

GOZO REGIONAL COUNCIL

GOZO
EUROPEAN REGION OF
GASTRONOMY 2026
PROGRAMME OF EVENTS





INTRODUCTION

GOZO'S CULINARY HERITAGE REFLECTS CENTURIES OF TRADITION, LOCAL PRODUCE AND A STRONG CONNECTION BETWEEN THE LAND, THE SEA AND THE COMMUNITY. ROOTED IN SIMPLICITY AND AUTHENTICITY, GOZITAN GASTRONOMY CELEBRATES SEASONAL INGREDIENTS, TRADITIONAL RECIPES AND THE WORK OF LOCAL FARMERS, PRODUCERS AND ARTISANS.

FOOD HAS ALWAYS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE ISLAND'S CULTURAL LIFE, BRINGING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER THROUGH VILLAGE TRADITIONS, LOCAL MARKETS AND SHARED CELEBRATIONS.

EUROPEAN REGION OF GASTRONOMY 2026

IN 2026, GOZO CELEBRATES ITS DESIGNATION AS EUROPEAN REGION OF GASTRONOMY, RECOGNISING THE ISLAND'S COMMITMENT TO PRESERVING CULINARY TRADITIONS AND PROMOTING LOCAL PRODUCE.

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, A VARIETY OF GASTRONOMY-RELATED EVENTS ORGANISED BY LOCAL COUNCILS AND COMMUNITIES WILL SHOWCASE THE FLAVOURS AND TRADITIONS THAT DEFINE GOZO'S FOOD CULTURE.

THIS PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS A SELECTION OF THESE EVENTS, INVITING RESIDENTS AND VISITORS ALIKE TO EXPERIENCE THE ISLAND'S UNIQUE CULINARY IDENTITY.



EUROPEAN REGION OF GASTRONOMY
GOZO AWARDED 2026



GOZO



EUROPEAN REGION
OF GASTRONOMY 2026



PROGRAMME OF EVENTS



28 MARCH 2026

XAGHRA

EASTER CULINARY WORKSHOPS

Interactive cooking sessions celebrating Easter traditions and local recipes.



29 MARCH 2026
14:00

GHARB – VISITATION SQUARE

EASTER EGGS & FIGOLLI MAKING

A family-friendly Easter activity where children decorate Easter eggs and make traditional figolli.



11 APRIL 2026
20:00

SAN LAWRENZ – SQAQ TA' WARA L-BJUT,
TRIQ IL-WILEĠ

CHEFS KEMPINSKI SAN LAWRENZ – TRADITIONAL FOOD TASTING

A traditional food tasting featuring chefs from Kempinski Hotel San Lawrenz, celebrating local flavours and culinary creativity.

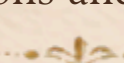


25 APRIL 2026
17:00

QALA – QALA SQUARE

QALA CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL

A celebration of chocolate featuring artisanal treats, live demonstrations and activities for all ages.



26 APRIL 2026
09:00

ŻEBBUĠ – PJAZZA L' ASSUNTA

JUM IŻ-ŻEBBUĠ

A morning dedicated to celebrating Żebbuġ Gastronomy.



2 MAY 2026
20:00

TA' SANNAT – PJAZZA SANTA MARGERITA

EST! EST!! EST!!! WINE FESTIVAL

An evening dedicated to local wines, food and cultural entertainment.





9, 16 & 23 MAY
2026

XAGHRA – ĊIRKLU ŻGHAŻAGH XAGHRA
IKEL U HELU TRADIZZJONALI LOKALI

An event celebrating traditional sweets and pastries through demonstrations and interactive activities.



21 MAY 2026

VICTORIA (RABAT) – CITADEL
GOZO'S TASTE IN THE CITADEL

A cultural event showcasing traditional Gozitan cuisine through tastings, demonstrations and live performances.



22 MAY 2026
20:00

FONTANA – TRIQ IL-KARDINAL ALESSANDRU
FRANCHI
SUMMER OF CULTURES

A night of music, folklore, and traditional Gozitan cuisine under the stars.



22 MAY 2026
20:00-22:00

QALA – ĠNIEN IL-FAMILJA
IT-TOGHMA TAL-GŻIRA

An immersive culinary experience showcasing traditional Maltese dishes through live demonstrations and community participation.



19–20 JUNE 2026

NADUR
AGRICULTURAL AND ARTISAN FAIR

Exhibition of local agricultural produce and artisan products, including tastings of traditional Maltese food.



20 JUNE 2026
09:00

MARSALFORN – COMMUNITY CENTRE
THE ART OF FOOD: A CREATIVE
WORKSHOP IN CLAY AND PAINT

A creative workshop for children aged 6–14 combining art and gastronomy through clay and painting activities inspired by food.





25 JUNE 2026
21:00

NADUR – PJAZZA ARĊIPRIET MARTIN CAMILLERI
MNARJA TRADITIONAL DINNER

A traditional dinner held as part of the Mnarja feast, featuring local Maltese food, folk music and folk dancing.



26 JUNE 2026

IL-MUNXAR – BELVEDERE, TRIQ L-ISQAWI
FIREWORKS AND GASTRONOMY FESTIVAL

A culinary event combined with fireworks displays.



27 JUNE 2026

XAGHRA
FIG FESTIVAL

A celebration of figs and their culinary uses highlighting seasonal local produce.



JULY 2026

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH
KAMP KEMMUNA – SUMMER EDITION

An environmental youth camp featuring nature walks, snorkelling, stargazing, bird observation and educational workshops.



JULY 2026

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH
SUSTAINABLE COOKING WORKSHOP

A workshop promoting sustainable cooking practices through the use of local and environmentally conscious ingredients.



