Tutto Italiano
Benvenuto a Tutto Italiano

The Grande Raccordo Anulare (GRA) is a freeway circling Rome. Construction on the 42-mile “Great Ring Junction (or Road)” began in 1948 as a two-lane road, but upgrades to make it a four-lane road started in stages in the 1950s and were completed in 1979. To accommodate even more traffic, it was expanded to a six-lane road from 1983 to 2011.

This year, at the 70th Venice International Film Festival (August 28th to September 7th), a movie about the GRA won the Golden Lion for Best Film, the top prize. Directed by Gianfranco Rosi, Sacro GRA is the first documentary film to receive the award. The film provides a look into the lives of some of the people who live and work near the GRA.

Review: Screen Daily
Review: Cine Vue
Review: Variety

Italian Films and Festivals
It’s possible that, next year, Sacro GRA will be a feature film shown in one of the many Italian cinema festivals held throughout America. In the meantime, the remainder of 2013 brings two festivals in California and one in Florida that present a wonderful assortment of films from Italy. The Italian Film Festival of Marin County will screen six films from October to November 9th, and the San Diego Italian Film Festival – in addition to monthly screenings – will show 15 films and several documentaries through November 2nd. In Miami, Cinema Italy will screen 10 films from October 4th to October 15th, with a special screening on October 1st of The Missing Piece, the story of the 1911 theft of the Mona Lisa from the Louvre.

The documentary La Mia Strada (My Road) will have its premiere Cleveland screening on October 20th at the Cedar Lee Theatre in Cleveland Heights. Director and producer Michael DiLauro offers his “perspective on ethnicity and tradition as it links ancient Italian traditions and contemporary Italian culture with its Italian American counterpart.” DiLauro followed the shepherd’s path through the regions of Abruzzo, Molise, and Puglia researching the history of his family to create “a story linking both the ancient and contemporary history of families divided by an ocean, yet united by familial and ethnic bonds.”

DiLauro is also the director and producer of the award winning film Prisoners Among Us: Italian American Identity and WWII. From the website: “This feature-length documentary explores Italian ethnicity in America from several unique and distinctly personal perspectives. Through first hand accounts, the film will reveal the raids on Italian homes, the internment of some of the male heads of these households and the psychological rebound suffered by the victims. Our story, overflowing with interviews, historical detail, photographs, literature, music, poetry and analysis, will reveal a
chapter in history heretofore unknown to most, and will do so with integrity and sensitivity, in tribute to those who have written it.”

Michael DiLauro, M.F.A.

It's too late to attend the 26th annual Festa Italiana Seattle, but not too early to make plans to attend next year. The festival, held the last week in September, includes numerous Italian musicians, a juried photography and art show that features the culture of Italy, a bocce tournament, cooking demonstrations, wine tastings, grape stomps, pizza tosses, marionettes, an Italian dog show, and so much more.

When in Rome
Not far from the GRA, the MAXXI National Museum of XXI Century Arts has been exhibiting the work of Luigi Ghirri, “one of the undisputed masters of Italian photography.” The subtitle of the exhibit, Pensare per immagini, is taken from the photographer’s philosophical statement, “How to think in pictures. This sentence contains the meaning of all my work.”

“The exhibition presents a brand-new overview of the photographer’s work through over 300 images, with particular attention being paid to the vintage prints produced directly by the artist.” (The collection of more than 180,000 pieces is housed at Biblioteca Panizzi, in Emilia Reggio, where Ghirri lived.) The six-month exhibit ends October 27th.

Exhibit at Matthew Marks Gallery, NYC (Click on Selected Works)

It’s Beautiful Here, Isn’t It (Photography book by Ghirri)

Book Review (New Yorker)

Luigi Ghirri: Thinking Through Images

Thirty-One Days of Italians
In September 2006, Thirty-One Days of Italians was founded to promote Italian Heritage and Culture Month (also known as Italian American Heritage Month) by publicizing the extraordinary contributions those of Italian heritage had made to America. The list quickly grew with many more accomplished Italians and Italian Americans than 31 days in the month. Some were made Honorary Members – those who must be on the List every year – the remaining days were filled in by an annual vote. Because many of the same people were voted on the List each year, last year it was converted so the names now rotate each year, giving everyone on Thirty-One Days of Italians a chance to have their day. This year the List takes a updated name to correlate with the timeframe it’s posted.

The 2013-14 List of Thirty-One Days of Italians provides a date and a person to learn about and celebrate for each day in October when Italian Americans honor their culture and heritage. Some of the new people honored are Charles J. Bonaparte, who established a special investigative force that was to become the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Grucci Family own one of the oldest fireworks companies in America; Anthony Rossi founded Tropicana and developed a pasteurization process to extend the shelf life of the juice; and Giovanni Schiavo, who was largely responsible for initiating Italian American studies.

Schiavo wrote a collection of books focusing on the Italian influence in America that included The Italians in Chicago Before the Civil War (1934), The Italians in America Before the Civil War (1934), Philip Mazzei, One of America's Founding Fathers (1952), Four Centuries of Italian-American History (1952; republished in 1993), Antonio Meucci: Inventor of the Telephone (1958), and The Italians in America Before the Revolution (1976).
His book, *The Italians in Missouri* (1929), was cited as a resource on the application for the listing of the two-story brick building – built in 1928 in St. Louis, Missouri for Armando Pacini’s Restaurant – on the National Register of Historic Places. The application itself provides a very interesting historic overview of the lives of Italian immigrants in the early 1900s.

**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

**Current Picture of Building**

**Some Recent News**

*Capsized Costa Concordia slowly being righted* (LA Times)

Marcella Hazan (1924-2013)

*Italian cooking legend Marcella Hazan dies*

*How Marcella Hazan Made Italian Food All American* (Bloomberg)

*Educated Palette* (Hazan blog)

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*Buon anno, buon tutto, buona vita,*

Janice Therese Mancuso

Author of *Con Amore*

*Thirty-One Days of Italians*

The Italian American Press

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