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Center of Houston

The Voice of All Things Italian italiana voce



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Experience Italy in Houston at ICCC's Open House

by the ICCC Team

Save the date and get ready to experience Italy in Houston! Join us for our Open House on Sunday, April 21 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. and delight in shopping, games, giveaways, live performances, demo classes, and more at the historic Milford House. This event is open to all ages and will be free to the public. Whether you're a longtime supporter of the Center or you're new to our organization, we invite you to explore the best of Italian culture in Houston at our Open House.

Throughout the afternoon, guests will enjoy complimentary refreshments and have the opportunity to sample and shop from our curated vendors.

Guests ages 21 and older can participate in wine samplings from Morales Beverage Group, Tuttilili Wines & Specialty Foods, and Vinello.

Upstairs, attendees are invited to participate in tombola, a lottery-style board game that originated in Southern Italy. Guests can play bocce on the Milford House lawn, if weather permits.

Our Open House will also feature live operatic performances from Jonatán Reyes, Edmond Rodriguez, Collin James, Gage Campos, and Kellan Dunlap. Angela Jardina will perform a selection of popular Italian music from the latter half of the 20th century.

If you're interested in learning Italian but not sure where to start, we'll be offering demo language classes during the event, as well. This will be a great opportunity to meet some of our teachers at La Scuola d'Italiano!

Be sure to stay tuned via our biweekly

e-blasts for more information about the afternoon's programming and schedule. You can sign up for our newsletter [here](#).

Registration for our Open House is not required.

ICCC Houston would like to extend sincere thanks to our wonderful sponsors Acqua Panna, Sanpellegrino, Gelato Constantino, Erwing Realty, De Cecco, Pomì, Faramano by David Silva, Morales Beverage Group, Vinello, and Tuttilili Wines & Specialty Foods for making this event possible. This event is also funded in part by the City of Houston through Houston Arts Alliance.

We can't wait to show you what ICCC is all about at our Open House!

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](#).

- Mary Ann Alvarez
- Lina Asmar
- Michael Barton
- Kendall Beck
- Ariana Benedict
- Beau Biron
- Johanna Brassert
- Michelle Carnahan
- Linda Ebaugh
- Gina Grayum
- Kimberly Hall
- Cindy Hanan
- Zina Hart
- Carla Hartman
- Charles Hausmann
- Gabrielle Hobday
- Carlos Logulo
- Jill Loiars
- Kathy Mann
- Anthony Marks
- Ina McDonald
- Hana Nguyen
- Dominick Panzarella
- Beth Panzarella
- Luisa Patoni
- Francisco Philibert
- Alicia Picchiani Hall
- Marissa Pozzi
- Jim Pugliese
- Michael Paul Rich
- William Roberts
- Brynn Scott-Wagle
- Pamela Strate
- Terry Suffredini
- Erin Timmerberg
- Flor Vergara
- Karen Waltmon
- Katherine Wright

“**la voce italiana**”

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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.

All'ICCC (At the ICCC)

Ciao, Ragazzi!

Get your pallino arm ready for bocce at ICCC, one of the activities planned for our Third Annual Open House on April 21, where we'll show the community what we are about at ICCC. We'll have sample language classes, Italian games, live performances, vendors, and more. Please plan to join us on Sunday, April 21 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Other activities happening around ICCC during the next few weeks include: Made in Italy Day on April 12, an event that promotes Italian design abroad. In collaboration with the Consulate General of Italy in Houston, we'll be shining a spotlight on Italian excellence. We'll also have our very popular Dine Around on April 2 at Amalfi Ristorante.

One of our Cultural Education offerings this spring will be a four-week workshop on mosaics (yes, you'll be producing your own mosaic masterpiece to take home) starting April 8. No previous experience in mosaicking is required.

The next film in our Contemporary Film Series will be shown on April 17. Our Contemporary Film Series always features recent releases rarely seen in the U.S.

Also, a fascinating lecture on "Libertas: How the Romans Invented Modern Freedom" will be presented on April 24. Leave it to the Romans to think up the idea of freedom.

The end of the school year is near, and this brings us to ICCC Scholarships. ICCC funds both merit-based and need-based scholarships for graduating high school seniors heading to college. ICCC also has a scholarship available for college students who plan to study abroad in Italy.

Did you know that you can directly help change a young person's life by funding your own scholarship through ICCC Houston with specific criteria that is important to you? Examples of these scholarships (some current, some past) are the Philomena Ferrantino Scholarship open to students majoring or minoring in Italian Studies concentrating in Italian history and/or culture, the Guariglia/Pasquinelli Scholarship for disadvantaged students with a special drive to succeed, and the Panebianco Family Scholarship for STEM students of Italian descent. Please contact us at info@iccchouston.com if you are interested in funding a scholarship.

