

# Working towards another great harvest

Spring at Fra Brettel is the period during which the vines grow rapidly after winter's dormancy and fruit set – the initial phase of fruit formation after flowering – is taking place. This is a tense time at Fra Brettel, because it is the stage at which the quality of the year's crop is set. Estate manager Joseph Camilleri is busy inspecting the vines on a regular basis to ensure that they are in perfect health and do not become attacked by disease.

The weather is critical during the flowering period of the vine because cold winds and heavy rain spells can damage the delicate flowers, which will result in grape bunches that are uneven and sparse.

White grape varieties are usually the first to flower, followed by red grape varieties. Nine varieties of grapes are currently planted in the 29.7 tumoli estate, which will reach maturity between August and September. The white grape varieties are the Moscato bianco, Vermentino, Viognier and Albariño. These are aromatic varieties that on Fra Brettel soils tend to retain a good acidity, which makes them perfect for the production of crisp, fresh and aromatic white wines, ideal for drinking during the hot summer months.

The red vine varieties are the Syrah, Negroamaro, Grenache, Graciano and Mourvedre. The first to mature, around the beginning of September is the Syrah grape, which is rich in colour and tannicity and which on Fra Brettel soils develops complex spicy notes.

This is followed by the highly versatile and vigorous Negroamaro, which can be utilised for the production of rich and intense red wines to light rosé wines, the light and soft Grenache and finally the Mourvedre, a variety rich in tannins, complex aromas and high in alcohol, and the Graciano – a grape variety which is rich in colour and tannins, and which retains a good acidity at maturity and gives highly complex wines. This is the last grape to be harvested on the Fra Brettel Estate, towards the end of September.

At this time of the year, another important activity is to estimate how big this year's grape crop will be. This activity involves counting the grape clusters on a group of selected vines for each grape variety, multiplying this figure with the average weight of the grape bunches for every grape variety (based on data of grape bunch weight at maturity during previous harvests) and multiplying this with the number of vines of each variety located at Fra Brettel.

This year grape production is expected to be much higher than that of 2012 because fortunately, even though the weather has been rather imbalanced, fruit set at Fra Brettel has been highly successful. In fact, at an estimated production of 42 tonnes, this year's production is forecasted to be the highest recorded since the grape vines entered their first year of production back in 2009.

Weather permitting, and thanks to the constant vigil of the estate manager, 2013 will be another great harvest at Fra Brettel!



Keeping in Touch is the monthly newsletter of Famalco Group.



# HR UPDATES

## Birthdays in June



Schembri Pierre Charles - 5th  
 Georgiev Krastev Vesko - 10th  
 Gauci Karen - 12th  
 Cutajar Charlot - 14th  
 Azzopardi Silvio - 14th  
 Vella Stefanie - 24th  
 Attard McCarthy William - 24th

## Recruits in May

**Azzopardi Louis** - Head of Human Resources  
**Cilia Mathieu** - Administration Executive  
**Mifsud Wayne** - Warehouse Labourer  
**Grima Kristian** - Local Driver  
**Attard McCarthy William** - Showroom Sales Associate  
**Thornton Daniel** - Commercial & Business Development Manager

## Congratulations

**Aiden Xuereb** and his wife **Fleur** are the proud parents of a baby boy, welcoming **Thomas** into their family.



## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Coming together is a beginning;  
 Keeping together is progress;  
 Working together is success."

*Henry Ford*

## Promoting employee involvement

Employee involvement is a crucial factor for a company to achieve its objectives and long-term vision; and we believe that every individual has a contribution to give irrespective of role and location. We at Famalco are committed to foster and incentivise all employees who are willing to embrace this culture. Although we are already considering a number of initiatives to engage further employee involvement, you, as part of Famalco Group are invited to voice your suggestions on how to make this incentive scheme beneficial to the company and equally rewarding to its employees.

### Current initiatives in the pipeline include:

- Employee Referral Scheme with regards to recruitment.
- A continuous improvement scheme related to cost, quality, service, branding etc.
- Financial rewards for supporting the Group's revenue.
- Now it's your turn to complete this bullet point...

Send us your views and ideas by contacting HR or via email to [hr@famalco.net](mailto:hr@famalco.net)

WE COUNT ON YOUR SUPPORT

# Group vacancies

- ▷ Famalco Group - Accountant
- ▷ Famalco Group - Accounts Officer
- ▷ Fapi Motors - Outdoor Sales Rep.
- ▷ Coldwell Banker - Property Sales Assis.
- ▷ Focused Knowledge - Advertising Sales Rep.
- ▷ Fruitland - Sales and Delivery Rep.
- ▷ Fruitland - Fresh Produce Procurment & Warehouse Manager Assis.

