



CLUB NEWS 2024

January Issue, No. 1

Dear Members,

This edition presents the events of November and December 2023, which also concludes our extensive and successful Jubilee year "50 years of CAI". We wish you a good reading and an excellent start into the new year 2024.

Please note that the date for our next General Assembly Meeting has been modified from March 29 to March 28. As usual, the photos of the events can be found under the password-protected "Members" section of the website.

OUR EVENTS

Invitation from the SBM Management to visit the famous wine cellar at the Hotel de Paris and wine tasting at the Salon Excelsior at the Hotel Hermitage, Thursday 2 November 2023

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the CAI, the CAI members were invited to visit a "hidden place of superlatives - the wine cellar of the Hotel de Paris Monte-Carlo" by the management of SBM. With a total area of 1500 square meters and its 350,000 bottles and 3,700 types of wine stored on more than 1.5 km of shelves, this wine cellar is unique: one of the largest hotel wine cellars in the world, excavated under the hotel in 1874 as a "Cave Centrale" according to an idea by Marie Blanc (wife of the founder of SBM). Here, especially in the reception hall, Prince Rainier III and Princess Grace Patricia celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary in 1976.



The members were expertly guided in 2 groups by SBM sommeliers through the endless corridors, past an incredible number of wines and wooden box towers, which, to everyone's surprise, ended in front of the Salon Excelsior in the Hotel Hermitage. With the subsequent tasting of red and white wine, combined with different cheeses, it became an unusual, memorable and exclusive evening. At the end, we were personally bid farewell by Hermitage director Louis Stark with a short speech.



**Celebration of the Principality's National Day with champagne reception and gourmet dinner at the Salon Méditerranée of the Hotel Metropole Monte-Carlo.
Friday, 17 november, 2023**

A long-cherished wish of the co-presidents, interrupted by the pandemic, came true on the evening before the festive weekend, because ambassadors and several honorary consuls of Monaco in Germany and other countries, as well as guests of honour of the Club, had accepted our invitation and were able to celebrate Monaco's national holiday together with many other CAI members.



After the champagne reception and the playing of the national anthems, everyone was warmly welcomed. Our honorary member Regine Sixt and the ambassador Lorenzo Ravano, who had been awarded the Ordre de Saint Charles for special merits by Prince Albert II in the palace in the morning, were also particularly honoured. During the evening, the video of His very passionate speech to the UN General Assembly was shown in His honour. The gathering of members, guests of honour and diplomats was a special, very successful festive evening.



“Open Day” for all German-speaking residents and interested parties at the Espace Léo Ferré, Saturday 25 November 2023

Considering the fact that more than 900 German residents live in the Principality, a CAI initiative to organise a meeting to get to know each other was conceived and planned. The campaign was publicised via e-posters, press reports, invitation cards and information for pupils learning German at all schools. The event was held at the Espace Léo Ferré, in Fontvieille. The hall was professionally decorated with yellow, red, black and white balloons from the company Art Balloons, as well as with beautiful, draped round tables and special lighting. The afternoon was enriched by:

- ❖ Information about the CAI via a video film and a presentation by the Co-Presidents
- ❖ Christmas cookies as gifts, as well as gingerbread from Nuremberg (donated by our members Silke and Stephan Meyer), mini speakers for the pupils.
- ❖ DJ music with pop singer Philipp Kanjo.

- ❖ And a selection of drinks and finger food



Together with some CAI members, the numerous visitors were welcomed and interviewed, as well as e-mail addresses were collected for future contact. All in all, this action was a good idea to make the club better known in a sympathetic and entertaining way.



Festive Christmas Party at the Salle des Arts, Monte-Carlo One, Friday 1 December

The Club Suisse de Monaco organised a festive Christmas Party at the Salle des Arts, a gilded Art Nouveau hall faithfully restored at the request of the Princely Family in the Monaco One complex. On this occasion, it invited the CAI to its Jubilee year. After a cocktail, the evening was enlivened by "Monaco Choir Belles" who sang Christmas carols, a "Joddel" performed by a new member of the Swiss Club, to the great delight of the hall and the band "Goldsingers" who animated the dance. All accompanied by an excellent dinner and wine, as well as chocolate, distributed by Santa Claus. A very successful evening, for which we would like to thank Arik Röschke, President of the Swiss Club and its committee.



Teatime at the restaurant MoNa, at the invitation of Co-President Patrick Wetzel and Yu-Ra Wetzel, Thursday, December 7, 2023

Patrick and Yu-Ra Wetzel invited the members of the CAI to celebrate the Advent season together at the MoNa restaurant, which was privatized and decorated for the occasion. After a welcome champagne, a rich selection of partly oriental dishes was served, followed by a generous dessert buffet and a selection of teas, with Christmas melodies in the background.

