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Italian Cultural & Community  
Center of Houston

# The Voice of All Things Italian la voce italiana



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## SONGS and STYLES of ITALY FASHION SHOW and LUNCHEON



## Songs and Styles of Italy Fashion Show & Luncheon

by the ICCC Team

We are pleased to announce that tickets to our [Songs and Styles of Italy annual Fashion Show & Luncheon](#) are sold out! If you missed your chance to purchase a ticket or a table to this year's event, which takes place on October 17, 2023 at 11:00 a.m., worry not – there are still so many ways to get in on the fun while benefiting the ICCC scholarship program.

Our silent auction is full of spectacular prizes, and anyone can participate. You don't need to be a ticket holder to bid on dining and travel experiences,

gorgeous wines, luxury jewelry, and more. The silent auction will open online on October 10th. Check back [here](#) for more details soon.

You can also register for our waitlist or purchase raffle tickets, one for \$50 or six for \$250, by calling (713) 524-4222 ext. 7. We will be announcing the items available in the raffle very soon, so stay tuned!

Since 2000, the ICCC has awarded more than \$263,000 in scholarships to college students in the Greater

Houston area. Funds raised by our Songs and Styles of Italy Fashion Show & Luncheon will go towards expanding our ICCC scholarship program offerings. If you'd like to contribute a tax-deductible donation directly to our scholarship program, you can do so [here](#). Help us inspire these young, bright students to achieve their dreams!

We look forward to our 2023 Fashion Show & Luncheon, sure to be an afternoon of food, fashion, and fun!



2022 ICCC Fashion Show & Luncheon.



2022 ICCC Fashion Show & Luncheon.



2022 ICCC Fashion Show & Luncheon.

## 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](#).

Bennie Flores Ansell

Eleni Barzouka

Robert Bennett

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Cesaratto

Isabel Conde

Neil Eastman and Family

Domini Fails

Otto Fanini

Consuelo Fernandez

Maureen Fuhrmann

Julianna Gahn

Estela Giargei

Lu Ann Katz

Kristin Liedtke

Carol Lee Lyons

Tom Marcione

Linda Marshall

Toni Mascione

Shannon Powers

Amy Ritchmond

Concepcion Rodriguez

Judith Steinhoff

JD Walt

Alex Zhanov

## All'ICCC (At the ICCC)

Cari Amici,

**SOLD OUT:** these two words are music to our ears. The Songs and Styles of Italy Fashion Show and Luncheon is **SOLD OUT!** Scheduled for October 17, this popular event, which supports ICCC and its scholarship programs, sold out early. Kudos to ICCC board member and committee chair, Gina Gusemano Leck, and her team members: Lesha Elsenbrook and Ginger Neimann, fashion show chairs; Mary Milloy, Julie Mastroianni, Roz Pactor, Lu Caltagirone, Franelle Rogers, Karen de Guerin, Jeanne Ruberti, and ICCC Executive Director Erika Myers.

Donations, large and small, can still be added to an already fabulous catalogue of offerings. If you can't attend but would like to be part of the success of this event by contributing a nice bottle of wine or restaurant dinner or cash or unique experience, please contact the office at 713-524-4222. Ext. 7. The deadline for being included in the publicity is September 15. Don't miss out.

Gina and her committee will set up a waitlist so you might still have a chance to buy a ticket even though we're sold out; fingers crossed. Again, congratulazioni to Gina and her team. I'm really looking forward to attending on October 17 along with about 300 other friends who support ICCC and want to help students realize their dreams of higher education and study abroad through ICCC's multiple programs.

At ICCC, we're living the Pony Express motto, "Neither rain, or snow, nor gloom of night, can keep us from our duty" or another way to say it is, "The Show Must Go On." We've been shorthanded because of summer vacations and a key staff change. The blistering heat has been hard on everyone, plus we're undergoing some previously unplanned construction. It's been a challenging summer, but we persevered. No matter the obstacles, and there've been a few lately, we continue to get the job done, offering thoughtful programming and gracious hospitality to our members and guests.