## Sandro's birthday surprise

Employees at Famalco's Head Office teamed up to celebrate director Sandro Mallia's birthday last month. He was surprised by a specially made birthday cake, along with clothing gifts and a card.



## VIDA's new distribution methods



The current issue (June 2013) of VIDA Magazine marks a change in the magazine's distribution methods, switching from the previous door-to-door delivery to being released within weekly newspaper Malta Today on the first Sunday of the month.

To bolster the change, Focused Knowledge are making a subscription option available, for readers who prefer to get VIDA delivered to their door, against a small fee of €1 per issue (€12 per year). Work has also been underway for a few months on a revamped website, where readers can access all issues of VIDA for free – the launch of which coincided with the June issue on Sunday, June 2nd.

# Fahrenheit Freight Forwarders news

## New depot in Birmingham

With three points of presence in the UK, the already established depots in Reading and Manchester together with the recent new depot in Birmingham, Fahrenheit has enhanced its presence in the car carrier industry locally.

Fahrenheit Freight Forwarders has announced its new car carrier service from Birmingham, which will further augment its services for its clients by providing an extended choice as to where they can send their purchased cars, and in so doing, making savings.

The new depot's address in Birmingham is JD Export, Victoria Road, Halesowen, Birmingham, B628HZ.



## ITG Hamburg internship

Vanessa Mueller has joined Fahrenheit's shipping and sales departments as part of an internship programme between ITG Hamburg and Fahrenheit.



Three weeks into her eight-week stay, Vanessa maintains that the main difference she notes within Fahrenheit is the structure. "It is different to that implemented in Hamburg, as it is more of a documentation operation," she states – a structure in which different parts of the process are handled by different people, and one that she deems "very efficient". She further cites new skills acquired related to truck services as being beneficial. When asked what she hopes to get out of the experience after eight weeks, Vanessa asserts, "Besides improving my English, I hope to further my skills in international trading. I also feel that having experience working abroad will help me in the future."

Several members of Fahrenheit staff will be helping Vanessa to integrate within the company for a duration of eight weeks, in which she will be assisting in various tasks. The internship on Fahrenheit's side is aimed at enabling staff to develop leadership and supervisory skills.

## Fahrenheit continues investments in employee development

A recent lifter course successfully completed by 12 Fahrenheit drivers was organized by the management as part of its constant aim to continue investing in Human Resources. Personal development and ongoing learning are critical factors in today's world. Besides acting as agents in improving performance, skills and abilities, it also gives employees the opportunity to learn new techniques and apply the best practices, aiming for more efficiency and effectiveness at the workplace.

If you are interested in applying for any kind of course which will enhance your knowledge and skills, and is aligned with the company's objectives, you are invited to contact your direct manager and/or HR to discuss your request further. Famalco can also provide the required guidance to assess and determine areas of improvement and/or development including courses or other learning methods in order to meet your current and future ambitions.



# From the Famalco Family...

## ANTHONY ZERAFÀ

**Age:** 43.

**Status:** Married

**I joined Famalco Group** in 1995 as an overseas driver.

**My first job** was assisting my father in construction.

**My dream job** is to be in Baywatch.

**The best part of my job is** when all our trailers are loaded on board a vessel and reach Malta on time.

**The worst part of my job is** whenever we encounter driver or trailer delays, and as a result lose a client.

**If I were to join another Famalco company it would be** none of them, as I'm not interested joining another department within our company.



**I love** listening to conversations between my kids on our way home from school.

**I hate** drivers driving slowly in the fast lane.

**My greatest wish is** to see my sons growing and achieving.

**My most treasured possession is** my entire family.

**My favourite food is** red meat.

**My favourite actor is** Robert De Niro.

**My favourite holiday destination is** anywhere within Europe.

**If I could change one thing about life it would be** that I'd be rich!

**In the end, all that matters is** being healthy.



**My most memorable experience is** becoming a father to my two adorable sons.

**In my free time** I enjoy watching a good football match.

# Guess Who Competition?

Can you guess who the child in the photo is?

Would you like to **WIN** an exclusive Corvette t-shirt?

Send your replies to:  
[kevin@focusedknowledge.com.mt](mailto:kevin@focusedknowledge.com.mt)  
by June 25th for a chance to win!

Last month's winner was **Melanie Mifsud**, who correctly identified **Eltelika Debono** as the child in the photo.

