PEUGEOT BRAND IDENTITY

Peugeot's new identity asserts its positioning as an innovative high-end generalist brand, with a new logo that has been designed to last. It embodies what Peugeot meant yesterday, what Peugeot means today, and what Peugeot will mean tomorrow – a shift in stance; a new state of mind; a new lifestyle. The Peugeot brand is timeless, reinventing itself repeatedly.

Peugeot is now turning over a new page in its history. This new era is evident in the launch of their latest vehicles. The new Peugeot 308 is the first vehicle to feature the new Peugeot badge, with the brand's timeless identity combining history and ultra-modernity. On the other hand, the striking shape of the newly revealed Peugeot 408 is characterised by its dynamic inspirational Fastback stance. With the latest-generation Peugeot i-Cockpit® and new, fully customisable i-Toggles, the new line of Peugeot vehicles are shaping the vision of Peugeot's future.

expanding line-up of new electrified powertrains in both passenger cars and light commercial vehicles. These LCV vehicles were designed as part of a cross-business program and offer payloads and loading volumes without compromise. They benefit from a new generation of technologies and assistance systems, security and comfort. We understand you might have a few questions about vehicles and electrification, therefore we encourage you to contact us, and our team will be more than happy to discuss your requirements. For further details find Michael Attard Ltd on social media or visit [www.michaelattard.com](http://www.michaelattard.com).



Peugeot 308, now at the Peugeot showroom in Blata l-Bajda.

GOING FORWARD WITH MICHAEL ATTARD LTD

## GOING FORWARD WITH MICHAEL ATTARD LTD

As the electric market keeps pushing forward, Michael Attard Ltd is technologically ready to play its part in the energy transition thanks to a multi-energy offering.

Through Peugeot and Citroën, customers are spoilt for choice when it comes to choosing their next vehicle. Whether you're looking for a city car or an SUV, Michael Attard Ltd is ready to fulfil your requirements, with an

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Home & Garden

## SPORTS

# Not just a game

The French Embassy in Malta will strive to increase the relations between Malta and France in the field of sports.

The French Embassy in Malta and Xterra Malta have agreed to build on the success of their first joint operation last year and to extend their cooperation in May 2022 with the Gozo Trail Run. As in the November 2021, for each French participant in the Gozo Trail Run, an amount was donated to the NGO Inspire, which works on disability issues in Malta.

The Gozo Trail Run is a coast-hugging, 50km/21km/11km trail-running event that circumvents the island of Gozo. The 21km trail is run over the last part of the course, finishing in Ghajnsielem. Those running the Gozo route for the first time can opt for the 11km distance.

This year, on the initiative of the French Embassy and Xterra Malta, the event also welcomed to Malta and Gozo the French ultra-trail runner Mathieu Blanchard, who ranked third at the UTMB in 2021, probably the biggest trail race in the world. Blanchard finished first in the 51k,

beating the record of the race in only 4h15m. But running was not his only purpose by coming to Malta.

In an interview given to Times of Malta, Blanchard, having spent a few days speaking to fellow athletes and giving talks at National School of Sport in Pembroke, he said that he believed local athletes need more support to become better.

"I think that Malta is perfect to train because somewhere it is always too cold or too hot to train but in Malta it's like spring all year. You can do everything, so you have the perfect environment to train. But if you want to improve your level you need to compete, and you need to have a reference," Blanchard explained.

Before taking part in the trail, Blanchard also participated in a series of activities in Malta and Gozo, as part of the sports collaboration between France and Malta. He also gave a talk at the Nike Store, The Point, Sliema, along with top local



trail runners Tara Abdilla and Ryan Farrugia – they exchanged views on professional sport, on the relationships with partners and sponsors, on nutrition and relaxation.

The French Embassy in Malta said that Blanchard's presence in Malta was also intended to shine the spotlight on high-level sport and encourage the practice of sport at any age. As the next Summer Olympics will be held in Paris in 2024, with many female and male Maltese athletes participating, the French Embassy in Malta will strive to gradually increase the relations between Malta and France in the field of sports.



## M&Z plc and TIPIAK celebrate two decades of partnership

M&Z plc, one of Malta's leading importers and distributors of fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG), is celebrating 20 years of collaboration with the French firm Tipiak, which like M&Z has a history going back at least 100 years. Tipiak is an emblematic brand of French culinary art, producing food products that are suitable for a healthy & innovative cuisine such as quinoa and couscous products.