We're all back from vacation now and we're delighted to report that Tayleigh Greene has accepted the position of Marketing and Communications Coordinator. Benvenuta, Tayleigh! We're glad you're here.

The plaster ceiling in the living room that unexpectedly collapsed one July day is being replaced. After a thorough investigation by a professional forensic engineer, it was agreed that the best thing to do to ensure the safety of everyone is to replace the old plaster ceilings with



*ICCC President Claudia Gentile Sims.*

drywall. We hope to have this work complete within the next couple of weeks. Until that work is complete, most of the older part of the house is closed. However, the newer part of the house – breezeway, kitchen, library, bathrooms and auditorium, as well as the dining room and parlor which already have drywall ceilings, continue in use as we host films, classes, wine tastings, concerts, lectures and so on. "The show goes on" at ICCC even with our challenges this summer. Like the Pony Express – nothing can keep us from our duty to bring Italian culture to you, our patrons, with a song in our hearts. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Un abbraccio,

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

Jerry Baiamonte
Sandra Celli Harris
Laura Ferro
Gina Gusemano Leck
Jesus Angelberto Muñoz
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](http://www.iccchouston.com)

For more information, please call 713-524-4222 ext. 4 or email [info@iccchouston.com](mailto: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 Friends of the ICCC members, Patron members and our Lifetime members. We are incredibly thankful for your support!

### Friends of the ICCC Members

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Brown  
Mr. Paul Cinciripini  
Ms. Sandra Celli Harris  
Mrs. Dominique Varner

### 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  
Ms. Elin B. Berg  
Ms. Jackie Leone

New members are always welcome!  
We offer six different memberships,  
all of which include amazing benefits.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

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 recognition 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 recognition in *La Voce Italiana* for one year.

ICCC Lifetime Members get the ultimate exclusive perks we offer. [Click here](#) or call the Center at 713-524-4222 ext. 6 for more information.

## A Tax-Free Gift with an IRA - A Special Opportunity for Those 70 1/2 Years Old and Older

by the ICCC Team

After years of contributing to tax-deferred 401(k)s and IRAs, income tax is due on that money when you take withdrawals in retirement. Annual withdrawals from traditional retirement accounts are required after age 72 (73 if you reach age 72 after December 31, 2022). If you are in the fortunate position of not needing your total distribution for living expenses and are charitably inclined, you can avoid income tax on your withdrawal by donating a portion of your money directly to a qualifying charity.

IRA owners must be age 70 1/2 or older to make a tax-free charitable contribution. You can give any amount (up to a maximum of \$100,000) per year from your IRA directly to a qualified charity, such as the Italian Cultural & Community Center (ICCC) of Houston, without having to pay income taxes on the money. Gifts of

any value \$100,000 or less are eligible for this benefit. This type of gift option is referred to as the IRA charitable rollover or a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). The gift must be made directly from the IRA to the qualified 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Charitable contributions can only be made from IRAs, not 401(k)s or similar types of retirement accounts. To determine if a rollover from a 401(k) plan to an IRA is available for your 401(k) plan, please speak with your plan administrator.

Beginning in the year you turn 72 (73 if you reach age 72 after December 31, 2022), you can use your gift to satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution (RMD). You pay no income taxes on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor

a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions. Since the gift does not count as income, it can reduce your annual income level. This may also help lower your Medicare premiums and decrease the amount of Social Security that is subject to tax.

Your gift will be put to use today, allowing you to see the difference your donation is making here at the ICCC of Houston.

If you want to get the process started, please reach out to ICCC Executive Director Erika Myers by calling at (713)524-4222 ext. 7 or by emailing [emyers@iccchouston.com](mailto:emyers@iccchouston.com).

