



# Italian Historical Society of America Newsletter

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

An early Etruscan settlement reestablished as a Roman colony in 59 BC by Julius Caesar, [Florence](#) has a rich history, most notably in the banking industry as the home of the [Medici family](#) and as the birthplace of the Renaissance. In 1865, Florence replaced Turin as the capital of Italy, and was replaced by Rome in 1871.

When Florence became part of the Roman Empire, Caesar built the city as a refuge for military veterans. After the fall of the Roman Empire, Florence was ruled by the Goths, Byzantines, and Lombards; seized by Charlemagne; and was part of various duchies. During the 1200s, the Medici family migrated to Florence, first joining the medical guild, then becoming government officials, and by the mid-fourteenth century, the family became involved in banking and commerce.

Their wealth and prestige were the basis of their humanistic and artistic approach to education and culture, and the House of Medici was a patron of some of the most well-known Italians throughout the world today: Botticelli, da Vinci, Galileo, Michelangelo, and Vespucci, among others.

The [Florence skyline](#) is distinctive, dominated by [Brunelleschi's Dome](#), topping the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, and the bell tower of [Palazzo Vecchio](#) (Old Palace). Both are in the [Historic Centre of Florence](#) – inscribed as a World Heritage Site in 1982 – and also includes the [Uffizi Gallery](#) and the [Palazzo Pitti](#).

Another noteworthy feature of Florence is the [Wine Window](#). Small windows carved about four feet above street level, the openings allowed the easy exchange of payment for a cup or a flask of wine.

[History of Florence](#)

[History of Florence \(2\)](#)

[The Innovation of Brunelleschi for the Dome of Florence](#)

[Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore](#)

[Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore](#)

[Buchette Del Vino](#) [Wine Windows] (YouTube Video, In Italian)

[Tuscany's medieval 'wine windows' have reopened](#)

[Florence's newest outdoor drinking trend is also its oldest](#)

[Virtual Travel to Florence, Italy](#)

[Città di Firenze](#) (In Italian)

## **From the Italian American Press**

The Italian American Press offers a great selection of books – culture, history, memoirs, art, family, food, the supernatural, the natural beauty of Italy, and more – for every interest. Help preserve Italian American heritage and history. Support authors of Italian heritage who write about Italian American and Italian culture and let them know you found their books on the Italian American Press.

## **Make Italian American Movies**

Several epics and mysteries, a comedy drama, an action/adventure, a science fiction, and a culinary romance – all great books on the IAP that would make [wonderful movies](#).

The IAP is taking a short summer break and will have a new physical location soon.

## **Italian American Heritage Project**

The groups opposing Columbus Day have an organized agenda to eliminate it from America. Last month, it was reported: "[Five Largest Italian American Groups in the Nation Unite to Defend Columbus](#)." In the announcement, "A new organization is seeking to dispel the myths surrounding Columbus, and it is being backed by the five largest Italian American organizations in the U.S. and their millions of members and followers." The five nationwide organizations have "gathered together in an unprecedented show of Italian American unity to form, and fund, the National Columbus Education Foundation ... The Foundation will soon launch a large public campaign and website called KnowColumbus.org ..."

This has been a particularly perilous time for the legacy of Columbus. Those who read this section of *Tutto Italiano* know that I've been writing about an "organized defense" for "a nationwide program to battle the campaign to abolish Columbus Day" for quite a few years; but it is not just Italian American organizations that need to take a stand – it's every Italian American with ancestors that journeyed from Italy to America for a better life. [Learn about the importance of Columbus to Italian immigrants and to America](#), and help reeducate the misinformed.

Indigenous People already have a designated day, and Native Americans have a day and a month to celebrate their culture.

Indigenous Peoples Day – August 9

Native American Month – November

Native American Heritage Day – Friday after Thanksgiving

[Columbus is still an Italian hero](#) by Patrick Dimeo-Edwards (Washington Examiner, October 09, 2017) *Thanks, Bill.*

Visit the [IAHP website](#) to read my articles, learn about the lesson plans, see the resources I've used, and support my work. Donate for a cause – preserving Italian heritage and Italian American history and culture through education. [All donations are tax-deductible](#).

## **Italian American News**

[San Gennaro Feast Canceled](#) (Official Website)

[America's Last Little Italy: The Hill](#) (La Gazzetta Italiana, August 2020)

[The 81-year-old behind the best Italian sandwich in Pasadena](#) (Los Angeles Times; July 10, 2020)

*Thanks, John.*

## **News about Italy**

[With American tourists banned from Italy, Amalfi Coast workers are sliding into poverty](#) (Washington Post; July 24, 2020)

