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Once Upon a Time: La Lira

By the ICCCH Team

Alessandro Massa is a collector of Italian coins and banknotes that span the last 140 years of existence of the Italian Lira (1861-2002). Thanks to his collection, we can travel through history, starting from the unification of the country under King Vittorio Emanuele II, traversing World War I, the Fascist period, World War II, the allied occupation, and the beginning of the Italian Republic.

Attendees will notice how the shape and value of the coins and banknotes changed throughout time and how their graphic representations adapted and evolved during these various historical periods, sometimes underlying ideology and propaganda. Many distinguished Italians have been represented, spanning every excellence from exploration to art, to science and music. Attendees will also notice the pernicious effects that high inflation had on the purchasing power of this currency at different times.

"Lira" comes from the Latin word *Libra*. It was introduced in Europe by Charlemagne (c. 742-814) in the Holy Roman Empire. From one pound of

Silver (410 g), 240 denari were minted. As it was the only coin made, with no multiples or fractions, 240 denari was counted as 20 soldi, and that was equivalent to 1 Lira. This was the same conversion in other regions.

Alessandro Massa and Alex di Bagno will go into more detail about the history of the Italian Lira, and they will showcase Massa's collection at the lecture on Tuesday, May 9.

About the collector

Alessandro Massa has been fascinated by foreign coins since he was young, after discovering one of his grandmother's Italian coins and banknotes. He began collecting foreign currency when he traveled to Europe. Motivated by his love for Italy, he decided to showcase the history of the country through his collection of currency, spanning from 1863 to 2000. Massa loves to share his passion with anyone that has the same affection for Italy. He enjoys reflecting on the past and recounting the memories that connect us through the pieces of metal and paper.

About the presenter

Alex di Bagno is not an expert in coins, but he has a passion for history, especially of Rome and Italy. After a career spent managing various Italian steel companies in the U.S., he is now retired and enjoys promoting the many interesting and beautiful things that Italy has to offer. A native of Roma, di Bagno has been on the board of the Italian Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Comites for 15 years, until 2020. He has been awarded a Knighthood for his volunteer activities in the arts and for assisting Italians in hospitals. He is also passionate about opera, devoting much of his time to volunteering for the Houston Grand Opera, including being a supernumerary in various productions.

[Click here](#) to register for *Once Upon A Time: La Lira* on Tuesday, May 9, at 7 p.m. The lecture costs \$10 for ICCCH members and \$15 for non-members.



King Vittorio Emanuele III on the right, eagle on the left.



Regine del Mare (Queens of the Sea) Dante. 1948-1962.



Galileo was an Italian astronomer, physicist and engineer, sometimes described as a polymath. 1973-1983.

New ICCC Members

Benvenuti!

The ICCC welcomes the following new members and invites them to stay engaged with all the wonderful programs and events the ICCC has to offer.

For more information about becoming a member, click [here](#) or contact [Alessandra Pistone](#).

Andres Bacigalupo & Family

Mr. Stephen Barletta

Mr. Robert Blasio

Ms. Brenda Cancino

Ms. Cynthia Cannizzaro

Mr. Antonio Figueriredo

Alex T. & Allison Galbraith

Ms. Eliane Herring

Ms. Rebecca Howard

Ms. Selina Lamberti

Ms. Marya Laupa-Scott

Laura Licato

Lonne Martinec

Ms. Betty Jo Mauro Williams

Ms. Suely Mello

Ms. Linda Starr

Mr. Douglas White

All'ICCC (At the ICCC)

Buongiorno Amici,

I've been a member of the ICCC for nearly two decades and have often asked this question of myself and others: why is the ICCC important? Here are some of the responses I've heard:

- It is a place where I can show off Italy to others.
- ICCC is where Italian culture continues to live and helps everyone understand what Italy has contributed to the world's civilization.
- It is a place of belonging to a culture.
- It provides a focus for celebrating and taking pride in Italy, and its impact on the world, with like-minded people.
- It is a place to share in one of the world's greatest cultures.

These insightful thoughts underscore the common themes of pride in Italian culture and the understanding that it is important to share its richness. Not surprisingly, the comments dovetail perfectly with the ICCC's mission statement: ICCC advances, celebrates and preserves Italian culture and heritage.