Tipiak began the production of tapioca and couscous products in France in the 1970s, and a decade later expanded both its portfolio, with deep-frozen products, and its geographical coverage, by opening a commercial subsidiary in the United States of America.

In the early 2000s a series of investment programmes brought additional improvements to Tipiak's production processes as well as its sustainability, health and safety, and information technology systems. In the past decade, further modernisation programmes focused on automating its production lines to streamline operations. The main plant in France is currently being expanded as investment programmes are ongoing.

Christele Bagnoud, International Development Manager at Tipiak, said: "Tipiak has enjoyed a strong relationship with M&Z in Malta and Gozo for more than two decades. Our brand has been a leader in its category

on the Islands thanks also to M&Z's deep understanding of Maltese consumer trends, their dedication to effective marketing, and unmatched professionalism in their dealings with retailers. Thanks to our shared commitment to quality, we are confident that the relationship between Tipiak and M&Z will continue to grow."

Christine Vella Bray, Brand Manager at M&Z plc, said: "As we continue to build on our century-long heritage, it is important to celebrate milestones such as our 20-year partnership with Tipiak. Tipiak's range of high-quality food products delivers significant value to M&Z, strengthening our reputation as one of Malta's leading food importers and distributors. We are grateful to Tipiak for their support over all these years and we look forward to more success in the future."

M&Z plc, which in 2022 has been celebrating its 100-year anniversary, continues to evolve and grow. This ongoing development has seen the company's shares recently listed on the Malta Stock Exchange and the acquisition of the business of Red October, a Maltese confectionary, wines and spirits importer and distributor. This latter acquisition has given M&Z plc a new foothold into the hospitality sector.

More information is available at <https://mz.com.mt/>

## FRANCE

# A typical French day in Malta

Summer is here, school is over, you dream of a sweet escape to Paris, but you didn't book a ticket. Nothing to worry about – because you can still enjoy a Sunday *à la Française* in Malta.

A pleasant Sunday in France always starts with a good breakfast. A bakery is an important facet of life in France, and most French people stop by the *boulangerie* to get their freshly baked baguette or their morning croissant. To experience a *boulangerie à la Française* in Malta, let's walk into Le Grenier à Pain Malta and meet Xavier Richard, manager, and Florian Deville, head of production, working in the bakery.

**Tell us the story of Le Grenier à Pain: what made you decide to open a bakery in Malta?**

France is known for its desire to excel in the field of gastronomy. La *boulangerie* (bakery) and la *pâtisserie* (pastry) are both pillars of French gastronomy. Recognised for its experience and quality, awarded twice 'The Best Bakery of Malta of the year' and 'The Best Craft Bakery of Malta of the year' and thus, having the honour to serve the French Presidency at the Elysée Palace, Le Grenier à Pain landed in Malta in February 2019, with the aim of bringing this French art de vivre to Malta. With Fre{n}sh (Balluta) being established in November 2014 in St Julian's, and having the same passion of Le Grenier à Pain, the merge was inevitable.

**What is one of the most important aspects of running a bakery?**

Customers are a big part of this amazing adventure. Our motivation was and still is, to plant and sow the seed of a transparent and honest quality within the bakery and pastry sector in Malta, and share the taste of France. For instance, we use pure butter Elle & Vire, which is one of the favourite dairy brands in France, on a daily basis for most of our recipes.

**What pastries and breads would you suggest for a true French experience?**

France has a wide variety of breads, viennoiseries, fine pastries and savoury snacks. The baguette is definitely a classic French people eat almost every day. On a lunch break, we would recommend a quiche lorraine, easy to eat and very tasty. And to indulge your sweet tooth, pick



up a tartelette lemon meringue for dessert.

**Bringing a taste of France is not your only concern. Could you tell us more about your anti-waste actions?**

Using its social networks, the company launched the anti-waste bundle operation two years ago. If certain products remain on the shelves during closing time, food baskets are prepared and offered on Facebook at reduced prices (less 50 per cent). This gives consumers the opportunity to pick up their bundle even after closing time.



## Sharing the taste of France

At the same time, the French bakery regularly raises awareness among its customers through campaigns in shops and at its retailers. The aim is to promote products that are sometimes less attractive but just as good by offering price reductions.