*The information is not intended as legal or tax advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney or tax advisor.*

## Rent the Milford House for Your Upcoming Event

by the ICCC Team



Rent the historical Milford House for your special events and occasions. Located in the stylish and charming Museum District, the Milford House is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and a designated City of Houston Landmark.

There is space for intimate seating as well as a banquet hall, which seats up to 120 people. The house can accommodate the simplest event to a formal reception. There is ample space for musicians. There is also an attached commercial kitchen. Outside

caterers are welcome.

This elegant and sophisticated home can be rented at an unbeatable value! Call us at 713.524.4222 ext. 6 or e-mail [accounting@iccchouston.com](mailto:accounting@iccchouston.com) to reserve the Milford House for your next event or party, or to make an appointment to tour our facility.

We are grateful to our friend and talented photographer Filippo Nenna who captured marvelous photos of the Milford House.



## ICCC Clubs and Organizations

### Daughters of Italian Heritage (DOIH)

by Christina Nance/Donna Patterson – President



*Daughters of Italian Heritage members present on the southern coastal region of Italy at the July meeting held at the ICCC.*

**Celebrating Italy:** At the Daughters of Italian Heritage (DOIH) July meeting held at the Italian Cultural and Community Center (ICCC), the Daughters celebrated the southern coastal region of Italy with visual presentations. Thanks to the DOIH committee of Michelle Belco (chair), Antonia Comardo, Dominique Varner, Sandra Celli Harris, Deborah Graustein and Joanna Palasota Porche. Sandra Celli Harris presented a background talk on the region, with DOIH members Cappie Tavery and Gloria

Montalbano sharing highlights of a recent trip to this region made by a group of Daughters and families.

**Community Outreach:** Daughters of Italian Heritage have continued to expand our community outreach. On Saturday, July 22, members worked together to provide meals for KIDS'MEAL Program. This program addresses the issue of hunger and food insecurity in children aged five and under. They believe these children are at a critical developmental stage. Also, during the summer, they feed all ages to 18 who cannot receive their school-based free meal. To help, they deliver over 12,000 meals per day. Members of DOIH volunteered for several hours to organize and package food. The Daughters hands were definitely needed.

Meetings continue to be full of fun-filled activities. Members are sharing stories of their heritage, learning about ancestors' first steps onto U.S. soil, and building their legacies at monthly meetings. These stories are quite interesting and inspiring. It is an amazing passage through Italian American history, as well.



*DOIH members work to provide meals for KIDS'MEAL Program.*

Along with learning Italian history firsthand, Italian language lessons are happening at the meetings.

Monthly meeting dates and time have changed to the 2nd Saturday of each month at 9:30am at the ICCC Hall.

If you are interested in attending any of our meetings or becoming a member, we would love to have you! Contact Anna Messer (info below) to receive information on upcoming meetings. Blessings to all.

Contact Anna Messer: [anna4ever29@att.net](mailto:anna4ever29@att.net) or visit our website at [www.ciaodiva.org](http://www.ciaodiva.org)

### ICCC Board Nominations Sought

by the ICCC Team



The Italian Cultural and Community Center is seeking candidates to fill four upcoming vacancies on the Board of Directors. The election will be held at the annual meeting of members on December 7, 2023. Each term lasts three years.

We welcome strategic thinkers who understand "the big picture" and who can translate ideas into actions to fulfill ICCC's mission to advance,

celebrate, and preserve Italian culture and heritage for everyone.

Candidates must have the following qualities: integrity, independence, confidence, corporate manners, courage, and commitment. The overarching responsibilities of Board members are governance, fundraising, and public relations. Board members do not have to be of Italian descent but must have a passion for Italian culture.

Because we are a working board, all Board members are expected to "do their share" to keep ICCC advancing.

The qualifications for Board members as listed in the ICCC Bylaws are:

- Good standing with dues current
- Legal resident of US
- No closer than third cousin to any other board member
- Pass a background check
- No convictions for felony, Class A or B misdemeanor, crime of moral turpitude, or declared to be of unsound mind by order of a court.