In other news, ICCC was accepted as a "client" into the Rice University



ICCC President Claudia Gentile Sims.

MBA Applied Learning Capstone Project, in which teams of MBA students work on business challenges with corporate and small business partners, not-for-profit organizations, and start-ups both domestically and internationally. Guided by their professor, a team of Rice University MBA students has spent this semester studying ICCC and interviewing and surveying stakeholders. Before they graduate this spring, they will develop recommendations to help us grow and thrive even more. Rice MBA ranks among the top business degrees in the U.S. and we are very fortunate to have been selected for this unique opportunity.

Information about all our programs and events can be found at [our website](#). Keep up with the calendar and reserve your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

A presto,
Claudia Gentile Sims

2024 ICCC Board of Directors

Officers

Claudia Sims	President
Monica Ercolani	Vice President
Julie Mastroianni	Treasurer
Kim Lammers	Assistant Treasurer
Flavio Zannin	Secretary
Robert A. Gerace	Assistant Secretary

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- Sandra Celli Harris
- Laura Ferro
- Gina Gusemano Leck
- Diane Nizza
- Kip Mankenber
- Luisa Patoni

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. Roberto Pensotti
Mrs. Dominique Varner
Ms. Sandra Celli Harris
Ms. Ginger Niemann
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Dearing

Patron of the ICCC Members

Edoardo and Kim Padeletti

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. 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. 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
Elin B. Berg
Jackie Leone
Rosario Harter
Dr. Joseph D'Addesio
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Brown
Rosario Harter

New members are always welcome! We offer six different memberships, all of which include amazing benefits. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Thank You for Supporting the Milford House Fund!

by the ICCC Team



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

We'd like to give our sincere thanks to all of our amazing members and friends who supported our 2023 Milford House Fund Campaign, which launched on Giving Tuesday on November 28, 2023. ICCC Houston would not be able to fulfill its mission to advance, celebrate, and preserve Italian culture and heritage without the incredible generosity of supporters like you.

Your contributions to the Milford House Fund will allow us to preserve and maintain this beloved Houston landmark, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2023, for generations to come.

Thanks to you all, we raised a grand total of \$16,930! This year, we also broke records with donations from 56 donors, more individual donors than in any other year since we launched our Annual Milford House Fund Campaign in 2014.

Grazie mille to the following donors for their contributions to the Milford House Fund in 2023.

Ms. Angelica Amaro
Mr. Tony Arcuri
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Aspromonte
James P. and Dolores Avioli
Mr. and Mrs. Nick A. Bacile
Mr. Jerry Baiamonte
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Baklarz
Mr. and Mrs. John Bannon
Dr. and Mrs. Ben Barnett
Mr. Felipe Barreto
Ms. Lynn Barsky
Mary Anne and Mike Becker
Mr. and Mrs. Giorgio Borlenghi
Mr. Thomas Brandino Jr.
Mr. Marco Caminati
Dr. Marlin Sandlin and Mrs. Amy Chaisson
Dr. and Mrs. Phil Cimo
Jackie Simon and Jim Colthart
Mr. Carlo Cotrone
Larry and Claire Cucciniello
Mr. David De Vido
Mr. and Mrs. Alex Di Bagno
Ms. Barbara Duganier and Family

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Alfred and Astrea Fatica
Mr. David Fontaine and Ms. Elaine Kennedy
Stacy and Trina Gallagher
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Mr. John Hartung
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Vincent and Susan Marino
Luz Mejia
Ms. Margey Meyer
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Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Sims
Rosario Spinoso
Michael Stein
Raymond and Cappie Tavary
Miss Suzanne Trapani
Dr. Peter Triolo
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Varner

Special Thanks to Houston Arts Alliance and Humanities Texas

by the ICCC Team

The Italian Cultural & Community Center has been awarded a grant from Houston Arts Alliance/City of Houston Support for Organizations Grant Program. The amount of the grant is \$49,442 and is payable in four unequal payments (May 2024, August 2024, November 2024, and February 2025). This grant program is funded by a portion of the Hotel Occupancy Tax.

A special thanks to Mayor Turner, City Council, City of Houston Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs, and the Houston Arts Alliance.

The Italian Cultural & Community Center has also been awarded a grant from Humanities Texas for the March 2024 Opera Class: Puccini His Life and Works. The amount of the

grant is \$700. ICCC Houston extends its sincerest thanks to everyone at Humanities Texas and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

ICCC Clubs and Organizations

Presentation of Texas Historical Foundation Grant

by the ICCC Team



Texas Historical Foundation presents grant to Italian Cultural & Community Center, January 10, 2024.

