

# HONORING CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS A Legacy of Discovery?

By Brother Joe Griffo



**Christopher Columbus** is remembered as one of history's most significant explorers, a man whose courage and determination helped open a new chapter in the story of civilization. In 1492, with the support of Spain, Columbus set out into uncharted waters with a bold vision: to find new lands by sailing west across the Atlantic. At a time when much of the world remained a mystery, his willingness to risk everything for discovery was an extraordinary act of faith and perseverance.

Columbus's voyage stands as a turning point in history. His successful crossing connected Europe and the Americas, two worlds that had long been separated. This encounter sparked the Age of Exploration, a time of new ideas, trade, and cultural exchange that transformed societies and shaped the course of the modern era. Through his daring, Columbus helped to expand the boundaries of human knowledge, and his achievements inspired generations of explorers who followed in his path. What makes Columbus so enduring as a historical figure is not only the discovery itself, but the qualities he embodied. He faced skepticism, doubt, and great risk, yet he pressed forward with courage and conviction. His journey reminds us that true progress often begins with visionaries who dare to go beyond the limits of the known. Columbus symbolizes the adventurous spirit that drives humanity to push boundaries, seek new opportunities, and embrace the promise of the unknown.

As we commemorate Christopher Columbus, we honor more than a man; we celebrate the spirit of exploration, ambition, and discovery. His legacy continues to remind us that the world we live in today was shaped by those willing to chart new courses and open new doors. Columbus's voyages were not only a feat of navigation but also a triumph of determination—an achievement that continues to inspire us centuries later.

On this day, we reflect on his historic accomplishments and the vision that made them possible. We remember Columbus as a symbol of bravery, ambition, and unity between continents. His story serves as a timeless reminder that with courage and faith, humanity can achieve the extraordinary.

## Antonio Meucci: The Forgotten Pioneer of The Telephone

By Brother Nando Alpuche

When we think of the telephone, the name Alexander Graham Bell usually comes first. Yet, years before Bell's patent in 1876, an Italian inventor named Antonio Meucci had already developed a remarkable device capable of transmitting sound through wires. He called it the "teletrofono." Meucci's story is one of ingenuity and perseverance, but also of hardship and missed recognition—a reminder that innovation often depends as much on resources as on creativity.

Antonio Meucci was born on April 13, 1808, in Florence, Italy, where he studied design and mechanical engineering at the Florence Academy of Fine Arts. Skilled and imaginative, he nurtured a passion for invention early in life. In 1850, he immigrated to the United States, settling in Staten Island, New York, where he continued his experiments while supporting himself and his wife through modest means.

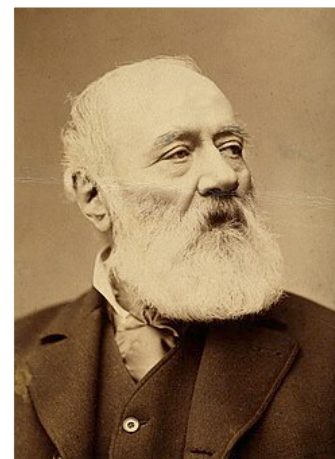
By 1857, Meucci had succeeded in creating a working prototype of what he called the teletrofono—a kind of "talking telegraph." His invention could carry voice signals along wires, laying the groundwork for modern communication.

Recognizing the significance of his work, he filed a patent caveat in 1871, which served as a temporary notice of his invention. Unfortunately, due to financial hardship and illness, he was unable to renew or expand this caveat into a full patent.

This lapse proved costly. In 1876, just a few years later, Alexander Graham Bell filed and was granted a patent for the telephone. With Bell's patent secured, Meucci's claims were overshadowed and largely forgotten. While Bell achieved fame and commercial success, Meucci died in October 1889, poor and unrecognized for his extraordinary contribution.

It would take more than a century for history to begin correcting this oversight. In 2002, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution officially acknowledging Antonio Meucci's pioneering role in developing the telephone. This long-delayed recognition restored his place in the story of one of the world's most transformative inventions.

