

DAY BY DAY

Newspaper Post

| MALTA & GOZO |



**SPECIAL
EDITION**

ELCA Malta Excursion
April 2011

APRIL

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WHAT'S ON
VERANSTALTUNGEN
L'AGENDA DES LOISIRS
COSA C'E IN PROGRAMMA





Floriana



Kabbara



Marra



Gmien San Filippu, Floriana



Paola



Mosta



Mellieha



Gudja



Gozo

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Front Cover: Upper Barrakka Gardens, Valletta.

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Every effort has been made to ensure that the information given was correct at the time of publication, but no responsibility can be accepted for errors or omissions.

The Chairman's Message



Dear ELCA Delegates & Friends,

It is indeed a great pleasure to welcome you to Malta for the ELCA Excursion 2011. I am certain that you will enjoy your stay with us and that you will appreciate that although you are visiting the smallest country in the large ELCA family, you will take back with you great memories of a Mediterranean island full of history and beauty.

My personal association with ELCA goes back many years. I have always found that belonging to ELCA was not only prestigious but it helped me to see the bigger picture of a European family and set my sights to the high standards that were being set by my European counterparts.

When together with my fellow directors we formed the ELC Consortium and started transforming our Island from a barren desert type landscape to the lush green and colourful miracle that you will witness, I immediately encouraged the directors to become members of ELCA and to participate in their various meetings in the different countries chosen each year.



Having attended the first meeting, my directors felt that we should invite the ELCA family to visit Malta and see for themselves what our consortium had achieved in a relatively short time.

While in other countries we were being shown particular gardens and landscapes, in Malta we will be showing you a whole country which in the short span of nine years has been turned into one holistic green and flowering garden. The open spaces and thoroughfares which we have landscaped are there for all the residents and visitors to admire and enjoy all year round. We will also be showing you a number of public and private gardens which have a wealth of history behind them and which you will certainly be happy to have visited.

I would like to explain at this point that our Consortium forms part of the first, and in our opinion, the only true Private Public Partnership (PPP) in Malta. When the Maltese Government first proposed this PPP, all parties were threading an uncharted territory. Needless to say, negotiations were lengthy and intense. Both sides felt that this experiment was a new concept that could fail miserably if good will and a great vision were found lacking on either side of the equation.

The ELC inherited an untrained and uninspired workforce of 350 persons and within a few months changed these men from disillusioned and uninspired workmen to a motivated force that was proud of what was being achieved and which today is held as an example to all other entities in our country of how hard work combined with the proper training and incentives can achieve something which is not much short of a miracle.

Once again I welcome you to our little country with a big heart and wish you success and happiness to which we will have contributed in our warm Mediterranean way.

Peter Calamatta
ELC Chairman



The ELC Board of Directors: (from left:)
DIRECTOR - Mr. Wigi Micallef (Green Supplier),
DIRECTOR & FINANCIAL CONTROLLER - Mr. Boris Farrugia (Polidano Group),
VICE CHAIRMAN - Mr. Charles Polidano (Polidano Group),
CHAIRMAN - Mr. Peter Calamatta (Calamatta Landscapes Ltd),
DIRECTOR - Mr. Carlos Calamatta (Calamatta Landscapes Ltd).

The President's Message



The European Landscape Contractors Association may look back onto a long and successful job. During this time the ELCA has developed into a strong association of 74,000 companies and 330,000 staff members.

Since its foundation the association has been supporting the exchange of young landscaping gardeners all over Europe. With almost 350 participating companies from 22 countries, of which 12 are outside Europe, this has been a flagship project, which is an example for the integration of Europe.

Topics like the reduction of bureaucracy, the prevention of distortion of competition due to European harmonisation, standards and legal standards or the clarification of problems in existing European laws and guidelines have been in the foreground of our lobby work.

In Europe the ELCA contributes in making politics generally better, more practicable and very often more understandable. In doing so the associations of the landscape gardeners in Europe sees itself as service provider. For this purpose the landscape gardeners have designed a well-working network registering every positive feedback.



On the European level the ELCA would like to get more support regarding the research into green environmental topics. The effects of green areas on the well-being and the productivity of people are to be researched. On the one hand the results of the research are to show direct effects on the economy, among them the gardening and landscaping industry. On the other hand findings on indirect economical effects are to be expected as well – e.g. on the relief of the health system, lower environmental loads and environmental catastrophes (floods) and not at least on less loss of plants due to better adapted vegetation.

