

Jurade of Saint-Emilion in Malta

THE "FALAISE CHARTER" was signed by Jean Sans Terre, son of Eleonore of Aquitaine, on July 8, 1199.

The charter confirmed the right of the bourgeoisie of Saint-Emilion to hold in full ownership a commune with all the liberties and free customs and the power to administer, in the widest sense of the term, the common and commercial interests of the community. This through magistrats and elected jurats.

In 1289, during the reign of Edward I, King of England, by letters patent, these powers were extended to nine parishes, whose territory today forms, just as it did eight centuries ago, the production area of Saint-Emilion wines.

The jurats were in charge of managing the external affairs of the commune. They were its representatives in all its relationships with the sovereign, the authorities of Bordeaux, the neighbouring communes, and its enemies.

They controlled and managed the internal administration, handling justice and everything related to the police over the territory of Saint-Emilion.

As far as viticulture was concerned, the role of the Jurade was essential, given the importance of vine-growing. The jurats deployed a truly scrupulous and ever-vigilant activity for the production of fine wine.

They held the stamp of the vintner, the brand of the city arms; proclaimed the harvest banns, curbed the sale of "insufficiently fine" wine, and punished abuse and fraud.

Any wine considered to be unworthy was destroyed. Finally, the jurats issued "certificates" without which any shipment of wine was forbidden.

All these measures, which remained in force up to the French Revolution, ensured the prosperity of the region by the remarkable reputation of the wine from Saint-Emilion, called at the time in France "an honorific wine". Louis XIV, the Sun-King, proclaimed the wine of Saint-Emilion to be the "Nectar of

the Gods" and in England it was known as "the King of Wine".

The current Jurade, reconstituted on September 13, 1948, draws its inspiration from the same privileges and responsibilities granted over the centuries.

Each year, it proclaims the "Judgment of the New Wine" in June and the "Harvest Banns" in September, as in centuries past; organises receptions both in Saint-Emilion and throughout the world, for the greater glory and prosperity of Saint-Emilion wines.

Chancelleries, as Ambassadors of Saint-Emilion wines, have been created in London and in York in Britain; in Wallonia and Flanders in Belgium and in Texas, USA.

Investiture at The Arches

The Jurade of Saint-Emilion were in Malta from May 3 to 6 as part of the yearly visits that it holds in various countries all over the world to spread the message of tradition, history and cultural importance of wine.

It was represented by four members of the Grand Council of the Jurade - Jacques Capdemourlin (*Premier Jurat*), Eric D'Aramon (Chateau Figeac), Luc D'Arfeuille (Chateau La Serre), and Michel Duverger (Union of Producers).

To show the diversity of Saint-Emilion wines a typical and informal Maltese *fenkata* was held at Rubino Restaurant in Valletta.

And in conjunction with the hospitality section of the Institute of Tourism Studies there was a presentation of wines followed by lunch prepared by ITS students. This function was attended by the Minister of Tourism, Michael Refalo as well as the Shadow Minister, Karmenu Vella; Malta's main hoteliers, restaurateurs and journalists were also invited.

The climax of the visit occurred at The Arches Restaurant in Mellieha, where the Jurade, dressed in full regalia, held an installation ceremony for new members, using an 800-year-old procedure.



THE NEWLY INVESTED members with the *Premier Jurat*, Jacques Capdemourlin (centre), holding up their certificates after the ceremony at The Arches Restaurant. They are, from left: Mr Tabone, Dr Schranz, Mr Vella, former President Mifsud Bonnici and Ambassador Destremau.

Former President Dr Ugo Mifsud Bonnici; French Ambassador Didier Destremau; Anthony J. Tabone, managing director of Wands Ltd and chairman of PBS; Joe Vella, owner of The Arches; and Dr Antoine Schranz, a diabetes specialist and a great wine amateur, were installed as members.

Following the investiture ceremony a six-course banquet, accompanied by ten wines, was served to an invited audience.

The jurats also visited Maltese wineries and historical sites.

World Heritage site

Recently, the Jurisdiction of Saint-Emilion became a cultural property featuring on the UNESCO list of World Heritage sites.

This is the first time that a wine-growing area has been identified as a World Heritage site in this way. UNESCO has thus recognised the exceptional universal value of 5,000 hectares (12,350 acres) of vines growing in the commune of Saint-Emilion and its seven neighbouring villages that used to form the old jurisdiction and the Saint-Emilion and Saint-Emilion Grand Cru appellation areas.

This site constitutes an exceptional example of farming tradition and the civilisation that surrounds vine husbandry.

There are many aspects, however, that motivated this UNESCO recognition - an unequalled architectural heritage, with the medieval town of Saint-Emilion and above all its exceptional vineyards.

The Saint-Emilion wine growers, who are deeply attached to this ancestral land, are especially proud of this new title, which has been awarded just as the 800th anniversary celebrations of the Saint-Emilion Jurade have come to a close.

Every June, Michael Tabone organises a group visit to Saint-Emilion and if you would like to know more about this or the Jurade of Saint-Emilion please contact him at L-Ghorfa tal-Fuklar, Hal Far Road, Zurrieq.

The Jurade's visit and the investiture ceremony will be featured by Mariella Pisani Bencini on Meander (PBS) on Thursday evening.

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Kellogg's launches Nutri-Grain Elevenses

KELLOGG'S, the nutritious breakfast cereal, has introduced a new tasty and healthy snack to overcome mid-morning hunger pangs.

Aptly named Elevenses, this new snack is made from wheat, wholegrain oats and pieces of real fruit, all baked and individually wrapped. They are also suitable for vegetarians.

Kellogg's Nutri-Grain Elevenses are conveniently sized to provide a quick but delicious snack suitable for that late morning hunger pang.

Children at the Hamrun Primary School and the Pilar School, in Valletta, recently had the opportunity to sample Kellogg's Nutri-Grain Elevenses bars. Both these schools had an activity during which the importance of healthy eating was emphasised.

For this reason, Elevenses, which are made with the best nutritious ingredients that include cereals, raisins, apple and various vitamins, were distributed. Each Nutri-Grain bar contains as a quarter pint of milk.

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