To go further, Le Grenier à Pain Malta even recycles its food waste. Breadcrumbs, cereal husks and stale bread that is not fit for sale is redistributed to poultry producers. Their chickens are fed



healthy feed to produce quality meat. Even coffee grounds are redistributed to farmers as fertiliser for their plants.

**Have you witnessed a demand for French bakeries in Malta?**

With Fre{n}sh being the first foreign craft bakery in Malta, seven years later, Malta has seen an increase in craft bakeries. And to meet the rising needs of croissants and French bread in the island, we should be opening very soon our latest shop in Sliema, La Maison Française.

## ART IN GOZO

Very often, the logical continuation of a Sunday brunch in Paris is a visit to an art gallery.

Let's take the fast ferry and head to Gozo where Charlotte Lombard is the curator and owner of Lazuli Art gallery.

**Can you tell us more about the gallery?**

I opened Lazuli Art in Triq Mons. Guzeppi Farrugia, Victoria seven years ago, and since then it has grown into a well-established art gallery. We recently launched a new location in the heart of Gozo, in the presence of Christophe Jean, first adviser to the French Ambassador in Malta. A large crowd of both locals and foreign residents gathered, happy to discover both the new space and the 2022 art collection.

**What is the 2022 summer collection about?**

Lazuli Art opened the 2022 summer collection with a showcase of distinctive and original metal work from Haiti, Zimbabwe and Madagascar, and from bronze masters in Burkina Faso, alongside Asian bronze work and Indian naïve art paintings. Actually, it is the first gallery dedicated to African art in Malta with this summer collection. In addition to contemporary artists from developing countries, Lazuli Art is also showing a selection of antique and traditional African art from the sub-Saharan region.

**What do you wish to promote with this collection?**

The ethos of Lazuli Art is the commitment to fair trade and the celebration of cultural diversity and integration. Fair trade is more than just trading; it demonstrates that greater justice in world trade is possible. It highlights the need for change in the rules and practices of conventional trade and profit-led, often exploitative, economic development, and shows how a successful business can also put people before profit.

As we buy everything upfront – our system is not commission-based – artists are given the possibility to build solid cashflow and thus to engage in

more challenging art forms while guaranteeing stable employment to their teams.

Fair trade is also about being fair to both sides. The artist receives the price at which they value their work, and the patron purchases a unique work of art for an affordable price, as there are no traders or middlemen but only non-profit organisations or fair trade businesses.

## KEEPING WELL

After this walk, a relaxing time is much needed. The last stop of our stroll should definitely be at a spa. Meet Sophie Lachaud, manager of a French wellness salon in Victoria, Gozo.

**What made you decide to open a wellness salon in Malta?**

I was looking for a quiet place to create my wellness cocoon, and after a holiday in Malta, I found Gozo was the perfect place. In October 2019, I created my salon, L'Instant Précieux (The precious moment). It's an innovative concept, with a French brand of products, Altearah.

I offer body massages for adults and children, scrub sessions, or face treatments with a deep physical, emotional and energetic action. The care of the client is global and personalised.

I am happy and grateful for the welcome and interest that the Gozitans and Maltese have shown me. I am here to share my French knowledge with them, to help them discover new techniques and approaches to relaxing treatments. I use my 15 years of experience, my training, my travels, my feelings to pamper the person. I take the time for each person to adapt to their needs.

**Did you encounter any difficulties regarding the decline in activity with the coronavirus pandemic?**

Despite opening a few months before COVID-19, the company has managed to make its mark and grow slowly but surely. It is with this momentum that the third candle will be blown out on October 4.

## NEWS

# Flawless beauty

Simone Mahler is a professional French skin care brand founded over 70 years ago in Bordeaux. The brand has developed and proposed exclusive methods, products and treatments, combining high technology with sensory indulgence, aiming to give every woman exactly what she is looking for.

With that in mind, here is our proposal for the ideal summer skin routine:

## PREFECTEUR DE PEAUX

The perfect alliance between make-up and skincare thanks to its fine texture that slides smoothly over the skin to leave an imperceptible 'second skin,' its formula combines spheres of hyaluronic acid, optical pigments and a vitamin cocktail that act in synergy. Achieve perfect-looking skin, and a uniform complexion that appears

flawless: fine lines and wrinkles are instantly smoothed, pores and blemishes become almost invisible.

Perfecteur de Peaux has a matte, velvety finish, and an immediate brightening effect and it offers better protection of the skin against the effects of ageing.