The ELCA does not only initiate research studies but also concentrates on the pragmatic support of the companies. In this connection the support of European public relations, training and further education, supporting of young gardeners and the expert analysis of European laws, especially with regard to the environment as well as of the European rules and standards must be mentioned.

The ELCA regularly participates in so-called consultation-processes of the EU. Since the ELCA is of the opinion that the purpose of such consultations i.e. triggering a wide spread discussion with all those involved in the industry as well as determining possible measures of improving the efficiency of the domestic market – are reasonable measures of influencing of events. At present for example consultations concerning the topic of "VAT" and "Public placing of orders" are being prepared.

The green profession is no longer afraid of competition. Just the opposite. The industry of gardening, landscaping and building of sport grounds supports more competition and market economy. And we also want that this competition of efficiency is not being distorted. This is just why the ELCA demands the same taxation of landscape gardeners and farmers or producing gardening companies.

The ELCA wants the European Union to increasingly plan for research activities all about green in its "8 EU-Research frame programme 2014 – 2020" and to provide sufficient funds. The ELCA is of the opinion that it is important and decisive to get well founded facts on the positive effects of green on the environment – including change of climate – and on people's health.

Apart from other industries the industry of gardening and landscaping also depends on such research results. The experts for building with green can by now provide important contributions to a resources-conserving, environmental-friendly and competitive economy. These are just the areas the European Union wants to promote in the respective focus of its Europe 2020-concept. The important point will be to improve the chances of application-oriented projects.

There are still research gaps concerning the effects of plants and trees on the environment. The assumed connections must be researched more profoundly and proof must be provided. This is just what working fields of the gardening and landscaping industry depend on to be able to provide solutions. Therefore research into environmental questions must be increased, e.g. to allow us to clearly answer questions concerning the change of climate, the interactions between biosphere and human health, concerning the maintaining of biodiversity as well as a of sustainable city development and green design.

There still is considerable demand for basic and application-oriented research to better understand the benefits of green as well as to evaluate the mechanisms of plants and their efficiency potential in order to provide the responsible persons of politics and economy with sound decision guidance.

Emmanuel Mony
ELCA President

The landscaping sector is an industry with a future in Europe. Most of the 74,000 medium sized landscaping businesses employ less than 50 staff per company.

For nearly 48 years the ELCA has been fighting for fair competition and the same conditions throughout Europe. The ELCA is always a qualified contact when practical expertise is needed, and the EU Parliament and the EU Commission want to talk with the European landscape gardeners.

Five years after the founding of the EEC, landscape gardeners from Europe founded the Association of European Landscape and Sports Ground Contractors (AELSC) on the occasion of the international horticultural show in Hamburg in 1963.

This was renamed into European Landscape Contractors Association (ELCA) on 19th May 1969 in London. At that time Belgium, Denmark, Germany, France, Great Britain and Austria were members. The goals of the ELCA were the reciprocal exchange of information and experience, representing their professional interests at European level and promoting young landscape gardeners as well as the exchange of young qualified landscape gardeners.

In 1979 the European Parliament was elected directly by the population for the first time. Since then the ELCA has maintained excellent contacts to the European Parliament as well as the Commission and other institutions.

At the end of the seventies the ELCA founded the Committee of Firms. Thus the cross-border exchange of experience and ideas did not only occur at association level but directly between the landscaping companies from the different European countries.

In 1985 the ELCA, in cooperation with European institutions, established the ELCA passport that certifies the vocational training of young landscape gardeners, and is regarded as the entry ticket for further qualified training in foreign countries.

In 1993 Europe realized its goal of the Single Market: for citizens and businesses there is now a borderless Europe with the four basic liberties: free movement of goods, people, services, and capital.

When the ELCA celebrated its 30th anniversary in Paris that same year it had 12 member associations in which about 70000 companies were organized. The committee of firms had 130 members from eleven countries.

The following ten years of the European integration process are characterized by many important steps: in 1995 Finland, Sweden, and Austria joined the EU. The ELCA commented proudly in its annual report that these three countries had been long-term members of the association already, and as such the landscape gardeners were one step ahead of the political integration. With the treaties of Amsterdam (1996) and Nice (2000) European integration moved ahead. The landscape gardeners also profit from the creation of the single currency, and the introduction of the EURO in 2002 in cross border payments.

