



**The Maltese Islands  
Events Calendar  
Highlights 2010**

[www.visitmalta.com/events](http://www.visitmalta.com/events)





**Cribs Exhibition**

**02.– 06.01.2010**

**17.12.2010– 07.01.2011**

**Auberge d'Italie (Valletta)**

The long-standing tradition of crib-making is highlighted in a unique exhibition of cribs made from various materials and utilising a wide range of techniques.

**www.visitmalta.com/events**

**So much to do in Malta!**

Malta boasts of an events calendar replete with an eclectic blend of local and international entertainment, exhibitions, festivals and feasts. Whatever your particular area of interest may be, you are sure to find activities which will appeal to you.

Choose from performances by international contemporary music stars, classical music concerts and jazz festivals. Malta's vibrant performing arts scene also offers a surprisingly diverse repertoire of theatre, opera, and dance. Moreover, the Maltese islands play host to an exciting array of international sporting events.

If you are looking for an authentic Maltese experience, then look out for traditional events such as our village festas, Carnival and Holy Week celebrations. We Maltese are amongst the warmest people you will find in the Mediterranean. With our desire to enjoy life, we will be more than happy to have you share in our fun and joy!

For more information please visit our website:  
**www.visitmalta.com/events**

**New Year Concert**

**03.01.2010/First week of January 2011**

**MCC (Valletta)**

The Malta Council for Culture and the Arts organises this high-profile concert on the first Sunday of January. The event is held at the Mediterranean Conference Centre in Valletta and features the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra performing a varied programme. A limited number of invitations are available for the general public on a first come first served basis. Those wishing to attend are to send an email to [anton.miceli@maltaculture.com](mailto:anton.miceli@maltaculture.com).

**www.maltaculture.com**



**Christmas Pantomimes**

**Last week of December 2010–first week of January 2011 – MFCC (Ta' Qali), MCC, Teatru Manoel (Valletta)**

One of the must-see events during the Christmas and New Year period in Malta is the traditional Christmas pantomime. Different productions are presented each year, with amazing costumes, fantastic sets and laughter guaranteed.

**www.visitmalta.com/events**



Carnival float in Valletta

**Feast of Saint Paul's Shipwreck**

**10.02.2010 – St. Paul's Parish (Valletta) and Munxar (Gozo)**

The first of the year's major feasts is celebrated in the parish church of St. Paul's Shipwreck in Valletta and throughout the streets of Malta's capital city. The feast commemorates the shipwreck of St Paul on the Maltese Islands, an event which took place in 60 AD and which is recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. St Paul is acknowledged as having converted the Islands to Christianity. The feast is also a national public holiday.

[www.visitmalta.com/events](http://www.visitmalta.com/events)



**Paul Van Dyk - Volume World Tour 2010**

**06.-07.02.2010 – Eden Bay Arena (St. Julian's)**

Fresh Events and 89.7 Bay present another Masterclass Session on Saturday the 6th of February, where none other than the Grammy nominated artist, globally acclaimed DJ and audio architect - Paul van Dyk ([www.paulvandyk.com](http://www.paulvandyk.com)) will headline the show that is going to be held at the Bay Arena. The German DJ is one of the world's most popular and sought-after electronic music artists, voted as the World No.1 DJ in 2005 & 2006.

[www.freshevents.info](http://www.freshevents.info)

**The Land Rover Malta Marathon**

**28.02.2010 – Rabat to Sliema**

The first major sport event of the year in Malta sees the participation of some 700-800 local and international athletes. This 42.2 km run, also includes a 21km half-marathon.

[www.maltamarathon.com](http://www.maltamarathon.com)

**Carnival in Malta and Gozo**

**12.02.-16.02.2010 – Around the islands**

**Major events in Valletta and Nadur (Gozo)**

February brings with it carnival week, which takes on a traditional flavour, including extravagantly-coloured floats perched on lorries, children in fancy costumes as well as Malta's main nightlife centre, Paceville, welcoming late night carnival revellers to its clubs and bars. The heart of the action is Valletta, though various towns and villages across the Island have their own festivities. Carnival in Nadur, Gozo, takes on particularly comic and macabre tone with its spontaneous night-time carnival. Traditional carnival sweets are a firm favourite, and the love of good food prevails. Carnival week is a time to let your hair down and go with the flow – ideal for those who enjoy a good party.

