



## NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER ottobre 2023

### SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Our September Membership Meeting was also our annual Club Bocce Tournament. The venue was the Hungarian Culture Club in Fairport Harbor. The turnout was a little light but those who attended had a great time. The food and drink was great, and the bocce' was fun for all. At the end of the evening, the winning team was Rio DeGennaro, Mario Bertone, Don Tichel, and Mitch Zappitelli.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

prossimi eventi

#### OCTOBER ottobre

##### 4 October 2023, Wednesday, AIHC Board of Trustees Meeting

- Venue: Mama Roberto's Front Dining Room
- Time 5:30p

##### 7 October 2023, Saturday, AIHC Italian Night

- Venue: Regovich's Catering in Eastlake
- Committee:
  - Bill Petrello
  - Ron Wassum
  - Gus Paolucci
  - John Perrotti
  - Anita Licate
- Times:
  - Doors open: 6:00p
  - Games: 5:45p – 7:45p
  - Dinner: 7:45p – 8:30p
  - Announcement of winners: 8:30p – 9:00p
  - Music and Dancing: 8:30p – 11:00p
- Games:
  - \$3.00 and \$5.00 sideboards – 5:45p – 6:45p
  - \$3.00 and \$5.00 sideboards – 6:45p – 7:45p
  - Chinese Auction for Baskets – 5:45p – 7:45p
  - Food Wheels
  - 50/50 Raffle – 5:45p – 7:45p

- All winners announced between 8:30p – 9:00p
  - Cost: \$75.00 per person
  - Guests: Members as well as Spouses and Guests are welcome.
  - Dinner: Prepared by Regovich Catering
  - Capacity: 400 – 450 attendees
- Reservations required.*

##### 18 October 2023, Wednesday, AIH Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Mama Roberto's Front Dining Room
- Time 5:30p

##### 25 October 2023, Wednesday, AIH Membership Meeting, AIH Clam Bake

- Committee:
    - Ron Wassum
    - Mario Bertone
  - Venue: Fassionation Park in Madison
  - Attendees: Members as well as Spouses and Guests are welcome.
  - Time: 6:30p
  - Cost: See flyer
  - Caterer: La Vera
- Reservations required, see attached flyer.*

#### NOVEMBER novembre

##### 15 November 2023, Wednesday, AIH Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Mama Roberto's Front Dining Room
- Time 5:30p

##### 25 November 2023, Saturday, AIHC OSU v Univ of Mich. Football Game Pool

- Chair: Bill Petrello
- Venue: Michigan Stadium in Ann Arbor.
- Kick off: 12:00 noon

##### 29 November 2023, Wednesday, AIH Membership Meeting

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 6:00p
- Speaker: TBD

#### DECEMBER dicembre

- In accordance with our Bylaws, there is no scheduled Executive Committee Meeting or Membership Meeting in December.

##### 9 December 2023, Saturday, AIH Club Christmas Party

- Committee:
  - Gus Paolucci
  - John Perrotti
  - Jim Federico Sr.
  - Mario Bertone
- Venue: Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 2:00p – 4:00p

- Volunteers arrive at 12:00p for set up.
  - Cost: Free
  - There will be a Balloon Artist for the children.
  - Santa and Presents: Santa will pass out presents to children. All presents are to be purchased, wrapped, identified, and delivered to the venue no later than 12:00 noon, the day of the event.
  - Registration is required. There is a limited capacity of 80, so it will be first come, first served.
- Reservations required.*

#### JANUARY gennaio

##### 24 January 2024, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 5:30p

##### 31 January 2024, Wednesday, Membership Meeting

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 6:00p
- Speaker: TBD

#### FEBRUARY febbraio

##### 11 February 2024, Sunday, AIHC Super Bowl LVIII, Pool

- Committee: TBD Volunteers needed.
- Kick Off Time: TBD
- Venue: Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas, Nevada.
- The completed 50/50 Board will be posted on the club website prior to kick-off.
- Cost per Square: TBD

##### 21 February 2024, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Mama Roberto's Front Dining Room
- Time 5:30p