If you, too, believe in our mission, bring that belief to life by [attending our events](#) and inviting your friends, whether they are Italian or not, and by offering your talents to us through volunteering. We always need volunteers. We need you! We need your time to fulfill our mission – please be generous with that precious commodity.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find an article that lists areas of specific need for volunteers. We know you've got the talent, now give us your time! Contact me for further information about volunteer opportunities at the ICCC at president@iccchouston.com.

Looking ahead, we have a beautifully curated collection of activities coming up: our [contemporary film series](#) continues with [La Donna Per Me](#) about which one IMDB reviewer said, "Finally a movie that touches our feelings focusing on a love story without illness, suffering, psychological disorders or other diseases as every other movie of the last years. A romcom as the ones in the 80s or 90s." I'm looking forward to that!

We also are continuing our hugely successful series, [Aperitivo Italiano](#), with another installment in May. Additionally, we have [a lecture on the history of the Italian Lira](#), a [cooking class for children](#), our [bi-monthly Italian mass](#) and renewed pasta lunch, and [a Dine-Around](#), among many other interesting offerings. Let's make each of these events a sell-out! You



ICCC President Claudia Gentile Sims.

can make it happen! And, *mamma mia!* Don't forget the ICCC annual fashion show and luncheon on October 17. This year, we are celebrating the Songs and Styles of Italy.

Follow us on Facebook and keep current by checking our website often at www.iccchouston.com or *La Voce Italiana* for specific dates and times. Many of our events sell out early, so don't be late.

We invite all Houstonians to join us, whether they are Italian or not, because Italian culture is a gift to be shared with everyone.

I look forward to seeing you soon at the ICCC as we work together to carry forward our mission.

A presto!
Claudia Gentile Sims

2023 ICCC Board of Directors

Officers

Claudia Sims	President
Monica Ercolani	Vice President
Julie Mastroianni	Treasurer
Flavio Zannin	Secretary
Marguerite Gabriele	Assistant Secretary

Board of Directors

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Sandra Celli Harris
Laura Ferro
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Diane Nizza

“la voce
italiana”

Published six times a year (Jan., Mar., May, Jul., Sept. and Nov.) by the Italian Cultural & Community Center of Houston (ICCC).

La Voce Italiana is a benefit to ICCC members and followers. It can be found at www.iccchouston.com

For more information, please call 713-524-4222 ext. 4 or email info@iccchouston.com.

We Appreciate Our Members in These Special Categories!

By the ICCC Team

We would like to take a moment to acknowledge our Friend of the ICCC members, Patron members and our Individual or Family Lifetime members. We are incredibly thankful for your support!

Friends of the ICCC Members

Mrs. Dominique Varner
Mr. Paul Cinciripini
Ms. Sandra Celli Harris

Patron of the ICCC Members

Mr. Jack Fassetta
Mr. Jerry Baiamonte
Dr. Joseph D'Addesio

ICCC Individual or Family Lifetime Members

Ms. Caroline Whitmore-Knotts
Mrs. James J. Liuzza
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Aspromonte
Mr. Gary DeSerio
Mrs. Vincent Quartaro
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Meyers

Mr. and Mrs. Carmelo Mauro
Mr. Michael Massa
Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Mandola
Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Albert
Ms. Cynthia L. Tybor
Ms. Barbara Barcelona
Mr. and Mrs. William Sinacori
Mr. and Mrs. Giorgio Borlenghi
Mr. Nick Ferrantino
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred J. Fatica
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Guariglia
Miss Barbara Teague
Mr. and Mrs. J. Hunter Todd
Mr. Christopher Parkerson
Mr. Robert Tucci
Ms. Kathryn Kase
Mr. and Mrs. John Bannon
Dr. Joe Caruso
Ms. Katia Lieber Scopinich

New members are always welcome! We offer six different memberships, all which include amazing benefits. [Click here to view our membership options.](#)

Friends of the ICCC members receive discounts on our language school classes, discounts on selected events, discounts on Milford House rentals, free admission for two movie screenings, free admission for two lectures, and a "Friend" listing in *La Voce Italiana* for one year!

Patron of the ICCC members receive exclusive benefits, such as discounts on our language classes, discounts on Milford House rentals, free admission for two movie screenings and two lectures, complimentary seats (2) to one of our *Aperitivo Italiano* wine tasting events, and a "Friend" listing in *La Voce Italiana* for one year!