[www.maltaculture.com](http://www.maltaculture.com)



Spontaneous carnival in Nadur, Gozo

**Bank of Valletta Opera Festival**  
**17.-24.03.2010 – Teatru Manoel (Valletta)**

The month of March at the Manoel Theatre is synonymous with the BOV Opera festival. The Manoel Theatre presents yet another series of uplifting and exciting operas for this annual event. The theatre will stage its own production on the 17th and 19th of March, featuring a selection of Malta's best operatic singers and the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Mro Brian Schembri. This will be a double-bill opera night, consisting of 'Aleko' by Rachmaninov and 'Il Cambiale di Matrimonio' by Rossini. On the 20th March there will be a vocal recital by highly talented young Maltese singers, featuring operatic arias in the Sala Isouard. Handel's 'Alcina' will be staged on the 22nd and 24th of March. This opera will be produced and performed by the Weiner Akademie, conducted by Maurice van Lieshout.

[www.teatrumanoel.com.mt](http://www.teatrumanoel.com.mt)



**Valletta – Heritage, Art, People: The Heart of Malta**  
**27.03.2010 – Valletta**

This event celebrates the essence of Valletta - culture, entertainment and shopping, by means of a variety of events and initiatives around the capital city.

[www.visitmalta.com/events](http://www.visitmalta.com/events)



The Manoel Theatre

**Feast of St. Joseph**  
**19.03.2010**

***Around the islands***

The feast of St. Joseph is celebrated in the historic village of Rabat in Malta and is also a public holiday across the Maltese Islands.

[www.visitmalta.com/events](http://www.visitmalta.com/events)



**Jum il-Helsien - Freedom Day**  
**31.03.2010 – Valletta & Birgu**

Freedom Day (Jum il-helsien) is one of Malta's public holidays and commemorates the closure of the last military base in Malta in 1979. Apart from the state ceremonies held in Valletta and Birgu wharf, Freedom's Day is also renowned for the afternoon regatta held in the waters of the majestic Grand Harbour. Food and drink stalls line the harbour adding to the celebratory feel created by locals and tourists alike.

[www.maltaculture.com](http://www.maltaculture.com)





**Ronan Keating Live**  
**03.04.2010 – MFCC (Ta' Qali)**

Irish superstar Ronan Keating is set to thrill audiences in a live concert at the MFCC in Ta' Qali. This will be his first visit to our shores.  
[www.nngpromotions.com](http://www.nngpromotions.com)



**Medieval Mдина Pageantry and Flower Festival**  
**09.–11.04.2010 – Mдина**

The Medieval Mдина Pageantry and Flower Festival transports the city and its visitors back in time, whilst enhancing its beauty by means of flowers and music. Mдина's various museums, historic palaces and churches are open throughout the festival for everyone to explore. The presence of flowers everywhere brings a tangible feeling of a vibrant spring day in Mдина.  
[www.visitmalta.com/events](http://www.visitmalta.com/events)

**Visit by Pope Benedict XVI**  
**17.–18.04.2010 – various locations**

The official visit by HH Pope Benedict XVI will take place over two days in the month of April, to commemorate the anniversary of St Paul's arrival on the shores of the island in 60 AD.  
[www.visitmalta.com/events](http://www.visitmalta.com/events)



**The Prodigy Live in Malta**  
**30.04.2010 – MFCC (Ta' Qali)**

Immensely popular and notorious English electronic music group, The Prodigy, performs live at the Malta Fairs and Convention Centre.  
[www.knockoutevents.info](http://www.knockoutevents.info)



**Festa tar-Rebbiegħa**  
**11.04.2010 – Qormi**

An event focusing on the various aspects of the spring season in Malta with live musical performances, food and various other displays.  
[www.visitmalta.com/events](http://www.visitmalta.com/events)



**Strawberry Fair**  
**Second or third week of April – Mgarr**

Throughout this event, a breathtaking amount of fresh strawberries are sold. A constant supply of freshly picked strawberries are ferried constantly to the main square of Mgarr throughout the day. Countless other products made with strawberries, ranging from delicious gateaux and cakes, to smoothies, milk-shakes, ice-cream waffles, pancakes, strawberry jams and also strawberry wine are available at this popular event.  
[www.visitmalta.com/events](http://www.visitmalta.com/events)

**Good Friday and Easter Celebrations**  
**02.–04.04.2010 – Around the islands**

At Easter, Malta's religious traditions are displayed at their best. On Good Friday an air of solemnity can be felt all over the Islands as church-interiors are draped in black or purple and their bells are kept silent. By Sunday the churches undergo a radical transformation, with the sombre drapes removed and bells ringing joyously. Malta also marks Lent, Good Friday and Easter through its food. In fact the Maltese traditionally abstain from eating sweets and sometimes meat during Lent, especially on Good Friday. No visit to Malta at Easter would be complete without attending one or more of these celebrations, especially the Good Friday processions.  
[www.visitmalta.com/events](http://www.visitmalta.com/events)



**Malta International Fireworks Festival**  
**24. & 29.–30.04.2010**  
**Floriana & Grand Harbour (Valletta)**

The 9th Edition of the Malta International Fireworks Festival will be organised once again in and around the majestic Grand Harbour-the perfect setting for this event. The Festival will take place on the 29th and 30th of April 2010. On the 24th of April the 4th Mechanical Ground Fireworks Display will take place on the granaries (il-Fosos) in Floriana.  
[www.visitmalta.com/events](http://www.visitmalta.com/events)



Malta International Fireworks Festival



Military Mtarfa

### Local Events in May

#### **Haz-Żebbuġ Jistiednek: 08.–09.05.2010 – Żebbuġ (Malta)**

A variety of activities to suit all kinds of tastes. Music, children's area, a medieval market and food for all against the backdrop of this historic town.

