



HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYONE!

Dear Members,

2022 is finishing and a new year will start soon with its share of good news!

Good news : In November, we had the pleasure of welcoming two couples as new members of CICB. They are Thierry de Ricard and Eva Bentanachs and Nick and Diane West. Welcome to them!

This coming January, the 10th, will be held the 2023 AGM. A very important one this year, since part of the board will be renewed: president, secretary and events coordinator.

Linda Stuttard is happy to be the new President, and we have Rob Coutinho as secretary and Florence Sorbets as events coordinator who are also happy to give their time to the club.

Thank you to the members who are willing to fill these positions, the future success of our Club, a small club, depends on everyone's commitment. I rely on you all to think of how you can be involved today and in the future.

In January as well, 17th, we'll have for the 2nd time, our New Year Party, at El Tinglado in Sant Feliu de Guixols, starting at 18.30, finishing 21.00, with pica pica and drinks.

As far as the program of the year 2023 is concerned, you'll find events are scheduled through June on our web site which is so handy and user friendly.

Our closing event for 2022 was the Christmas Luncheon at S'Agaro Hotel. A beautiful location and the second time we have held the holiday lunch there. This year brought a change, a live band. Music is always welcome and puts everyone in the real holiday spirit; thirty two members shared a fantastic lunch and.....there was dancing and singing!

I hope 2023 will bring more good times to our CICB club. There will be our annual favorites to participate in as well as new events to experience.

Happy New Year everyone, Georges

Looking for something to do this season?



What to do this Christmas in Barcelona and Catalonia

Festive fairs, ice skating rinks, and merry markets are to be found up and down the country this holiday season

<https://www.catalannews.com/life-style/item/what-to-do-this-christmas-in-barcelona-and-catalonia>

EPICURIUS
CORNER

THE FRUIT IS RIPENING ON THE TREES ACROSS CATALONIA....
It will soon be the season, January/February, so if the mood.....
strikes, here is a recipe:

5 Citrus fruit marmalade

Ingredients :

- 1 grapefruit
- 2 limes
- 2 lemons
- 2 bitter oranges
- 1 juice orange
- Sugar=weight of entire fruits cooked

Implementation :

- Wash the fruits
- Blanch the fruits, when the water is boiling, throw away the water and bring to the boil once more until the fruits soften.
- Keep the water and weight the fruits to know the sugar weight needed
- Cut the fruit in half and extract the pulp with a spoon and put it in a muslin tea towel
- Add the sugar to the water you have put aside from the cooking of fruit (as a ratio if I have 1,450 Kg of fruit, I put 1,250 liter of the water), bring to the boil and skim
- Meanwhile, cut the zest finally (julienne way) ; easier to cut if you keep the skin below
- Add the bad cuts to the pulp.
- Close the muslin and dip it in the syrup and add the zests
- Once in a while press the muslin, skim if necessary
- Let the marmalade cook slowly between 1 hour, 1 hour and a half



To know if it is cooked put a drop of the syrup on a little cold plate it should solidified quickly
Fill your pot to the top, close tightly and turn the pot upside down until it cools. A bit of work but worth the effort!
-Dominique DuCoudray

Dominique has offered one jar of her precious and delicious marmalade to the winner of our first.....

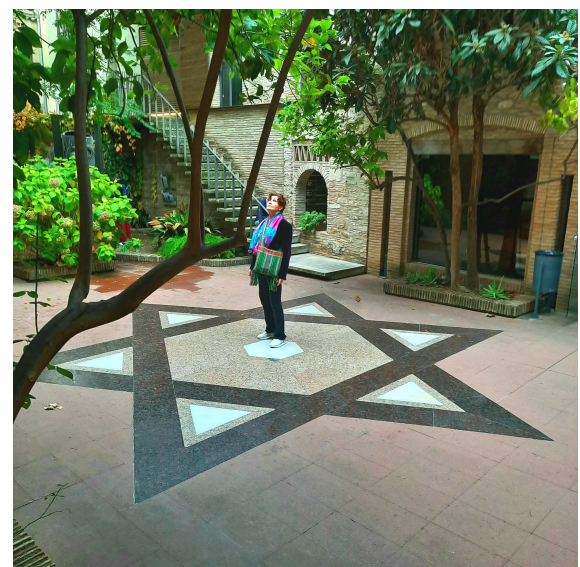
Epicurious Corner.....Raffle!