ICCC Individual or Family Lifetime Members get the ultimate exclusive perks we offer. [Click here to view the benefits of being a Lifetime Member](#) or call the Center at 713-524-4222 ext. 6 for more information.

Congratulations to the Most Recent Study Abroad Scholarship Recipients!

By the ICCC Team

The Italian Cultural & Community Center (ICCC) is proud to announce the most recent recipients of the ICCC 2023 Study Abroad Scholarship.

"I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to study in Italy, for it has been a dream of mine for many years," Grace Sattem said. "I look forward to experiencing everything the country has to offer and challenging my communicational skills to a greater level. *Ci vediamo a Roma!*"

"I am going to Bocconi University for an exchange program in the fall of 2023, and I will be taking finance and business courses such as Venture Capital and Managing Luxury Companies," Zainab Jamal said. "I am very interested in the financial world that Italy has to offer and also just exploring Italy!"

We are so pleased and excited for both Sattem and Jamal on their ventures in Italy. Let us all wish them success in their study abroad programs.



Grace Cathleen Sattem.

Grace Cathleen Sattem is a rising sophomore student at Rice University working towards a double major in Psychology and Anthropology and a minor in Cinema & Media Studies. She began studying Italian at Rice last fall. She is currently enrolled in a Rice program hosted in Rome. The entire program is focused on language and culture, specifically homelife, campus experiences, excursions, and community service programs in Rome. Sattem will continue formally studying Italian in Italy while also practicing conversational skills and expanding her cultural knowledge of the country.

Sattem believes that by studying in Italy she will learn about being both a respectful participant and observer in other cultures and further learn the nuances of the Italian language and gain insights from their life perspectives. She believes this experience will make her a better person and will drive a lot of her cultural research throughout her academic journey at Rice.



Zainab Jamal.

Zainab Jamal is a first-generation college student from Houston, TX majoring in Finance and minoring in Cybersecurity at Texas A&M. She is also pursuing a certificate in International Business.

She is enrolled in a fall program at the Bocconi University in Milan focusing on finance and management studies. She was drawn to this university and Milan because of its rich history and culture, the university's reputation for excellence in economics, management, and finance, and Milan's global position as a hub for fashion, design, and finance.

Jamal believes this program is aligned with her undergraduate studies because it is an opportunity to practice her Italian skills, thus helping globalize her perspective of the world. She plans to learn as much as she can about the local culture, history, traditions, and customs by attending local events, volunteering in the community, and participating in cultural activities.

ICCC Clubs and Organizations

Le Amiche Club

By Maryess Salvaggio Guzzetta, Corresponding Secretary



Le Amiche Club current members.

The Le Amiche Club is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year!

As our constitution states, "The object and purpose of this club shall be to unite closer together ladies of approximately the same age and at the same time widen their friendship and to teach congeniality in social and business activities."

A group of young Italian American women, mostly of Sicilian descent, decided to start a club that would celebrate and acknowledge their friendship, along with their Italian heritage. They chose the perfect name – *Le Amiche* which translates to "the friends" in English.

The founding members were Mary (Ruffino) Hamala, Charlene (Ruffino) Spedale, Therese (Porcarello) Odom, Jeanette (Russo) Philips, Rosalie (Ragusa) Scalise, Jennifer (Rizzotto) Guzzetta and Luanne (Spedale) Jankowski. Hamala, Odom, Philips, and Jankowski are still active members.

Throughout time, the club has evolved and changed. The membership was and still is limited to 30 members, and meetings were held monthly at each member's home. A constitution/by laws was enacted, which we endeavor to follow, and have tried to stay true to our original goals and ideals.

Officers are elected every two years and dues are paid annually. With this income, we enjoy socials, a Christmas party, special outings, and we make contributions to charitable organizations.

Eventually, the meetings moved from member's homes to the Federation of Italian American Organizations of Greater Houston, now known as the

ICCC. Currently, the meetings are held at a restaurant or at the home of a member.

Meetings are now held every other month instead of monthly. Having fewer meetings has worked well, especially since we are not as young as we used to be!

