

italea



The journey to your roots

Italy, the land of our roots

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Antonio Tajani,
Minister of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation

ITALEA

Discover and connect with your Italian roots

Embark on a journey through Italy's wonders to uncover your roots and reconnect with the places, traditions, and culture of your ancestors. The Italea project, designed for Italians abroad and their descendants who wish to trace their origins, has begun. This initiative not only provides emotional value but also stimulates tourism and economic activity by fostering a sense of belonging and encouraging a "return" effect. Italea is a roots tourism promotion program launched by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation as part of the NRRP project, funded by NextGenerationEU for the period 2022-2025.

The project offers a range of tourist services to facilitate travel in Italy, with each region providing information, welcoming, and assisting travelers seeking their roots. Detailed information about the project can be found on the website italea.com. Italea caters to both those who are already aware of their Italian heritage and those who need to discover it, with the help of a network of reliable genealogists who assist in tracing their ancestry. Besides strengthening ties with Italian communities abroad, Italea aims to boost economic and employment growth in small Italian towns and promote sustainable tourism by restoring historic homes and unused infrastructure. «This is a

team effort among central institutions, local authorities, the private sector, and associations to bring millions of Italians living abroad back to their roots while enhancing our country's small villages. The NRRP project dedicated to heritage tourism sends a significant signal to the over 6 million Italians abroad and the 80 million Italian descendants, as well as a tool to enhance hundreds of small Italian municipalities,» stated the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Antonio Tajani, during the project presentation. The consular registry has surpassed 6.5 million registrants, and an estimated 80 million people of Italian descent worldwide (about 27 million in Brazil, 20 million each in the USA and Argentina, 2 million in Canada, and 1.5 million in Australia) are the target of this heritage tourism project.

«To promote growth and employment in economically and socially disadvantaged areas, we have selected and we are training groups of young hospitality professionals in each region who, with the resources from the NRRP, will enhance the offering of tourist services across the territory: tour guides, travel agents offering packages tailored to this type of tourism, and communication experts,» Tajani concluded.

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Leaving? Yes, but with the Italea Card

In the context of the project, the Italea Card is envisaged: a digital card that will entitle holders to discounts, benefits, and services from Italea's partner companies.

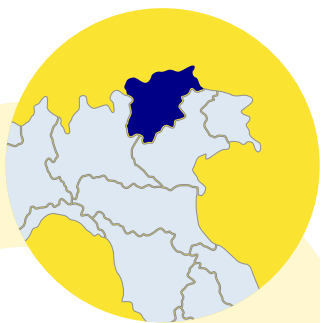
2024, a year to remember

2024 marks the Year of Italian roots worldwide, dedicated to welcoming root travelers, and signaling the perfect time for a journey to the Belpaese.

This is what "talea" means

The name Italea derives from "talea," a practice by which a plant is allowed to propagate. By cutting off a part of it and replanting it, a new life can be given to it.





Canal San Bovo TRENTINO ALTO ADIGE

Excursions and walks reveal the charm of the village offering breathtaking views of the Cauriol and Totoga peaks

Water, wood and spirituality in the heart of the Vanoi Valley

Mountains, forests and the charm of a mountain village. This is what awaits the traveler visiting the village of Canal San Bovo, in the heart of the Vanoi Valley in Trentino: from the historic center of this town of about 1,500 inhabitants, it is indeed possible to admire the peaks of Cauriol and Totoga, while from the villages of Zortea, Prade and Gobbera, hamlets of Canal San Bovo, there are walks and hikes serving as an ideal starting point for trips and visits to Valle Zortea and Lake Calaita.

This area is also the heart of the Vanoi Ecomuseum, created 20 years ago with the start of the Vanoi Ethnographic Trail project and promoted by the Paneveggio-Pale di San Martino Nature Park and the Museum of Customs and Traditions of Trentino People. The evocative path spread and extended to the entire environment, landscape, places, traditions, material and spiritual culture makes the Vanoi Valley unique. The Ecomuseum is structured around a few pivotal themes, which symbolize the essence of the area and extend throughout the territory. The first is water, represented by the Torrente del Vanoi, for centuries a route for transporting lumber with mills and sawmills, fountains and irrigation ditches. The second, wood, has been the real wealth of Vanoi since the 14th Century: thanks to its rich forests, the valley is still one of the largest producers in the country. And then stone, the image of an area rich in metal and silver mines.

Signs of the sacred are scattered everywhere and they are a key element of the Ecomuseum, starting with the small church of Zortea, a yellow dot over a thousand meters above sea level, dating back to the 17th Century and dedicated to Santa Romina and Maria Ausiliatrice. The centerpiece of the Ecomuseum is its House, located right in the village of Canal San Bovo and overlooking the main square. Here, in addition to the information point on all the museum's activities and mission, are the three exhibition rooms that illustrate all the themes around which the Ecomuseum unfolds, but also some multi-functional rooms where meetings and public evenings are organized, workshops and courses on traditional knowledge, the winter strands of the embroidery group and the pensioners' club, and where temporary exhibitions and displays are then set up. Finally, the Ecomuseum House houses the library and is the starting point of the Water Ring, which winds its way between the banks of the Lozen and Vanoi streams, offering unprecedented views and glimpses of the local landscape as seen from the valley floor.



