**Tutto Italiano**
**Benvenuto a Tutto Italiano**

Millions of Italian immigrants have left their indelible mark on America. Italian American culture is a rich mosaic of 20 regions of Italy, thousands of years of Italian history, and hundreds of years of American traditions and history. Because each region in Italy is so independently distinct, many of us still hold on to our ancestors’ customs and beliefs; but regional differences are set aside when – through the works of Italian authors – Italian culture blended with human nature becomes universal.

**Life**
Written by Carlo Lorenzini, under the pen name Carlo Collodi and initially published in installments in a children’s journal between 1881 and 1883, *The Adventures of Pinocchio* is a tale of lessons in humanity. The story of a wood puppet that becomes human has been told through books, animation, film, and song; and in addition to the various forms of transmission, the story has a host of interpretations.

- Pinocchio Park (Tuscany, Italy)
- Pinocchio (Online Book, Illustrated; 1927)
- Carlo Collodi Writers Edition (Interactive Website from Montblanc)
- Pinocchio (Excerpts from Children’s Opera)
- Garzoni Gardens (Next to Pinocchio Park)

**Love**
First published in the mid 1820s, *I Promessi Sposi (The Betrothed)* is a great masterpiece written by Alessandro Manzoni. The novel of love and misfortune relates the story of Lucia and Renzo (Lorenzo) and the difficulties they face in their plan of marriage. Set in the early 1600s in towns along the shore of Lake Como, in Milan, Bergamo, and in other cities of Lombardia under Spanish rule, the novel provides a historical account of the period and of the plague that devastated the region during that time.

Shortly after Manzoni finished *I Promessi Sposi*, he traveled to Tuscany to study the dialect, and began rewriting his novel to appeal to a wider audience. By 1875, more than 100 editions of *I Promessi Sposi* were in circulation, and the book had been translated worldwide. Today, the historical novel of two young lovers and the adversity they face has been made into a movie, an opera, a ballet, and a play; and is required reading in Italian schools.

- *I Promessi Sposi* (Online Book, English)
- *I Promessi Sposi* (Online book, Italian)
- The Betrothed Map (Locations in Book)
- The Great Italian Novel, A Love Story (WSJ, 2011)
Food

Pellegrino Artusi, born in Forlimpopoli (region of Emilia-Romagna), is known as the father of modern Italian cooking. In 1891, at the age of 71, Artusi self published La Scienza in Cucina e l’Arte di Mangiar Bene (The Science of Cookery and the Art of Eating Well). The book is still in print.

Several factors guided the assimilation of Italy’s food into American culture. One was Artusi’s The Science of Cookery and the Art of Eating Well, where Artusi provided more than just recipes – he offered a glimpse of life in Italy during the late 1800s. Beyond that, he used standardized Italian cooking terms, which appealed to the middle class that was forming throughout all of Italy. The Art of Eating Well is considered a basic cookbook that captures the essence of Italian cooking and Italian life, while encouraging the creativity of the cook. From restaurants to cooking schools – through the generations – Italian chefs have gleaned recipe ideas and cooking techniques from The Art of Eating Well, and they have generously passed them along to enthusiastic Americans. (Passage modified from Con Amore.)

Casa Artusi (Cooking Museum, Restaurant, Cooking School)

Culinary Luminaries: Pellegrino Artusi Panel Discussion (YouTube)

Italy Celebrates Gastronome Pellegrino Artusi (2011)

Science in the Kitchen of Pellegrino Artusi

The Man Who Put “Italian” in Italian Cuisine (2011)

The Art of Eating Well (Short Review)

Art

An extraordinary man, accomplished and revered worldwide, Leonardo da Vinci may be more well known for his art and inventions, but he documented his work leaving more than 4,000 pages of handwritten notes. The recent sold-out exhibit, “Leonardo da Vinci, Painter at the Court of Milan,” at the National Gallery in London is the subject of Leonardo Live, “a satellite-delivered HD presentation of the once-in-a-lifetime exhibition ....” The film premièred February 16th, and is available through limited screenings at movie theaters worldwide. Visit the website, Leonardo Live, for more information. (Thanks, Paula!)

Leonardo’s London Blockbuster: The Movie (NYT, 2012)

Leonardo da Vinci: The Complete Works

Leonardo da Vinci Books: Insight into the Mind of a Genius

Leonardo da Vinci’s Scientific Mind

Da Vinci – The Genius (Traveling Exhibit)

Leonardo Exhibit (Museum of Boston, 1997)

Buon anno, buon tutto, buona vita,
Janice Therese Mancuso
Author of Con Amore

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