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A Fearless, Relentless and Driven Advocate Melina Macchia

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Feature Story



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Letter from the Editor



Autumn leaves and pumpkins please. The changing colours and cooler weather are signs that fall has officially arrived. In fall we can expect annual trips to the apple orchards and farms where children are picking out their favourite pumpkin and adults are choosing

delicious pies to celebrate the upcoming Thanksgiving. In this issue I am featuring Criminal Defence Lawyer Melina Macchia. Melina grew up in the city of Vaughan and after completing her studies achieved a position at Schofield and Associates. Melina works tirelessly to defend her clients. She is a fearless, relentless and driven advocate and shows that with every case she works on. I congratulate Melina with all her successes.

With children returning to school we say goodbye to beach days and summer camps but hello to routines and plenty of learning. Teachers, in Latin they say

"docendo discimus"

I wish all students and teachers much success during this school year.

May we take time this season to reflect on the things we are grateful for and spend time with family and friends.

Wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving!

Josie Alonzi



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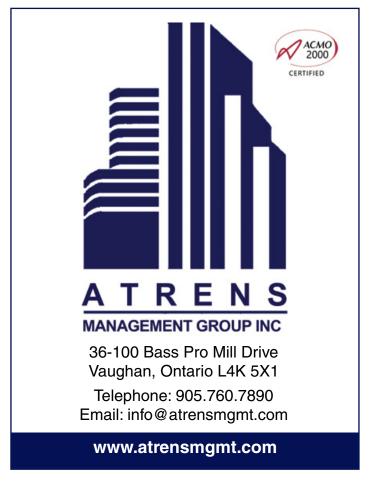


A Message from the Mayor

Community safety is a top priority for the City of Vaughan and we are taking swift action to fight the growing number of auto thefts in the community.

I am happy to announce that the City is distributing key fob protective bags to Vaughan residents to help fight auto theft. They are being given out one per person on a first-come-first-serve basis at City community centres.

Key fob protective bags reduces a thief's ability to steal its signal and therefore reduces the chances the vehicle will be stolen when a keyless ignition car key is placed inside. This isn't the only solution, but a step in the right direction to help our community as we continue to fight auto theft alongside our York Regional Police partners.



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Joseph Anthony Chiarelli

Special Advisor/Civil Marriage Officiant City of Vaughan Office of the City Clerk

By Josie Alonzi

Joseph Chiarelli was born in Toronto, the son of an immigrant A couple who were avid motorcycle enthusiasts requested to be family that came to Canada in 1949. He attended Seneca married in full motorcycle gear, with helmets by their side. College where he graduated with Honors in Legal Administration. He worked in North York as a paralegal in a Have civil ceremonies increased in the last five years? small law firm where he specialized in personal injury cases for Yes. During the past five years, the City of Vaughan has seen a Italian clientele. His fluency in the Italian language served him steady increase in civil marriage ceremonies, averaging 300 well in servicing the firm's Italian clients. After 5 years, he moved ceremonies a year. The City performs ceremonies throughout to Downtown Toronto and joined a prestigious law firm where the week and on Saturdays, subject to the officiant's availability. he spent approximately 4 years specializing in contract law and personal injury claims. The City accepts applicants from anywhere in Ontario.

In 1987, an opportunity arose in the Town of Vaughan Is there a course required to civilly perform (becoming the City of Vaughan in 1991), where he was hired as the supervisor of By-Law Enforcement and Licensing. He held ceremonies? this position for approximately 22 years. Shortly after, he became No, but an officiant may complete a course which discusses Manager – Insurance and Risk Management. He was how to conduct a ceremony and the legislation behind marriage responsible for securing insurance coverage for the City and in Ontario. Completion and submission of paperwork to the processing insurance claims. Throughout his tenure with the Registrar General of Ontario is required for appointment as a Office of the City Clerk, he was responsible for the operation of marriage officiant. tabulating equipment for municipal elections and by-elections. He takes pride in being involved in the City's municipal elections What is the difference between a church marriage since 1987. He retired from the Office of the City Clerk in 2017.

Even in retirement, he continues to work for the City, part-time, officiating civil marriage ceremonies at Vaughan City Hall under the authority delegated to him by the City Clerk. In 2022, he officiated over 210 wedding ceremonies and in 2023, so far, he has officiated over 180 wedding ceremonies. During his tenure at the City of Vaughan, he has performed more than 1500 ceremonies.