### How to use it

- Use daily in the morning on the whole face or locally on problem areas
- Apply with a smoothing action over cream and/or appropriate serum
- Do not apply to the eyelids

## CONCENTRE REPLUMPANT

This product combines the power of a serum, with the comfort of a cream. Concentre Replumpant has a light, comfortable, fluid texture emul-

sion, which is rich in active moisturising, anti-age protective ingredients. It enhances skin comfort and suppleness by increasing moisture in the skin; slows down and corrects the skin ageing process by stimulating cellular metabolism and visibly reduces the appearance of fine wrinkles and early wrinkles. Concentre Replumpant leaves the skin perfectly moisturised, revitalized and protected; the skin is smoothed, plumped and softened, with a more youthful appearance.

### How to use it

- Recommended on the face and neck, morning and/or evening, from age 35 (without cream/serum)
- Apply two to three pumps and gently massage outwards on the face, and from top to bottom on the neck
- In the summer, can be applied under a sunscreen prod-



uct, to prevent premature ageing due to dehydration

Simone Mahler can be found in selected professional beauty salons

in Malta and Gozo. For more information contact Beautimport Limited on 2169 6661. You may also shop online from [www.beauty-malta.com/shopmahler](http://www.beauty-malta.com/shopmahler).



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## NEWS

# Malta Freeport embraces the future

The shipping industry has undergone continuous and immense change over the past years.

To meet rising global demand, the size and capacity of container ships grew exponentially: from a few thousand TEUs to the huge megamax vessels we see today that stretch over 400m in length and are capable of transporting a staggering 23,000 TEUs.

In an effort to consolidate, shipping lines have merged and – like airlines – have sought strategic alliances to enable them to transport goods as quickly and cost-efficiently as possible across the globe.

Since Malta Freeport Terminals was privatised in 2004, it has experienced these changes first-hand and grown with them – from a modest port to the one it is today that has a capacity of 3.6 million TEUs.

An ambitious €320m investment programme has driven the facility's development, infrastructure, equipment, digitalisation, and personnel development have been central to the Freeport's growth strategy.

three million TEU containers were handled by Malta Freeport in 2021, representing a significant 22 per cent increase in traffic volumes over the previous year, which was affected by the pandemic, while 1,690 ships made calls at the facility.

Malta Freeport is today proud to provide considerable benefits to the local and international commercial community alike, in-

cluding essential links to 110 ports worldwide, over 50 of which are in the Mediterranean.

However, the Freeport remains firmly focused on the future, seeking to increase the capacity of the container terminals to four million TEUs while at the same time retaining maximum efficiency in order to enhance its standing within the Mediterranean region and beyond.



## Focused on the future

Last year alone, €20m was dedicated to an additional two megamax quay cranes, which are now operational, presenting the Freeport with a five-megamax-crane formation at Terminal One. This has consolidated Malta Freeport's status as one of the few leading Mediterranean hubs capable of handling the latest class of megamax container ships which carry over 23,000 TEU containers simultaneously at both terminals.

This has been complemented by increasing the capacity of refrigerated units as well as upgrading the terminal operating system with the very latest technology. The Freeport is also committed to minimising the impact of the facility's operations on the environment and has taken a number of steps in this regard, not least ensuring it is capable of handling the world's largest LNG-powered vessels which are much kinder to the atmosphere than conventional ships. Moreover, the Maltese government will be investing in a shore-to-ship project at Malta Freeport. Once operational in 2024, this project would lead to cleaner air, less noise and vibration and less CO2 per year.

The Freeport's investment has already paid dividends: almost



## Transforming Rare Disease Treatment

At Orphalan we strive to develop rare disease treatments to improve patients' lives.

We identify, develop, and provide access to innovative treatments for patients with rare diseases to make a positive and meaningful difference. We work together by listening to patients and putting them first, enabling us to provide treatments and services that work for them.

We use a global network of experts including scientists, academic institutions and companies with innovative technologies to provide support to patients.

We are the world leaders in the treatment of Wilson's disease, working tirelessly to bring our patients the most advanced treatments for the management of this rare disease.

We believe that patients across the world who are suffering with rare diseases should have access to innovative treatment that improves their care and positively impacts their lives as well as those of their loved ones.

A French-owned company, our sales and commercial hub is in Malta, with offices around the world.



