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PRESS RELEASE

Indian writer Anita Desai wins the 2006 Tomasi di Lampedusa

Fire on the Mountain is the novel that has won the fourth edition of the international literary prize organized by "Tomasi Lampedusa" Institution and sponsored by Donnafugata

Nicola Piovani and his music will be honored guests at the award ceremony

Marsala, August 1, 2006—The 2006 Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa international literary prize, named for the Sicilian writer and now in its fourth edition, went to Indian writer **Anita Desai** for her novel *Fire On the Mountain* published in Italy by Einaudi.

"I was truly delighted with the jury's decision", said **José Rallo**, owner of **Donnafugata**, which sponsors the prize, "because Desai is an author who gives us books of great intensity in which reflection on the female condition and woman's plight in every time and place is dealt with originally and authentically."

This is the first time that a woman has won the "Tomasi," entering the golden registry of the literary prize dedicated to the author of the *Gattopardo* (The Leopard) and sponsored since its first edition in 2003 by Donnafugata. Previous winners were Israeli Abrahm Yehosua, Moroccan Tahar Ben Jelloun and Italian Claudio Magris.

"The Giuseppe Tomasi award for literature," Rallo added, "has become a meaningful part of cultural promotion for Sicily and its territory. The keystone of its success can be traced back to the history of Belice, also recounted in the *Gattopardo*, and in bringing together public and private resources and people to relaunch an area that, while internal and rural, has development potential in which Donnafugata has always believed."

The award ceremony will be held on **Sunday, August 6, at Palazzo Filangeri di Cutò** in the town of Santa Margherita di Belice, and emceed by journalist Rosanna Cancellieri. The guest of honor will be composer and musician **Nicola Piovani**, creator of the sound tracks for top Italian film directors and winner of an Oscar for Roberto Benigni's *Life Is Beautiful*. He will also perform, creating a cultural bridge between the Sicily of the *Gattopardo* and the India recounted by Anita Desai.

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