**TO ENTER THE RAFFLE, EMAIL: EVENTSCICB@gmail.com
The winner will be announced in the February newsletter. **GOOD LUCK!****



On an overcast somewhat rainy day, November 15th, twenty members visited the Jewish and Archeology museums in Girona. Although many have lived in the area for years, it was the first visit to the museums for some.

Both museums are in the old part of the city. After the visits, the group went on to enjoy lunch in Le Bistrot restaurant, located in one of the most beautiful corners of the old town. Everybody enjoyed themselves, how could they not? -Rosa Tysoe



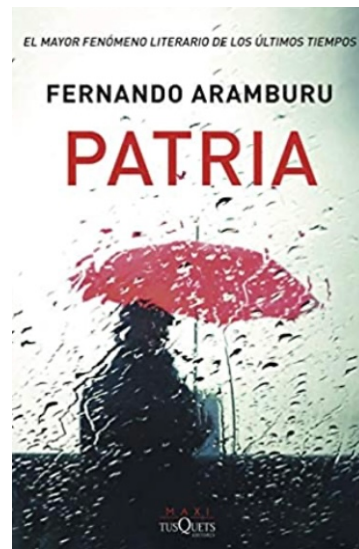


THE ACTIVITY GROUPS WERE BUSY THESE LAST FEW WEEKS, THE PITCH AND PUTT GROUP ENJOYED A FEW OUTINGS, TO MAS TAPIOLAS, AND FRANCIAC.

THE COOKING GROUP SHARED AND PREPARED A FEW FAVORITE HOLIDAY RECIPES IN THE HOME OF ANS COUTINHO.

THE BOOK GROUP MET AT TIPIPARK.

If you are interested in joining one of our activity groups, check the website and send a group organizer an email.



A small group of four met on Monday 28th November to “American Dirt”, by Jeanine Cummins. The novel the journey a Mexican woman and her son made, the drug cartels in Acapulco. We had an intense about the issues facing migrants and whether this particular author sometimes sensationalised the situations, making some scenarios unrealistic.

discuss describes escaping discussion

We recommend this riveting, thought provoking, easy to read “page turner” which informs the reader about the varied reasons why individuals become migrants seeking a safer life in another country.

**No book group in December.
The book for January 30th is “Patria” by Fernando Aramburu.**

-Esther Hothersall

**GOLE, PETANCA AND LUNCH
MONDAY, DECEMBER 5th**

Over 40 enthusiastic members turned out for the December 5th GPL, 30 signed up to play golf and the Petanca players were a merry few! Lots of holiday spirit to go around as many members will not be back in Spain until after the holidays.



THE NEXT GPL WILL BE MONDAY FEBRUARY 6th 2023

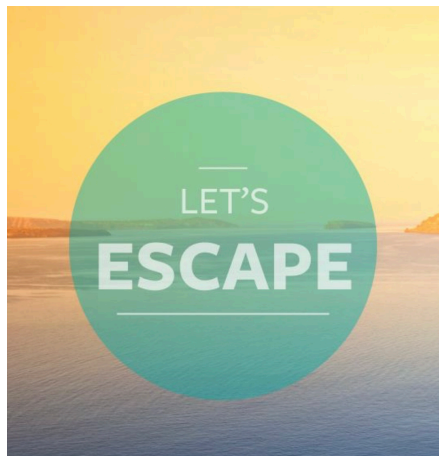
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON DECEMBER 2022

PARTY

Is the only way to describe this years Christmas Luncheon!