Meucci's life highlights not only the brilliance of his mind but also the struggles faced by inventors working without wealth or powerful connections. His journey from Florence to New York, from innovation to obscurity, and finally to



posthumous recognition, is a powerful reminder that history's greatest breakthroughs are often built on the work of those who never lived to see the credit they deserved.



# EVENT GUIDE



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or  
Sis. Pamela Danza  
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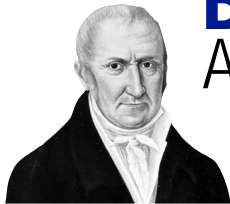
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# CULTURAL CLASSROOM



## BIOGRAFIA ALESSANDRO VOLTA

Born February 18, 1745, Como, Lombardy  
Died March 5, 1827, Como, Lombardy

Alessandro Giuseppe Antonio Anastasio Volta was an Italian chemist and physicist who was a pioneer of electricity and power, and is credited as the inventor of the electric battery and the discoverer of methane. He invented the voltaic pile in 1799, and reported the results of his experiments in a two-part letter to the president of the Royal Society, which was published in 1800. With this invention, Volta proved that electricity could be generated chemically and debunked the prevalent theory that electricity was generated solely by living beings. Volta's invention sparked a great amount of scientific excitement and led others to conduct similar experiments, which eventually led to the development of the field of electrochemistry.



## TRAVELROME

The "Rome Jubilee" refers to Jubilee 2025, also known as the Holy Year, a significant event in the Catholic Church that starts on Christmas Eve, 2024, and concludes in January 2026. It's a time of spiritual renewal, pilgrimage, and forgiveness for Catholics worldwide, centered around the opening of Holy Doors at major basilicas in Rome, including St. Peter's Basilica. Millions of pilgrims are expected to visit Rome during this period to participate in religious rites and seek a plenary indulgence.

# CUCINA

## C O R N E R

### Bucatini all'Amatriciana

**Cook** 25 mins • **Active** 20 mins  
**Total** 25 mins • **Serves** 4 servings

#### Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon (15 ml) extra-virgin olive oil
- 6 ounces (170 g) guanciale, cut into slices about 1/8 inch thick and then into 3/4- by 1/4-inch strips (see notes)
- Pinch red pepper flakes
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) dry white wine
- 1 (28-ounce; 794 g) can whole peeled tomatoes, crushed by hand
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 pound (450 g) dried bucatini pasta (see notes)
- 1 ounce (30 g) grated Pecorino Romano cheese, plus more for serving

#### Directions

1. In a large skillet, heat olive oil over medium-high heat until shimmering.
2. Add guanciale and pepper flakes and cook, stirring, until lightly browned, about 5 minutes.

3. Add wine and cook, scraping up any browned bits on bottom of pan, until nearly evaporated, about 3 minutes.
4. Add tomatoes and bring to a simmer. Season with salt and pepper.
5. Meanwhile, boil pasta in salted water until just shy of al dente, about 1 minute less than package recommends. Using tongs, transfer pasta to sauce, along with 1/4 cup pasta cooking water.
6. Cook over high heat, stirring and tossing rapidly, until pasta is al dente and sauce has thickened and begins to coat noodles.
7. Remove from heat, add cheese, and stir rapidly to incorporate.
8. Season to taste with more salt and pepper. Serve right away, passing more cheese at the table.

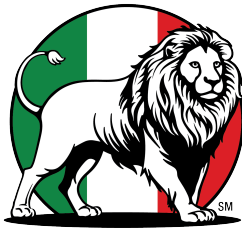
#### Notes

Guanciale (cured pork jowl) will give the sauce the best texture, but if your best option is good pancetta, use it instead. Bucatini is a type of thick, hollow spaghetti; you can substitute regular spaghetti, or even penne.



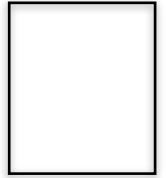
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# AVANTI

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The Avanti will be published 4 times a year. Please mark your calendar for the events you would like to attend so you don't miss out on our wonderful events throughout the year.

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