What does a marriage officiant do?

A Marriage Officiant is responsible for the conduct of a marriage ceremony pursuant to the requirements set out by the Province of Ontario. The officiant is required to perform certain legal requirements outlined by the province to ensure marriages

are recognized by the province. This includes: consulting with the parties prior to the ceremony to ensure the parties wishes are being met; ensuring the marriage licence is properly signed by the parties; the date of the marriage is properly recorded; the licence is signed by the witnesses (over the age of 18 years); executing the marriage licence as the officiant; and submitting the licence after the ceremony to the Office of the Registrar General for the province of Ontario for registration.

What is the most problematic reason for not giving a marriage licence?

The most frequent problem faced by an issuer of marriage licence is the situation where one or both applicants have a previous divorce or annulment. If a divorce/annulment was issued in Canada, the applicant(s) will be required to present a certificate of divorce or annulment order, certified by the court, with the marriage licence application. A divorce order or divorce judgment will not be accepted. If the divorce was issued prior to January 1st, 1987, a final decree must be submitted.

If a divorce or annulment was issued outside of Canada, the applicant(s) will be required to present an authorization letter from the Office of the Registrar General with the licence application. This process can take up to four weeks to complete (via Service Ontario).

If a prior marriage was ended by the death of a spouse, a death certificate must be presented with the application.

What is your most memorable ceremony in the last few years?

and a municipal marriage?

The requirement to obtain a marriage licence to be married in Ontario has become commonplace, for both religious and civil marriages. Civil marriages conducted by the city have no religious connotation whatsoever.

Where do you see yourself in the next 10 years officiating ceremonies?

I would like to continue officiating for as long as I am able. I enjoy meeting people of various cultures, young and old and seeing the joy in their eyes when I pronounce them as being married. I see myself as the catalyst for the life that lies ahead of them in married life.



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The Canadian Camino: Stories of Courage, **Resilience and Hope**

by The Honourable Tony Loffreda, CPA Independent Canadian Senator (Quebec)

When I landed in Italy earlier this month to take part in the Walk for Remembrance and Peace, I knew the entire experience would be a sobering one. After all, I was joining hundreds of volunteers, civilians, military personnel, and Sicilians in commemorating the 80th anniversary of Operation Husky, the Allied landing on the island of Sicily during the Second World War.

I truly believe in this initiative and in the need to honour our fallen heroes which is why I decided to join the "Canadian Camino" this summer. This is a personal undertaking, solely funded with personal resources. Not one dime of taxpayer's money has been used for my participation in this special commemoration.

For the occasion, we embarked on a 325-km walk in Sicily where nearly 25,000 Canadian soldiers fought for 38 grueling days in July and August 1943. It was a major turning point during the war that



would eventually lead to the liberation of Italy and the victory of the Allied forces. As we continue to wind through the villages and towns of Sicily, I am struck by the warm

welcome we are receiving wherever we go, the generosity of our hosts, and the deep appreciation of Sicilians who are eternally grateful to Canadians who served in Operation Husky eight decades ago.

I've been here for less than two weeks, but residents have embraced our presence with open arms. Many people have shared touching stories with me of the legacy of our Canadian forces who made meaningful and lasting contributions to Italy at a time when it needed us the most. I've heard heartfelt testimony from families who lost loved ones during the war. The ravages of war are undeniably long-lasting and continue to be felt generations later.

Everywhere I go and everyone I've spoken with so far appreciate the sacrifice of our Canadian soldiers who courageously crossed the Atlantic Ocean, travelled thousands of miles to a foreign land, and joined our Allied partners to fight for peace, democracy, and freedom.

Honouring our fallen heroes during this Walk for Remembrance and Peace has also hit home for me personally.

My maternal grandfather Nicola D'Onofrio died during the last days of the war, along with three of his brothers who never came back from battle and whose bodies were never found. Widowed and grieving the loss of her dear husband, my grandmother Veronica single-handedly provided and cared for her seven children during a time of global uncertainty and post-war instability.

Severely devastated by the war, she left her wonderful village of San Gregorio Matese, north of Naples, and started her life over and raised (remarkably and successfully) seven outstanding individuals including my mother Maria, who was only four years old when her father passed away.