The Le Amiche Western Dance was an annual project for our club for numerous years. This event was enjoyed by many in the Houston area, especially members of other Italian clubs.

We added the spirit of giving to our philosophy by donating to various charities throughout the years, such as St. Joseph Church, Arms Wide Adoption, and several other agencies.

We are still going strong and hope to continue to do so for many more years. We ask God to continue blessing the members of the Le Amiche Club as we remain friends and cherish the friendships we have made over the past 50 years.

Daughters of Italian Heritage (DOIH)

By Christina Nance/Donna Patterson – President



Daughters of Italian Heritage Logo.

This season has certainly been one of almsgiving with the Daughters participating in the Co-Cathedral Sacred Heart Caritas Day Service – Project Girl Power.

On Saturday, March 4, 17 DOIH members attended the Caritas Mass and had a fun time assembling 100 toiletry bags for veteran women living in temporary housing. This community service event was hosted by Co-Cathedral.

Santa Maria Hostel held a book drive, to help grow a library for the women and children. WOW! Twelve shopping bags full of books were donated by the Daughters.

On March 19, the Daughters enjoyed joining members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church at their St. Joseph altar and celebration. A donation towards the St. Joseph altar and celebration was made by the group. Society of St. Vincent de Paul St. Joseph's annual fundraiser continues in April. The Daughters are striving to match and exceed last year's donation of \$1,200.

Meetings continue to be full of fun filled activities. Members share stories of their heritage, learn about their ancestors' first steps on U.S. soil, and build their legacies. These stories are interesting and inspiring. It is an amazing passage through Italian/American history, as well.

Gloria Montalbano, a DOIH member, graciously shared her passion for a stuffed artichokes Italian recipe at our March monthly meeting.

Montalbano demonstrated the preparation and had plenty of samples to share with the members.

The monthly meeting date and time have changed to the second Saturday of each month at 9:30 a.m. We meet at the ICCC. If you are interested in attending any of our meetings or becoming a member, we would love to have you! [Click here](#) to contact Anna Messer to receive information on upcoming meetings or to visit our website at www.ciaodiva.org. Blessings to all.

Volunteering at the ICCC

By Claudia Gentile Sims - ICCC President



Image: Pixabay.

Isn't it fun to attend events at the ICCC in our beautiful facility? Who doesn't enjoy the (usually sold-out) *Aperitivo Italiano*? Everyone who attended Buck Ross's filled-to-capacity "History of Italian Opera" class came away enlightened, with a song in their hearts. The annual fashion show and luncheon in October is already being plotted. These are just three examples of the variety of things going on at the ICCC throughout the year.

How do so many diverse offerings get

brought to life with such a small* staff? How does our house, listed on the National Register of Historic Places and a designated City of Houston Landmark, stay so grand? Volunteers help make it possible.

One of the many ways to be meaningfully involved with the ICCC and help ensure its bright future, is to participate as a volunteer. As you already know, we are a non-profit community organization. What you may not know is how much we rely on you, our volunteers, to help us bring wonderful cultural benefits to Houston and beyond, while maintaining our historic house.

We couldn't do it all without our volunteers. Please consider offering your talents to help carry forward our mission. It's good for us and good for you, too, because volunteering is known to provide a healthy boost to your self-esteem and life satisfaction. You will be doing good for others and the community, and that provides a natural sense of accomplishment, as well as a sense of pride and identity.

To keep the ICCC's forward trajectory going, we need to expand the ranks

of our volunteers and develop a data base of helping hands and "subject matter experts (SME)" to offer their services when needed. We especially need you in our database if you are a "subject matter expert" in the following areas:

Licensed plumbers
Licensed electricians
Talented handymen
Feature Writers to provide stories and other content
Proofreaders with a strong command of English grammar and syntax
Kitchen Helpers and Servers to help with events
Greeters/ambassadors for events at the Milford House
Sales experts to help sell ads for *La Voce Italiana*
Architects
Landscape Architects

If you would like to add your name to our volunteer data base, please send an email expressing your interest to: president@iccchouston.com.

*Our staff is small but mighty. They are intelligent, hardworking, dedicated and much appreciated.

Upcoming Events at the Milford House



La Piccola Cucina - Crostata alle mandorle e fragole

Calling all young chefs! Join us to make *crostata alle mandorle e fragole* (strawberry and almond tarte). Please note, the recipe has almond flour.