A presentation of Texas Historical Foundation's recent grant to the Italian Cultural & Community Center of Houston took place the morning of Wednesday, January 10 on site at the historic 1923 Milford House.

This THF grant supports emergency repairs to the Milford House following the collapse of its living room ceiling in July 2023. This award will empower ICCC to continue its mission to advance, celebrate, and preserve Italian culture and heritage through events such as film screenings, wine tastings, lectures, concerts, language classes and more, all hosted at the beloved Milford House.

For almost 70 years, the mission of the Texas Historical Foundation has been to preserve Texas history. That includes conserving artifacts, restoring buildings, archiving documents, gathering and sharing stories, and safeguarding Lone Star culture. The ICCC Staff and Board are honored that the Milford House, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2023, has been recognized by the foundation as an important piece of Texas history.

To stay abreast of the latest news from THF and read more about the important work they do across Texas, [subscribe to their newsletter](#).

Amiketos Club

by Minnette Carrabba and Club President Giovanna Colonetta

The Amiketos started the new year with their annual installation banquet held at Carrabba's on Voss. A wonderful lunch was enjoyed by the group. New Officers were sworn in and presented with a beautiful rose.

New Officers are Giovanna Colonetta President, Bernadine Falco Vice President, Camella Turano Corresponding Secretary, Carolyn D'Anna Recording Secretary, Paulette Janak Treasurer, Ginger Musachia Parliamentarian and Gift Chairman, Minnette Carrabba Spiritual Director

and Club Reporter.

Polly Cerasa, Camella Turano and Joanne Martino hosted the Spring Social which was held at the Sam Houston Race Track. A wonderful buffet was served and everyone reported either a winner or they broke even!

The March meeting was hosted by Tee Sicola and Paulette Janak at Christies Seafood Restaurant. The room and tables were decorated in Green with three leaf clovers all over in honor of St.

Patrick. A trip to view the bluebonnets was discussed for April and plans are being made for the annual Mother's Day Banquet.

Amiketos members request prayers for the following:

Johnny and Jo Frances Storenski
Jo Jo Colonetta
Jerome D'Anna Jr.
Joe Schiro

Daughters of Italian Heritage (DOIH)

by Christina Nance and Club President Donna Patterson



DOIH members prepare supply kits for women in need.

The Daughters of Italian Heritage (DOIH) have many traditional and new events and community outreach projects set for 2024. Among them are outreach projects in collaboration with Co-Cathedral groups and celebrations of our Italian heritage, just to list a few.

Community Outreach: The Daughters are very generous in providing funding for charity groups in the community each year. This year, at our January meeting, the members of

the Community Outreach committee narrowed the list of potential 2024 recipients and invited speakers from two charity groups, Friends of Vince and Nativity Academy of Houston, to share their stories with us. The DOIH members were very moved by the commitment and passion of these charity groups and volunteered their time and talents for charity projects.

In February, the Daughters volunteered at the Galveston-Houston Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart at the Caritas Day Girl Power Project. Starting with Mass, the Daughters assembled 100 female hygiene bags for women in need along with others throughout the archdiocese. This was the third year that the Daughters participated in the archdiocesan project, and it is always a fun event for all. This project was co-chaired by members of our Community Outreach committee, Julia Nicastro and Cathryn Restivo. Participating members were Brenda Benigno, Mary Lavin, Patsy Schillaci, JoAnn Pinkerton, Linda Marino, Pam Walters, Deborah Graustein, Anna Messer, Cappie Tavry,

Sarah Baskin, Pat Milazzo, Mary Ann Samaniego, and Dominique Varner.

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

Monthly meetings are on the second Saturday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at the Italian Cultural & Community Center.

If you are interested in attending any of our meetings or becoming a member, we would love to have you! Contact Donna Patterson at pattersondm@hotmail.com or visit our website at ciaodiva.org to receive information on upcoming meetings.

Congratulations to the Recipient of the 2023 Study Abroad Scholarship

by the ICCC Team



Grace Yetter, recipient of ICCC's Fall 2023 Study Abroad Scholarship.

The Italian Cultural & Community Center is delighted to announce the recipient of our Fall 2023 Study Abroad Scholarship, Grace Yetter.

Grace Yetter is a junior at Rice University pursuing a major in Political Science and a certificate in Italian Language. She will be traveling to Rome for the Spring 2024 semester to study in an International Relations program hosted by IES. Having spent last summer interning at a foreign affairs think tank in Rome, Grace is excited to return to continue building professional connections in her field and move closer to fluency in Italian.