Senator Tony Loffreda

My family, like many families in Europe whose communities were devastated by the war, struggled through post-war poverty, but survived and learned how to enjoy the simple pleasures and necessities of life. Values such as community, hard work and commitment, kindness and altruism, spirituality, integrity, and humility were the bedrock of my mother's upbringing and were passed on to her by my grandmother Veronica. My mom



fully embraced these values, and they provided her with the tools, mindset, and positive attitude she needed as my parents, who were newlyweds, made the heart-wrenching decision in 1962 to leave war-torn Italy and make their way to Canada.

My mother's moral compass, one that I would describe as without reproach, was at the heart of our family unit in Canada. My parents instilled in my siblings and I these values that have guided us

throughout our lives, both professionally and personally, and that I now see in my two adult children. Being in Italy this summer is bringing back all these vivid memories of my own upbringing.

It has been a phenomenal learning experience to criss-cross through Sicily and interact with the locals. It was particularly moving on July 11th to address a large crowd who gathered in Rosolini to welcome our group and to stand next to the Italian Army's Bersaglieri. My father and my great uncles were members of this infantry corps. It certainly felt like a full-circle moment.

exercise in gratitude and self-reflection. Hearing these touching stories of war and devastation, combined with inspiring messages of hope, resiliency, and empowerment, reminds me of my good fortune to have been raised by two outstanding parents who chose Canada, a place that offered, and continues to provide, a wealth of opportunities for newcomers.

The Walk for Remembrance and Peace also gives me – and all those who are on this journey – an opportunity to further promote



peace and friendship and solidify the relationship between our two great nations. The bonds that unite us - that flourished and were cemented during Operation Husky in 1943 - are stronger than ever and I have witnessed it first-hand as we pursue

our "Canadian Camino" through Sicily. It is a truly humbling experience to be on this journey and one that I will remember forever.



Equally important, our journey has also been a very humbling



Founder, Youth2Youth Global Ida-Maria Carriero

By Ida-Maria Carriero, Singer, Songwriter, Dancer, Actress, Mental Health Advocate

Ida-Maria is a 15-year-old from Vaughan, Ontario. As a person who suffers from Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD), her mission is to share her story and stop the stigma around mental health with our youth. She provides workshops and motivational speaking through her non-for-profit organization Youth2Youth Global and is working to make mental health a part of the school curriculum for grades 4-8.

Music and dance have played a huge role in Ida-Maria's life and helped her to cope with her anxiety. Today, she wants to share the positive impacts of the arts on her mental health and wellbeing while inspiring others. Ida- Maria is a passionate singer songwriter, dancer, and actress who recently launched her first original song called "Today I" which talks about her personal struggles with anxiety.

As a voice for the youth as the reigning 2021 Miss Teenage York Region, and 1st Runner-up at this year's Miss Teen Confidence Canada, Ida-Maria continues to use her platform and determination to raise mental health awareness.

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Enhancing Business Success: The Vital Role of Chiropractic Care for Lawyers

By Dr. Yako Merogi

In the fast-paced and high-stress world of the business realm, lawyers often find themselves battling long hours, demanding deadlines, and intense mental exertion. As dedicated professionals focused on advocating for their clients, they sometimes neglect their own well-being. However, in order to thrive in the competitive business world, lawyers must prioritize their health, and chiropractic care emerges as a pivotal solution to maintain their physical and mental wellness.

The Importance of Chiropractic Care in the Business World:

Chiropractic care is a holistic healthcare approach that emphasizes the alignment of the spine and musculoskeletal system to ensure optimal nervous system functioning. Stress, prolonged sitting, and poor posture are common afflictions in the lives of lawyers, which can lead to a host of health issues such as back pain, neck pain, headaches, and reduced energy levels. Chiropractic care not only address these physical ailments but also aid in reducing stress and enhancing mental clarity.

Lawyers typically spend hours hunched over desks or computers, which can lead to misalignments in the spine and decreased mobility. Regular chiropractic visits can help correct these misalignments, promoting better posture and mitigating the risk of chronic pain and injury. By achieving better physical health, lawyers can stay focused, productive, and maintain their edge in the competitive business world.