ICCC is a multi-faceted organization that is in ascendency, growing by leaps and bounds, in scope and influence.

It is more critical than ever for ICCC to have leaders capable of carrying forward our strategic plan with a vision to continue as the destination for all things Italian for all Houstonians.

If you've got what it takes to become a valued member of the ICCC leadership team, please submit your application to: Nominating Committee, ICCC, 1101 Milford, Houston, TX, 77006. The deadline is October 1, 2023.

You can download the application [here](#).

Refer questions to Erika Myers, ICCC Executive Director (713) 524-4222 ext. 7 or Ray Miller, ICCC Executive Director Emeritus (713) 524-4222 ext. 3.



# The Milford House celebrates 100 years!

Celebrate with us by purchasing a limited edition, commemorative ornament. All proceeds benefit the Milford House Fund.

## Purchase a Commemorative Ornament to Celebrate the Milford House's 100th Anniversary

by the ICCC Team



*The Milford House, home of the Italian Cultural & Community Center of Houston.*

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Milford House was built in 1923 and stands today as a shining and rare example of classical domestic architecture designed by renowned Houston architect William Ward Watkin. The Italian Cultural & Community Center of Houston is proud to call the Milford House our home, where we host language classes, lectures, film screenings, wine tastings, and more.

Help us celebrate the historic Milford House's 100th anniversary by purchasing a limited edition, commemorative ornament. All proceeds will go towards the renovation and maintenance of the house. You can purchase your ornament today for pick-up at the Milford House via [Eventbrite](#), or mail us the filled out form on the following page. Don't wait – once they're gone, they're gone. Thank you so much for supporting the Milford House Fund.

If you'd like to add an optional, tax-deductible donation to the Milford House Fund on top of your ornament purchase to double your impact, you can do so through [Eventbrite](#) or via the mailed return form. Now more than ever, your support of the Milford Fund matters.



*Limited edition, commemorative ornament. The ornament is ceramic with gold string, decorated with an artist's rendition of the Milford House.*

Additionally, if you have a story about or photos from the Milford House, please email us at [marketing@iccchouston.com](mailto:marketing@iccchouston.com). Over the last hundred years, the Milford House has hosted many a wedding, rehearsal dinner, retirement party, and more. We are honored to share in the celebration of your biggest milestones, and now, we want you to share in this big milestone of ours. We'd love to hear about the memories you or your loved ones made in the historic Milford House.



*The living room at the Milford House.*



*The Milford House, as seen from Milford Street..*

Here's to cent'anni and counting!

# The Milford House

## 100th Anniversary Ornament



☐ **Ornament:** I would like to purchase one or more commemorative ornaments to celebrate the Milford House's 100th anniversary.

**Sales end December 15, 2023.**

Please select quantity.

☐ **1 for \$25**

☐ **2 for \$50**

☐ **3 for \$75**

☐ **4 for \$100**

☐ **5 for \$125**

☐ **6 for \$150**

☐ **Donation:** I would like to add a tax-deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my order.

**Signature** (required for tax deduction purposes): \_\_\_\_\_

☐ *I would like to make my donation in honor of* \_\_\_\_\_

Address of honoree: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name or company name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contact name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, ZIP Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fax

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

*ICCC Houston will detach and shred this portion immediately after payment is processed.*

**Payment Options** (please check one):

☐ Enclosed is my check made payable to  
Italian Cultural & Community Center \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Tax ID: 76-004-419

☐ Please charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my:

☐ AMEX ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ Discover

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name on card (print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Card number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration date

\_\_\_\_\_  
CVC

Please mail form to:

**Italian Cultural & Community Center**  
**ATTN: Milford House Fund**  
**1101 Milford Street**  
**Houston, TX 77006**

Phone: (713) 524-4222 ext. 7 - Erika Myers

Fax: (713) 524-6121

Contact: Emyers@iccchouston.com



**Italian cultural &  
community center  
of Houston**



# SETTEMBRE 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 <a href="#">Baroque Beginnings: Le Nuove Musiche 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.</a>	13	14	15	16
17	18 <a href="#">The Meaning behind the Masterpieces 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.</a>	19 <a href="#">Italian for Beginners - AISI 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.</a>	20 <a href="#">Italian for Travelers 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.</a>  <a href="#">Italian Contemporary Film Series: Spaccaossa 7:00 p.m.</a>	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## Baroque Beginnings: Le Nuove Musiche

Join us for a live concert of baroque monodies performed by altus Michael Starke and harpsichordist Mario Aschauer of Harmonia Stellarum Houston.

The invention of monody, a single voice accompanied by a chordal instrument, constitutes the quantum jump from the polyphonic Renaissance to the emotionally charged Baroque period. One of the spear heads of this musical revolution was Giulio Caccini, who not only contributed music to the first operas in history, but also published perhaps the most influential collection of monodies: his *Le nuove musiche* (1602). Our program features the highlights from this collection: love poetry by some of the most renowned Italian poets of Caccini's time with the sweet melodies and lush harmonies of opera's first star.

Date: Tuesday, September 12 | 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.  
Price: \$20 ICCM Members and \$25 Non-members  
Place: ICCM Houston

## The Meaning behind the Masterpieces

Over three, hour-and-a-half sessions, this class will guide you through the long history of Italian art spanning from Ancient Rome through the twentieth century. By the end of our time together, you will know how to find, identify and understand symbols in some of the most famous Italian masterpieces.

We'll explore iconography – a branch of art history that studies the identification and description of images' contents – and iconology, the analysis and interpretation of the cultural context that surrounds images. As art historians do, we will investigate symbols related to mythology, religion, and popular culture and identify the fictional characters and real people that populate masterpieces: artists themselves, popes, royalty, gods, and more.

Date: Mondays, from September 18 to October 2 | 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.  
Price: \$75 ICCM Members and \$100 Non-members  
Place: ICCM 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: Tuesdays, from September 19 to October 31 | 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
Price: \$202.50 ICCM Members and \$225 Non-members  
Place: ICCM 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: Wednesdays, September 20 to October 25 | 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
Price: \$247.50 ICCM Members and \$275 Non-members  
Place: ICCM Houston

## Italian Contemporary Film Series: Spaccaossa

Come support our Italian Contemporary Film Series by registering for the screening of *Spaccaossa* (The Bone Breakers). The film will be in Italian with English subtitles.

Plot: Inspired by real events, *Spaccaossa* is the story of a gang of improvised criminals who hatch a diabolical and gruesome plan to make money. The gang breaks people's limbs and stages road accidents in exchange for part of insurance payouts. Half of the amount goes to the gang, and the other to the victims.

Time: Wednesday, July 19 | 7:00 p.m.  
Price: \$10 ICCM Members and \$15 Non-members  
Place: ICCM Houston

# OTTOBRE 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <a href="#">Application Deadline: ICCC Board Nominations</a>	2	3 <a href="#">Italian for Beginners - AISI 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.</a>	4	5	6	7
8 <a href="#">Catholic Mass and Pasta Lunch 10:30 a.m.</a>	9	10	11	12	13	14 Daughters of Italian Heritage Meeting
15	16	17	18 <a href="#">Italian Contemporary Film Series: Io sono Babbo Natale 7:00 p.m.</a>	19	20	21
22	23	24 <a href="#">Aperitivo Italiano: Blends vs. Varietals 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.</a>	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## Italian for Beginners

A class so popular we opened a second block! Join our in-person Italian for Beginners class to learn the basics of *la bella lingua* in an intimate class setting with wonderful, native-tongue teachers.