In light of her interest in politics, she believes there is no better place than Rome to study International Relations due to the city's rich and expansive political history over the last three millennia. She cannot wait to explore Rome's numerous museums and archaeological sites, and meet the locals.

As Grace works toward the completion of her degree, let us all congratulate her and wish her continued success in these exciting endeavors.

Merit Based Scholarship Deadline

by the ICCC Team



It's time to start putting the finishing touches on your applications! The application deadline for our Merit Based Scholarship and for our Merit Based and Financial Need Scholarship is fast approaching!

For children and grandchildren of ICCC members who have been members for at least the past two years, the ICCC offers annual \$1,000 renewable scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are of Italian descent to any degree on either side of parentage, and who submit completed applications by the specified deadline. Recipients are chosen by the Scholarship Committee based on scholarship, leadership, and financial need. Applications for the [Merit Based Scholarship](#) must be submitted by April 11, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Each year, the ICCC also offers the [Merit Based and Financial Need Scholarship](#), which is open to graduating high

school seniors of Italian descent. Applicants are not required to have a family history of ICCC membership to be eligible for this award. This \$1,000 renewable scholarship has an application deadline of April 11, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Applications for all scholarships are accepted at the Italian Cultural & Community Center by mail, overnight delivery, or in-person. Applications will not be accepted via email.

For more details about our ICCC Scholarships and to download application forms, go to www.iccchouston.com/scholarships/.

Upcoming Scholarship Opportunities

by the ICCC Team



Florence, Italy.

ICCC Houston is pleased to announce that we are now accepting applications for our Fall 2024 Study Abroad Scholarship and for the Philomena Ferrantino Scholarship.

Students planning to participate in a study abroad program in Italy may be eligible to apply for our [Study Abroad Scholarship](#), which offers an award of \$2,500. Applications for our Study Abroad Scholarship are due November 15, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. Students enrolled

full-time at any four year college or university, including Graduate School and PhD programs, with a physical campus location in the State of Texas are eligible to apply for our Study Abroad Scholarship. Students enrolled full-time at any four-year college or university, including Graduate School and PhD programs with a physical campus location in the United States are also eligible to apply if the applicant, the applicants' parents, or the applicants' grandparents have been active members of ICCC Houston for at least the past two years. Study abroad programs should be two weeks or more and up to a full semester. Because programs vary significantly, please contact ICCC if you have any questions about whether your study abroad program qualifies. The winner will be selected based on academic performance and submitted essay. Awards are contingent upon student's acceptance into the study abroad program indicated on the application.

Students currently enrolled in an

undergraduate, graduate, or Ph.D. program, majoring or minoring in Italian Studies Concentrating in Italian History and/or Culture may be eligible to apply for the [Philomena Ferrantino Scholarship](#). ICCC Houston will award one (1) one-time non-renewable \$5,000 scholarship to the winner of this prestigious award. Applicants must be enrolled full-time at an accredited university with a physical location in the United States to apply. Applications for the Philomena Ferrantino Scholarship are also due November 15, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Applications must be submitted by the deadline to be eligible for consideration. Applications are accepted via mail, overnight delivery, or in-person delivery to the Italian Cultural & Community Center.

For more details about our ICCC Scholarships and to download application forms, go to www.iccchouston.com/scholarships/.

APRILE 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Dine Around at Amalfi Ristorante 7:00 p.m.	3 Italian for Beginners - AISI 2:00 p.m.	4 Italian Conversation Class (Online) 6:30 p.m.	5	6
7	8 Beginner Mosaic Workshop 6:30 p.m.	9	10	11	12	13
14 Italian Mass & Pasta Lunch 10:30 a.m.	15 Italian for Beginners - AISI 9:00 a.m.	16	17 Film Screening: Gospel According to Mary 7:00 p.m.	18	19	20
21 ICCC Open House 2:00 p.m.	22	23	24 Libertas: How the Romans Invented Modern Freedom 7:00 p.m.	25	26	27
28	29	30 Aperitivo Italiano: Patio and Prime Time Wines 7:00 p.m.				

Italian for Beginners - AISI

Register for our in-person Italian for Beginners class and take the first step in your journey to learn Italian.

Dates: Wednesdays, April 3 - May 15 | 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Price: \$202.50 ICCM Members and \$225 General Admission
Place: ICCM Houston

Italian Conversation Class (Online)

Master Italy's lyrical language in a small group class designed for intermediate to advanced speakers.