What Lawyers Can Do to Stay Healthy:

- Prioritize Self-Care: Lawyers must recognize that their physical and mental health are integral to their success as professionals. Scheduling regular breaks, incorporating exercise, and practicing stress-relief techniques are essential in maintaining balance and resilience.
- Ergonomic Workstations: Creating an ergonomic workspace is crucial for lawyers who spend long hours at their desks. Investing in an ergonomic chair, adjustable desk, and proper computer monitor placement can significantly reduce strain on the neck, back, and wrists.
- Regular Exercise: Engaging in regular physical activity not only promotes overall health but also helps counteract the sedentary nature of a lawyer's work. Incorporate a mix of cardiovascular exercises, strength training, and flexibility exercises for a well-rounded routine.
- Stay Hydrated and Nourished: Hydration and a balanced diet are fundamental for sustained energy levels and mental acuity. Lawyers should aim to drink plenty of water throughout the day and opt for nutrient-rich foods that support cognitive function.
- Consistent Chiropractic Care: Visiting a chiropractor on a regular basis can provide lawyers with proactive care, addressing any emerging issues before they escalate into significant health problems. Chiropractors can customize treatment plans to suit individual needs, helping lawyers perform at their peak

In conclusion, in the competitive business world, lawyers cannot afford to neglect their health. Prioritizing regular chiropractic care offers numerous benefits, from maintaining physical well-being to improving mental focus and productivity. By implementing these wellness practices, lawyers can better navigate the demands of their profession while attaining success and fulfillment in both their personal and professional lives.



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Dr. Yako Merogi, D.C. Chiropractor, Acupuncture Provider

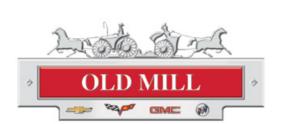
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SCHOFIELD MACCHIA



A Fearless, Relentless and Driven Advocate Melina Macchia

By Julia DiCesare

Melina Macchia is a Criminal Defence Lawyer who was raised in the City of Vaughan. She is a dedicated mother to her twin boys and lives in Toronto with her husband Gerry Grossi along with their two dogs. Her parents instilled in Melina and her brothers, Nino Macchia and Robert Macchia, the importance of a robust education together with a strong work ethic. Both sets of grandparents were immigrants from Southern Italy who left in search of opportunity for their families, and they further reinforced those values.

At a young age, Melina witnessed first-hand the success of her parents who are professionals. Mom, Nella Macchia a Lawyer with her own private practice in Vaughan for 37 years while Dad, Enzo Macchia, an Aerospace Engineer, now retired after 35 years with Pratt & Whitney Canada. Both her brothers are accomplished in their own right with Nino Macchia, a Registered Financial Planner with TD Wealth and Robert Macchia, President of Capstone Landscape Construction Inc. in the Greater Toronto Area. Above all, Melina and her siblings were encouraged to pursue their dreams and to never give up. As the eldest, Melina developed a competitive spirit and she brought this "never give up" attitude with her to the Woodbridge Strikers Soccer Club. She was the first to play on an all boys team in 1994. In 1995, the Woodbridge Strikers girls won the very first ever Regional Championship against the Richmond Hill Raiders team in penalty shoot outs. Melina Macchia was the winning goalie.

Melina's enthusiasm for Criminal law grew out of her desire to be independent and to carve her own path in life. While Nella Macchia was her early role model in the legal profession, Melina Macchia planted the seeds of her own success as a Criminal Defence Lawyer. She graduated from the "Dual JD PROGRAM' from Windsor Law School in 2012. Melina was captivated by criminal law from day one. Obtaining an American Juris Doctor Degree and an Ontario Juris Doctor degree in just three years, Melina grew in her independence while also building a close network of friends and colleagues whom she maintains today.

Out of law school, Melina's path to practice Criminal Law took her to Alan D. Gold, renowned Criminal Defence Attorney. This is where she learned how to be disciplined, the importance of preparation and how to win. Working closely with one of the foremost legal minds in the country, Melina absorbed every detail, every nuance, every opportunity to learn, every practice and experience in the exhilaration of the Courtroom.

Working as an Associate with Kim Schofield, Melina stood out. Dedicated, passionate and prepared are her mantras. She was quickly promoted to Associate Manager supervising ten Associates while conducting her own Cases, Trials, and Appeals. She made sure that her clients rights were at all times protected.