##### 28 February 2024, Wednesday, Membership Meeting

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 6:00p
- Speaker: TBD

#### MARCH marzo

##### 20 March 2024, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Mama Roberto's Front Dining Room
- Time 5:30p

##### 27 March 2024, Wednesday, Membership Meeting

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 6:00p
- Speaker: TBD

**APRIL aprile**

**17 April 2024, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting**

- Venue: Mama Roberto's Front Dining Room
- Establish the Nominating Committee for Election of Officers and Trustees for FY25 and FY26.
- Time 5:30p

**24 April 2024, Wednesday, Membership Meeting**

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 6:00p
- Speaker: **TBD**

**MAY maggio**

**22 May 2024, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting**

- Venue: Mama Roberto's Front Dining Room
- Time 5:30p

**29 May 2024, Wednesday, Membership Meeting**

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 6:00p
- Presentation of Nominees for Officers and Trustees for FY25 and FY26
- Speaker: **TBD**

**JUNE giugno**

**19 June 2024, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting**

- Venue: Mama Roberto's Front Dining Room
- Time 5:30p

**26 June 2024, Wednesday, Membership Meeting**

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 6:00p
- Election of Officers and Trustees for FY25 and FY26
- Speaker: **TBD**

**AUGUST agosto**

**3 August 2024, Saturday, AIH GOLF OUTING**

- **Committee:** **TBD**
- Venue: Black Brook Golf Club, Mentor, Ohio
- Time:
  - Registration at 8:00a
  - Shotgun start at 9:00a
- **Cost:** **TBD**
- **Capacity:** **TBD**
- Guests: Spouses and Guests are welcome
- Caterers: La Vera
- Reservations are required.

**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

**Compleanni di Ottobre**

Adolfo DeGennaro.....	02
Joe Matteo Jr. ....	17
Joe Petrarca Jr.....	24
Rick Bertone .....	27

When you see these members this month, be sure to wish them a Buon Compleanno.

**HEALTH AND WELFARE**

**salute e benessere**

- Vice President Ron Wassum's son (and member) Brett Wassum is recovering from some surgery.
- Secretary Glenn Pizzuti's son Eric is also recovering from some surgery.

Please keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

If you know of or hear of any Health or Welfare issues involving a member, please pass that information on to Richard O'Keefe at [richardokeefe65@gmail.com](mailto:richardokeefe65@gmail.com) or 440-537-8505.

**SPECIAL DAYS IN OCTOBER**

Here are just a few of the not so well-known special days in October for your observance.

- 01 Oct: International Coffee Day
- 08 Oct: Pierogi Day
- 18 Oct: Chocolate Cupcake Day
- 21 Oct: Chocolate Milkshake Day
- 24 Oct: Bologna Day
- 26 Oct: Howl at the Moon Day (and Night)
- 27 Oct: American Beer Day
- 30 Oct: Candy Corn Day

*The above Information was taken from [timeanddate.com/holidays/fun](http://timeanddate.com/holidays/fun).*

**ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE & CULTURE MONTH**

Italian-American Heritage and Culture Month is celebrated by proclamation of the President and Congress in the United States to honor the achievements and contributions of Italian immigrants and their descendants living in the United States, particularly in the arts, science, and culture. This proclamation was led by the Italian senator Tate Downs. Events are held throughout the month to celebrate and educate the public about Italian-American history and culture. It was first celebrated in 1989. The heritage month is October to coincide with Columbus Day, the American national holiday traditionally celebrated on October 12, now celebrated on the second Monday in October. Heritage Months are usually proclaimed by nations to celebrate centuries of contributions by a group to a country.

In tribute to all Italian Americans, the US Congress designated the month of October 1989, as "Italian-American Heritage and Culture Month." Congress again proclaimed October as Italian-American Heritage and Culture Month for 1990 and 1993/1994.

Within the authority of the Executive Branch, the President of the United States has also issued a proclamation in 1989 and 1990 by George H. W. Bush, in 1993 by Bill Clinton, and in 2010 by Barack Obama.