Saturday, May 6 at 9:30 a.m.

\$40 ICCC Members
\$50 Non-members

Click [HERE](#) to register



Aperitivo Italiano - Summer Summertime Wines

Let's celebrate the beginning of the summer season over Happy Hour! Join us to taste four Italian wines accompanied by Italian-style small bites. Presented by Mary Ann Ellis from TuttiLili.

Tuesday, May 23 at 7:00 p.m.

\$30 ICCC Members
\$35 Non-members

Click [HERE](#) to register



ICCC Dine Around at Amalfi Ristorante Italiano & Bar

Meet new friends while enjoying Italian cuisine! Be delighted by Chef Giancarlo Ferrara's delicious creations. This event will offer a *prezzo fisso* (prix fixe) menu.

Tuesday, June 6 at 7:00 p.m.

\$65 Per Person

Click [HERE](#) to register

MAGGIO 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 A Journey Into Italian Art 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.	2 Italian for Travelers 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	3	4 Italian for Beginners - AISI 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	5	6 La Piccola Cucina - Crostata alle mandorle e fragole 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
7	8	9 Once Upon A Time: La Lira 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	10	11	12	13
14 Catholic Mass and Pasta Lunch 10:30 a.m.	15	16	17 Italian Contemporary Film Series: She's The One 7:00 p.m.	18	19	20
21	22	23 Aperitivo Italiano - Sum Sum Summertime Wines 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	24	25 COMITES: Come riscoprirsi in una nuova vita all'estero 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	26	27
28	29	30	31			

A Journey Into Italian Art

This course will highlight important aspects of Italian art through the ages. The course will be taught by art historian and ICCC instructor, Francesca Lanza.

Date: Mondays, from May 1 to May 22 | 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Price: \$100 ICCC Members and \$125 Non-members

Place: ICCC Houston

Italian for Travelers

In this introductory Italian language class, you will learn how to approach people and ask simple questions while touring the city, dining out, shopping, and more.

Date: Tuesdays, from May 2 to June 6 | 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Price: \$247.50 ICCC Members and \$275 Non-Members

Place: ICCC Houston

Italian for Beginners - AISI

Immerse yourself in the beautiful language and culture of Italy! Join our in-person Italian for Beginners class to learn the basics of *la bella lingua*.

Date: Thursdays, from May 4 to June 15 | 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Price: \$202.50 ICCC Members and \$225 Non-Members

Place: ICCC Houston

La Piccola Cucina - Crostata alle mandorle e fragole

La Piccola Cucina is a hands-on cultural culinary experience for children ages 3-10. Children will wear chef aprons and toques and learn basic Italian language, metric system and culture while preparing authentic Italian cuisine. They will be making *crostata alle mandorle e fragole* (strawberry and almond tarte). Please note, the recipe has almond flour.

Date: Saturday, May 6 | 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Price: \$40 ICCC Members and \$50 Non-Members

Place: ICCC Houston

Once Upon A Time: La Lira

Alessandro Massa is a collector of Italian coins and banknotes that span the last 140 years of existence of the Italian Lira. Through his collection, we will analyze how their graphic representations adapted and evolved during these various historical periods. This lecture will be presented by Alex di Bagno.

Date: Tuesday, May 9 | 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Price: \$10 ICCC Members and \$15 Non-Members

Place: ICCC Houston

Catholic Mass and Pasta Lunch

Experience mass in a personal setting with family and friends! Join us for a Roman Catholic bilingual Italian and English mass. Celebrant TBA. Payment for pasta lunch will be taken at the door.

Time: Sunday, May 14 | 10:30 a.m.

Price: Donations welcome for mass/\$10 per person for pasta lunch

Place: ICCC Houston

Italian Contemporary Film Series: She's the One

Plot: On the eve of Andrea's wedding with his fiancée, Laura, he starts waking up everyday in different realities where he and Laura never dated. Exploring the many paths his life could have lead him on to, Andrea will have to face the void Laura's absence left in his many different "iterations." Will he try to break the spell?

Time: Wednesday, May 17 | 7:00 p.m.