Date: Tuesdays, from October 3 to November 14 | 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
Price: \$202.50 ICCC Members and \$225 Non-members  
Place: ICCC Houston

## Catholic Mass and Pasta Lunch

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

Time: Sunday, October 8 | 10:30 a.m.  
Price: Donations welcome for mass/\$10 per person for pasta lunch  
Place: ICCC Houston

## Italian Contemporary Film Series: Io sono Babbo Natale

Come support our Italian Contemporary Film Series by registering for the screening of *Io sono Babbo Natale* (I am Santa Claus). The film will be screened in Italian with English subtitles.

Plot: Ettore has spent the last five years in prison for a robbery. Upon his release, he has nowhere to go; his wife broke up with him and doesn't want him to meet their daughter, who was born right before he was arrested. Alone and desperate, Ettore roams the streets of Rome and meets a strange old man, Nicola. He decides to take advantage of him and rob him. After breaking into his house, however, Ettore realizes Nicola doesn't have anything worth stealing. Stranger still, the old man tells him that he is Santa Claus...

Time: Wednesday, October 18 | 7:00 p.m.  
Price: \$10 ICCC Members and \$15 Non-members  
Place: ICCC Houston

## Aperitivo Italiano: Blends vs. Varietals

What does *aperitivo italiano* really mean? An aperitivo (or *apéritif*) is often described as being similar to the American happy hour, but in reality, it's so much more than that. An aperitivo is a ritual, joyous and mood-lifting. It relaxes you after a day of work and prepares you for the night to come. The aperitivo has long been a staple in Italy, and in recent years, has been gaining more appreciation around the world. *Facciamo l'aperitivo!*

Join us on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at the Milford House to taste the differences between blends and 100% varietal wines from the rolling hills of central Italy. The wines— from San Biagio Vecchio winery of Romagna and Colle di Bordocheo winery of Lucca—will be accompanied by Italian-style small bites. The ever entertaining Pierina Bianchini from Emotion for Passion will present.

Time: Tuesday, October 24 | 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
Price: \$30 ICCC Members and \$35 Non-members  
Place: ICCC Houston



# My Experience Studying Abroad in Italy

by Grace Sattem, ICCC Study Abroad Scholarship Recipient



ICCC Study Abroad Scholarship recipient Grace Sattem.

Growing up, my family has always been innamorato with Italy. My grandfather had a particular knack for Italian cinema, literature, and art, and he inspired my mother and cousins to study abroad there in college. This then became a tradition amongst the women in my family, for we were all obsessed with the idea of traveling to Italy. Growing up watching classics such as *Cinema Paradiso* or *La vita è bella* and listening to Domenico Modugno's "Volare," I too obtained a fascination with Italian culture and a desire to experience it for myself. This passion carried throughout my adolescence, and especially saw itself through once I attended Rice University. Immediately, I enrolled myself into the Introductory Italian Language course, knowing that I could begin the process of fulfilling my dream. So during this past summer, with two semesters of Italian under my belt, and help from the wonderful language program faculty at Rice, I was able to enroll in a Language and Cultural Immersion program in Rome.

In Rome, I greatly improved my Italian skills on both a grammatical and conversational level. With 3 hours of class per day, cultural tours of the city's greatest sites, involvement in community service, and daily encounters with locals, I built more confidence in my communication skills. By far, my favorite aspect of being abroad was the people I met, including both the program faculty, fellow Rice students embarking on the trip, and the locals. The program was designed to maximize interaction with locals through community service such as restoring local parks and picking up trash around the Colosseum (this particular activity earned us an interview on Italian national television!). The conversational skills developed from these unique interactions was something I'd never be able to obtain from solely studying in the United States. Additionally, I found that ordering at restaurants, speaking to locals on trains or in coffee bars, and practicing Italian with our professors and language partners was immensely enriching.



Breakfast, Italian style.

