



Miss US Italia National Pageant Contestant Information Guide

Embark on a Meaningful Journey

Are you ready for an exciting and transformative adventure? This is your opportunity to be part of the Miss US Italia Pageant and become part of an inspiring, empowering, fun and unforgettable experience.

Miss US Italia is more than just being on stage for the pageant. It is a celebration of confidence, culture, and community. Contestants not only enjoy the thrill of competition but also gain valuable opportunities for personal growth. Throughout the pageant journey, participants build self-confidence, strengthen communication and interview skills, develop leadership abilities, and refine their poise—skills that will benefit them for a lifetime. Not to mention, creating fabulous memories and making connections with other girls and women that could last a lifetime.

We kindly encourage you to review the MISS US ITALIA CONTESTANT PACKET, thoroughly as it contains essential information pertinent to your participation before, during, and after the pageant weekend.

Eligibility and Heritage

The Miss US Italia Pageant welcomes female individuals who are either Italian American U.S. citizens by birth or of Italian descent. This includes those born in the U.S. to Italian parents or grandparents, as well as individuals born in Italy who later moved to the United States. Contestants must have either full or partial Italian ancestry and be prepared to explain their family lineage if requested.

The Value and Benefits of Pageantry

Pageantry provides a powerful platform for stepping outside your comfort zone, celebrating Italian American heritage, giving back to your community, advocating for meaningful causes, and discovering more about yourself along the way. Participation in pageants is an exciting and rewarding experience that goes far beyond the stage. While it is filled with glamour, fun, and unforgettable memories, it is also a powerful opportunity for personal and professional growth. Contestants develop valuable skills such as public speaking, interview confidence, time management, and personal presentation.

Just as important is the personal growth that comes from the journey. Pageants encourage self-discovery, resilience, and confidence, helping contestants learn more about who they are and what they stand for. Many participants build lifelong friendships, connect with mentors, and find meaningful ways to give back to their communities through advocacy and service. At its heart, pageantry is a celebration of individuality, culture, and growth — creating an experience that is not only fun and empowering, but truly valuable long after the event ends.

What Sets Us Apart

Miss US Italia is not a traditional all-ages beauty pageant. There are no swimsuit or talent competitions. Instead, we pageant celebrates girls and women who embody inner beauty, are proud of their Italian American heritage and would like to make a difference. Titleholders represent both the organization and the Italian American community publicly through appearances at parades, cultural events, and collaborations with charitable organizations throughout their reign.

No Experience Required

No prior pageant experience is necessary to compete in Miss US Italia National Pageant. Many contestants are first-timers, and all are welcomed equally. There are no requirements regarding height, weight, education, or career. Contestants are evaluated only on their competition performance, personalities, authenticity, and biographies submitted to the judges. The organization seeks confident, well-rounded individuals who will represent Miss US Italia and the Italian American community in a positive and authentic way.

Application Requirements

- Be a naturally born female
- Reside within the United States
- Compete in the appropriate age division
- Have Italian American heritage through birth or ancestry

Contestants are not required to be born in Italy; however, eligibility requires at least 25% Italian heritage through either parents or grandparents.

Competition Segments Tips

Miss US Italia places emphasis on elegance, individuality, and authenticity. Judges evaluate contestants based on poise, overall presentation, personal style, and both interview and on-stage presence.

- **Attire Guidelines:** Contestants are encouraged to select attire that appropriately reflects their personalities and self-assurance. Outfits should maintain age appropriateness and sophistication. For the interview portion, acceptable options include dresses, skirts, coordinated sets, jumpsuits, or suits, provided they contribute to a polished overall appearance. Candidates should refrain from wearing outfits with distracting or excessive dangling embellishments, or attire that is excessively revealing. For the Formal Wear portion of the competition, contestants aged 6–14 may opt for either short or long dresses; those aged 15 and above are encouraged to choose long gowns.

- Interview: The interview segment assesses each contestant's personality, communication abilities, and stage presence. Questions may address Italian American family traditions, heritage, personal interests, academic or professional aspirations, community engagement, and perspectives on being Italian American in the United States. Questions will be based on information the contestants provided on their pageant application and bio. This segment is intended to be relaxed, authentic, and engaging.
- Photogenic Awards: Two awards will be presented for the Photogenic Competition: one chosen by the pageant organizers and another by viewers in an online competition held before the event. Details about the Viewer's Choice Photogenic Competition will be forwarded prior to the competition.

The Isabella Corcelli Community Service Award

In recognition of outstanding philanthropic spirit, the Miss US Italia Pageant proudly features the Isabella Corcelli Community Service Award. This distinguished honor commemorates Isabella Corcelli, one of the earliest Miss Rhode Island titleholders, whose courageous battle with cancer ended in February 2016 at just 21 years old. The award is conferred upon an outgoing titleholder who exemplifies extraordinary dedication to community service, volunteerism, and charitable engagement. Recipients of this award embody the qualities that defined Isabella's legacy—compassion, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to positively impacting the lives of others.