Price: \$10 ICCC Members and \$15 Non-members

Place: ICCC Houston

Aperitivo Italiano - Sum Sum Summertime Wines

Let's celebrate the beginning of the summer with Mary Ann Ellis from TuttiLili! Join us to taste four Italian wines accompanied by Italian style small bites.

Time: Tuesday, May 23 | 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Price: \$30 ICCC Members and \$35 Non-Members

Place: ICCC Houston

GIUGNO 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Art Lab: Buon Compleanno, Italia 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.
4	5	6 ICCC Dine Around at Amalfi Ristorante Italiano & Bar 7:00 p.m.	7	8	9	10 Daughters of Italian Heritage Meeting
11 Catholic Mass and Pasta Lunch 10:30 a.m.	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Italian Contemporary Film Series: Burning Hearts 7:00 p.m.	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Art Lab: Buon Compleanno, Italia

Art Lab is a new, fun and exciting ICCC program catering to children ages 7-10. This 90 minute workshop is ideal for young artists who enjoy being creative while immersing themselves in Italian culture. Artists will learn about different art techniques and mediums to create fridge-worthy pieces of art. They will also learn the basics of the Italian language.

June 2 is *Festa della Repubblica* (Republic Day), an Italian national holiday that is celebrated each year. This day marks the birth of the Italian Republic. To honor this beautiful country, artists will take on a fun art project called "*Buon Compleanno, Italia* (Happy Birthday, Italy)" for the first edition of this program. Artists will create the shape of Italy with cardboard, color it, and then add some of Italy's most famous monuments in their corresponding regions.

Artists will learn Italian words and Italian history and geography through lots of fun and hands-on skills. They will receive guided instructions and demos from the instructor. Each artist will take their masterpiece home. All supplies will be provided.

Time: Saturday, June 3 | 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.
Price: \$50 ICCC Members and \$60 Non-members
Place: ICCC Houston

ICCC Dine Around at Amalfi Ristorante & Bar

Join us at Amalfi Ristorante Italiano & Bar for a 'Dine Around.' Get ready to be delighted by Chef Giancarlo Ferrara's delicious creations. Guests will have the opportunity to enjoy a nice evening surrounded by ICCC members and friends.

This event will offer a *prezzo fisso* (prix fixe) menu costing \$65 per person for the dinner. Price includes iced tea, tap water, soft drinks, American coffee. It does not include wine, beer, spirits, Pellegrino, Panna, espresso or cappuccino. These can be added and paid extra at the restaurant.

You must previously register and pay in order to attend this event. Reserve your seat today on Eventbrite or call 713-524-4222 ext. 7.

The last day to reserve your seat is Thursday, June 1.

[Click here](#) to view the menu.

Time: Tuesday, June 6 | 7:00 p.m.
Price: \$65 per person (prix fixe menu)
Place: 6100 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77057

Catholic Mass and Pasta Lunch

Experience mass in a personal setting with family and friends! Join us for a Roman Catholic bilingual Italian and English mass. Celebrant TBA. Payment for pasta lunch will be taken at the door.

Time: Sunday, June 11 | 10:30 a.m.
Price: Donations welcome for mass/\$10 per person for pasta lunch
Place: ICCC Houston

Italian Contemporary Film Series: Burning Hearts

Plot: The forbidden love between Andrea, the reluctant heir of the Malatesta family, and Marilena, the beautiful wife of the Camporeale boss, rekindles an old feud between two rival families. The fatal passion brings the clans back into war, in an ancient land, not so different from the far west, where only blood can wash out blood, following the ruthless codes of the local mafia. But Marilena, now cast out by the Camporeale and prisoner of the Malatesta, contended and reviled, with the strength only a wounded mother ripped away from her children can have, will oppose to a destiny which seems already written.

Time: Wednesday, June 21 | 7:00 p.m.
Price: \$10 ICCC Members and \$15 Non-members
Place: ICCC Houston

Discover Pantelleria: Sicily's Hidden Island

By Silvia Marchetti | *Italics Magazine*

Name-checked by Time Magazine in their list of the World's Greatest Places of 2023, the tiny island deserves its time in the spotlight.



Sea of Pantelleria. Photo: Ante Hamersmit on Unsplash.