Most recently, President Joe Biden proclaimed on Columbus Day 2022 that the voyages of Christopher Columbus served as "a source of pride for many Italian Americans whose families also crossed the Atlantic."

*The above information was taken from the 2023 Wikipedia.*

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**10 October 1892**

The U.S. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was written in 1892 by a then 37-year-old minister named Francis Bellamy. The original version of Bellamy's pledge read, "I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic, for which it stands, —one nation, indivisible—with liberty and justice for all." By not specifying to which flag or which republic allegiance was being pledged, Bellamy suggested that his pledge could be used by any country, as well as the United States.

Bellamy wrote his pledge for inclusion in the Boston-published Youth's Companion magazine – "The Best of American Life in Fiction Fact and Comment." The pledge was also printed on leaflets and sent to schools throughout the United States at the time. The first recorded organized recital of the original Pledge of Allegiance took place on Oct. 12, 1892, when some 12 million American schoolchildren recited it to commemorate the 400-year anniversary of the voyage of Christopher Columbus.

Despite its widespread public acceptance at the time, important changes to the Pledge of Allegiance as written by Bellamy were on the way.

**Change in Consideration of Immigrants**

By the early 1920s, the first National Flag Conference (source of the U.S. Flag Code), the American Legion, and the Daughters of the American Revolution all recommended changes to the Pledge of Allegiance intended to clarify its meaning when recited by

immigrants. These changes addressed concerns that since the pledge as then written failed to mention the flag of any specific country, immigrants to the United States might feel that they were pledging allegiance to their native country, rather than the U.S., when reciting the Pledge.

So in 1923, the pronoun “my” was dropped from the pledge and the phrase “the Flag” was added, resulting in, “I pledge allegiance to the Flag and Republic, for which it stands, —one nation, indivisible—with liberty and justice for all.”

A year later, the National Flag Conference, in order to completely clarify issue, added the words “of America,” resulting in, “I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, —one nation, indivisible—with liberty and justice for all.”

#### Change in Consideration of God

In 1954, the Pledge of Allegiance underwent its most controversial change to date. With the threat of Communism looming, President Dwight Eisenhower pressed Congress to add the words “under God” to the pledge.

In advocating for the change, Eisenhower declared it would “reaffirm the transcendence of religious faith in America’s heritage and future” and “strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country’s most powerful resource in peace and war.”

On June 14, 1954, in a Joint Resolution amending a section of the Flag Code, Congress created the Pledge of Allegiance recited by most Americans today:

*“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”*

#### What About Church and State?

Over the decades since 1954, there have been legal challenges to the constitutionality of the inclusion of “under God” in the pledge.

Most notably, in 2004, when an avowed atheist sued the Elk Grove (California) Unified School District claiming that its pledge recital requirement violated his daughter’s rights under the First Amendment’s Establishment and Free Exercise Clauses.

In deciding the case of *Elk Grove Unified School District v. Newdow*, the U.S. Supreme Court failed to rule on the question of the words “under God” violating the First Amendment. Instead, the Court ruled that the plaintiff, Mr. Newdow, did not have legal standing to file the suit because he lacked sufficient custody of his daughter.

However, Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Justices Sandra Day O’Connor and Clarence Thomas wrote separate opinions on the case, stating that requiring teachers to lead the Pledge was constitutional.

In 2010, two federal appeals courts ruled in a similar challenge that “the Pledge of Allegiance does not violate the Establishment Clause because Congress’ ostensible and predominant purpose was to inspire patriotism” and “both the choice to engage in the recitation of the Pledge and the choice not to do so are entirely voluntary.”

*The above information was taken from [thoughtco.com/pledge-of-allegiance](http://thoughtco.com/pledge-of-allegiance).*

## THE INDIANS WIN THE WORLD SERIES 11 October 1948

With Bob Lemon pitching, the Cleveland Indians won the sixth game of the World Series to beat the Boston Braves, 4 games to 2, on 11 October 1948. That was several years ago.