#### **Luqa at War 1939-1945: 14.–16.05.2010 – Luqa**

The village of Luqa revives the daily way of life during World War two, wherein the village was one of the hardest-hit due to its proximity to the military airfields.

#### **Fire and Water Display: 15.05.2010 – Pietra'**

An event celebrating the beauty of two of the Earth's most powerful elements. Fireworks over the sea and a massive fireworks waterfall.

#### **Lejla Fil-Belt ta' Hompesch: 22.–23.05.2010 – Żabbar**

A festival of food and entertainment, held throughout the day, for all the family.

#### **Jiem Maltin: 22.–23.05.2010 – Fgura**

Celebrating the Maltese, particularly the residents of Fgura, their traditions and origins.

#### **Military Mtarfa: 22.–23.05.2010 – Mtarfa**

Bringing alive the military history of Mtarfa, through re-enactments, exhibitions in the ex-Military hospital and barracks, wartime vehicle exhibitions, and displays of various military related artefacts.

#### **Spring Rikottafest: 22.–23.05.2010 – Kirkop**

An event built around the manufacturing and uses of cottage cheese (ricotta), including pies and sweets. Displays and shows are held throughout the two days.

#### **Arti Fil-beraħ: 29.–30.05.2010 – Marsascula**

Artists and artisans will show how they ply their craft by means of first-hand demonstrations and displays.

### **Għanafest – Folk Music Festival**

#### **28.–30.05.2010 – Argotti Gardens (Floriana)**

The Għanafest is a three-day event focusing on Malta's traditional singing. The programme also features Mediterranean folk groups. Għanafest will host a series of workshops on traditional instruments and a special programme for children. A wonderful event for the whole family, complemented by traditional Maltese food and the marvellous surroundings of the Argotti Botanical Gardens in Floriana, situated within walking distance from Valletta.

[www.maltaculture.com](http://www.maltaculture.com)



### **Valletta Grand Prix Historic & Classic Car Event**

#### **03.–09.05.2010 – Valletta**

The Grand Prix Sprint Event is to be held in the UNESCO World Heritage City of Valletta during the first week of May 2010. This annual historic and classic car event will run along the Valletta ring-road surrounding Malta's capital city. A must for all automobile enthusiasts.

[www.vallettagrandprix.com](http://www.vallettagrandprix.com)

### **Lejlet Lapsi**

#### **14.–16.05.2010 – Victoria (Rabat, Gozo)**

Held mainly in the Victoria (Rabat, Gozo) area from the 14th-16th of May. Popular performers will be flanked by different and sometimes unusual acts, with events taking place in venues associated with culture, as well as other intriguing locations around Victoria, including open air ones. Re-enactments and street performances will feature prominently in the narrow, winding streets of the city, with concerts and recitals taking place in churches, chapels and other venues around the town centre.

[www.visitmalta.com/events](http://www.visitmalta.com/events)

[www.gozoculture.com](http://www.gozoculture.com)





**Victoria International Arts Festival**  
**08.–30.06.2010 – Victoria (Rabat, Gozo)**

The Victoria International Arts Festival held in Victoria (Rabat), Gozo's capital, features artistes from the Maltese Islands as well as from all over Europe. Venues include St George's Basilica and its annexes as well as St. George's Square and Independence Square. All performances start at 8.00 pm and are free of charge.

[www.stgeorge.org.mt](http://www.stgeorge.org.mt)



**L-Imnarja: Summer Folk Festival**  
**28.–29.06.2010 – Rabat/Mdina/Buskett Gardens**

The feast of Saints Peter and Paul, on the 29th of June, marks an important event in the calendar of Maltese customs and traditions. L-Imnarja, as the event is called, is a country harvest and folk festival as well as a religious holiday. The festival, the origins of which date back to before the arrival of the Knights of St John in 1530, acquired its name from the bonfires that used to light up the festivities in Mdina and Rabat. Today, the feast is marked by various events at Buskett gardens. Families and friends gather at this open air venue, Malta's largest natural woodland area, for a picnic which normally carries on into the evening. The traditional rabbit dish and wine are at the top of the day's menu, accompanied by the singing and music of local folk bands. The day after the celebration continues with an agricultural show, followed by bareback horse and donkey races at Saqqajja Hill, just below Mdina.

