

It's Christmastime at the prison too: inmates at Opera penitentiary in Milan celebrates with a lunch prepared by Chef La Mantia and with Loison Panettone

*Christmas is celebrated in all sorts of places around the world, even in prisons. On **December 23**, inmates and their families got to spend a day in peace and harmony, thanks to the support of volunteers, celebrities - including **Lorella Cuccarini** - and Sicilian Chef **La Mantia***

Gathering at the dinner table with family and loved ones is a Christmas tradition that goes along with opening gifts and enjoying a delicious slice of Panettone.

It happens every Christmas in our houses, as well as in the most unexpected places. During the past holiday season, charity lunches were held in one of such places. While last year Loison's contribution went to the inmates of **Rebibbia prison in Rome**, this year the focus was on the **Opera prison in Milan**, where detainees spent a peaceful day with their children and their families. They not only received mini Loison Panettone cakes as a gift, but were also served a lunch prepared by Michelin-starred Chef **Filippo La Mantia**, His Sicilian-inspired menu featured dishes such as eggplant casserole and couscous with vegetables.

On December 23rd, after the Mass celebrated by Monsignor **Pierantonio Tremolada**, the auxiliary bishop of Milan, 70 inmates took their seats at the table with their families. A total of 250 people were present. Waiting the tables were volunteers of the **Sicomoro Project** – a reparative justice program that aims to heal the emotional wounds of victims and perpetrators alike. The volunteers were aided by Italian celebrities, including **Lorella Cuccarini**, and the victims of crimes.

In the afternoon, Italian artist Edoardo Bennato held a concert, followed by performances of comedians from the Italian shows Zelig and Colorado. Finally, to end the day on a sweet note, **mini Panettone cakes gifted by Loison** put a smile on everybody's face. It really does not take much to give warmth and to create unity. All we need to do is give the most precious of gifts: our time.

To learn more, please read the following article (available in Italian):

[A Opera il pranzo "stellato" per i detenuti e le loro famiglie](#)

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