## WALL STREET CRASH 24 October 1929

The Wall Street Crash of 1929, also known as the Great Crash, and the Crash of 29, was a major American stock market crash that occurred in the autumn of 1929. It started in September and ended in mid-November, when share prices on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) collapsed. The pivotal role of the 1920s’ high-flying bull market and the subsequent catastrophic collapse of the NYSE in late 1929 is often highlighted in explanations of the causes of the worldwide Great Depression.

It was the most devastating stock market crash in the history of the United States, when taking into consideration the full extent and duration of its aftereffects. The Great Crash is mostly associated with October 24, 1929, called *Black Thursday*, the day of the largest sell-off of

shares in U.S. history, and October 29, 1929, called *Black Tuesday*, when investors traded some 16 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange in a single day. The crash, which followed the London Stock Exchange’s crash of September, signaled the beginning of the Great Depression.



The “Roaring Twenties”, the decade following World War I that led to the crash, was a time of wealth and excess. Building on post-war optimism, rural Americans migrated to the cities in vast numbers throughout the decade with hopes of finding a more prosperous life in the ever-growing expansion of America’s industrial sector.

Scholars believe that declines in the money supply caused by Federal Reserve decisions had a severely contractionary effect on output. Despite the inherent risk of speculation, it was widely believed that the stock market would continue to rise forever. On March 25, 1929, after the Federal Reserve warned of excessive speculation, a small crash occurred as investors started to sell stocks at a rapid pace, exposing the market’s shaky foundation. Two days later, banker Charles E. Mitchell announced that his company, the National City Bank, would provide \$25 million in credit to stop the market’s slide. Mitchell’s move brought a temporary halt to the financial crisis, and call money declined from 20 to 8 percent. However, the American economy showed ominous signs of trouble. Steel production declined, construction was sluggish, automobile sales went down, and consumers were building up large debts because of easy credit.

Despite all the economic warning signs and the market breaks in March and May 1929, stocks resumed their advance in June, and the gains continued almost unabated until early September 1929 (the Dow Jones average gained more than 20% between June and September). The market had been on a nine-year run that saw the Dow Jones Industrial Average increase in value tenfold, peaking at 381.17 on September 3, 1929. Shortly before the crash, economist Irving Fisher famously proclaimed “Stock prices have reached what looks like a permanently high plateau.” The optimism and the financial gains of the great bull market were shaken after a well-publicized September 8 prediction from financial expert

Roger Babson that "a crash is coming, and it may be terrific". The initial September decline was thus called the "Babson Break" in the press. That was the start of the Great Crash, but until the severe phase of the crash in October, many investors regarded the September "Babson Break" as a "healthy correction" and buying opportunity.

On September 20, 1929, top British investor Clarence Hatry and many of his associates were jailed for fraud and forgery, leading to the suspension of his companies. This may have weakened the confidence of Americans in their own companies, although it had minimal impact on the London Stock Exchange. In the days leading up to the crash, the market was severely unstable. Periods of selling and high volumes were interspersed with brief periods of rising prices and recovery.

Selling intensified in mid-October. On October 24, "Black Thursday", the market lost 11% of its value at the opening bell on very heavy trading. The huge volume meant that the report of prices on the ticker tape in brokerage offices around the nation was hours late, and so investors had no idea what most stocks were trading for. Several leading Wall Street bankers met to find a solution to the panic and chaos on the trading floor. The meeting included Thomas W. Lamont, acting head of Morgan Bank; Albert Wiggin, head of the Chase National Bank; and Charles E. Mitchell, president of the National City Bank of New York. They chose Richard Whitney, vice president of the Exchange, to act on their behalf.

With the bankers' financial resources behind him, Whitney placed a bid to purchase 25,000 shares of U.S. Steel at \$205 per share, a price well above the current market. As traders watched, Whitney then placed similar bids on other "blue chip" stocks. The tactic was similar to one that had ended the Panic of 1907 and succeeded in halting the slide. The Dow Jones Industrial Average recovered, closing down only 6.38 points (2.09%) for the day.