[www.maltaculture.com](http://www.maltaculture.com)

**Local Events in June**

- **Notte Scarlata: 04.–06.06.2010 – Sannat (Gozo)**  
 A medieval themed event related to the history of Sannat.
- **Senglea Maritime Festival: 05.–06.06.2010 – Senglea (Isla)**  
 A maritime-themed event held along the seaside promenade of Senglea (Isla), the historic maritime town, one of the famous 'Three Cities'.
- **Legend... Alive: 11.–12.06.2010 – Xagħra (Gozo)**  
 The event features the Body Art Dance Group, as well as performances by local bands and singers against the backdrop of the legendary Ġgantija temples.
- **Sigġiewi Annual Agrarian Show: 12.–13.06.2010 – Sigġiewi**  
 An event celebrating Maltese agrarian tradition, but also bringing these traditions into the 21st century.
- **L-Istorja Tmexxi s-Sengħa: 20.06.2010 – Naxxar**  
 A family event, highlighting the history of various Maltese trades, food, wine, music and more.
- **Cultural Moments: 25.–27.06.2010 – Msida**  
 A three day cultural and entertainment activity, including historical re-enactments, musical concerts and Maltese food and drink.
- **Feast of St. John the Baptist: Last Week of June – Mellieħa**  
 Re-enactment of "Il-Bandu", the official public announcements as carried out during the era of the Knights of St. John.





**Maltese Traditional Religious Feasts**  
**June–August – Around the islands**

Malta’s main religious denomination is Roman Catholic, and hence religious celebrations are a core part of the Maltese evening calendar. The months of July and August are ‘full to bursting’ with parishes celebrating their respective patron saints. This is the time of year we fondly call the ‘festa’ season. Every town and village celebrates in a similar manner, with both indoor religious functions and outdoor festivities. The latter are the more secular aspect of the feasts, with ground and air fireworks displays, band marches and revelry. Churches are decked out in the parishes’ finest: drapes, silver and all sorts of ornamentation dazzle the eye during the village ‘festa’. Processions with the iconic statue meander through village streets decorated with lights and beautiful banners – ‘pavaljuni’, accompanied by bands and devotees. Villagers make sure that their homes are in best possible shape for this special occasion, as oftentimes the village ‘festa’ brings guests and extended family to their doors. No summer in Malta is complete without a visit to one of these colourful, exuberant and yet holy celebrations.

[www.visitmalta.com/events](http://www.visitmalta.com/events)

**Malta Music Week and Isle of MTV**  
**25.–30.06.2010 – Floriana and other venues**

The Isle of MTV Concert is the apex of a week-long festival of live music. The annual Isle of MTV music event in Malta is an MTV Networks International (MTVNI) production. A world class line up of artists will play in a free live concert on the Granaries in Floriana in front of a crowd which annually tops the 50,000 mark. Once again this promises to be one of the summer’s must-see musical events. The Isle of MTV Malta is unique in offering young people across Europe an exclusive opportunity to experience some of the world’s best new and established artists here in Malta. This event has become an important annual destination for music lovers. Previous attractions included Lady Gaga, Black Eyed Peas, N\*E\*R\*D, One Republic, Maroon 5, Akon, Enrique Iglesias and Metro Station amongst others.

[www.isleofmtv.com](http://www.isleofmtv.com)



Black Eyed Peas



**Marsovin Wine Festival**  
**22.–25.07.2010 – Hastings Gardens (Valletta)**

Local wine producers Marsovin will be holding their annual wine festival as part of the Malta Arts Festival in Valletta. The event is usually held over a weekend in July. The aim of the event is not only to give visitors the opportunity to sample some of the best local wines but also to present a cultural event tied to a Mediterranean theme.

[www.marsovin.com](http://www.marsovin.com)



**Malta Arts Festival**  
**01.–24.07.2010 – Valletta**

The Malta Arts Festival comprises of a wide variety of art forms, including theatre, dance, music and painting. Performances are staged in various venues including the Old Opera House and Freedom Square in Valletta. Other venues in the capital include the Mediterranean Conference Centre, the MITP Theatre and the St. James Cavalier Centre for Creativity.

[www.maltaartsfestival.com](http://www.maltaartsfestival.com)

**The Malta International Jazz Festival**  
**15.–17.07.2010 – Ta' Liesse (Valletta)**

The Malta International Jazz Festival takes place annually in July over three nights at Ta' Liesse in Valletta. A line-up of top international and Maltese artists present an eclectic mix of jazz styles from the contemporary musical scene. In the past, world famous artistes such as John Scofield (*pic*), Al Di Meola, Chick Corea, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Cubanismo, Michel Petrucciani, Betty Carter, and Joe Zawinul, amongst others, have performed to large crowds under a summer star-lit sky during this festival. The beauty of Valletta's Grand Harbour by night is truly magical and tremendously evocative.