Dates: Thursdays, April 4 - April 25 | 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Price: \$120 ICCM Members and \$135 General Admission
Place: Online via Zoom

Beginner Mosaic Workshop

Over four, two-hour workshops, we will cover a brief history of the ancient art of mosaics and walk you through mosaicking step-by-step, from selecting your design to grouting and finishing your unique work of art. No prior experience is required.

Dates: Mondays, April 8 - April 29 | 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Price: \$160 ICCM Members and \$170 General Admission
Place: ICCM Houston

Italian Mass & Pasta Lunch

Bring your family and join us for Mass. Mass is free to attend, although donations are appreciated. Pasta lunch costs \$10 at the door (cash only).

Date: Sunday, April 14 | 10:30 a.m.
Price: Mass is free to attend. Pasta costs \$10 (cash only).
Place: ICCM Houston

Italian for Beginners - AISI

Our in-person Italian for Beginners class is the perfect place to start if you're new to the Italian language.

Dates: Mondays, April 15 - June 3 | 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
Price: \$202.50 ICCM Members and \$225 General Admission
Place: ICCM Houston

Film Screening: Gospel According to Mary

Paolo Zucca's *Gospel According to Mary* portrays the titular character no longer as spectator, but as the courageous architect of her own existence.

Date: Wednesday, April 17 | 7:00 p.m.
Price: \$10 ICCM Members and \$15 General Admission
Place: ICCM Houston

ICCC Open House

Join us for an afternoon of shopping, games, giveaways, live performances, demo classes, and more.

Time: Sunday, April 21 | 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Price: Free
Place: ICCM Houston

Libertas: How the Romans Invented Modern Freedom

Modern freedom is a concept we often take for granted. However, in most societies for most of human history, this concept of freedom was not even recognized. So how did it come to be? Join us for a talk by D. Michael C. Hawley to find out.

Date: Wednesday, April 24 | 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Price: \$10 ICCM Members and \$15 General Admission
Place: ICCM Houston

Aperitivo Italiano: Patio and Prime Time Wines

Join us for a tasting of curated Italian wines perfectly suited for warmer weather with guest speaker Mary Ann Ellis of Tuttililli.

Date: Tuesday, April 30 | 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Price: \$30 ICCM Members and \$35 General Admission
Place: ICCM Houston

MAGGIO 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Italian for Beginners - AISI (Online) 6:30 p.m.	2	3	4
5	6 Innovations in Italian Art 6:30 p.m.	7	8	9	10	11
12 Italian Mass & Pasta Lunch 10:30 a.m.	13	14	15 Film Screening: The Beautiful Summer 7:00 p.m.	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 ICCC Houston is closed for Memorial Day	28	29	30	31	

Italian for Beginners - AISI (Online)

Prefer online classes? Beat the Houston traffic with our online version of our popular Italian for Beginners class. This course will help you establish strong foundations in Italian grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation.

Dates: Wednesdays, May 1 - June 12 | 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Price: \$202.50 ICCM Members and \$225 General Admission
Place: ICCM Houston

Innovations in Italian Art

The Italian Cultural & Community Center is proud to present an all new art history lecture series exploring three of Italy's most groundbreaking artists: Giotto, Caravaggio, and De Chirico. Over three classes, we will examine their most important works and how they came to influence the world of art. We are delighted to welcome back Francesca Lanza, instructor for The Wonders of Italian Art class held in February 2024 and The Meaning behind the Masterpieces held in September 2023, as our instructor for Innovations in Italian Art.

Dates: Mondays, May 6 - May 20 | 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
Price: \$75 ICCM Members and \$100 General Admission
Place: ICCM Houston

Italian Mass & Pasta Lunch

Bring your family and join us for Mass. Mass is free to attend, although donations are appreciated. Pasta lunch costs \$10 at the door (cash only).

Date: Sunday, May 12 | 10:30 a.m.
Price: Mass is free to attend. Pasta costs \$10 (cash only).
Place: ICCM Houston

Film Screening: The Beautiful Summer

In this coming-of-age tale set in 1938, Ginia, on the cusp of adulthood, has just moved from the Italian countryside to the city of Turin. Despite growing tensions and the threat of war, Ginia's future seems to offer her endless possibilities. She soon befriends the provocative and sensuous Amelia, who introduces her to the city's bohemian quarters. Over the course of the summer, Ginia musters the courage to be truly herself and surrenders to her first great love.

Date: Wednesday, May 15 | 7:00 p.m.
Price: \$10 ICCM Members and \$15 General Admission
Place: ICCM Houston

Don't see the class you're looking for?

Whether you've taken Italian in the past and are looking to pick up where you left off, or you're interested in private lessons, we have the perfect class for you. Send us an email at School@iccchouston.com for more information about Italian lessons at *La Scuola d'Italiano*.