On October 28, "Black Monday", more investors facing margin calls decided to get out of the market, and the slide continued with a record loss in the Dow for the day of 38.33 points, or 12.82%.

On October 29, 1929, "Black Tuesday" hit Wall Street as investors traded some 16 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange in a single day. Around \$14 billion of stock value was lost, wiping out thousands of investors. The panic selling reached its peak with some stocks having no buyers at any price. The Dow lost an additional 30.57 points, or 11.73%, for a total drop of 68.90 points, or 23.05% in two days.

On October 29 William C. Durant joined with members of the Rockefeller family and other financial giants to buy large quantities of stocks to demonstrate to the public their confidence in the market, but their efforts failed to stop the large decline in prices. The massive volume of stocks traded that day made the ticker continue to run until about 7:45 p.m.

After a one-day recovery on October 30, when the Dow regained 28.40 points, or 12.34%, to close at 258.47, the market continued to fall, arriving at an interim bottom on November 13, 1929, with the Dow closing at 198.60. The market then recovered for several months, starting on November 14, with the Dow gaining 18.59 points to close at 217.28, and reaching a secondary closing peak (bear market rally) of 294.07 on April 17, 1930. The Dow then embarked on another, much longer, steady slide from April 1930 to July 8, 1932, when it closed at 41.22, its lowest level of the 20th century, concluding an 89.2% loss for the index in less than three years.

Beginning on March 15, 1933, and continuing through the rest of the 1930s, the Dow began to slowly regain the ground it had lost. The largest percentage increases of the Dow Jones occurred during the early and mid-1930s. In late 1937, there was a sharp dip in the stock market, but prices held well above the 1932 lows. The Dow Jones did not return to its peak close of September 3, 1929, for 25 years, until November 23, 1954.

*The above information was taken from the 2023 Wikipedia.*

## WORLD PASTA DAY

25 October

In 1995, the World Pasta Congress declared October 25<sup>th</sup> as World Pasta Day. There are more than six-hundred varieties of pasta in Italy, and it's typically served as a *primo piatto*, or first course. Spaghetti is not the most popular pasta in Italy. Italy's most popular pasta is *penne*, which was invented in 1865 near Genoa by Giovanni Battista Capurro. Also worthy of note, spaghetti should never served with *Bolognese* sauce or meatballs.



## THE ERIE CANAL

26 October 1825

The Erie Canal is a 363-mile waterway that connects the Great Lakes with the Atlantic Ocean via the Hudson River in upstate New York. The channel, which traverses New York state from Albany to Buffalo on Lake Erie, was considered an engineering marvel when it first opened in 1825. The Erie Canal provided a direct water route from New York City to the Midwest, triggering large-scale commercial and agricultural development—as well as immigration—to the sparsely populated frontiers of western New York, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, and points farther west. The canal transformed New York City into the young nation's economic powerhouse, and in 2000 the U.S. Congress designated the Erie Canal a National Heritage Corridor.

Early explorers in America had long searched for a water route from East Coast population centers to the resource-rich lands of the Midwest and Great Lakes. The Northwest Territory—which later would become the states of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin—had timber, minerals, furs and fertile land for farming, but the Appalachian Mountains stood in the way. Throughout the 18th and early 19th centuries, it took weeks to reach these resources overland. Bulk transportation of goods was limited by what teams of oxen could pull by wagon. The lack of an efficient transportation network confined populations and trade to coastal areas.

Beginning in 1807, Jesse Hawley—a flour merchant from western New York who went broke trying to get his product to market in the Atlantic coastal cities—published a series of essays from debtor's prison. In them, Hawley advocated for a canal system that would span nearly 400 miles from Buffalo, New York, on the eastern shore of Lake Erie, to Albany, New York, on the Hudson River. Hawley's eloquent essays caught the attention of New York politicians, including New York City mayor DeWitt Clinton. Clinton believed that the canal was crucial to the economic advancement of his city. Clinton saw his plan come to fruition in 1817 after he became the governor of New York. Workers first broke ground on the Erie Canal on July 4, 1817, near Utica, New York.