In March, Time Magazine announced the World's Greatest Places of 2023, a list of "50 extraordinary destinations to explore" around the world. It includes some fairly well-known locations, like Barcelona, Kyoto, Mexico City, and also Naples; plus some unusual places like Musanze (Rwanda), Luang Prabang (Laos), Timisoara (Romania), and Pantelleria, dubbing it "Italy's new island destination."

The tiny island adrift between the coasts of Sicily and Tunisia is largely unknown by the flicks of tourists who come to Italy for holidays, and is hardly considered much of a must-see destination. But the charming little island has plenty to offer.

Despite its size-only 83km² (32 sq mi) and 15km long-the island is served by Pantelleria Airport, which connects to Palermo and Trapani (and with Milan, Rome, Venice, and other major cities in the summer time); as well as by ferry service from Trapani. With a total population of only 7,335 (from the

census in 2022), the island is thankfully not heavily developed, and is known for its incredible natural beauty. In fact, 80% of the island is occupied by Pantelleria National Park that was opened in 2016, and thanks to its relative isolation has incredible biodiversity. Within the park, there are trekking paths and mountain bike trails for those who like more active hobbies, but the park also organizes cultural and archeological tours for those who appreciate the slower pace.

The island is home to megalithic tombs that date back 5,000 years called 'Sesi,' and also these hut structures called 'Dammusi' that are made from the locally abundant lava stones and domes roofs, iconic in their white paint to prevent the inhabitants from overheating in the hot summer months.

Other natural attractions include hot springs and natural saunas, which harken back to the not-so-distant volcanic origins of Pantelleria. Trails snake down to the coastline and land you on the most pristine beaches and translucent blue waters you've ever seen, and on the eastern side of the island, you can find the Elephant Arch, the creative name of a lava formation that looks like an elephant dipping its trunk into the sea (note, the beaches become increasingly crowded over the August holidays). Another beauty spot is Venus' Mirror a lake formed in an extinct volcanic crater, filled by rainwater and hot springs, that earned its name from the legend that the goddess Venus would admire her reflection in this lake before meeting with the god Bacchus -- you're welcome to do the same before an appointment trying the local wines.

Pantelleria is famous for two kinds of sweet wines: Moscato di Pantelleria, made from the local varietal Zibibbo grape. Wine lovers would be remiss not visiting and learning about the uniquely traditional agricultural method of cultivating the vine, called vite ad albarello (translated to 'headtrained bush vines'), which involves pruning the vine down to six branches, and continuously reshaped until the grapes are ready for harvesting by hand. In 2014, it was included in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity of UNESCO.



@ig_pantelleria on Instagram.

Small though it may be, Pantelleria has something uniquely different to offer outside of the peninsula that is recognized by the team at Time magazine. The untrod paths away from the tourist hotspots might earn you bragging rights among more world travelers, but seeing a different angle of Italy, and a different history, makes the country all the more richer.

Come Riscoprirsi in Una Nuova Vita All'Estero

By COMITES

SALUTE MENTALE

COME RISCOPIRSI IN UNA NUOVA VITA ALL'ESTERO

Consigli e confronto per una transizione di successo.

Evento guidato dalla Terapeuta Enrica Malone

GIOVEDÌ 25 MAGGIO
6:00 - 8:00 PM

ITALIAN CULTURAL & COMMUNITY CENTER
1101 MILFORD STREET, HOUSTON

COMITES HOUSTON

ITALIAN CULTURAL & COMMUNITY CENTER of Houston

Siamo entusiasti di invitarvi a un evento interattivo speciale sulla salute mentale incentrato sulle sfide che possono emergere durante un processo di trasferimento all'estero. Questo evento sarà guidato dalla terapeuta Enrica Malone.

Durante l'evento, offriremo uno spazio interattivo per la condivisione e il confronto tra i partecipanti, dove potrete incontrare persone che si trovano nella vostra stessa situazione.

L'incontro mira a fornire risorse e consigli per coloro che affrontano queste sfide per agevolare una transizione di successo.

RSVP <https://bit.ly/3LkP7Wq>.

Agenda dell'evento:

- 6:00 - 6:15 pm: Accoglienza dei partecipanti.
- 6:15 - 6:30 pm: Saluti iniziali e introduzione dell'evento.
- 6:30 - 7:30 pm: Presentazione della terapeuta Enrica Malone sulle sfide che possono sorgere durante un processo di trasferimento all'estero e sui modi per affrontarle. Durante la presentazione ci saranno momenti interattivi con i partecipanti per permettere loro di condividere le loro esperienze e porre domande.
- 7:30 - 8:00 pm: Rinfresco e networking

*L'agenda potrebbe subire delle variazioni.