The atmosphere was friendly, warm and lively. At the end, Silke Meyer presented each participant with a very nice box with the best gingerbread from Nuremberg, which was imported directly from Germany for the occasion.



Christmas brunch at the Salle Belle Époque, Hotel Hermitage, Monday 25 December 2023



As every year, a small group of members met to celebrate Christmas at the traditional Christmas brunch in the historic, elegant Salle Belle Époque of the Hotel Hermitage. A rich buffet with champagne à discrétion awaited the guests.



And finally, musicians played from table to table to sing well-known melodies to their heart's content. At our table, "Jingle Bells" and a rhythmic melody by Elvis Presley sounded.

Musical "Phantom of the Opera", Salle Garnier, Wednesday, December 27, 2023

The CAI organized tickets for a sold-out performance of the famous musical "Phantom of the Opera" at the Salle Garnier. The performance, with its famous melodies, special effects and spectacular, sometimes colorful, sometimes gloomy productions, received enthusiastic applause from the audience. During the break, and to the surprise of many, the CAI offered champagne to toast in a privatized area for us in the Espace Rotonde. To the Phantom!



Gala and New Year's Eve at Monaco Yacht Club, Ballroom, Sunday 31 December 2023

For the last event in 2023, the CAI organized tables in the Yacht Club to join the New Year's Eve Gala and Cabaret Show. The ballroom was sumptuous in red and gold, decorated with crystal ceiling lights and flowers. From the program: champagne, a gourmet dinner prepared four hands and a very lively show with a dance group dressed in costumes of the 1920s, in Great Gatsby style. Finally, we were able to celebrate the end of the CAI's 50th anniversary and the beginning of the new year 2024 over a glass of champagne and exchanged our best wishes for health and happiness. A HAPPY NEW YEAR!



NEW MEMBERS



Renate and Nikolaus Barta

Nikolaus Barta was born in Hungary and has had his main residence in Vienna for many years and a second home in Beaulieu-sur-Mer. He is professionally active as a specialist provider in the field of art insurance and advisor to international art foundations and collectors, with branches in all major metropolises. Renate Schwarz-Barta is from Vienna, with a professional career also in the art insurance industry and is Managing Director of the joint company. The couple spends most of the year

travelling the world for work, but they always come back to the Côte d'Azur to relax and would like to expand their private lives here in the south with their CAI membership: with good contacts and a good programme. Prof. Dr. Maier-Preusker and lawyer Alexandra Furtmair are their sponsors.

OUR NEXT EVENTS

January 2024

Monday 29 January: Concert with choir « A German Requiem » by J. Brahms at the Salle Garnier

February 2024

Thursday 1 February: Jour Fixe with drinks and snacks at the Café de Paris, invited by Robert Smulders

Saturday, February 10th: NEW Raclette evening at the MoNa restaurant

March 2024

Thursday 7 March: Jour Fixe with drinks and snacks sponsored by Gerard Weinberg on the terrace of the Café de Paris

Sunday, March 17th: Presentation of the film "Le Sel de la Terre" by Wim Wenders and J.R. Salgado at the Cinema des Beaux-Arts followed by lunch at the restaurant L'Hirondelle

Saturday, March 23

**Recital Cecilia Bartoli and Lang Lang (5 p.m.) combined with participation in the Bal de la Rose, Salle des Étoiles (8 p.m.)
(14 tickets only)**

Sunday 24 March: Monaco Ocean Week: Rendezvous/Theme « Monaco Smart Yachts »
YCM

Thursday, 28. March:

**CAI General Assembly at the ACM with dinner at the Club's restaurant
(Previously planned on March 29th)**

Easter Sunday, March 31st: Concert as part of Printemps des Arts: The Amazing Keystone Big Band "Plays Count Basie" at 6 p.m. at the Auditorium Rainier III

April 2024

Thursday 4 April: Jour Fixe

Sunday, April 7: Lyrical show "The Masters Voice" with Cecilia Bartoli & John Malkovichin of the Opera Garnier

Date open: Excursion to the Principality of Seborga/ Audience with Princess Nina/ Lunch in the village/ and probably tea/coffee at Titus & Penda Gebel's in Bordighera

Date open: Invitation Günther Fischer « the world of film music » possibly with his Berlin friends

Sunday 14 April: Rolex Montecarlo Tennis Masters Final, with tickets and lunch on the clubhouse terrace

25 – 30 April:

Club trip to Seville, Andalusia, with day trip to Córdoba and visit to Granada/Alhambra as an option

The 2024 Summer Gala will take place on Friday, July 19, 2024 at the Yacht Club Monaco.