The construction of the Erie Canal, through mountainous terrain and dense rock proved as challenging as the political environment. Throughout construction, Dewitt Clinton's political opponents ridiculed the project as "Clinton's Folly" or "Clinton's ditch." It took canal laborers—some Irish immigrants, but most U.S.-born men—eight years to finish the project. They cleared the land by hand and animal power and blasted through rock with

gunpowder. (Dynamite wasn't invented until the 1860s by Swedish scientist Alfred Nobel.)

The original Erie Canal was just four feet deep and 40 feet wide, though it was considered a major engineering feat at the time of its completion in 1825. It traversed nearly 400 miles of fields, forests, and rocky cliffs, and contained 83 locks—structures used for raising and lowering boats between canal stretches with different water levels. Project engineers had little experience building canals. The military academy at West Point in New York offered the only formal engineering program in North America at the time the Erie Canal was built. The project provided practical schooling for a new generation of American engineers and builders and led to the founding of the nation's first civil engineering school, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in Troy, New York, in 1824. Erie Canal engineers devised new equipment to uproot trees and stumps and developed a cement that could set and harden underwater.

The Erie Canal opened on October 26, 1825. A fleet of boats, led by Governor Dewitt Clinton aboard the *Seneca Chief* sailed from Buffalo to New York City in record time—just ten days. The canal transformed New York City into the commercial capital it remains today. Prior to the canal's construction, the ports of Boston, Philadelphia and New Orleans outranked New York in size. But the construction of the Erie Canal gave New York City (via the Hudson River) direct water access to the Great Lakes and regions of the Midwest. As the gateway to these resource-rich lands, New York soon became the nation's economic epicenter and the primary port of entry to the United States for European immigrants. New York City's population quadrupled between 1820 and 1850. Financing of the Erie Canal's construction allowed the city to eclipse Philadelphia as the country's most important banking center.

The Erie Canal also provided an economic boost to the entire United States by allowing the transport of goods at one-tenth the previous cost in less than half the previous time. By 1853, the Erie Canal carried 62 percent of all U.S. trade. For the first time, manufactured goods such as furniture and clothing could be shipped in bulk to the frontier. Farmers in western New York and the Midwest now had cash to purchase consumer goods, because they could more cheaply ship wheat, corn, and other crops to lucrative East Coast markets. The Erie Canal also helped to stimulate America's nascent tourism industry. It attracted vacationers, including Europeans such as Charles Dickens. Thousands of tourists floated down the canal on excursions from New York City to Niagara Falls.

The building of the Erie Canal and subsequent population explosion along its route accelerated the dispossession—or removal—of Native Americans in western New York and the Upper Midwest. The Erie Canal traversed the ancestral homelands of several groups, including the Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Seneca. From the early years of the canal era to the peak of New York's canal boom in the 1840s and 1850s, state and federal policies promoted the removal of indigenous populations from developing portions of New York. Native Americans were sent to reservations in isolated portions of New York and other eastern States. Others were sent to unfamiliar outlying territories in the American Midwest.

The Erie Canal was enlarged twice to fit wider and deeper boats. Some parts were rerouted to make way for more ship traffic in 1918. Portions of the original canal are still operable, though tourism is now the main source of boat traffic along the Erie Canal.

Commercial and shipping traffic declined abruptly after the completion of the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1959. The new waterway along the United States-Canadian border allowed large ships to enter the Great Lakes directly from the Atlantic Ocean, bypassing the Erie Canal.

In 2000, Congress designated the Erie Canal a National Heritage Corridor to help preserve New York State's historic waterway and the communities along its banks.

*The above information was taken from [history.com/topics/landmarks/erie-canal](https://history.com/topics/landmarks/erie-canal)*

## OCTOBER FESTIVALS & EVENTS IN ITALY

The month of October, which used to be considered "shoulder season," is now increasingly popular with travelers, who come for cooler weather and plenty of festive events celebrating the fall harvest season. With a wealth of activities happening throughout the month and both coastal towns and metropolitan cities like Rome awash in the brightly-colored leaves of autumn, Italy in October is a truly remarkable thing to experience.