In Cucina con gli Italiani

Tiella cozze e riso (Rice and mussel bake)

Recipe by [Paola Bacchia](#)

300g (10.58 oz) short-grain rice
 1 clove garlic, finely chopped or minced
 1 small white or brown onion, thinly sliced
 600g (21.16 oz) potatoes, peeled and sliced (3-4 mm thick)
 500g (17.63 oz) ripe cherry tomatoes (or other small tomato), quartered,
 50g (1.76 oz) grated pecorino cheese
 3 tablespoons parsley leaves
 700g (24.69 oz) mussels (about 300g [10.58 oz mussel meat])
 freshly ground pepper
 extra virgin olive oil



Preparation

De-beard and scrub the shells of the mussels clean. Place the cleaned mussels in a large lidded frypan with a quarter cup of wine and garlic. Cover, turn up the heat and shake the pan occasionally.

After a minute, check for open mussel shells and remove them one at a time with tongs. Cover and cook for another minute and check for more open shells. Repeat for up to 5 minutes.

Discard any unopened shells. Strain the liquid that is leftover in the pan and reserve. Separate the mussel meat from the shells of those that have opened at the base of the stalk using a small sharp knife. Set aside.

Preheat the oven to 392F. Drizzle a tablespoon of olive oil on the base of a round baking dish (ideally terracotta), and place a layer of potatoes.

Next, place a layer of onions, then a layer of tomatoes, 1 tablespoon of chopped parsley, a pinch of salt and some freshly ground pepper, some rice, then half the mussels, making sure the opening of the mussel flesh is facing up.

Then, add another layer of potatoes and repeat the layers described above. Finish the tiella with a layer of potatoes on top.

Fill the container with the strained cooking liquid of the mussels plus

enough hot water so that it is just below that top layer of potatoes. Scatter on the cheese and bake covered (with a purpose made lid or foil) for 45 minutes.

Test the potatoes with a skewer to see if they are cooked through. If they are still firm, bake for another 10 minutes. Remove the lid and bake for a further ten minutes so the top of the tiella can brown.

Rest the dish for at least half an hour before serving.

Poggio le Volpi Roma DOC Rosso

Information from [Poggio le Volpi](#)



Dedicated to Rome and its historical greatness, this wine is a celebration of the richness of its lands: Roma DOC is the latest wine domination from Lazio. It includes one of the most important historical territory with an ancient wine tradition and the mineral strength of the land shaped by the Lazio Volcano.

Made from an extreme selection of Montepulciano, Cesanese and Syrah, this Roma Doc is a wine with bright, deep and intense color, dark olfactory sensations, and an aromatic strength of the wine varieties that make up the blend. It also features a limited edition, refined for a long time in barriques.

This red wine is made up of Montepulciano, Syrah and Cesanese grape varieties. It is grown in volcanic soils rich in minerals and organic substances. Its hand is harvested, with

long fermentation of the grapes, racking off, soft pressing and maturation in barrique and tonneau of different origin.

This deep bright ruby red wine is intense on the nose with sensations of ripe red fruits, cherries in alcohol, red flower; everything enclosed in a very pleasant balsamic note. It is very smooth in the mouth, pleasantly tannic, well balanced, elegant and very long in persistence.

Roma DOC Rosso is paired well with ham, first courses of pasta with ragu, risotto with *salsiccia*, lamb and pork, medium aged cheeses, or with *coda alla vaccinara* (cow tail).

It has won many awards in the years 2020, 2019, 2018, and 2017, Learn more about this wine at www.poggiolevolpi.com.



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The ICCC thanks all the sponsors for supporting *La Voce Italiana*. For more information on sponsorships, please email marketing@iccchouston.com.

We mark with pride, our achievements and promise to continue improving the Italian Cultural & Community Center (ICCC) as we fulfill our mission to advance, celebrate, and preserve Italian culture for all Houstonians, and continue to place the ICCC on the city's culture map. We thank you for your continued support.

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