Most recently, Melina is greatly honoured to be recognized and named a **Partner** at Schofield Macchia and Associates. Having her name on the wall with Kim Schofield who is such an amazing Criminal Defence Lawyer, Partner and Mentor, was a dream. Kim has taught Melina the





intangibles of success. She is the epitome of a fearless, relentless and driven advocate who defends her clients and protects their rights by uncovering state misconduct, while also challenging the status quo.

In addition to the rigorous demands of her criminal law practice which includes defending clients who are charged with drugs, weapons, assault, and murder charges, Melina has been called upon to teach various Professional Development Courses by the Law Society of Ontario. She has written and had published an Article titled **"Smash and Secure, or Dynamic Entries: the Unfettered Ability of Police to enter a private dwelling without prior Announcement."** This Article received positive feedback from the Defence Bar and has been cited before the Superior Court of Justice by her colleagues.

Melina Macchia is passionate about advocating for change to the bail system in Canada. From her decade of experience with the Bail Courts, Melina Macchia finds that our system is exceedingly onerous on the accused. She would prefer a more reasonable bail system that does not make obtaining pre-trial release so difficult. The bail system is also overly reactive to political events which ultimately results in unjustified detention orders. These detention orders almost always happen to individuals who are vulnerable members of the public.

In order to improve the criminal justice system in Canada, Melina Macchia strongly believes that young people in particular need to be better educated about their rights. Without a fully informed and educated population, you cannot have the proper protection of rights in a democratic society.

The exemplary practice of Criminal Law takes an exceptional breed of lawyer. Melina Macchia, Partner at **Schofield Macchia and Associates** has demonstrated that she has the capacity, the passion, and commitment to be the very best.





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Josie Alonzi - The Voice 2020









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Reforming Education

By Nella Macchia

How can we improve outcomes? How can we improve graduation rates, scores in reading and math, literacy and skills so as to empower the next generations to succeed at work and in life?

As parents and children prepare for another school year, it is appropriate to consider reforming the education system in Ontario. While I am not an educator nor do I profess to be one, I have informed myself by speaking to many of my teacher friends, parents, and at one point in time I was a student of this Ontario education system. After speaking with front line workers, teachers, parents and listening to their issues and challenges, the following are the challenges.

The front line workers teachers, assistants and parents are able to see what is happening in the classrooms is a reflection of what is happening in the every changing Ontario society. We have a disproportionate number of single parent families and single income families supporting children with insufficient resources. We have mixed family. We have children living part of the time with one parent or grandparents. We have children in need of mental health supports and grievance issues that are on wait lists that exceed the school year. These are challenging dynamics. We have an influx or immigrants and refugees with children entering school with the inability to speak the language in order to learn. While I am not providing any statistics, I think that from a common sense approach, we can all see that the education system is under considerable strain.

In order to address these issues we must firstly recognize that greater financial supports are needed. We need to improve funding in order to address the multitude of issues.

Secondly, I believe that as our economic system has undergone a structural change, our school system must be changed. For example, we traditionally start school in September, the first day after Labour Day and end usually the last week of June. This system was a reflection of our agricultural based economy. The children were dismissed in June so they could help the family on the farm... While the rural farm life has evolved to a more urban centered life, the school year has remained paralyzed. With the pandemic, schools were shuttered and some form of learning happened from home

computers. We need to examine the concept of year round learning to improve outcomes. Its well known that a lengthy break during the summer means many students forget what they learned and concepts have to be retaught in order to build on previous concepts. If we can create a system that allows continuous and accelerated learning, some students can move through the school year faster and continue to be challenged rather than waiting for other classmates to catch up. The ones that need extra time and attention can get it because there are fewer classmates making demands on their teachers

Thirdly, I am happy to see a return to basics such as cursive writing and multiplication tables which were tossed by the wayside many years ago.

Fourthly, how can students learn if they are hungry? Simply impossible and we need more breakfast programs to ensure that all students have an equal chance to succeed.

Fifthly, how can we create an inclusive and equitable society if newcomers don't have an opportunity to learn the language or get assistance with reading, writing before and after school. These supports are needed to be readily available to all who need it so students have an equal chance at success.

Sixthly, mentorship programs should be part and parcel of the curriculum so that high school and university students can be pulled in to provide support for these before and after school programs and to mentor youth to stay in school.