During October, you'll find Italian food festivals featuring mushrooms, chestnuts, chocolates, and truffles, which pair well with wine harvest events happening across the country. You can also attend a screening at a film festival in Rome or sit by the shores of the Mediterranean Sea and watch a boat race in Trieste. World Pasta Day is the fourth Sunday in October, and there are even some Halloween events you can enjoy if you're in the country at the end of the month.

### Truffle Festivals and Fairs

Some of the biggest truffle festivals in Italy take place in the Piedmont, Tuscany, Umbria, Le Marche, and Emilia Romagna regions during October and November. Among them, the biggest is the Alba White Truffle Festival, which takes place on weekends throughout October and November in the Piedmont town of Alba and features local cuisine, wine sampling, a donkey race, and several other family-friendly activities and events.

In Tuscany, you can stop by Volterra's Mostra Micologica in mid-October, to learn about truffles and the many types of mushrooms, both edible and poisonous, found in Italy. At the end of October into early November in Le Marche, you can visit the "truffle capital of Italy" in Acqualagna for its white truffle fair. Other October fairs include Mostra Mercato del Tartufo ("Trade Fair of Truffles") in Pietralunga, Umbria, and a black truffle fair in Calestano every Sunday from mid-October through mid-November.

### Boccaccesca in Certaldo Alto

Enjoy mild and sunny weather while you get a taste of iconic regional wines like Chianti Classico or Brunello di Montalcino at Boccaccesca, an annual gastronomic fair in Certaldo Alto, Tuscany, that takes place in early October. The festival features food stalls where you can sample and buy some of Tuscany's best products, including its world-renowned bread.

Certaldo Alto is just a 30-minute drive from Florence, which makes it an easy and fun day trip if you want to get out of the city to see more of Tuscany's bright fall foliage, especially during Boccaccesca. Even if you can't make it for the festival, though, October in this well-preserved Medieval town offers a unique opportunity to wander the streets of old Certaldo Alto without all the crowds that gather during the summer tourist season.

### Eurochocolate in Perugia

Fans of rich, Italian chocolates will certainly enjoy Eurochocolate, an annual festival that takes place in mid-October in Perugia, which is famous for its Perugina Baci chocolates. Besides all things chocolate, there's music, wine tastings, and workshops.

The 25th Annual International Chocolate Festival is held at various venues in Perugia from mid- to late October. The main attraction is a chocolate sculpture on display at the Piazza IV Novembre throughout the event.

### Rome Film Festival

From mid- to late October, the Annual Rome Film Festival will take place at the Auditorium Parco della Musica and various other venues in the city. The Rome Film Festival includes international movie premieres, competitions in

several genres and forms, several red-carpet events, and plenty of industry parties and mixers for professionals and tourists alike.

**Barcolana Regatta in Trieste**

In early October, the storied Barcolana Regatta (boat race) returns to Trieste for one of the biggest boating events in the world. All manner of boats will race, and there will be illuminated boat parades at night as well. More than 2,000 sailing vessels of all varieties converge in the Adriatic Sea near Trieste for this special festival, which includes plenty of music, food, and wine.

**Sagra del Tordo in Montalcino**

Sagra del Tordo, or Feast of the Thrush, is a medieval re-enactment of an archery tournament that takes place in Montalcino, Tuscany, on the last weekend in October.

Long celebrated as a competition between the four neighborhoods of the city, each district wears designated colors: Borghetto (white and red), Pianello (white and blue); Ruga (yellow and blue), and Travaglio (yellow and red). Events include a folklore dance at the Piazza del Popolo, a historical parade to the Provaccia di archery shooting range, an auction, a blessing of the archers, and the official tournament itself on Sunday to close out the festival.

**Halloween and All Saint's Eve Celebrations**

Although Halloween (or All Saint's Eve) is not an official holiday or a big celebration in Italy, it's becoming more popular. You might find Halloween events in the larger cities, including costume parties at local bars, restaurants, and dance clubs. In some cities and towns, kids might go trick-or-treating door-to-door.