Private lessons give you the flexibility to focus on the aspects of Italian that you want to study, when you want, where you want. We offer lessons online via Zoom or in person at the Italian Cultural & Community Center. Our dedicated, native tongue Italian teachers will help you reach your goals.

GIUGNO 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 La Piccola Cucina: Crostatine alla Nutella 9:30 a.m.
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Italian Mass & Pasta Lunch 10:30 a.m.	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29

La Piccola Cucina: Crostatine alla Nutella

La Piccola Cucina is a hands-on cultural experience for children ages 3-10 years old. Children will wear chef aprons and toques and learn basic Italian language, the metric system, and Italian culinary traditions while preparing authentic Italian cuisine. Our little chefs will be making crostatine alla nutella (nutella mini tartes). Please note, this recipe contains tree nuts.

Date: Saturday, June 1 | 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Price: \$50 ICCC Members and \$60 General Admission
Place: ICCC Houston

Italian Mass & Pasta Lunch

Bring your family and join us for Mass. Mass is free to attend, although donations are appreciated. Pasta lunch costs \$10 at the door (cash only).

Date: Sunday, June 9 | 10:30 a.m.
Price: Mass is free to attend. Pasta costs \$10 (cash only).
Place: ICCC Houston

A Closer Look at *The Beautiful Summer (La bella estate)*

by the ICCC Team



Yile Yara Vianello (left) and Deva Cassel in *La bella estate*. Photo courtesy of True Colours.

Beautiful Summer (La bella estate) as part of ICCC Houston's 2024 Italian Contemporary Film Series.

The film stars up-and-comer Deva Cassel, daughter of stars Vincent Cassel and Monica Bellucci, who is also set to play Angelica Sedàra in Netflix's upcoming adaptation of *The Leopard*.

"Freely based" on Cesare Pavese's 1949 novel of the same name, *La bella estate* is not a love story, but a story about falling in love, says director Laura Lucchetti. This "is a movie about a girl and her body going through changes and transformations, driven by the desire to exist, to be seen and loved. Our protagonist, Ginia, is a young woman very reminiscent of girls from our present, at that particular juncture

in life when one becomes an adult, holding your breath and enacting the greatest freedom of all, the freedom of choosing how to love," writes director Laura Lucchetti.

Sheri Linden of *The Hollywood Reporter* writes that the film "lives up to its name. The screen is alive with the sensual glow of balmy days and nights — and, specifically, with the youthful giddiness that the warmest season rouses."

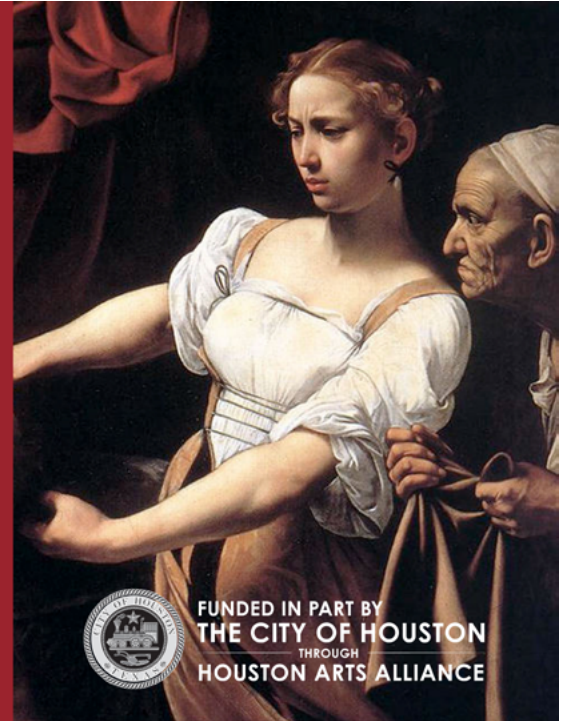
[Click here](#) to buy tickets for *La bella estate*, screening exclusively at the Italian Cultural & Community Center on Wednesday, May 15 at 7:00 p.m.



GIOTTO
CARAVAGGIO
DE CHIRICO

INNOVATIONS IN ITALIAN ART

Mondays, May 6 - May 20, 2024, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.



FUNDED IN PART BY
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Event Spotlight: Innovations in Italian Art

by the ICCC Team

The Italian Cultural & Community Center is proud to present Innovations in Italian Art, a three-part lecture series with beloved ICCC instructor Francesca Lanza. This course will examine three of Italy's most groundbreaking artists: Giotto, Caravaggio, and De Chirico.

