



Ecco Chamber

FORTNIGHTLY ITALIAN NEWS MADE IN
SOUTH AFRICA



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Chamber's Note

A Lifetime of Dedication

Most years Italcham's Lifetime Achievement Award is motivated and presented by Cavaliere Maurizio Mariano whose network in the Italian community is unparalleled. It was thus a shock when this year Italcham's president Virgilio Da Molo stepped up to present the award despite Mariano's presence at the awards. However the apparent oversight became a masterstroke when it was revealed that Mariano himself was the recipient of the award he has previously done so much to promote.

Mariano has dedicated a lifetime of hard work to building various charities supporting the poor, the elders, the Italian community and, especially, has been a relentless driver of integration across different communities and unifying South Africans from different walks of life.

The Business Excellence Awards took place on Thursday, 11 May 2023, with more than 250 people assembling to celebrate the annual Gala Dinner. The event is designed to recognize and promote business excellence and solidarity within the historical Italian-South African business community. Twenty-four years after its first rendition, the event is a beacon for Italian business in South Africa. Various previous winners were in attendance this year to applaud the recipients of the five award categories which were included in this year's ceremony.

The prestigious Business Person of the Year was won by RDC Property Group Executive Chairman, Guido Giachetti. The company, a multinational diversified property investment, management and development company with a focus on strategic assets, achieved nothing short of astounding results in the last years under Giachetti's leadership.

Reporting an annual revenue for the financial year 2022 which amounted to over R500-million, which constituted a growth in revenue of 405% in the period. The exponential growth contributed to vital job creation and the company's total number of employees grew by 53 staff to a total of 129 by the end of 2022.

In recent years, Giachetti's company completed the acquisition of 100% of the Tower Property Fund, a fund listed on the JSE, concluded in December 2021, and opened the Radisson Red, Rosebank, Johannesburg in November 2021.

The Business Enterprise of the Year, recognizing leading investment directed from Italy, went to The Ariston Group. The award recognized their entrance into, and the disruption of the previously monopolistic South African geyser market. Their launch in late 2022 was a further statement about their commitment to South Africa. As part of Ariston Group, the company represents local skills at a global standard in water heating products.

In South Africa, Ariston houses a manufacturing facility in Centurion but also imports from Ariston-owned factories globally. Employing 140 people locally, Ariston introduced a new range of cost-effective water heaters that can save households' energy bills and water use. In an electricity & water stressed country like ours this is a major step in the right direction.

Two new awards, one recognizing a small business and the other the best medium business of the year, were also added, reflecting the work done by the Chamber, in collaboration with the community on the SMILE initiative. Diva Cucine, designers and importers of Italian Brand Colombini Group, was the winner of the SMILE Medium Business of the Year whose involvement within the SMILE community regular sponsorship of SMILE events showed an unparalleled faith in the initiative. The award celebrated the owner-managed enterprise with its dynamic design and sales team.

Mosaic Arts, the recipient of the SMILE Small Business of the Year, is a renowned company that produces decorative mosaics for an international clientele. Since 1995, the family business has been carried on by Vera Valli Giovitto together with her daughter Marina.

Vera's experience and artistic genius, together with Marina's architectural knowledge and fresh ideas, ensure that their mosaic works are exported and appreciated in Africa, Europe, USA and Australia. Their works can be admired in various famous structures in the country: from the luxurious Palace of the Lost City, to the numerous mosaics of Monte Casino, Time Square in Pretoria, the Carousel in the Hammanskraal and the Silverstar in Muldersdrift, to name a few.

After all five awards were handed over to the esteemed recipients, the charity part of the evening came into focus. As always, Little Eden Society received support from the entirety of the community. Special thanks was given to MSC and Roncucci and Partners for the awards provided for the highest donors. A final and major thank you was extended to the evening's sponsors, Huawei, Italtile and Ariston without whose generous support the evening would not have been possible.



Italcham!

The Business Excellence Awards 2023





VFS.GLOBAL



Consolato Generale d'Italia
Johannesburg



APERILINK

An Italian Aperitivo and Business
Networking

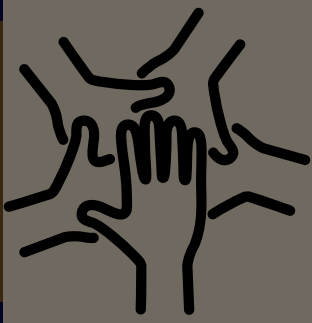
Save the Date

8 June 2023

18:00

VFS, Rivonia

*Not for sale to persons under the age of 18



Mattei Plan for Africa

The South African - Italian Chamber of Commerce, represented by our Secretary General Pamina Bohmer, took part in a conference aiming to create synergy between the Italian Chambers of Commerce Abroad (CCIE) of the Asia, South Africa and Oceania area on Monday 8 May 2023 in Maputo. Important points of collaboration and strategic lines were discussed which will be further explored during the world convention of the Italian Chambers of Commerce Abroad scheduled for mid-June in Ascoli Piceno. The first of the two thematic panels brought together both representatives of Italian and local companies to discuss areas such as gas as an engine of development and industrialization and the second focused on electricity and the green economy.



In addition to this, the meeting of the CCIE Area of Asia, South Africa, and Oceania was held with the important participation of various chamber of commerce representatives both in person and remotely. Among the speakers was the Hon. Nicola Carè, member of the Chamber of Deputies with responsibility for the Foreign District, Africa, Asia, Oceania, and Antarctica Division. The Chamber of Commerce in South Africa actively participated in the discussions, and important conclusions were reached, including plans for future Business Dialogues in Hong Kong/Macao to support Italian companies in the ASEAN region.





UPCOMING SMILE EVENT

SMILE

NETWORKING & COCKTAIL

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN
AN ITALIAN APERITIVO
& BUSINESS NETWORKING
EVENT

HOSTED FOR SMILE MEMBERS

DATE XXX
TIME XXX
VENUE XXX

Tickets

Members: R 150

Non-Members: R 250



SMILE
SMALL MEDIUM ITALIAN
LEAGUE OF ENTERPRISES

CALL FOR COMMENT

FOODSTUFFS, COSMETICS AND
DISINFECTANTS ACT



Law That Effects You

Dear Members,

We are writing to remind you that the Minister of Health has released a new draft for proposed legislation that may affect those of our members in the food sector. The new draft includes various requirements listed below that could impact the food industry and your input is essential.

Firstly, in terms of Section 8(10)(b), imported foodstuffs must have a minimum of 12 months before the end of a “Best Quality before Date”.

Secondly, in terms of Section 51, the draft legislation proposes that black warning labels be placed on most foods and beverages containing a certain amount of sugar, fats, salt, or artificial sweeteners. This requirement may affect those of our members in the food industry who manufacture, distribute, or sell food and beverages that fall into this category, and may require additional labelling processes.

Finally, such as in terms of Section 52, the draft legislation proposes a ban on certain claims and advertisements in specific products. This requirement may affect those of our members who manufacture or advertise products with health claims.

The EU Chamber, of which we are members, has set up a Google form in order to gain your thoughts on the matter and understand how these requirements may impact your business. We encourage you to take the time to complete the form so that we can better represent your collective views in our comments to the proposed legislation.

Italian-South African Chamber of Trade and Industries
A member of the EU Chamber

Share your opinion