Seventhly, the system should encourage retired professionals to get involved and provide insights for students on future career paths, for example, Trades, engineers accountants. These individuals can enrich the curriculum and give students a pathway to success.

Eighthly, Swimming is a life skill. Yet every year many children and young people die needlessly because they did not learn to swim. Parents are stressed out with the demands of daily life. Having swimming incorporated into the school curriculum is something we cannot ignore and should not ignore.

Ninthly, once a student has completed their formal education, they should be required to travel across our beautiful country to explore and be amazed. A final essay on what Canada means to our student will enrich their educational experience with a learning lesson that the classroom cannot replicate.

These are my thoughts on reforming the Education system in Ontario and I would encourage you to call or email your Member of Provincial Parliament to conduct a review of our education system.



Nella Macchia Barrister & Solicitor, Notary Public

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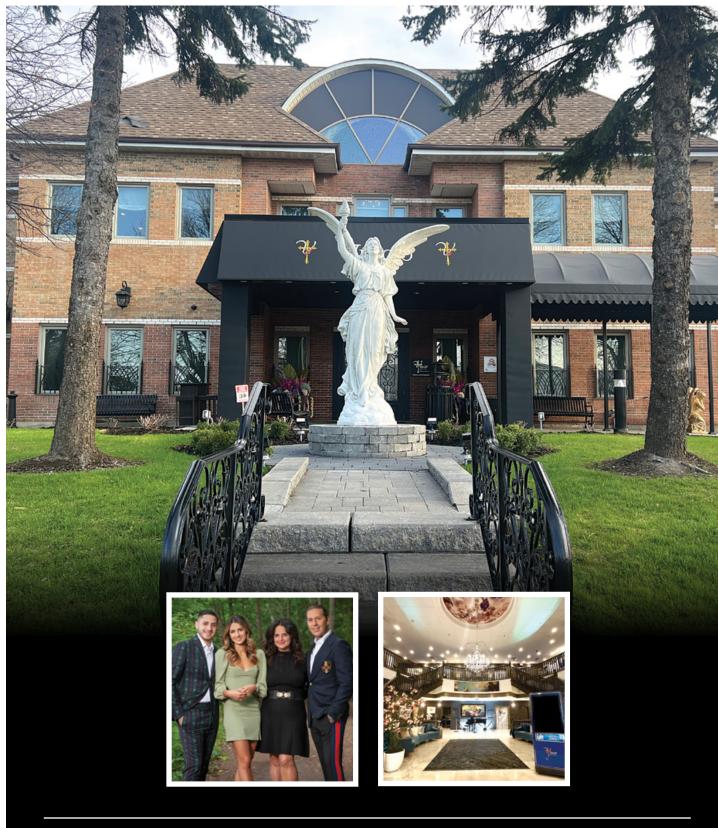


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66 This Thanksgiving, let us reflect and be thankful for our blessings, and continue to make memories with our loved ones to last a life time. From my family to yours, wishing you a Harvest filled with good health and good times...