[www.maltajazzfestival.org](http://www.maltajazzfestival.org)



**Farsons Great Beer Festival**  
**23.07.–01.08.2010 – National Park (Ta' Qali)**

Comprising of ten days of fun and open-air entertainment, this festival has become a much sought-after annual event that attracts locals and visitors alike. The festival naturally celebrates Malta's famous brews, allowing the crowds to appreciate a wide array of immensely talented local musicians.

[www.farsons.com/beerfestival](http://www.farsons.com/beerfestival)



**Feast of St. George**  
**18.07.2010 – Victoria (Rabat, Gozo)**

Amongst various attractions, the St. George feast in Gozo also hosts traditional horse races which take place in Republic Street on the Sunday afternoon (feast day). St. George's Parish boasts a popular brass band known as the Banda La Stella. During the festive week, this band plays both in street marches and also in staged concerts.

[www.vistmalta.com/events](http://www.vistmalta.com/events)



**Gala Concert with Joseph Calleja**  
**24.07.2010 – Malta**

What has now become an eagerly anticipated annual event is to be organised again this year: An open air concert with internationally renowned Maltese tenor Joseph Calleja and special guest. This year's concert will see Joseph Calleja returning to Malta in the wake of his triumphant season at the New York Metropolitan, where he shone in the lead role in Offenbach's Les Contes d' Hoffmann.

[www.nngpromotions.com](http://www.nngpromotions.com)



**Delicata Wine Festival and Nadur Wine Festival**  
**05.–08.08.2010 – Upper Barrakka Garden (Valletta) and**  
**03.–05.09.2010 – Nadur (Gozo)**

Two festivals of wine tasting and musical entertainment held at the **Upper Barrakka Gardens in Valletta** and in the town of **Nadur in Gozo**.  
[www.delicata.com/winefestivals.aspx](http://www.delicata.com/winefestivals.aspx)

**Feast of the Transfiguration of Christ the Saviour (Is-Salvatur)**  
**06.08.2010 – Lija**

This is one of the more popular feasts in Malta, especially due to the spectacular fireworks displays associated with this celebration, most notably the air- and ground fireworks displays on the eve of the feast (5th August).  
[www.visitmalta.com/events](http://www.visitmalta.com/events)



**Sole Music Festival – 3rd edition (Music & Awards)**  
**21.08.2010 – Gozo**

The festival headlines different contemporary international artists as well as performers from other eras which remain favourites amongst all audiences. 'Sole' will also be supported by the cream of Malta's musical crop.  
[www.solemusicfestival.com](http://www.solemusicfestival.com)  
[www.dynamicpromotions.com.mt](http://www.dynamicpromotions.com.mt)



**Feast of St. Gaetan**  
**08.08.2010 – Ħamrun**

The St. Gaetan feast in Ħamrun is widely regarded as the signature event for the much acclaimed "Marċ tal-brijju" (or Festive March) which is held on the day of the feast, starting in mid-morning and ending in the afternoon. The competitiveness that exists between Ħamrun's two main band clubs makes this celebration one of the most exciting feasts in Malta and Gozo.  
[www.visitmalta.com/events](http://www.visitmalta.com/events)

**Feast of The Assumption of Our Lady (Santa Marija)**  
**15.08.2010**

**Various towns and villages**

The Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady (Santa Marija) is considered to be the pinnacle of the festa season. Celebrated in various towns and villages in Malta and Gozo this feast is also a Public Holiday.  
[www.visitmalta.com/events](http://www.visitmalta.com/events)





### Independence Day

**21.09.2010 – Valletta & Floriana**

A programme of activities is organised to commemorate this national holiday which marks Malta's independence in 1964.

[www.visitmalta.com/events](http://www.visitmalta.com/events)

### Malta International Airshow

**25.–26.09.2010**

**Malta International Airport (Luqa)**

Spend an enjoyable day with family and friends visiting the static display of aircraft and helicopters at the Malta International Airport in Gudja. Around lunch-time get ready for a spectacular aerial display to be held over the airfield. At the show expect to find a variety of aircraft from the ultra-light to sleek fighter jets and giant transport planes.

[www.maltairshow.com](http://www.maltairshow.com)



### Żejt iz-Żejtun

**25.–26.09.2010 – Żejtun**

The town of Żejtun celebrates its own olive oil festival with pageantry and various crafts exhibitions and demonstrations.