Three Classes, Three Incredible Artists

The first class will examine Giotto, one of the first artists to give a new direction to art in Late Medieval Italy. Breaking with the stylized traditions of Byzantine art, Giotto drew from real life with a more natural style and three-dimensional quality. We will explore some of his most famous works: the Scrovegni Chapel, the Assisi frescoes, and a number of panel paintings.

The second class will focus on Caravaggio, one of the most controversial artists in the Italian art world. With his dramatic compositions and liberal employment of the chiaroscuro technique, Caravaggio influenced generations of artists throughout the continent, including Peter Paul Rubens, Rembrandt, and Bernini.

The third and final class will explore the work of Giorgio De Chirico, one of the biggest names in twentieth-century Italian art. Influenced by the Surrealist movement, De Chirico founded the Metaphysical Art movement in 1910. He is best known for his enigmatic paintings like *The Disquieting Muses*.

Salvador Dalí and René Magritte were among the many artists to take inspiration from De Chirico.

From the Middle Ages to the twentieth century, we look forward to exploring the wonderful world of Italian art with you.

This course will meet in person at the Italian Cultural & Community Center on Mondays from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., May 6 through May 20. Tickets for the class are available through [Eventbrite](#) and start at \$75 for ICCC Members.

Event Spotlight: Patio and Prime Time Wines

by the ICCC Team



As we head into the warm season, join us for a tasting of Italian wines perfectly suited for laidback porch hangs and backyard celebrations alike. Mary Ann Ellis of Tuttilili Wines and Specialty

Foods will guide us through the tasting, which will be accompanied by Italian-style small bites.

Mary Ann Ellis started her Italian journey with Brunello and Gavi as a young CPA. She worked in the accounting profession for 25 years, including such firms as Deloitte and Grant Thornton in their audit and international tax practices. Mary Ann travelled across Italy for over two decades, including a short-term professional assignment. Fast forward to 2015, her entrepreneurial spirit required over two years of independent research before initiating this new enterprise to bring small and boutique vineyard production and very select gourmet food specialty

items to the tables of Texas. She sought small, boutique vineyards for her Houston tasting room that are representative of the type of wine varietal and terroir on which the grapes are produced. She's applied her meticulous business approach to a curated selection of wines and foods. An almost evangelical approach has created an opportunity for Houston to (re)experience Italy.

Tickets for our Aperitivo Italiano: Patio and Prime Time Wines are available now, but they won't last long. [Buy tickets](#) now to secure your spot and join us at the Italian Cultural & Community Center on Tuesday, April 30 at 7:00 p.m.

A Beginner's Guide to the Giro d'Italia

by the ICCC Team



Giro d'Italia, 2017. Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The 2024 Giro d'Italia, celebrating its 107th edition, will take off from Turin on Saturday, May 4 and end in Rome on Sunday, May 26, covering a total of 3,386.7 kilometers (2104.4 miles) across 21 days of racing. The Giro d'Italia, often referred to as simply "Giro," has gained a reputation for being one of the toughest races in the world, and its varied and beautiful routes across Italy have distinguished it even amongst the other great tours like the Tour de France and the Vuelta a España. But how did one of cycling's biggest events come to be?

The First Giro

Inspired by the Tour de France and the success that the French newspaper *L'Auto* had gained from it, Tullio Morgagni, editor of *La Gazzetta dello Sport*, proposed the idea of hosting a similar race in Italy. Lacking the 25,000 lire needed to put on the bicycle race, the event almost didn't happen. In the end, organizers raised enough money through donations to cover operational costs.

On May 13, 1909, 127 riders took off from Loreto Place in Milan in the first Giro d'Italia. Only 49 riders completed the race, which covered a total of 2,448 kilometers (1,521 miles). The race took participants from Milan to Naples and back again in eight days for a daily average of 300 kilometers. "If you then take into account the fact that technology at the time was far away from that of today, the performance of these cyclists can almost be described as superhuman. The bikes were very heavy and also had no gear shift, so they had to pedal even going downhill," writes Eurobike.

Luigi Ganna, who had placed fifth in the 1908 Tour de France, placed first in



Italian racing cyclist Luigi Ganna, posing in a studio in Varese, Italy, 1914. Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

the inaugural Giro d'Italia race. Ganna received 5,325 lire as a winner's prize.

The Route

Much like the Tour de France, the Giro d'Italia route changes from year to year. In some years, the race is held entirely in Italy, while in others, the *partenza* kicks off from other countries. However, the race generally follows a similar format.

Flat and rolling stages tend to characterize the first week of the race, with a few smaller mountain stages thrown into the second week. The final week is often characterized by grueling climbing in the Italian Alps. It is during these climbs that the winner of the Giro d'Italia is often decided.