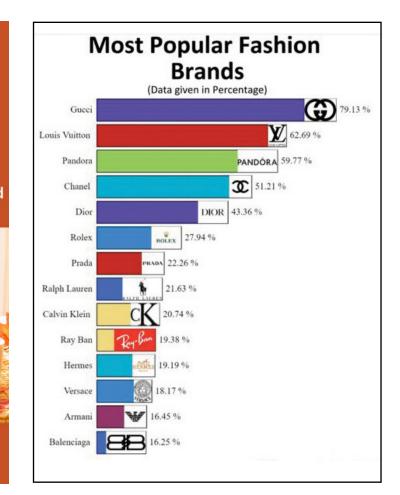


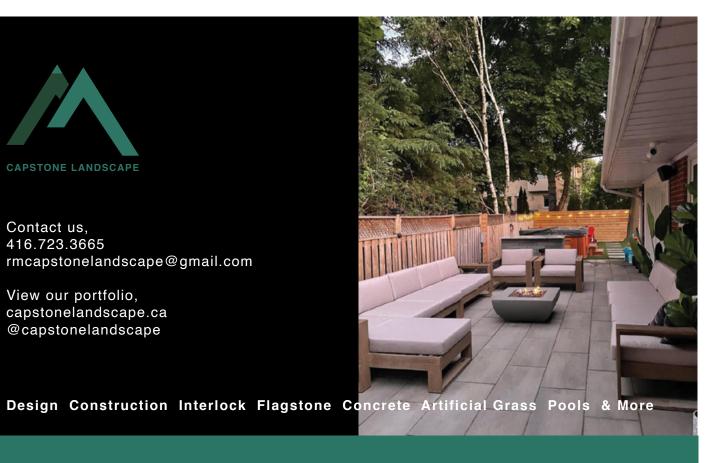
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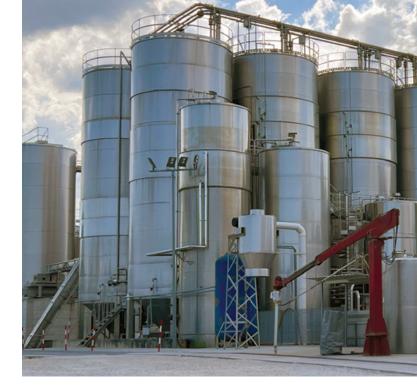
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Winemaking in Orsogna, Italia By Angelo Filoso

In 1964 35 winemakers came together to give life to a dream: the wine cooperative of Orsogna Village which is located in the province of Chieti Italia, born following the strong agricultural fragmentation of the area where many small family run companies who found aggregation the solution to insure their survival.

Today there are 454 members all wine makers who absorbed over time the culture, tradition, experience and knowledge of the territory from their grandparents. The basic unit of the cooperative winery is the small farm where the accumulated experience and knowledge are passed on to new generations. Family farms have their strength and balance in effort and are not linked to the strict organization of working days typical of big companies, a quality standard that is transferred to food becoming a guarantee for consumers.

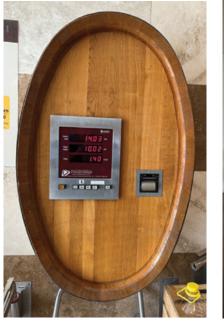
How to Preserve Wine

Wine age is best at a constant temperature of 55 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit and 55 to 75 percent humidity along with absence of light and vibrations. Higher temperatures tend to accelerate the aging process when the humidity dips to 55 percent, corks tend to dry out and allow too much air in the bottle which can cause the wine to spoil.

The wine cellar does not have to be an elaborate, but it can be as simple as a spare room or a closet in your home as long as they meet the climate and humidity requirements. This type of cellar is fairly easy to create for your wine storage in your home.









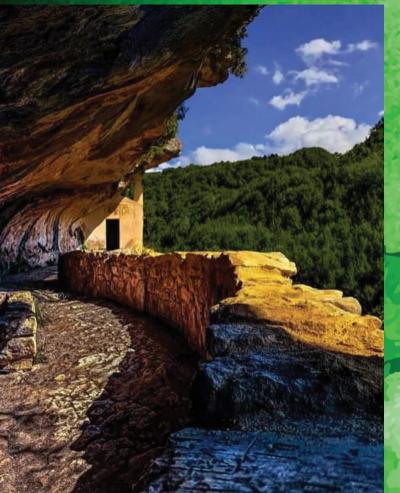
Discovering Abruzzo

By Angelo Filoso

Abruzzo is considered a region of Southern Italy in terms of its culture, language, history, and economy, though in terms of physical geography it may also be considered part of Central Italy. The Italian Statistical Authority (ISTAT) also deems it to be part of Southern Italy, partly because of Abruzzo's historic association with the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies.

Almost half of the region's territory is protected through national parks and nature reserves, more than any administrative region on the continent, leading it to be dubbed "the greenest region in Europe." There are three national parks, one regional park, and 38 protected nature reserves. These ensure the survival of rare species, such as the golden eagle, the Abruzzo (or Abruzzese) chamois, the Apennine wolf and the Marsican brown bear. Abruzzo's parks and reserves host 75% of Europe's animal species. The region is also home to Calderone, one of Europe's southernmost glaciers.

Nineteenth-century Italian diplomat and journalist Primo Levi [it] (1853–1917) chose the adjectives forte e gentile ("strong and kind") to capture what he saw as the character of the region and its people. "Forte e gentile" has since become the motto of the region.









































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