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## **The Malta International Fireworks Festival**

21<sup>st</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> April

### **Where Fire and Culture Meet**

This year's Malta International Fireworks Festival will be different in more ways than one. The chosen theme for the 17th edition, '*Where Fire and Culture Meet*' reflects the way cultural aspects will be incorporated with features that have never been seen before in Malta and Gozo.

The opening will take place on Saturday 21st April in Xagħra, Gozo. Phoenix Fireworks Ltd (UK) and Rozzi Fireworks (USA) shall be performing on this opening night, against spectacular backdrops that intrinsically demand admiration.

Another spectacle will be held on Friday 27th April in Marsaxlokk, where Martarello S.r.l (Italy) and St. Mary Fireworks Factory (Hal Għaxaq, Malta) will be setting the sky alight. The event in Marsaxlokk will be based on a traditional Maltese feast, where the colourful decorations and a local band dedicated to Madonna ta' Pompei will take centre stage.

The Grand Finale on Monday, the 30th April will be like no other pyrotechnic show our islands have experienced. Fireworks which will be synchronized to live singing and a live musical orchestra, which will perform music written for the occasion from a floating stage in the harbour.

This festival compliments the fact that Valletta is the European Capital of Culture. After all, fireworks and the locals' love towards them are well ingrained in the Maltese culture.

During a press launch held in Marsaxlokk, the Chairman of the Malta Tourism Authority, Dr. Gavin Gulia, said that a strong calendar of events throughout the year plays a very important role in defeating seasonality and the Malta International Fireworks Festival has been one of the MTA's most popular and longest running event. This year they have really outdone themselves by organising a festival that will provide the audience with a full sensory experience.

The Minister responsible for Tourism, Dr. Konrad Mizzi, said that such events help in achieving record-breaking result in terms of inbound tourism. Malta's increased connectivity has also increased interest in these events, while the events in themselves have increased interest in our country. Tourism is a great driver for our country and this industry helps to boost the local economy and Malta's brand image.

## Il-Festival Internazzjonali tal-Logħob tan-Nar

### Fejn in-Nar u I-Kultura Jiltaqgħu

Il-Festival Internazzjonali tal-Logħob tan-Nar din is-sena se jkun differenti b'diversi modi. It-tema magħżula għal din is-17-il edizzjoni, 'Fejn in-Nar u I-Kultura Jiltaqgħu' tirrifletti l-mod li bih l-aspetti kulturali se jkunu inkorporati flimkien ma' spettaklu li qatt qabel ma ntwera f'Malta u Għawdex.

Iċ-ċerimonja tal-ftuħ se ssir nhar is-Sibt, 21 ta' April fix-Xagħra, Għawdex. Phoenix Fireworks Ltd mir-Renju Unit u Rozzi Fireworks mill-Istati Uniti se jkunu qed jeżebixxu f'din iċ-ċerimonja, fi sfond spettakolari li minnu nnifsu jitlob kull attenzjoni.

Spettaklu ieħor se jsir nhar il-Ġimgħa, 27 ta' April f'Marsaxlokk, fejn il-kumpanija Martarello mill-Italja u l-kamra tan-nar ta' Santa Marija minn Ħal Għaxaq se jixgħelu s-smewwiet. L-avveniment f'Marsaxlokk se jkun ibbażat fuq festa tradizzjonali Maltija, fejn tiżjijn kulurit banda dedikata lill-Madonna ta' Pompei se janimaw is-serata.

Is-serata finali fil-Port il-Kbir se ssir fit-30 ta' April u se tkun l-aktar waħda spettakolari. Il-logħob tan-nar se jkun sinkronizzat ma' kant u mużika orkestrali miktuba għall-okkażjoni. Dawn tal-aħħar se jkunu eżebiti b'mod dirett fuq palk li se jkun f'wiċċ l-ilma fil-Port il-Kbir.

Il-festival se jikkumplimenta l-fatt li pajjiżna għandu Belt Kapitali Ewropea għall-kultura. Wara kolloxx, il-logħob tan-nar u l-imħabba tal-Maltin lejhom huma parti importanti mill-kultura Maltija.

Waqf konferenza tal-aħbarijiet f'Marsaxlokk, iċ-Chairman tal-Awtorità Maltija għat-Turiżmu, Dr Gavin Gulia, qal li kalendarju tal-avvenimenti b'saħħtu tul is-sena kollha għandu rwol importanti ħafna biex pajjiżna jkompli jindirizza l-istaġjonalità. Il-Festival Internazzjonali tal-Logħob tan-Nar sar wieħed mill-aktar avvenimenti popolari u li ilu jsir fil-kalendarju tal-avvenimenti nazzjonali. Din is-sena verament se jkun speċjali għaliex se jipprovi esperjenza li tqanqal is-sensi kollha.

Il-Ministru responsabbli mit-turiżmu, Dr Konrad Mizzi, qal li avvenimenti bħal dawn jgħinu biex pajjiżna jkompli jikseb suċċessi fl-ammont ta' turisti li jagħżluh bħala destinazzjoni. Qal li ż-żieda fil-konnettività lejn Malta permezz tgħin fl-attendenza għal dawn l-avvenimenti, filwaqt li l-avvenimenti nfushom iżidu l-interess fil-pajjiż. It-turiżmu, żied jgħid il-Minsitru, huwa forza qawwija li tgħin kemm l-ekonomija tal-pajjiż kif ukoll l-identità tiegħu.