The "Europe of 15" is to become the "Europe of 25" in 2004. In this case the landscape gardeners are proud that since the beginning of the nineties the ELCA has maintained intensive contacts to colleagues in Eastern Europe.

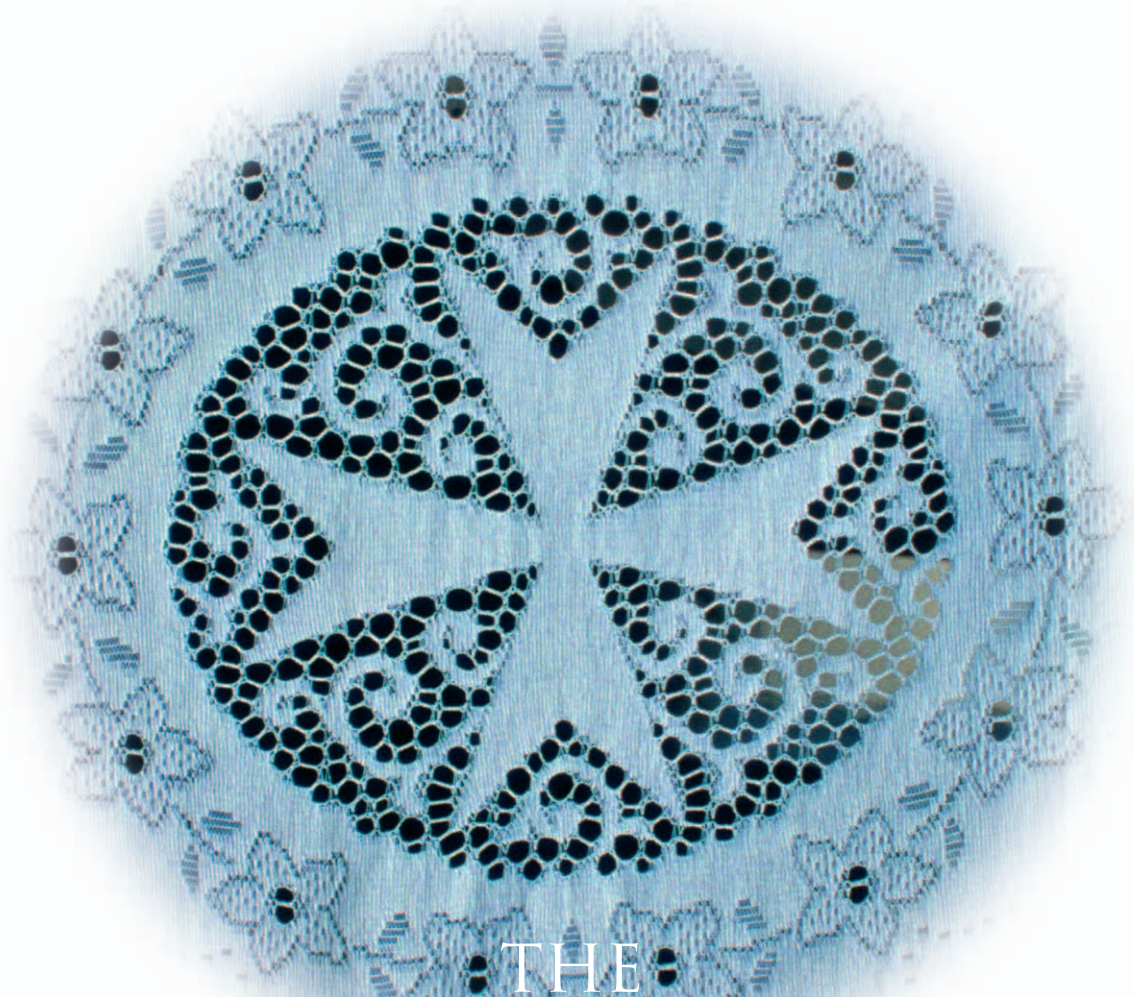
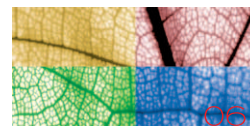
The Czech association was the first to join the ELCA as a potential EU member. This reflects the varied supportive services, and intensive contacts to the colleagues in Eastern Europe that the ELCA, its member associations and many companies have systematically established since the beginning of the nineties.

The ELCA is celebrating its 40th anniversary in Brussels. Fourteen European associations as well as Israel as an associated member are now members of the Association of the European Landscape Gardeners.