The thirty two members in attendance enjoyed themselves, there is no doubt about that! The live band really put everyone in a festive mood once the luncheon was finished. The dance floor filled quickly and everyone took a few turns around the dance floor! Good food, good company, good music, good wine = a fabulous way to spend an afternoon!





LOOKING AHEAD TO JANUARY.....

UZES TRUFFLE FESTIVAL

Do you love eating truffles and drinking wine? Medieval French villages? Fresh food markets? Plan a trip to Uzes in January and you can fulfill all of these loves.

Uzes is a beautiful historic village within the Gard department of France about 3.5 hours drive away. It is not overly touristy as some villages are and it has a wonderful everyday life feel that only comes with a village that is lived in by locals.

Sprinkled within winding lanes there are lovely galleries, jewelry and ceramic shops and a good handful of wonderful restaurants. Beautiful historic buildings such as the Dukes Castle and the Cathedral jostle with elegant townhouses that have been lovingly restored or beautified in recent decades.

During January there is a truffle market held each weekend within the local fresh food market on Saturdays and Wednesdays. Here you can buy fresh truffles direct from the gatherers, small local foragers. Each year Uzes holds an annual Truffle Festival to highlight the season and in 2023 it is held January 13,14,15... this is a true weekend of celebration. During these days there are various events held around the beautiful Place aux Herbes in the centre of the village. Demonstrations from truffle hunting pigs, evening feasts that pair wine with truffle delicacies and many restaurants throughout the village put on special menus so you can feast whenever you like.

One event not to be missed that is on the evening of Friday 13th, is the Soiree Vigneronne. It is held to celebrate the winegrowers of the region and they present their new vintage to the people with much celebration. At the event you can taste all the new wines and they are paired with various truffle "bites" prepared by some of the restaurants from the village. This is a standing event so there is ample opportunity to talk to the wine growers and meet other like minded truffle enthusiasts! Visited by the locals and some "in the know" tourists, it is a very relaxed but indulgent evening. Tickets are limited and must be booked in advance. so don't miss out if you are interested.

<https://www.vinsducheduzes.com/2022/11/24/soiree-vigneronne-2023/> (link for more information and from where you can click on a link to buy tickets



If you cannot visit during the truffle festival, keep in mind that Uzes is a beautiful village to visit at many other times of the year. There are some wonderful sights in the area including the famous Pont du Gard and multiple wineries to stock up on wine for home. If you have grandchildren in tow or are a child at heart, the Haribo candy Museum is also close by!

Further information for planning can be found on Uzes.fr, vinsducheduzes.com

- Susie Hardie



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 5th - Pitch'nputt

January 10th - Annual General Meeting at the
Golf Club, 12.30-lunch to follow

January 17th- Welcome in the New Year at El Tinglado, San Feliu
-cocktails and tapas. 18.30

January 30th - Book Club

January 31st - Cooking Group

**The CICB calendar is updated through June - some new and interesting events
are around the corner, check it out!**

Take a look at this month's events in our local communities:

Llagostera-<https://www.llagostera.cat/agenda.php> (auto-translate)

Santa Cristina-<https://santacristina.cat/agenda/10893-historic-agendes.html>

(scroll PDF- Catalan auto translate in Adobe)

Sant Feliu-<https://www.guixols.cat/agenda> (auto translate)

VOSE Films-https://www.ocineplatjadarro.es/index.php?option=com_cines&task=vose&Itemid=248

**Experiencing problems with these links? Email John Hothersall at:
j.hothersall@gmail.com**

**2022 annual membership dues of 70€ couple - 35€ individual
are due January 1st.**

**PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES AT THE AGM ON JANUARY 10th, at
EL TINGLADO ON THE 17th, OR AT YOUR EARLIEST POSSIBLE CONVENIENCE.**



**Have something YOU would like to contribute? Suggestions for
activities on the Costa Brava? A funny story? A recipe? Restaurant
recommendation? A holiday to share in our Let's Escape column?
JUST DO IT! Email us!**
- L. Stuttard