6 JULY 2026
20:00

TA' KERĊEM – TRIQ DR ANTON CALLEJA
IKLA TAL-FESTA

A traditional village feast dinner featuring Maltese cuisine.





10, 17, 21 & 24
JULY 2026
19:30

ŻEBBUĠ - RIĦ ID-DEHEB
FOOD & CIVILIZATION: EXPLORING THE
ROLE OF FOOD IN RELIGION, ART & HISTORY
Lectures exploring the history, traditions, and cultural
significance of gastronomy, examining how food has been
shaped by trade, religion, agriculture, and local customs
throughout the centuries.

10-11 JULY 2026

XEWKIJA – XEWKIJA SQUARE
MALTA INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL
– GOZO EDITION
An international culinary showcase featuring a
variety of cuisines and food exhibitors.

31 JULY 2026
19:30

TA’ KERĊEM – TRIQ SAN NIKLAW
GHAD-DELL TAL-AKWADOTT
A traditional Maltese food event held near the historic
aqueduct.

1 AUGUST 2026

TA’ KERĊEM – TRIQ SAN NIKLAW
GHAD-DELL TAL-AKWADOTT
A traditional Maltese food event featuring live
demonstrations of local recipes and culinary
techniques.

7 AUGUST 2026

IL-MUNXAR – XATT IX-XLENDI, XLENDI
IL-BAĦAR X’RA (SECOND EDITION)
A coastal event celebrating maritime heritage through
seafood dishes, local produce and storytelling.





21–22 AUGUST 2026

NADUR
DELICATA CLASSIC WINE FESTIVAL
A festival celebrating locally produced wines through tastings and entertainment.

SEPTEMBER 2026

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH
BEEHIVE INSPECTION WORKSHOP
An educational workshop exploring beekeeping practices, bee conservation and honey production.

5 SEPTEMBER 2026

GHAJNSIELEM – GUDJA AREA
LEJLA MALTIJA – TAHT ID-DELL TAL-KUNVENT
A traditional Maltese night featuring local cuisine and cultural elements celebrating Gozitan and Maltese culinary heritage.

19 SEPTEMBER 2026
19:00

GHASRI
TRADITIONS: WINE, OLIVE OIL AND HONEY
A traditional evening featuring tastings of local wine, honey and olive oil, traditional roast pork and other Gozitan dishes, accompanied by folkloristic music and entertainment.

20 SEPTEMBER 2026
20:00

XEWKIJA – TA’ BLANKAS OLIVE GROVE
XEWKIJA BEER FEST
A lively festival bringing together beers, food, live entertainment and community spirit in a unique outdoor setting.

OCTOBER 2026

EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVE
MEMORY GAME
An educational memory game for children promoting Maltese heritage, traditional symbols and local food culture.





FIRST WEEK OF
OCTOBER 2026

FONTANA – CIVIC CENTRE
RIĊETTI MALTIN

An educational session focused on traditional Maltese recipes led by a professional chef.

15–16 OCTOBER 2026

SAN LAWRENZ – PJAZZA SAN LAWRENZ
IKLET NIESNA

A community event celebrating traditional food through demonstrations, folklore and shared dining.

21 OCTOBER

GOZO REGIONAL COUNCIL & GOZO BUSINESS CHAMBER
UPGRADE YOUR BUSINESS

A series of practical workshops designed to equip Gozian businesses with practical digital skills, enabling them to embrace digital tools, strengthen their online presence and improve competitiveness.

21 & 23 OCTOBER 2026
10:00–12:00

GHASRI – PARISH CENTRE
IL-WIRT FIT-TOGHMA

Training sessions and demonstrations promoting traditional food and culinary heritage.

NOVEMBER 2026

QALA – INSTITUTE OF TOURISM STUDIES
MELTING POT – BOOK LAUNCH EVENT
& FOOD FESTIVAL

A food festival celebrating Gozitan and international cuisine, featuring traditional dishes and the launch of the Melting Pot cookbook.

4, 11 & 18
NOVEMBER
18:00–19:30
28 NOVEMBER
10:30

GOZO PUBLIC & CENTRAL LIBRARY
TJUBIJA GHAWDXIJA

A family-friendly series of activities celebrating Gozitan culture and traditions.





22 NOVEMBER 2026
10:30

GHARB – PJAZZETTA L-ISQOF N. G. CAUCHI
LARGE ĠBEJNA, ARTICHOKEs AND
INTERNATIONAL HERBS FESTIVAL
A celebration of local cheeselets, seasonal artichokes
and herbs.

22 NOVEMBER 2026

GHARB – PJAZZA TAŻ-ŻJARA TAL-MADONNA
TRADIZZJONIJIET GASTRONOMIČI MILL-GHARB
An initiative promoting traditional cooking, seasonal
ingredients and shared culinary knowledge.

DECEMBER 2026

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH
KAMP KEMMUNA - WINTER EDITION
An environmental youth camp focused on nature,
sustainability and outdoor educational activities
during the winter season.

13 DECEMBER 2026 – 3
JANUARY 2027

GHAJNSIELEM - TA' PASSI AREA
BETLEHEM F'GHAJNSIELEM
A live Nativity village featuring traditional Maltese seasonal
delicacies such as ħobż biż-żejt, ftajjar, qagħaq tal-ghasel,
roasted chestnuts and imbuljuta

ONGOING
INITIATIVE

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH
IL-FORN TA' KEMMUNA
A restoration and educational initiative transforming a
historic bakery on Comino into a centre promoting
sustainability, environmental awareness and conservation.





GOZO NGOs
CONNECT - SUPPORT - REPRESENT



**friends of
the earth
malta**



GOZO REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
MINISTRY FOR GOZO
AND PLANNING

