

Ciao Italia, 14 June at The Colombo, 6 to 9.30 pm

Ciao Italia is the first ever Italian festival held in Christchurch. It will be accompanied by an Italian theme running at The Colombo throughout June, and by the Cinema Italiano Festival (www.cinemaitalianofestival.com), which opens on the same night.

This event is organised by the Italian Chamber of Commerce in New Zealand, with the local support of Società Dante Alighieri and The Colombo, under the patronage of the Italian Embassy, Comites (Committee of Italians Overseas), and Plains FM Community Radio.

Ciao Italia features over 20 exhibitors of glamorous Italian talent. Visitors will find Italian food and wine (both imported and locally made) to taste, to take home, or to consume on the spot: from wild-pig prosciutto to edible (and flavoured) gold leaf, with all kinds of cheese, cold meats, pasta and espresso coffee.

There will be fashion, as well as home and art design. There will be demonstrations on how to make *gnocchi*, and how to tie a scarf (in 21 ways).

The entertainment comprises classical music: Luca Manghi on the flute and David Kelly on the piano, and the Canterbury Cellists. There will be Italian *canzoni* with Claudia Lues and the WEA Italian Singing Group, and the Dante Tarantella Dance Group.

You will see the best of Italian products alongside the people who make the long-standing relationship between Italy and New Zealand a warm and dynamic one. Visitors will be able to meet students from the Dante Society language school, hear about the plans of the Italian Chamber of Commerce in New Zealand in our city, and learn more about the Italian programme of research in Antarctica.

You can buy and eat, drink and take away – and have a look at the Italian cars in and out of the Colombo, and the mythical Vespa. There will be a raffle, with great prizes to win: two Lavazza Minu coffee machines with pods, a dinner for two at Casamassima, and heaps of other prizes. The Colombo has set up decorations and maxi photos everywhere: really impressive, with a touch of humour.

The entry is free, so come and enjoy an unforgettable evening: on the 14th of June, from 6 to 9.30pm – Ciao Italia is the not to be missed Italian festival of Christchurch, showcasing Italian fun, food and fanfare.

More details, continuously updated, and the schedule of performances, on the website: www.ciaoitalianz.com

Whoever is able to put the Ciao Italia poster up at work, school, church, club or café, please download it from the link: https://75746565-193206891345061379.preview.editmysite.com/uploads/7/5/7/4/75746565/poster_wilma_final.pdf While this is the first time we have an Italian festival in Christchurch, if it is successful it will not be the last!