Charly Gaul, native from Luxembourg, engages a climb in a hairpin turn during the 1959 Giro d'Italia. Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The Jerseys

Introduced in 1931, the *maglia rosa* (the pink jersey) is awarded to the rider leading the general classification, or in other words, the rider who has completed the stages so far in the quickest time, including any time bonuses. The jersey often changes hands several times throughout the race. The rider wearing the jersey after the final stage is named the overall winner of the Giro d'Italia. The jersey's color was selected because *La Gazzetta dello Sport*, creator of the Giro d'Italia, was printed on pink paper.



Alberto Contador celebrates his win of the Giro d'Italia wearing the maglia rosa, 2011. Courtesy of Luca Volpi.

The *maglia ciclamina*, or cyclamen jersey, is worn by the rider who has accumulated the most points over the 21 stages of the race.

The *maglia azzurra*, or the blue jersey, is given to the rider who takes home the most points on classified climbs over the race—potentially the best climber in the race, or the most skilled breakaway expert.

The *maglia bianca* for best young rider is, like the pink jersey, simply based on time rather than points. The age cut off is 26, and it was originally designed to reward the young riders who, historically, were rarely in contention for the overall win.

In Cucina con gli Italiani

Spaghetti al Limone

Recipe by [Paola Bacchia](#)

Ingredients

320-400g dried spaghetti (portions are 80-100g per person)
2 organic small/medium lemons
160g unsalted butter (at room temperature)
80g finely grated parmesan cheese
freshly cracked pepper
extra-virgin olive oil (optional)

Preparation

Bring a large salted pot of water to the boil. While it is boiling prepare your other ingredients; squeeze the lemons and keep the lemon halves to one side; finely grate the cheese and set aside; chop the butter.

When the water is boiling, drop in the spaghetti, pushing it down using tongs when it starts to soften to make sure it is immersed in the water and cooks evenly. Give it a cook stir when it is all immersed to ensure it does not stick together. Taste the cooking water to make sure it is salty enough.

Place your serving plates in a low oven to keep them warm. Have a second pot ready and warm on the stove to make the sauce, turning off the heat just before you add the cooked spaghetti.

Taste the spaghetti to check that it is cooked just slightly short of the point at which it is cooked to your liking. Lift up the pasta using tongs into the second warmed pot. It is ok if some of the cooking water drops in. Now add the chopped butter and lemon juice and stir using a wooden spoon until it becomes creamy, adding more cooking water if needed.



Drop in the reserved lemon halves as well. It may take a minute of stirring until it is really creamy.

Then stir in the grated cheese until it melts and pile onto warmed serving plates. Scatter on some freshly cracked pepper, drizzle a bit of extra virgin olive oil (optional) and add a bit more cheese if you like (this is my preference, I like to see the cheese on top). Garnish with a lemon half and serve immediately.

Pair it with Vigneti Repetto Piccolo Derthona

by the ICCC Team



Tangy and fresh, Vigneti Repetto's Piccolo Derthona is not only perfect for backyard parties on those balmy Houston nights, it also has a fascinating history.

Piccolo Derthona is made with 100% Timorsasso grapes, an old Italian varietal. Legend has it that Leonardo da Vinci gifted several bottles of timurasso wine (now known as Timorasso) to Duke Giovanni Galeazzo and Isabella of Aragon as a wedding present.

Once the principal grape of the Colli Tortonesi and nearby Gavi, the Timorasso grape varietal was gradually replaced by Cortese, a more reliable and easier-to-grow varietal that was better able to withstand the devastation wrought by two world wars and Phylloxera.

To Timorasso's rescue came winemaker Walter Massa, who in the 1980s began efforts to revive the grape on the verge of extinction. Taking cuttings from remnants left in the Tortona area, Massa successfully saved the varietal and encouraged fellow

local winemakers to follow suit, and we're so glad he did!

Vigneti Repetto's Piccolo Derthona is produced with grapes from younger vineyards. With an elegant, tangy palate that features Meyer lemon, apricot, saline, mineral and hints of honeyed almond, it pairs perfectly with grilled fish, white meat, and fried vegetables, but it can also stand alone as a delightful aperitif.

This wine will be on the menu for our Aperitivo Italiano: Patio and Prime Time Wines. [Buy tickets](#) now and taste this fantastic wine alongside more refreshing crowd-pleasers at the Italian Cultural & Community Center on Tuesday, April 30 at 7:00 p.m.

You'll also have the opportunity to place an order for this wine by the bottle at the event. Stock up for your next summer get-together and wow your guests with fun facts about this refreshing wine.



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We mark our achievements with pride 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. We thank you for your continued support.

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