[www.visitmalta.com/events](http://www.visitmalta.com/events)

### Notte Bianca

**25.09.2010 – Valletta**

Notte Bianca is an all-night event held in Malta's capital city, Valletta. The event embodies the spirit of an 'open city' where, for one whole night, Valletta's monuments and important buildings are open and accessible to all until the early hours. Many different and original events are organised throughout the night all across Valletta, as well as shops opening till late and restaurants serving food all night long.

[www.nottebiancamalta.com](http://www.nottebiancamalta.com)



### Local Events in September

#### ■ **Lejl Għat-Tard: 03.09.2010 – Attard**

A festival of jazz, contemporary and classical music performed in the lovely village of Attard.

#### ■ **Maria Bambina / Il-Vitorja: 08.09.2010 – Senglea (Isla)**

A religious and national feast commemorating the victory in the Great Siege of 1565. The main event is the National Regatta held in Grand Harbour, Valletta.

#### ■ **Iljlieli Mellieħin: 10.–13.09.2010 – Mellieħa**

A three-day event of culture, history, music, entertainment, good food and fun for all the family

#### ■ **Maltese Night (Lejla Maltija): 17.09.2010 – San Ġwann**

A cultural event promoting the history and culture of the locality and its surroundings.

#### ■ **Enjoying Traditional Games: 19.09.2010 – Birzebbuga**

Pretty Bay shall be the backdrop to this event. Games, such as passju, žibeg, lasktu and others transport young and old back to when child's play was truly fun and simple.

#### ■ **5th Edition of the Qala International Folk Festival:**

**22.–27.09.2010 – Qala (Gozo)**

During the event various local and foreign folk groups will entertain the public. Star attraction of this event will be the Menħir Qala Folk Group.

#### ■ **Xogħol, Ikel u Xorb Matul il-Medda taż-Żminijiet:**

**26.09.2010 – Marsa**

An event highlighting the connection between traditional maritime trades and the traditional culinary fare that used to be consumed by workers in the port town in Marsa.



Iljlieli Mellieħin



**Chocolate Festival**

**23.10.2010 - Hamrun**

The Hamrun local council will be organising the second edition of the much acclaimed chocolate festival which promises to be bigger and sweeter than last year. New chocolate recipes, a huge variety of chocolate samples and, last but not the least, the famous chocolate sculptures will surely meet with the approval of one's artistic appreciation as well as one's taste buds.

[www.visitmalta.com/events](http://www.visitmalta.com/events)

**BirguFest**

**8.-10.10.2010 - Vittoriosa (Birgu)**

This annual event takes place in Birgu, one of Malta's oldest and most historically-important cities. During the Birgu by Candlelight event the streets are lit up with a gentle glow by thousands of candles. However, Birgufest has developed further, offering numerous activities throughout the festival. The historic re-enactments, extended opening hours, cheaper museum entrances and the opening up of other venues including churches, emphasize the immense historic value of this city. In addition, food stalls offering both Maltese and other food, various musical concerts and various exhibitions, make this event truly outstanding.

[www.birgu.gov.mt](http://www.birgu.gov.mt)



**Malta Military Tattoo**

**09.-10.10.2010 - MFCC (Ta' Qali)**

The 7th Malta Military Tattoo will be held on Saturday the 9th and Sunday the 10th October 2010 at the Malta Fairs and Conventions Centre, in Ta' Qali. The event will provide a highly entertaining atmosphere with precision marching, formation- and gymnastic displays and, above all, good music. The 2010 Tattoo will include six foreign bands, foreign and local massed Pipes and Drums Band, the Malta Police Precision Drill Team, the Malta Police Band and the Armed Forces of Malta Band.

[www.visitmalta.com/events](http://www.visitmalta.com/events)

**Casal Fornaro**

**16.10.2010 - Qormi**

Casal Fornaro, translated literally as "the village of the baker", was the name by which Hal Qormi was commonly referred to in bygone days. This festival celebrates Maltese traditions, customs, music and food, especially bread-making.

[www.casalfornaro.com](http://www.casalfornaro.com)



**Carmen by Bizet**

**16.10.2010 - Victoria (Rabat, Gozo)**

The Teatru tal-Opra Aurora will be staging Georges Bizet's 'Carmen' as the main highlight of the 2010/11 theatrical season.

[www.visitmalta.com/events](http://www.visitmalta.com/events)

**La Traviata by Verdi**

**28. & 30.10.2010 - Victoria (Rabat, Gozo)**

Giuseppe Verdi's La Traviata is Teatru Astra's opera production for 2010. This opera will be performed at the Teatru Astra for the second time, following the huge success that was achieved in 1989.

