

**GRAND CHAPITRE MALTA 2022 – WELCOME DINNER SPEECH
AT THE PHOENICIA HOTEL ON FRIDAY THE 28TH OCTOBER
(CHANCELLIER CHARLES GATT)**

Confreres, Consoeurs and Guests

On behalf of the Bailli Délégué of the Bailliage National de Malte Dr. Joseph Xuereb and the board of directors it is indeed my pleasure to welcome you all to our opening event of the Malta Grand Chapitre 2022 and 40th Anniversary.

Actually our anniversary was last year but due to the pandemic it was postponed and combined with our Chapitre.

A special welcome this evening to our Inducting Officer Bailli Délégué of Great Britain and a Member of the Conseil Magistral Philip Evins and of course Janet. A few of us have already met Phil and Janet at overseas Chapitres.

We are delighted to welcome other members from overseas. We have a good contingent here from Great Britain and Turkey and members from Italy, Egypt and Malaysia.

Our Chapitre is being held just a few weeks after the Great Britain one held in Oxford. We can therefore blame Philip for preventing many overseas visitors from coming to Malta.

For the benefit of our overseas visitors may I briefly tell you a little about our bailliage.

We only have a Bailliage National as the Island is too small to have provincial bailliages. It is a small bailliage compared to bigger countries. However, a bailliage of 60 members in a population of half a million is a good ratio.

The saying goes – *the best perfume is found in small bottles.*

The bailliage is quite cosmopolitan having members from Malta and Gozo, Britain, France, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Sweden and Turkey. I hope I haven't missed anybody out.

Our bailliage was formed in 1981 and we are pleased to have with us members who joined during the formative years.

We have a founder member in the Grand Officier Dame Janatha Stubbs and a number of Officiers Commandeur of long-standing membership of over 30 years.

We hold about 6 dinners a year and additional casual OMGD dinners. 25% of our members are professional members and 30% OMGD are members.

I won't keep you any longer as I'm sure you are eager to taste the inventive menu prepared for us by the Phoenicia chef de cuisine Daniel Debattista.

Daniel has delighted us with great menus in the past and I am sure he will do so again this evening.

Our wines, paired by our Echanson Dr. Ramiro Cali-Corleo are supplied by Marsovin Malta Ltd which I hope you will appreciate especially the local wines. Iro will brief us shortly about the wines we shall be served.

We are all looking forward to tomorrow's Induction Ceremony and Gala Dinner, the highlight of our Grand Chapitre, when about 30 members will be inducted, promoted or receive awards.

That's all from me ladies and gentlemen but

Just a brief reminder to please switch off your mobile phones or put them on silent mode if you wish to take pictures.

Enjoy your dinner and

Vive la Chaine