



# Ecco Chamber

FORTNIGHTLY ITALIAN NEWS MADE IN  
SOUTH AFRICA

## **BUON NATALE**

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# Chamber's Note

## Buon Natale!

As we astonishingly reach the end of the year, the joyous season reserved for our nearest and dearest, we would like to take a moment to reflect on a year well spent. Italcham can confidently assert that 2022 was its best year in a long while. This is on the basis of the impact we know we have made.

So much took place this year that it is easy to forget the Covid-related uncertainty that characterised the beginning of this year when Omicron was around. We are all aware of the ongoing problems related to global inflation, the Ukrainian war, and local economic and political difficulties. But coming through the difficulties of 2020 and 2021, we are now more aware of our resilience and self-sufficiency as communities.

In this vein, the return of the Business Excellence Awards gave us the opportunity to fulfil our role of acknowledging the very best business achievements by Italians in South Africa. Five different Aperol Aperilinks (two in Gauteng, two in Cape Town, one in Durban) and multiple SMILE events, including a stunning Boutique Edition hosted by Diva Cucine. The year also welcomed back fairs and exhibitions which we took full advantage of by hosting Taste of Italy in May. Furthermore, a delegation of seven South African companies accompanied the Chamber to the Farette Fair in Bologna and we attended the conference of international business Chambers in Perugia.

Our expansion to Cape Town has been very successful, inter alia having launched SMILE in the city, hosted the European Golf Day and the Business Breakfast in conjunction with the opening of South Africa's parliament. As if this was not enough, Italcham signed an agreement with SEIFSA to find beneficiaries for Italcham's Imbokodo Trust with the aim of empowering young black women and assisting companies to improve their B-BBEE compliance.

What all this amounts to is the expanding of our network, which delivers exponential value for each individual within the network itself. Indeed, our collaboration has taken place across the community, engaging with multiple new and long-time members and all the Italian institutions which make up the Sistema Italiana. The new initiative of Nedbank business lunches, of which we hosted six, gave us the possibility of engaging closely with members and other stakeholders.

The new year will see us continuing this work to tirelessly further the interests of the Italian business community in South Africa. Until then, we wish you all a Christmas full of panettone, torone e tanti regali.

Buon Natale!

*Italcham!*

# UPCOMING EVENT

SAVE THE  
DATE

**APEROL<sup>®</sup>  
SPRITZ**

## **APERILINK JOHANNESBURG**

AN ITALIAN APERITIVO  
&  
BUSINESS NETWORKING

26 JANUARY 2023  
18:00  
VENUE TBA

**Tickets**

R250 - Members  
R450 - Non-Members

## **Renergen is delivering the country's first LNG to Ardagh Glass Packaging & Ceramic Industries - 6 December 2022**

Renergen is proud to announce the ongoing deliveries of LNG from Phase 1 of their Virginia Gas Project to Ardagh Glass Packaging (previously Consol Glass) and Ceramic Industries Pty Ltd (Ceramic Industries), a subsidiary of Italtile Ltd following the completion of downstream dispensing installations.

The LNG delivery will replace LPG at Ardagh Glass's Bellville operation in the Western Cape and look to supplement Ceramic Industries pipeline natural gas supply in its Vanderbijlpark operations. Both customers will use LNG as a fuel heat source for their processing plants. Renergen will maintain the LNG equipment and storage facilities placed at both customers' premises throughout the original contract duration.

"Commercial LNG is now finally a reality in South Africa, and the best part is that it is not imported but rather produced locally, contributing to the country's energy security. We are proud to have finally achieved this enormous milestone and grateful to our customers who have decided to walk this journey with us. We look forward to becoming an integral component of their energy system as we explore future expansion in the supply of domestically produced LNG," says Stefano Marani, CEO of Renergen.

"Ardagh Glass Packaging South Africa is proud to be an anchor customer of the Virginia Gas Plant. The introduction of domestically supplied LNG to replace imported, more carbon-intensive LPG ticks three very important boxes for us, namely, localization, decarbonization, and energy security," said AGP-A's CEO Paul Curnow.

Renergen's existing operations will be expanded over the next three to four years through the development and construction of Phase 2 of the Virginia Gas Project, which will see the company produce an estimated 680 tonnes per day of LNG and up to one million standard cubic feet of liquid helium per day.

[info@renergen.co.za](mailto:info@renergen.co.za)

T + 27 10 045 6000

[www.renergen.co.za](http://www.renergen.co.za)



# Member News

**Tech-Driven Growth  
from the Core**

**Singular Group** and **Polimi Graduate School of Management** have partnered to inspire, inform and train managers and executives who wish to lead or implement growth projects outside of the “business core”.

We understand, from many years of experience, that the task of shaping a growth or change strategy is a complex matter. It often takes many resources and hours of executive support to identify the sweet spot of profitable growth and change in the long-term. While a complex matter, the task of building a growth strategy has some simple foundational and recurring patterns. While you will have no trouble understanding the component parts (e.g. customer experience, automation of processes, organizational and cultural change), what most firms struggle with is **how you implement them and integrate them practically.**

The goal of our course is to teach these fundamental concepts **practically** to you or your management team and **build a tech enabled growth mindset in your organization.** The course is intentionally taught by an even **mix of professors and practitioners. Top executives, entrepreneur and experts** will also play a prominent role as **guest speakers** in the delivery of the course.

The course is delivered **virtually and in English, however spots are limited.**

The aim of the course, carried out in partnership with POLIMI Graduate School of Management, is to **train managers and professionals who want to lead digital change and successfully implement new transformation and innovation projects.**

In a rapidly growing world, it is crucial to **redesign the business** to respond in an agile and flexible way to the changing and emerging needs of consumers, to maintain a **competitive advantage.**

The course starts in **January 2023**, allows participants to identify **the best business opportunities, anticipate consumer needs and create new markets, thanks to 100% online, interactive and engaging teaching.**

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN.**

**FIND OUT MORE**