

Palace Square to witness Changing of the Guard



Palace Square in Valletta has historically been the scene of civil and military ceremonies.

The Armed Forces of Malta will be re-introducing the Changing of the Guard ceremony on Valletta's Palace Square after a near 40-year absence.

The ceremony, which will be held twice monthly, is symbolic of the formal handing over of responsibility from one guard to another at the Palace in Valletta.

The AFM said having ceremonial guards on duty at the Palace called for a reintroduction of the previously performed ceremony, albeit slightly altered. The last regular ceremonial changing of the guard took place in 1971.

"The version we are reintroducing is tailor-made for our needs and capabilities as a force which has all the ceremonial responsibilities required by our nation," the AFM said.

Preceded by the AFM band, the new guard will assemble at City Gate, march down Republic Street and take its position on Palace Square. While this is going on, the "old" guard will assemble in the inner courtyard of the Palace prior to marching onto Palace Square escorted by a Leading Drummer.


When both guards take positions facing each other on the square, the drummer rejoins the band. The two guards will then acknowledge each other by presenting arms in successive moves.

On a signal, the sergeants of both old and new guards will march out and halt in the middle of the square.


They will change arms in successive moves and then the old guard sergeant will hand over the key to the Palace. During the handing over, the band will play soft ceremonial music. After the handing-over procedure, both guards will march in slow time. The new guard will march and halt four paces behind the old guard. The band and old guard will then carry on marching up Republic Street while the new guard will enter the Palace. The changing of the guard ceremonies this year will be held next Monday and on September 24, October 1, 15 and 29, November 12 and 26 and December 3, 17 and 31.

Monday's ceremony starts at 10 a.m.


Comments

Alfred Farrugia(2 days, 22 hours ago) 

What is wrong with such a ceremony? A year ago I watched a similar ceremony in Athens, and I was not the only one watching! In Athens they even have two guards in front of the official residence of the highest authority, performing their classic walk. I have seen similar ceremonies practically everywhere in Europe and other continents. Perhaps such a ceremony could be performed more frequently and on other days of the week.

matthew randon(3 days, 2 hours ago) 

more money wasted on frivolous pointless ceremonies, if this is the governments idea of improving a countries cultural heritage they are sadly mistaken. this is no doubt another touristic gimmick to fill up the weekly schedule of the hapless tourists that visit malta. Wake up politicians you are loosing touch with your people!!

Igalea(3 days, 4 hours ago) 

Are the orders going to be given in Maltese? We have our own language which should be used as all other armies use their own language.