Actually 22 associations of garden, landscape and sports ground construction in Europe from the following nations belong to the ELCA: Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, France, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. The American Nursery & Landscape Association (ANLA), the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association, the Chinese Landscaping Association, the Japan Federation of Landscape Contractors, and the European Arboricultural Council (EAC) have become partner of the ELCA.

Nearly 350 enterprises from twenty-two European countries and seven countries outside Europe belong to the ELCA-Committee of firms.

The membership in the ELCA-Committee of Firms is possible for every enterprise of the gardening, landscaping and sports ground construction being member of national member associations of the ELCA. Landscape gardening companies from countries in which no association exists or whose association is not a member of the ELCA can apply for exceptional membership in the Committee of Firms.



THE MALTESE CROSS

In each country's national psyche are deeply embedded a handful of symbols and symbolic objects: animals, buildings, landscapes, and emblems.

The U.S.A has its bald eagle, France the Eiffel tower, Holland has tulips and dams, and Malta has, among other things, its ancient temples, pastizzi and the Maltese cross.

The latter was handed down to the Maltese people during the rule of the Knights Hospitaller, also known as the Knights of Malta or the Knights of the Order of St. John.

The use of the eight-pointed cross by the Knights of Malta was first documented in two types of coins first issued in 1567, two years after the Great Siege of Malta, when the Knights and the Maltese people defended the Islands against a massive, long expected attack by the Ottoman Empire.

The design itself is thought to have originated from crosses used in the First Crusade, and the cross was also used as a symbol of the small republic of Amalfi, Italy in 11th Century A.D.

The eight points of the Maltese cross are thought to represent the eight beatitudes, which the Knights of Malta were said to observe along with their vows of Chastity, Poverty and Obedience.

Today the Maltese cross has become a national symbol for the Maltese people, who see it both as a confirmation of their deep roots and a representation of their identity. This can be seen in the very craftsmanship of the islanders as they impose it into everything that passes through their hands: from buildings and lace, to numerous souvenirs.



FEATURE

The ELC

Consortium



The embellishment of the Maltese Islands has been on everybody's lips for many years. Politicians, entrepreneurs and every John Citizen hungered for positive and tangible results in this regard.

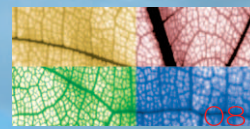
It was in 2002 that the Maltese people started seeing a dramatic improvement in the landscaping and general maintenance of public areas and gardens around Malta and Gozo.

This new development was the result of a well-planned and coordinated effort by the Environmental Landscape Consortium (ELC) that entered into the first public-private partnership with the Government of Malta. Professional management, know-how and retraining of the existing work force brought about the much sought after results.

For the first time in the history of these Islands, approaching major road intersections and thoroughfares all over Malta became a pleasure, witnessing green turfs and a blaze of colour, placing our country at par with its European counterparts.

The visual aspect of the work carried out by ELC is evident in the six major projects that were carried out during the first year, namely: Blata I-Bajda, Qormi Roundabout, Mellieha Intersection, St. Venera Clover Leaf By-Pass Approach, the Floriana Memorial Area and Castille.





The ELC's hub for all its management and organisational needs lies at Wied Inċita where the Ewropa Nursery has been transformed into a modern and efficient production centre for plants, trees and shrubs that are kept at hand for ongoing maintenance and new projects.

The Nursery turned out to be one of the most difficult tasks undertaken but in a very short while it started producing over 2 million plants annually that eventually come to adorn our public highways and gardens.

Another positive change at the Wied Inċita Ewropa Nursery is the recycling of large amounts of green waste products that accumulate during maintenance work. This green waste used to be dumped at the Magtab Landfill but is now being shredded by special machinery, composted and reintegrated in the soil either as an additive for compost or as mulch for water conservation.

Today Wied Inċita houses the centralized offices that are manned by the management group, the field officers and a good number of clerical and organisational staff who were chosen, trained and promoted from the existing workforce. The feeling of unity and pride that from day one was the main ingredient in this magic formula produced the first successful private-public partnership with the Maltese Government.

Even so, far more reaching is the current system of ongoing maintenance that has been reorganised to create a longer lasting effect that is a far cry from what was previously practiced. As maintenance takes place trees that have grown over the years in a stunted and irregular position are being righted up, properly pruned or in extreme cases removed and replaced by new trees.

Moreover the pruning of hedges and shrubbery, in particular those situated in centre strips, and Oleanders, of which Malta sports miles and miles of such specimen, are being pruned so as to obtain a better shape and longer flowering period.

