

## WHAT'S ON



PHOTO: VIRGINIA MONTEFORTE



PHOTO: KATEL DELIA

# A world of literature to enjoy

The Malta Mediterranean Literature Festival is back, kicking off on Sunday and running until August 24. The 14th edition of the week-long festival, organised by Inizjamed, will conclude with three nights, starting from August 22 to 24 at Fort St Elmo, Valletta. Entrance to all events, which start at 8pm, is free.

Twelve writers from nine countries are reading at the festival, which also features Maltese and foreign poetry films, Maltese musicians, a book stall, a book-binding stand by Kotba Calleja, drinks and a selection of food provided by Core Green Organic and Fair Trade.

The participating authors are Rasha Abbas (Syria/Germany),

Astrid Alben (UK), Rena Balzan (Malta), Antoine Cassar (Malta), Yolanda Castaño (Galicia), Sampurna Chattarji (India), Elizabeth Grech (Malta), Eric Ngalle Charles (Cameroon/Wales), Yolanda Pantin (Venezuela), Davide Rondoni (Italy), Habib Tengour (Algeria/France) and Lorraine Vella (Malta). Readings will be mostly in Maltese and English, but some short works will also be read in their original language.

The writers will be in Malta throughout the week of the festival to take part in translation workshops led by Nadia Mifsud. They will be translating each other's works and reading some of these translations during the festival.

Two discussions will be held on Sunday and August 20 at The Undercroft and Valletta Contemporary, both in Valletta. The first discussion will tackle the theme 'Is Universality a Myth? The Case for Literature', while the second will follow with the theme '(Not) Maintaining the Status Quo'. For both discussions, different invited authors will be on the panel. There will also be time for questions from the audience.

On August 21, an Open Mic will be held at the Valletta Contemporary. The public is invited to participate and share its own work with the audience and the invited authors. It will also be an opportunity to meet the authors.

The festival will be then concluded through three nights at Fort St Elmo. Four authors will read their work every night together with their translated work concluded during the workshops. An interview with one of the authors will also be held every night.

On August 23, More or Less Theatre will be holding a session of storytelling with kids at the same space of the festival.

During one night at the Nights at the Fort, a poetry film will be premiered. Following a call for proposals, the group Cine Laurea are working on a poetry film which will present Joe Friggieri's poem *Natura Morta*. The poetry film will be

premiered during one of the nights at the Fort.

A musical component will also be present every night. The band Tact will be playing on August 22 and 23 while the band Djun will be playing on August 24.

**Inizjamed is organising this festival with the support of the Malta Council of Arts and the Cultural Partnership Agreement. The festival is also collaborating with Literature Across Frontiers, Creative Europe and L-Ghaqda tal-Malti - Università. More information is available on the Inizjamed Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/inizjamed](http://www.facebook.com/inizjamed)), the Malta Mediterranean Literature Festival 2019 even on Facebook and at [inizjamed.org](http://inizjamed.org).**

## Marsovin's grape harvest feast

Marnisi Under the Stars - The Marsovin Grape Harvest Feast will be taking place on Tuesday and Wednesday at the winery's Marnisi Estate in Marsaxlokk.

The event forms part of a series of celebrations the winery has organised this year to commemorate its 100th anniversary milestone. The winery will also be celebrating the start of the grape harvest for vintage 2019, while also giving patrons the opportunity to taste the wines produced from the Marnisi Estate in the idyllic setting of the vineyard.

A swing style band Swing Nuages will be performing on Tuesday while gypsy-jazz band Hot Club of Valletta will be performing on Wednesday. Delectable food will be supplied.

A limited amount of tickets have been released and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets will include entrance, vineyard tour, a limited edition 100th anniversary wine glass to take home and Marsovin premium wine all throughout the evening. Wines served will also include premium Antonin Noir and Marnisi, both of which are made from grapes grown on the very same Marnisi Estate.

Tickets can be purchased online from [www.ticketline.com.mt](http://www.ticketline.com.mt) or directly from the Marsovin Cellars by calling 2366 2445 or 7923 1919. The event also gives patrons the opportunity to admire the vineyard at the peak of its annual lifecycle. For those who wish to have a closer look, guided vineyard tours will also be held between 7 and 8pm by Marsovin's wine specialists. Tours start half an hour before the event official opening time.

## Anton Schranz exhibition in Germany



Alexia Coppini with John Schranz

An exhibition - Anton Schranz (1769-1839) - A seascape painter from Ochsenhausen - is running till October 27 in the monastery museum in Ochsenhausen, Germany.

The exhibition commemorates 250 years of the artist born in Ochsenhausen, who is one of its most famous historic personalities.

Along with paintings by Anton Schranz, there will also be paintings by his sons and further descendants, in addition to documents such as the original register of births with the entry of Schranz's birth, dating from 1769.

Alexia Coppini, fifth generation direct descendant of this great artist, has just returned from Ochsenhausen, where she exhibited five of her seascapes together with the works of Anton.

Among guests was John Schranz, a fifth generation direct descendant of Anton through his first-born son, Giovanni.

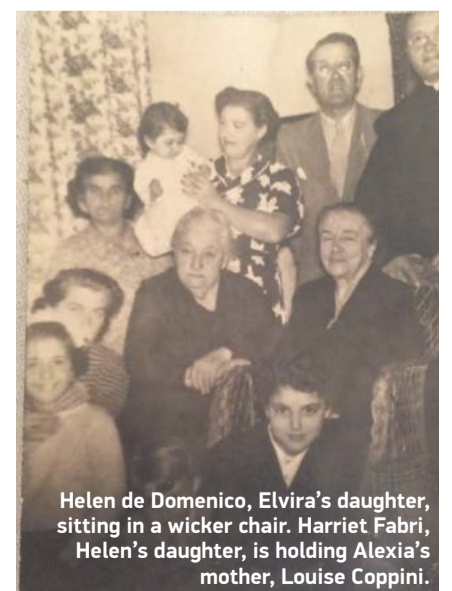
For details, e-mail [alexiacoppini@gmail.com](mailto:alexiacoppini@gmail.com).



Elvira Semini, Giovanni Schranz's daughter



Giovanni Schranz the artist



Helen de Domenico, Elvira's daughter, sitting in a wicker chair. Harriet Fabri, Helen's daughter, is holding Alexia's mother, Louise Coppini.