Although we had a packed schedule during the weeks spent in Rome, we had every weekend free to travel throughout the country. So of course, my friends and I took this opportunity to see as much of Italy as possible. We traveled to Sperlonga (a small beach town outside of Rome), Pompeii, Amalfi, Positano, Napoli, Venezia, Firenze and Siena. Each of these

places brought different adventures that allowed us to practice Italian in varying dialects and build relationships with locals all over the country. We experienced the cuisine and terrain of varying regions, visited as many historical landmarks as possible, and enjoyed the cultural richness of Italian life.



Cinque Terre, Italy.

After my 5-week program ended, I remained in Italy for another 2 weeks to visit my cousin in Bologna, and together we traveled to Cinque Terre, my personal favorite coastal town, for the view from the hikes through each town was breathtaking. The Italian foundation I received through my program allowed me to navigate Bologna on my own, speaking with locals and students from L'università di Bologna. I had never experienced feeling confident enough to navigate another country alone while speaking the native language, and it greatly enriched my life and cultural understanding.

I loved Italy's emphasis on appreciating the beauty in everyday life, taking time to slow down during meals or enjoy an aperitivo with friends. Overall, the warmth and welcome I felt throughout my time abroad is something I will never forget and will carry with me through all aspects of my life. My wonderful experience wouldn't have been made possible without the generosity of the Houston ICCC; grazie mille.

## Scholarship Applications Due

by the ICCC Team

The deadlines to apply to our Study Abroad Scholarship or to the Alfonso Ferrantino Scholarship are just around the corner! Applications for each are due no later than 5:00 p.m. on November 15, 2023.

Each year, the ICCC awards \$2,500 scholarships to college students, like ICCC Study Abroad Scholarship recipient Grace Sattem, participating in study abroad programs in Italy.

This year, ICCC is pleased to accept applications for our Alfonso Ferrantino Scholarship. The recipients of this prestigious scholarship will be awarded one (1) one-time non-renewable \$5,000 scholarships. College students who are currently enrolled in an undergraduate, graduate, or Ph.D. program, majoring or minoring in Italian Studies Concentrating in Italian History and/or Culture are eligible to apply for this award.

Completed applications must be submitted by the deadline specified to be eligible for consideration.

Refer questions to Erika Myers, ICCC Executive Director (713) 524-4222 ext. 7.

Click [here](#) to learn more about our scholarship offerings and apply today.

## FINDING BARBIE LAND: 4 OF THE PINKEST PLACES IN ITALY

by **Italics Magazine**

Everything's pink in the Bel Paese.



*Riomaggiore, Cinque Terre, Liguria. Photo: Denis Degioanni on Unsplash.*

This summer's blockbuster movie *Barbie* has completely captured the attention of the world, and we're all seeing pink. Inspired by TimeOut, Italics has compiled a list of perfectly pink places across the most fashionable country to find a piece of Barbie Land in the *Bel Paese*.

### Spiaggia Rosa (Pink Beach), La Maddalena



*@the.cambridge.gardener on Instagram.*

The whimsically blush pink beach of Budelli in the La Maddalena Archipelago owes its color to crushed fossils, crystals, coral, and mollusk shells. Since 1994 access to the beach has been strictly prohibited, and only permitted to be viewed from a distance, due to tourists stealing the sand from the beach when uncontrolled tourism picked up decades ago.

### Riomaggiore, Cinque Terre



*Riomaggiore, Cinque Terre, Liguria. Photo: Mike L on Unsplash.*

The tiny seaside hamlet of Riomaggiore makes up one of the five 'lands' of Cinque Terre, where multi-colored buildings seem to be stacked on top of each other from the shoreline. While it's not strictly all pink, there are many buildings which are in variations of the shade, so explore the tiny streets with a sense of adventure!

### Camillo, Piazza Navona



*@camillo\_piazza\_navona on Instagram.*

Formerly known as Caffè Barocco, the mainstay of Piazza Navona was taken over by Filippo and Tommaso De Sanctis in March 2020 and transformed into Camillo, a modern dining experience focused on contemporary and experimental cuisine. But most

importantly, the interior is entirely in a playful bubblegum pink—the walls, furniture, even the light fixtures. Extremely on trend for the summer of Barbie.

