

# Lifestyle & Culture



Members of the Accademia beginning the celebrations



A special 'Brindisi' for the 10th anniversary

## 'Accademia' celebrates end of year festivities and 10th anniversary with dinner at Giarra

There was plenty of emotion at Giarra in Valletta as members of the Accademia Italiana della cucina celebrated its 10th anniversary. This was also the traditional 'Cena degli Auguri' which is now celebrated every year. This year was extra special as it coincided with the 10th anniversary of the foundation of this now popular Italian delegation which has made Italian food, including regional food, even more popular among the Maltese.

The local delegate of the Accademia, the hardworking Massimiliana Tomaselli had arranged for a very special evening which went beyond the excellent menu. Old photos taken during the previous meals and other functions were displayed and showed the journey of the delegation during these ten years.

Its first president was Italo Rota who was given the now fa-



Chef Antonio Mammino and delegate Prof.ssa Massimiliana Affanni Tomaselli.

mous bell by the then president of the Accademia Prof. Giovanni Ballarini.

The photos displayed how over the years talks, food and films were shown and enjoyed by the Maltese as well as Ital-

ians living locally. Members learnt of the food of Italian regions with the different cultures and their specialities and peculiarities.

Some events had combined food with regional music when personalities from the music world participated and gave pleasure to the members. On other evenings doctors spoke about nutrition and a healthy diet while other talks were on



Good food is about to be served.

the history and anthropology of food.

During the Settimana della Cucina Italiana nel Mondo other events were organised, events during which art, beauty and the culture of food were the main subjects. Many talks were given not only by visiting Italian experts but also by Maltese academics, experts in their subjects.

Signora Tomaselli thanks all

those who participated and who were also instrumental in making the Accademia what it is today. It is appreciated and well known not only by the local restaurant community but also by diplomats and those interested in culture.

Among journalists she named Marie Benoit who, with her articles in The Malta Independent on Sunday had followed the Accademia and gave it publicity and visibility. Others thanked were Ambassadors Luigi Marras and Mario Sammartino who gave their patronage. Then there were the directors of the Istituto di Cultura Italiana Salvatore Schirmo and Massimo Sarti who collaborated closely with the delegation and put at its disposal the beautiful hall of the Istituto, so elegant with its frescoes, thus giving elegance to the Accademia's events.

Signora Tomaselli, in conclusion, gave a spontaneous but warm thanks to President Emeritus Ugo Mifsud Bonnici, who during those ten years of the Accademia's existence never failed to accept one of its invitations.

It was a memorable evening, so well organised by the delegate, Signa. Tomaselli.



The delegate is about to cut the 'torta': From left: vice delegato Ramiro Calì Corleo, segretario Marino Egisto Paolucci, accademico Joe Grioli, delegata Massimiliana Affanni Tomaselli, accademica Egle Liotta Catrambone.



The celebratory 'torta' and a lovely display of flowers.