*The above information was taken from [tripsavvy.com/October-Italy](https://tripsavvy.com/October-Italy)*

**PHRASE OF THE MONTH**

**Alla salute! Cin cin!**

**Cheers! (lit. To health!)**

*Information taken from the Living Language Italian 2023 Calendar*

**A LITTLE TRIVIA**

**Why do brides wear "something old, something new, something borrowed, and something blue" to their weddings?**

According to wedding tradition, the bride wears something "old" to remind the couple of the happiness of their courting period. She wears something "new" to represent the hopeful success of the couple's new life together; something "borrowed" to symbolize the support of friends; and something "blue" because it's the color of fidelity. In addition, if a bride wears a single girlfriend's garter, it will improve that girl's prospects of marriage.

**Why do bridegrooms have a best man?**

In ancient times, most marriages were arranged, and so the groom wasn't always the bride's first choice. The man she favored would often swear to carry her off before or during the wedding. To avoid this, the groom stood on the bride's right to keep his sword arm free. In addition, he would enlist a warrior companion to help fight off the rival if he showed up. This companion was, in fact, the "best man."

**Why is a wedding reception called a "bridal" party?**

The expression *bridal feast*, *bridal bed*, and *bridal cake*, among other bridal references, all date back to around 1200, when a wedding was a rather boisterous and bawdy affair. The word *bridal* comes from "bride-ale," which was the special beer brewed for the wedding and then sold to the guests to raise money for the newlyweds. Because of the bride-ale, weddings were quite rowdy until around the seventeenth century, when the church managed to get a grip on the whole thing.

**Why do we drink a toast on special occasions?**

By the sixth century BC, Greeks had discovered that poisoning wine was an excellent way to get rid of their enemies. So, to assure guests of their safety at a social function, it became necessary for the host to take the first drink. The Romans added a piece of burnt bread, or "tostus," to the custom because it absorbed acid, making the wine more pleasant to drink. Flattering words were spoken during the toasting ceremony to reassure the guests of their safety.

**Why does everyone touch wine glasses before drinking at a dinner party?**

The custom of touching wine glasses comes from a medieval host's precaution against being poisoned by a guest, or vice versa. The original ritual was that, while touching glasses, a little wine was exchanged, poured from one goblet into the other, around the table. Then everyone took their first drink at the same time. By mixing drinks this way, the host and everyone else could be assured that no assassin was in their midst.

**Why do we roll out a red carpet for special guests?**

The red carpet treatment dates back to the 1930s, when a carpet of that color led passengers to a luxurious train, the Twentieth Century Limited, which ran between New York and Chicago. The Twentieth Century was the most famous in America and was totally first class, with accommodations and dining car menu that were considered the height of luxury. Walking the red carpet to the train meant you were about to be treated like royalty.

**Why do we put candles on a birthday cake?**

The Greeks borrowed celebrating birthdays from the Egyptian pharaohs and the cake idea from the Persians. Then early Christians did away with the birthday parties for a while until the custom reemerged with candle in Germany in the twelfth century. Awakened with the arrival of a birthday cake topped with lighted candles, which were changed and kept lit until after the family meal, when the honored child would make a wish that, it was said, would come true only if the candles were blown out in a single breath.

*The above information was obtained from [The Little Book of Answers](#) by Doug Lennox.*

**MISSION STATEMENT**

*dichiarazione di missione*

The purpose of this Association is to promote the moral, social, and civic advancement of its membership, and to perpetuate the customs and cultural aspects of Italian Heritage.

*Article II, Section 1 of the AIH Bylaws*

**AMERICANS OF ITALIAN HERITAGE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

*1 July 2022 – 30 June 2024*

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**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1. Clam Bake Flyer

**COMMENTS TO THE EDITOR**



If you have any questions or comments about, or suggestions for this newsletter, please put your thoughts in an email and send them to me at [GPizzuti@GlennPizzutiArchitect.com](mailto:GPizzuti@GlennPizzutiArchitect.com)