240427 BRA Italian Festival Saint Pete Pier

Any excuse for a festival. Actually, an Italian festival is an excellent excuse. It was very well attended. In fact most of the food venues had trouble keeping up. Italian art, automobiles, food and clothing are well-known and was a good reason to gather and celebrate.



The Italian festival was sponsored by Lamborghini Sarasota. It was great to see the Lambo there. As you see some other exotic Italian snuck in there at the last minute. I'm sure that none of the men went to see the exotic cars. Sure.



A spectacular late spring day in St. Petersburg Florida. You couldn't get much more clear and hot than this for spring day. It was a blessing note that the wind was blowing 15 to 20 miles an hour. They kept it cool.



As an aside, if you have never taken your young kids to the playground located at the Saint Pete pier you should give it a try. This is really a hidden gem. It's tucked away and heavy foliage so you never know it's there. But look for it and if you have young children, you'll be glad you found it.



This is the flag of Sicily. It's a beautiful flag and one that's very memorable. There is plenty of comedic content about the fact that there are Italians and then of course there's Sicily. They consider themselves separate, but really it's one people with one modern country. But it's a beautiful and unique flag.



This of course is the flag of Sicily. It's the same colors in the same order in the same pattern as the flag flag of Mexico. But, the flag of Mexico has the emblem in the center section. Otherwise it's identical. I don't know why. But the Italian flag is simple and beautiful



The food court is located across the water play park. This was a good way to separate it from the open area near the spa beach. There was too much wind over there and it was good to be able to sit out and enjoy the open area. There was music as well as lots of kids playing. Can't beat that.





Just to make sure that and he lost a tie and knew he was in the United States, there was deep fried ravioli. I can't make that up. But the food was hearty and plenty. As stated earlier, the food trucks could hardly keep up.



There's of course the smoking Indian of the old tobacco shops. But this appears to be Neptune almost full size and in concrete holding a Forza Italia soccer flag. It's great advertising and good for the wind conditions. I would hate to have to move this thing around. It did attract a lot of attention.



And of course, the Italian music would not be complete without the accordion. I played the accordion at the request of my parents as a young Italian immigrant. I wanted to play the guitar, but the studio owner was Italian and convinced my mother and father that it would hurt my fingers. I did seven years of lessons and I've never played the accordion since. What a shame. I wish I'd taken guitar lessons.

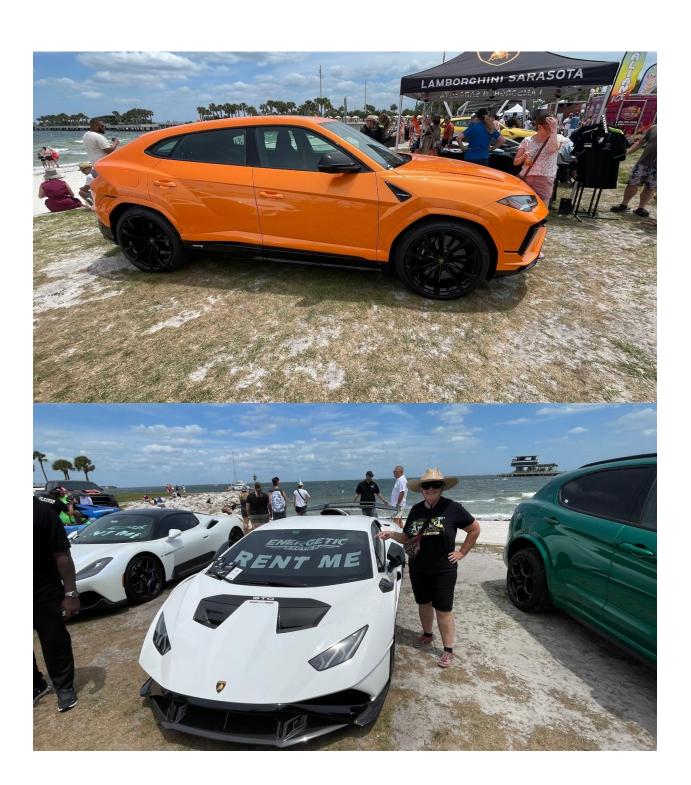


Gelato. If you go to Italy, the one thing that they are manic about eating is gelato. There are as many gelatos in Italy along the street as there are Starbucks here in the United States. Well, maybe not that many. But it's very popular. The gelato here of course is completely different from the Italian version. These flavors are pistachio and will not be filed in Italy. They were delicious.



And then there were the cars. There were plenty of Lamborghinis, but the dealership also brought up some Maseratis. There were a few older cars, such as Ferraris. Italian cars are well known and beautiful. I guess you could say that they're high maintenance but if you have to worry about that, then you can't afford these cars. This is strictly for show.







There was music and tables for sitting and lots of talking. There was one T-shirt that was sold that said I'm not yelling. I'm Italian. The Italians do speak with loud voices. I remember that as an immigrant back in the 1960's and had to learn to lower my voice. But today, I don't think they worry and they talk just as loud as they want.



Thanks goes to St Petersburg for hosting a great event. This was very well attended. The food actually ran out before the end of the event. Lots of people. There are supposedly 372 events per year. Do the math and you'll see that there's always something to do.



Keep smiling! END