### Enrosadira of the Dolomites



*@rafigraphy on Instagram.*

This is a bit more tricky to find as it only occurs at sunrise and sunset, and is dependent on the weather conditions of the day, but when you do manage to catch the Dolomites turning pink (*Enrosadira*, in Italian) it's totally magic. The dolomite compound (a mix of calcium carbonate and magnesium) in the rock refracts the sun's light in such a way that it creates the color change, and can range anything from pink to yellow-gold.



## In Cucina con gli Italiani

### Fig Madness: Fig, Prosciutto and Buffalo Mozzarella Salad

Recipe by [Paola Bacchia](#)

Makes enough to serve 4 people as an entree

#### Ingredients

6 black figs, cut into quarters  
2 buffalo mozzarellas, torn into pieces  
6 slices prosciutto (thinly sliced)  
20 basil leaves (approx)  
extra virgin olive oil  
red wine vinegar  
a good pinch of caster sugar  
2 golden shallots, finely sliced  
salt and pepper to taste  
crusty bread to serve)

#### Preparation

On a serving plate, lay the slices of prosciutto, which will form the base of your salad. Arrange the figs and mozzarella over the prosciutto and scatter the basil leaves on top. To make the dressing, whisk EVOO, vinegar (I use the proportion of one part vinegar to four parts olive oil), sugar, sea salt and crushed pepper to taste. Drop in the finely sliced shallots, give it a stir and then drizzle over the salad. Serve with crusty bread.

Use the leftover figs to make:

### Rustic Fig and Hazlenut Cake

Recipe by [Paola Bacchia](#)

#### Ingredients

140g (1 cup) plain flour  
125g (one stick) butter, at room temperature  
160g (just over 3/4 cup) caster sugar  
2 large eggs  
2 teaspoons of baking powder  
60ml (1/4 cup) milk (optional – replace 20 ml of the milk with 20ml brandy)  
125g (1 cup) hazelnuts, ground  
6 fresh figs, halved (or more or less depending on the size)

#### Preparation

Preheat oven to 170 °C (350 °F). Grease and line a 20cm diameter cake tin. Beat the butter and sugar in a food processor until creamy. Add the eggs one at a time beating well after each addition. Place the mixture in a bowl and add half the flour, mixing well with a wooden spoon. Add the milk (or milk and brandy!). Mix until incorporated, then add the rest of the flour and the baking powder. Make sure it is all evenly mixed and finally incorporate the hazelnuts. Place the mixture in the prepared cake tin. Press the fig halves a few centimetres into the cake to any pattern you like, cut surface of the fig side up. As the cake rises in the oven, the figs will sink a bit into the cake, so don't push them all the way down. Bake for around 60 minutes. The cake is ready when a skewer placed in the centre comes out clean. Rest for 15 minutes before turning out of the tin. Serve the cake with a dollop of mascarpone, whipped cream or vanilla ice cream. You can also splash some brandy on the cake if you did not put it in while you were cooking (or omit brandy altogether).



### Pair it with Cleto Chiarli "Centenario" Lambrusco di Modena D.O.C. Amabile

by [Vinepair](#)



A hundred years after its founding in 1860, the Chiarli family debuted a new wine, appropriately named "Centenario." It used the Charmat method of effervescent winemaking that Chiarli had introduced to Lambrusco production area a few years earlier. Centenario, a new wine for a new age, showcased the slightly sweeter side of Lambrusco.

The wine is amabile, literally "lovable," a designation for wines that are sweet but not so sweet they can only be served with dessert. It's produced with Lambrusco Grasparossa, a grape variety with deep color and high natural acidity that can counter the sugar content. The result is a well-balanced, intense red, soft, lightly effervescent wine that is indeed lovable.





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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](mailto: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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