The emphasis on proper maintenance is the principal aim of the work of the Consortium. Whereas the new projects established a benchmark of standards, ongoing maintenance will help to keep and improve these standards while our current workforce undergoes further training, learning to enjoy and take pride in our achievements.



PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

ELCA Malta Excursion
April/May 2011

Wednesday 27th April, 2011

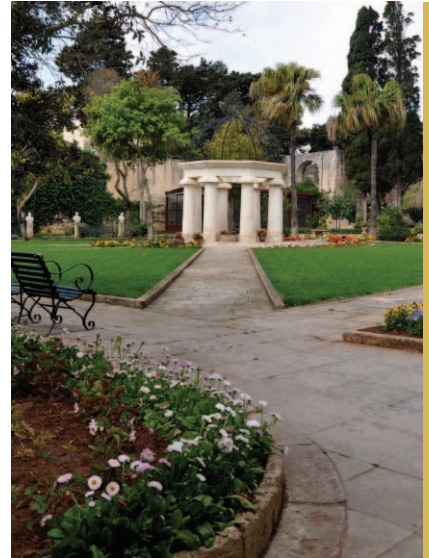
- 14:00** Meeting of Presidium
20:00 Dinner at Westin Dragonara – Quadro Restaurant
-

Thursday 28th April, 2011

- 07:00** Breakfast in Hotel
08:00 Registration
08:30 Departure from Hotel
Open-bus tour visiting ELC project sites all over the Island
12:30 Lunch at Blue Creek Restaurant – Lapsi
14:30 Departure from restaurant to visit San Anton Gardens and the Presidential Gardens
Tea & Coffee at Presidential Gardens
17:00 Return to Hotel
19:00 Departure from Hotel
19:45 Montekristo Estate - Knights Spectacular Live Show and by dinner in the Montekristo Dungeons
-

Friday 29th April, 2011

- 07:30** Breakfast in Hotel
08:30 Departure from Hotel
Visit to ELC Head Office and Wied Incita Nurseries
Coffee and drinks in the Marquee
Proceed to village core of Naxxar
11:30 Visit to Palazzo Parisio and Gardens
13:00 Snack Lunch at Palazzo Parisio
14:00 Departure for Valletta
14:30 Tour of Valletta, St. John's Co-Cathedral and the Caravaggio masterpiece. Visit to Upper Barrakka Gardens
17:30 Departure from Valletta to Hotel
20:00 Proceed from respective Hotels to Hilton Hotel St. Julian's
20:30 Gala Dinner – Hilton - Attended by the Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Lawrence Gonzi
-



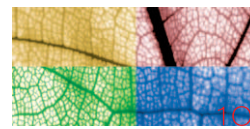
San Anton Gardens



President's Palace, San Anton

Upper Barrakka Gardens, Valletta





PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

ELCA Malta Excursion
April/May 2011

Saturday 30th April, 2011

- 07:30** Breakfast in Hotel
- 08:30** Pick up from Hotel
Visit the Neolithic Temples of Haġar Qim
Visit Marsaxlokk Fishing Village
- 13:00** Lunch at Rizzu Restaurant - Marsaxlokk
- 14:30** Tour of Mdina – the old Capital City of the Island
- 15:45** Departure from Mdina
- 16:30** Harbour Cruise and Drinks on board the Atlantis II
- 18:00** Return to hotel
- 20:00** Departure from Hotels for dinner
- 20:30** Dinner at Chophouse, Tigné Point



Argotti Gardens, Floriana

OPTIONAL TOUR - GOZO

Sunday 1st May, 2011

- 08:00** Pick-up from Hotel to Ċirkewwa
- 10:00** Arrival in Gozo by Boat
- 10:30** Tour of Ċittadella and Ta' Pinu
- 12:30** Lunch at Ta' Frenċ Restaurant
- 14:00** Visit to Dwejra and Marsalforn
- 17:30** Departure from Gozo to Hotel