[www.visitmalta.com/events](http://www.visitmalta.com/events)



**The Rolex Middle Sea Race**

**16.10.2010 - Malta-Sicily-Malta**

The Rolex Middle Sea Race is a highly-rated and internationally renowned offshore classic. The Royal Malta Yacht Club and the Royal Ocean Racing Club co-founded the race in 1968. In recent years, the number of entries has risen to some 68 boats. The race is a true challenge to skippers and crews who have to be at their very best to cope with the often variable and demanding conditions. On the other hand, the race is blessed with unsurpassed scenery with its course taking competitors close to a number of islands.

[www.rolexmiddlesrace.com](http://www.rolexmiddlesrace.com)

**20th International  
Marathon Challenge**

**25.11.2010 – Around Malta**

Better known as the “Challenge”, this annual Maltese marathon features a unique three-stage formula, where every phase has a different distance but the overall length is still that of a regular marathon. Visitors can watch the start of the first stage at Mdina, the second at Birżebbuġa and the final one at St Paul’s Bay. The race finishes at the gates of Freedom Square in Valletta.

[www.marathonchallengemalta.com](http://www.marathonchallengemalta.com)



**Traditional Food & Festa Fair**

**13.11.2010**

**St Helen’s Square (Birkirkara)**

The traditional food and festa fair is an ideal event for all those interested in tasting what Maltese people habitually eat. The event will be held in the square of St Helen in Birkirkara, regarded by many as one of the most beautiful and best-preserved village squares in the central part of the Maltese Islands. During the day one will also have the opportunity to cook traditional Maltese recipes alongside Malta’s finest chefs and listen to traditional Maltese music whilst indulging in the very best of typical Maltese produce.

[www.visitmalta.com/events](http://www.visitmalta.com/events)



**Festival of Maltese Traditional Games**

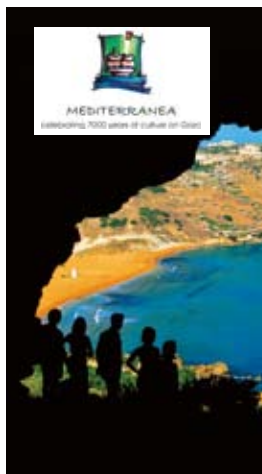
**14.11.2010 – Vittoriosa (Birgu)**

A street festival of Maltese folk games which used to be played by locals years ago, which have either been forgotten or whose popularity has diminished over time. These games will be revived to be enjoyed by all.

**Festival Mediterranea**

**Last week of October/first week of  
November 2010 – Victoria (Rabat, Gozo)**

This is an annual celebration of culture held at the heart of the Mediterranean, on the history-laden island of Gozo. Mythology has it that the charm of this island aided the most beautiful nymph, Calypso, to halt Ulysses on his journeys and hair-raising quests, to lull him and lure him away from his travels for seven mystical years. Today Gozo’s charm seeks to lure its visitors into a kaleidoscope of events, a celebration at this time of year that is in itself magical.





**The feast of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady  
'Il-Kunċizzjoni'**

**08.12.2010 – Cospicua (Bormla)**

The feast of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady is regarded as an important feast in Malta's liturgical calendar, held in the historic town of Bormla, one of the famous 'Three Cities'. The feast is also one of the few major feasts celebrated outside the summer months and is also a public holiday.

[www.visitmalta.com/events](http://www.visitmalta.com/events)

**Bethlehem F'Għajnsielem**

**01.12.2010–03.01.2011**

**Għajnsielem (Gozo)**

A large animated crib in Gozo spanning 20,000 sqm of fields and buildings promises to bring the timeless Christmas story to life as never before. The atmosphere will simply be unique. The stretch of land known locally as Ta' Passi will slowly be changed into a large living crib, where horses turn mills, villagers go about their jobs, shepherds inhabit caves, animals roam in enclosed spaces and a poor unknown couple tend their newly-born in a grotto.

[www.visitmalta.com/events](http://www.visitmalta.com/events)



**Christmas Cakes and Cribs Competition**

**10.12.2010 – San Ġwann**

An open competition for the best traditional Christmas cakes and Cribs, set in the town of San Ġwann. Visitors will have the opportunity to purchase and taste traditional Christmas cakes and view a selection of the Islands' best artistic cribs.

[www.visitmalta.com/events](http://www.visitmalta.com/events)

**Cultural Traditions – Qrendi by Night**

**10.–12.12.2010 – Qrendi**

During this event historical places in the village will remain open during the evening while the village streets will be lit up by candles throughout the night, contributing towards an enchanting Christmas atmosphere.

[www.visitmalta.com/events](http://www.visitmalta.com/events)



**Open Air New Year's Eve Celebrations**  
**31.12.2010 – St. Anne Street (Floriana)**

The New Year's Eve celebrations at St Anne's Street in Floriana, one of Malta's main thoroughfares, is expected to cater for thousands of people who will surely animate this special night. On the main stage one should expect a variety of musical performances together with spectacular dance shows. Throughout the night, all those attending will also have the opportunity to link up with other major cities by means of a large screen which will be set up at the venue.