Photo Requirements

Applicants are required to upload a photograph as part of the application process. This image may be a selfie or a casual photo; while professional photographs are not mandatory, they are permissible. For the Official Program Book Photo, contestants must submit a front-facing headshot or head-and-shoulders portrait in full color and high resolution. Both professional and non-professional headshots are acceptable. A light background is preferable, though not compulsory. The submitted photo must depict only the contestant, with no other individuals or pets present. Acceptable file formats are JPEG or PNG; PDF files will not be accepted.

Age Divisions & Placement

The Miss US Italia Pageant consists of six age divisions, based on a contestant's age at the time of the pageant. Divisions are not based on marital status. The age divisions are:

- Ages 6–9
- Ages 10–14
- Ages 15–18
- Ages 19–26
- Ages 27–39
- Ages 40 and up

Each division has limited availability, so early registration is encouraged. The organization aims to create a fair and enjoyable experience for all. If necessary, age divisions may be adjusted to ensure balanced competition, with any changes communicated at least three weeks prior to the pageant.

Program Book Spotlight Pages

All contestants' headshots will be featured in the Contestant Lineup section of the program book. Spotlight Pages may be purchased by contestants, their families, friends, or supporting businesses for a nominal fee to provide additional exposure; however, these are not mandatory for participation. Spotlight Pages may contain "Good Luck" messages, business logos, or other approved content, and multiple pages with different photographs are permitted. Please note that crowns and banners from other pageant organizations are prohibited. Comprehensive guidelines regarding Spotlight Pages and submission deadlines will be forwarded prior to the event.

Professional Photography and Videography

Professional photographs and video recordings will be accessible to all contestants for a nominal fee. Further information will be communicated prior to the event.

Preparatory Class Option

A preparatory class will be available for contestants seeking to enhance their stage presence, walking and confidence. Sessions are scheduled prior to the event in Rhode Island and on the Saturday morning of the pageant, contingent upon participant interest. Additional details will be provided later.

Meet and Greet Events, Gatherings, and After Party

To honor Providence, Rhode Island—our esteemed host city—meet-and-greet events along with organized outings for contestants and their families will be held at designated venues throughout the weekend. Additional details will be provided as they become available.

Titleholder Commitments and Scheduling

Miss US Italia prioritizes education, career, and family and understands that everyone has different schedules and commitments. As a titleholder, your appearances can be scheduled around your family, school and work commitments. You will be responsible for the organization of your appearances in your home state, which may include events like parades, guest appearances, assisting in charitable events or speaking engagements. All appearance plans require approval through the Miss US Italia Pageant organization in advance. Titleholders are responsible for their own appearance expenses.

Pageant Registration Fee

Pageant registration fee of \$225 per contestant is mandatory and must be submitted with your application. The fees generally cover the cost of venue and administration fees, production expenses and contestant gifts. For your convenience REGISTRATION FEES can be paid on our website.

Event Tickets

Contestants are not required to purchase tickets to the event. Admission is complimentary for children under 10 years of age. Tickets will be available three months prior to the date of the event and early purchase is recommended due to limited seating capacity. You will receive notification once tickets are available for purchase.

Hair and Makeup Services

While space for personal hair and makeup professionals will not be available backstage, we will have qualified artists and stylists available to hire for a nominal fee. Appointments must be made in advance and will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. Those staying at the hotel are welcome to prepare in their rooms, provided they are ready prior to lineup. Additional details regarding hair and makeup services will be communicated prior to pageant weekend.

Backstage and Dressing Room Policies

No parents, family members, makeup artists, or others are allowed backstage or in the dressing room for contestants aged 16 and above. For contestants under 16, one parent may assist with dressing prior to contestant lineup. Only females are allowed in the dressing room. Pageant staff will be present backstage to chaperone during the event.

Event Venue and Hotel Accommodations

The Providence Downtown Marriott at 1 Orms Street offers resort-style amenities, including the city's only indoor/outdoor pool. Discounted rooms are available for contestants and families, though space is limited. The hotel is near local attractions like the State Capitol, Amtrak Station, Roger Williams Park Zoo, Brown University, RI School of Design, Waterfire Providence, and Providence Place Mall, with a free shuttle covering a 1.5-mile radius. Amenities include pet-friendly rooms, a full-service spa, a 24-hour health club, dining at Bluefin Grille and AQUA, plus paid parking options.

Final Note

This pageant experience is designed to be both engaging and enjoyable. Contestants are encouraged to present themselves authentically, celebrate their heritage, and develop meaningful connections with fellow participants that may result in long-lasting friendships. It is important to appreciate each stage of the journey and enjoy it.

Prior to the event, contestants will receive regular group emails containing key reminders, updates, and details related to the 2025 Miss US Italia National Pageant. Upon receipt of each email, contestants are required to reply with "RECEIVED AND REVIEWED" followed by their name. This procedure ensures effective communication and helps maintain a smooth and informed process as the event approaches.

Later, you will receive information regarding:

- Hair and Makeup Services
- Program Book Photos, Photogenic Competition and Spotlight Pages
- Event Photo and Video Purchases
- Event Ticket Sales
- Preparatory Class Option
- Meet and Greet Opportunities for Contestants and Their Families

If you have any questions regarding information in this document, please feel free to email Pat Cruz, Pageant Director Miss US Italia National Pageant patpaolinocruz@gmail.com.