Gozo





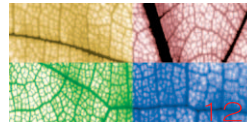
ELCA MALTA EXCURSION 2011



1. Paceville Lights
2. Manuel Dimech Bridge Project
3. Kappara Roundabout
4. Skate Park and Tunnel Roofs
5. Msida - Sta Venera Project
6. Birkirkara By-Pass
7. Lija Roundabout
8. Iklin Roundabout
9. Naxxar Roundabout
10. Birguma Roundabouts
11. Erba' Mwieżeb Roundabout
12. St. Paul's By-Pass
13. Xemxija Roundabouts
14. Mellieħa Project
15. Main road towards Golden Bay
16. Golden Bay - Mgarr Road
17. Qlejja Roundabout
18. Buqana Roundabout
19. Mtarfa Roundabout
20. Ta' Srina Roundabout
21. Żebbuġ Roundabout
22. De Rohan Roundabout
23. Siġġiewi Roundabout
24. Mdina Road - Żebbuġ (Kalkara tal-Ġir)
25. Qormi Roundabout
26. December 13th Road
27. Spencer Monument Gardens
28. St. Anne Street
29. War Memorial & Auberge de Castille Roundabouts
30. Aldo Moro Road
31. St. Luċija Roundabout
32. Tal-Barrani Road
33. Airport Roundabout
34. Kirkop Roundabout
35. Żurrieq Roundabout
36. Valletta Road
37. Blue Grotto Avenue



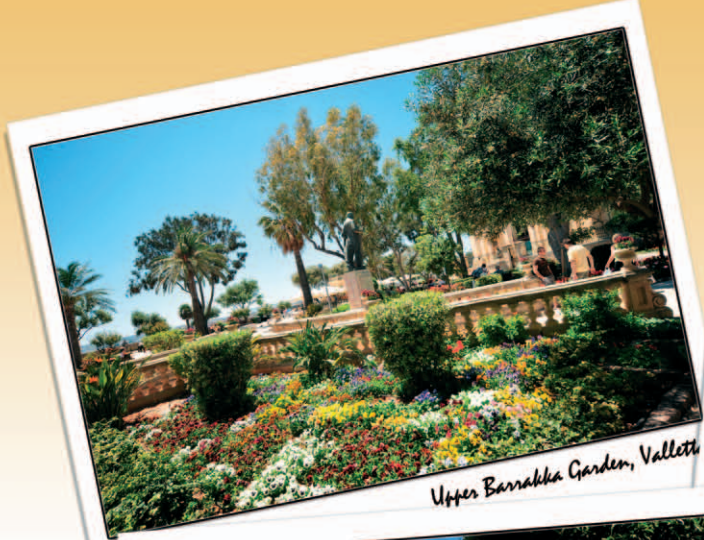
Malta - Open Top Bus Tour



malta sightseeing

hop on
hop off





Upper Barrakka Garden, Valletta



Castille Square, Valletta



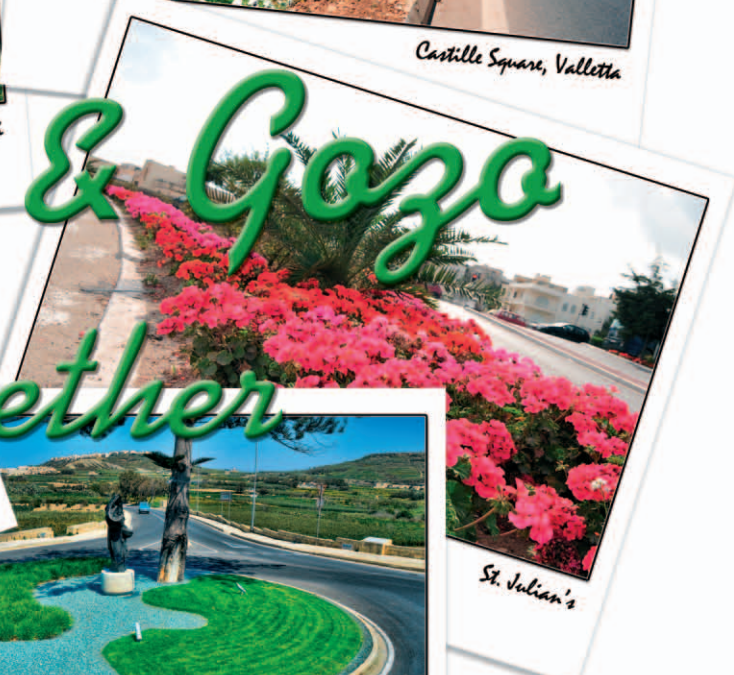
Embellishing Malta & Gozo Together



Tire at Qormi



Kappara - Christmas Season



St. Julian's



Gozo



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hop on

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Ben



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