[www.visitmalta.com/events](http://www.visitmalta.com/events)

**Christmas and New Year's Eve in Malta & Gozo**  
**25.12.2010–06.01.2011 – Around the islands**

Malta is a country with very strong religious traditions, and at Christmas-time this becomes even more evident in the numerous events and celebrations which take place across the country. The main focus is religious, though the secular aspect increases year on year. Many villages have street decorations as well as large, life-size cribs. Churches are brightly lit and decorated to highlight the joy of the season. Many villages host crib exhibitions, with cribs of all sizes and materials on display, with the ever-increasing popularity of mechanical cribs making these exhibitions a unique experience. The high point of the Christmas season is definitely midnight mass with the traditional sermon recited by a young child. Christmas fairs are increasing in popularity and here one can enjoy festive music, food and entertainment for all the family. These events bring together the religious and secular dimensions of Christmas. Like many countries Malta also has seasonal food especially sweets; 'Il-qagħaq ta' l-għasel' are an old favourite: honey rings filled with mouth-watering fruit-based honey, 'l imbuljuta': deliciously stewed chestnuts to warm you up.

On New Year's Eve, Malta and Gozo offer a very diverse entertainment programme which should suit all kinds of tastes. Activities range from lavish gala nights with the very best Maltese and continental cuisine to top musical acts in and around various venues in the Islands. Certainly, when it comes to welcoming the New Year, Malta pulls out all the stops especially thanks to our vibrant and exciting Mediterranean character.

[www.visitmalta.com/events](http://www.visitmalta.com/events)





**In Guardia Parades**

**January to July/September to December – Fort St. Elmo (Valletta)**

The IN GUARDIA PARADE is a re-enactment that portrays an authentic event that took place regularly inside Fort St. Elmo. The event recreates portrays the inspection of the fort and its garrison by the Grand Bailiff of the Order of the Knights of St. John in charge of military affairs. During the re-enactment, the soldiers and knights of the fort's garrison - some 70 re-enactors - are kitted-out in their finest uniforms and perform a military drill demonstrating to the Grand Bailiff the garrison's state of readiness in the event of a military threat. The show begins at 11.00 am and lasts for 40 minutes.

[www.visitmalta.com/events](http://www.visitmalta.com/events)



**Victorian Military Re-Enactments  
Tuesday to Sunday, all year round  
Fort Rinella (Kalkara)**

From Tuesday to Sunday throughout the year, from 11.00hrs till 17.00hrs, at the historic Fort Rinella (1884), re-enactors representing late 19th century Victorian soldiers present different interactive displays which include: a Victorian Military Signaling Display, a Musketry Display, a Sword and Bayonet Display, a Display in British military foot drill and skill at arms, using the standard equipment of the British Victorian infantry man in the field, and Live-firing of an original late-19th century British rifled Muzzle loading siege gun amongst others. These displays combine expert commentary with lively interpretation using original weapons and equipment from this time.

[www.wirtartna.org](http://www.wirtartna.org)

**Alarme Re-Enactments  
February/March/April/May/November  
Fort St. Elmo (Valletta)**

ALARME is a military re-enactment that portrays the historic and turbulent tenure of Malta by French troops, following Napoleon's landing and conquest of the islands in 1798. The re-enactment gives an account of the French troops' arrival in Malta, the subsequent attempt to administer the Maltese Islands by the new Republican government, the rebellion of the Maltese that led to the blockade of the French troops inside the harbour towns, as well as the French troops' surrender to the British in 1800. The re-enactment lasts 50 minutes.

[www.visitmalta.com/events](http://www.visitmalta.com/events)



**The Saluting Battery  
Daily, all year round  
Upper Barrakka Gardens (Valletta)**

The Saluting Battery was built by the order of St. John in 1565 as one of the main defensive batteries to protect Valletta and the Grand Harbour. The Saluting Battery also doubled as the principal ceremonial gun platform from where gun salutes were fired to honour the arrival or departure of a dignitary or naval vessel, as well as to mark sunrise, sunset and the passage of mid-day. This open-air live-museum is open to the public daily between 11.00hrs and 13.00hrs, offering the unique opportunity of viewing, a rare collection of historic cannon and assisting in the live-firing of the daily noon-day gun.

[www.wirtartna.org](http://www.wirtartna.org)



Winter and Summer bus routes schedules are available on [www.atp.com.mt](http://www.atp.com.mt)



Dates and event details are subject to change. For accurate information and the latest updates please consult [www.visitmalta.com/events](http://www.visitmalta.com/events).

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**ISLE OF MTV  
MALTA SPECIAL**

**30.06.2010**