

The 30th edition of ItalfestMTL comes to a dazzling close: a rousing tribute to Italian culture

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Montreal, August 20, 2023 - It is with a mixture of emotions and gratitude that we announce the breathtaking conclusion of the 30th edition of ItalfestMTL. This year's festival transcended expectations, celebrating Italian culture through a variety of captivating events that enchanted hearts and awakened minds.

Among the highlights of this unforgettable edition, the opera *Don Pasquale* shone brightly in the heart of Little Italy. Performed with passion by an ensemble of talented artists, this opera captivated audiences with its exceptional vocal performances and timeless charm.

The first edition of *Dolci Sapori d'Italia* also delighted visitors' senses. This gourmet event offered an immersive culinary experience, where visitors enjoyed cannoli from 3 local bakeries.

Enchanting melodies filled the air throughout the festival with numerous concerts featuring local and international artists including rock star Michel Pagliaro, jazz guitarist Michael Occhipinti, one-man band Francesco il Mercante and many more. From traditional music to modern rhythms, Italian music resonated in the hearts of the audience, inviting them to immerse themselves in a varied and captivating palette of sounds.

The second weekend of the festival, held in the Quartier des Spectacles, was also a resounding success, notably with its ballet *show Célébration classique All'Italiana*. In this captivating performance of ballet and contemporary dance, the dancers transported the audience into a world of grace, beauty and artistic innovation.

The numerous exhibitions held throughout Montreal also added a rich cultural dimension to the event, highlighting the talent and diversity within the Italian-Canadian community, notably thanks to the exhibition *Unveiling Queer Canadian-Italian Experiences*, produced in collaboration with Fierté Montréal and Violet Hour.

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Finally, this incredible 30th edition ended with a top-notch comedy show. Italian-Canadian comedians Joe Cacchione, Franco Taddeo, Pino Pirillo and Ben Cardilli brought tears of laughter to their enthusiastic audience while creating a festive *all'Italiana* atmosphere. The evening ended on a high note with the long-awaited draw for a trip for two to Italy, a watch and a luxury coffee machine.

We'd like to express our sincere gratitude to our presenter Mastro & San Daniele, our main partner the Italian-Canadian Community Foundation (FCCI), the governments of Canada and Quebec, the City of Montreal, our many passionate partners, our dedicated volunteers and, of course, our loyal audience, all of whom helped make this edition a memorable success. Their ongoing support has enabled ItalfestMTL to grow into a vibrant celebration of Italian culture and passion.

As we close this 30th edition with a mixture of pride and melancholy, we remember the moments shared and the bonds forged over the course of these days. ItalfestMTL will continue to be a celebration of the beauty, diversity and magic of Italy.

Stay tuned, because the next edition promises even more discoveries and memorable moments. Arrivederci!

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