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## NEWS

# Mazars: A global brand with French roots

The origins of Mazars – a leading international audit, tax and advisory firm – go back to when Robert Mazars set up his accountancy firm in Rouen, France in 1945. Today, Mazars is present in over 90 countries and territories – including Malta – with 44,400 professionals dedicated to helping clients make the most of their business opportunities, and to allow them to operate with confidence.

Mazars has long set its clients' long-term sustainable development and growth as its top priority, providing a comprehensive and flexible range of services, specialising in audit, accountancy, advisory, tax and legal services. Mazars' integrated approach is designed to leverage a global talent pool and serve organisations of all sizes,

from SMEs to the largest multinational corporations. In order to provide its clients with the best, most relevant services, Mazars continuously invests in developing strong sectoral expertise as well as the technological, scientific and soft skills that will shape professional services in the near future.

Mazars' roots in Malta go back to 1998, when two partners started a small firm known as Attard Giglio & Co. Eventually, the firm became part of the global Mazars network, going on to establish itself as an advisory-driven firm with a strong reputation for quality advice and service. This growth occurred in parallel with the progress made by the Maltese financial services sector over the years.



Mazars in Malta owes its success to its people – which the firm considers as its most invaluable asset. This dedicated team of more than 85 specialists – located in the new state-of-the-art offices in Birkirkara's Central Business District – has been key towards

adding value to the delivery of Mazars' customised solutions in Malta. The firm's continued growth also means that it is always seeking new talent, people who share its ethos, and who can contribute to Mazars' bid to consolidate its position as one of the

leading audit, tax and advisory firms on the local market, committed towards maintaining the highest possible quality standards, and thus serving the best interests of all its stakeholders.

For more information, visit [www.mazars.com.mt](http://www.mazars.com.mt).



Strategically located at the heart of the Mediterranean, Malta Freeport is the ideal hub for shipping lines due to its state-of-the-art transshipment facilities and outstanding level of service. Built on efficiency, flexibility and reliability, the facility is today one of the few ports in the Mediterranean with the physical capability to handle simultaneously at both terminals the latest class of 24,000 TEU megamax vessels. Agility and investment are key to Malta Freeport's growth strategy. With a focus on digitalisation and innovation, the facility is well prepared to meet tomorrow's higher capacity demands – further boosting its prestigious standing within the Mediterranean transshipment sector.



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## NEWS

# The Xara Palace Relais & Châteaux: a gem in the Silent City

Hidden away in the walled city of Mdina, among rich history, the finest palazzos, centuries-old homes, and the St Paul's Cathedral, one finds the precious, The Xara Palace Relais & Châteaux. Perched on the centuries-old bastions, this unique 17th-century palace was originally built as a residence for the noble family Moscati Parisio. Later bought by the Zammit Tabona family in 1996, it was meticulously and sensitively restored to reflect its former noble standings.

The Xara Palace Relais & Châteaux was converted to an exceptional boutique hotel with 17 stunning rooms and suites, all distinctively designed with elegant furniture, paintings and luxurious Parisian fabrics. The Zammit Tabona family are avid antique collectors. It is shown in the inimitable historical hand-picked pieces found in the suites and in the hotel. Some of the most distinguishing items include a set of grand church doors, a magnificent church organ cover which greets guests at the front desk, together with various artefacts from the time of the Knights.

Upon entering The Xara Palace Relais & Châteaux, guests are welcomed by stunning baroque architecture, an intimate and warm ambience. They are taken care of by the very attentive and dedicated staff; assured at providing curated moments during one's stay.

To further excite patrons visiting this unique palace; two restaurants are found at the hotel. The Trattoria AD 1530 is a family friendly eatery with a terrace in the quant piazza, serving hearty dishes, tantalising all tastebuds.

If a guest is looking for a more unparalleled experience, the de Mondion is just what they are looking for. De Mondion is an award-winning One Star Michelin restaurant, found on the top floor of The Xara Palace Relais &

Châteaux, overlooking breathtaking views of the Maltese Islands. The attention to detail at de Mondion is present in the observant service from the staff, the fine

wine selection and most of all; the luscious food which continuously delights the palette of guests. The talented chefs work hand-in-hand with the in-house regenera-

tive farmers, at Xara Gardens; to create the most delicious menu using the freshest ingredients.

When visiting The Xara Palace Relais & Châteaux,

whether for a honeymoon, a cultural trip or a short getaway, one is sure to experience a memorable stay in the Silent historical city.

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