The journey to discover our roots begins

With the first issue of the Roots Tourism Magazine, the journey to discover some of the more than 800 municipalities that are part of the Italea project begins. During the monthly issues we will discover unforgettable places in all Italian regions.



ADDITIONAL DESTINATIONS TO EXPLORE

Located just over an hour's drive from Canal San Bovo is Val Venegia, a guided reserve subject to various protections. This breathtaking botanical garden, sculpted by the Travignolo and Rio Vallazza rivers, boasts over five hundred different plant species as identified by scientists.



HOW TO GET THERE

You can reach Canal San Bovo by provincial road or by taking a high-speed train to Trento. From Trento, the village is accessible by regional train in about two hours, by bus in about four hours, or by car in approximately an hour and a half. The nearest airport is in Treviso.

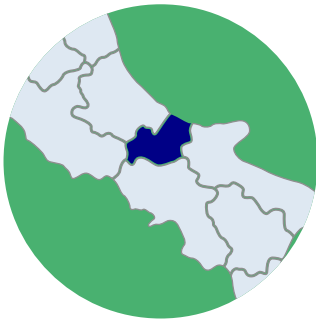
The starting point of a unique journey



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The journey to your roots

Castelpizzuto MOLISE



Following the legend of the Lord of the Snake

This enchanting spot captures
the essence of the region
During springtime, it celebrates
St. Dominic the Abbot

With a population of just 129 residents, this small municipality in the mountain community may be tiny, but its breathtaking landscapes and rich history make it a truly enchanting destination in Molise. Located in the Matese mountains, Castelpizzuto's area provides access to Mount Patalecchia, which stands at 1,400 meters, and Vallone Lorda, which drops to 700 meters. The town's name, "Rocca di Pizzuto" or "Castrum piczutum," was derived from the distinctive shape of the mountain it is situated on. This extensive expedition means that from this small mountain settlement, you can see Isernia, the Mainerde and the Matese massif. The heart of the village is bisected by the Fossa della Cucina, a picturesque green trench that divides

the small community. Here, you'll find a charming blend of rural architecture, with its time-honored stone houses, shingle roofs, and rustic facades. Along the village streets, alongside the ancient baronial palace featuring a circular turret, stands the Church of Sant'Agata, which dates back to the Middle Ages. Constructed in close proximity to the castle, this ecclesiastical structure has undergone multiple restorations.

During Spring, Castelpizzuto offers more than just beautiful weather and fresh air. It is a place deeply rooted in its traditions, and one particular event makes it worth a visit. On the last Sunday of May, the village comes alive to celebrate San Domenico Abate, known as the "Lord of Snakes." This revered figure is believed to possess the power to heal snake and dog bites. Prior to the 1920s, it was customary to adorn the statue of the saint with snakes found in the vicinity of the town during the celebration. However, this tradition came to an abrupt end following a tragic incident that has been passed down through local folklore. According to the story, a man was bitten on the arm by a large snake, and witnessing this distressing event caused a pregnant woman to lose her baby out of fear. Today, the festivities no longer include snakes. Instead, they begin in the morning with the arrival of pilgrims, often from nearby countries. At this point, three statues are prepared in the church of Sant'Agata: St. Dominic, the Immaculate Madonna, and St. Anthony of Padua, who are taken in procession through the streets following mass. The band leads the procession by playing religious tunes, while the faithful and a choir of young people chant sacred hymns. The three statues are ultimately returned to the church. At addition, a little horseshoe hangs from the simulacrum of St. Dominic, which is worshiped at Castelpizzuto, and serves as a reference point for the faithful: here they make the sign of the cross and touch sections of their bodies for protection. In fact, the object stands for the iron of Giulia, the mule that the holy "Lord of Snakes" rode around the world.



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ADDITIONAL DESTINATIONS TO EXPLORE

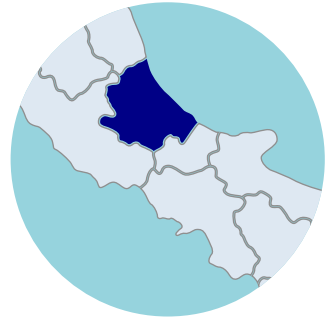
Roccamadolfi, a charming town situated at the base of the Matese massif, is conveniently located just a short drive away from Castelpizzuto. A castle from the 12th Century can be seen here, as well as an evocative Tibetan bridge that allows you to have a one-of-a-kind experience while floating over the valley.



HOW TO GET THERE

The village can be easily reached by car via the state road or by regional trains to the Isernia station. From there, a bus ride will take you to Castelpizzuto. The nearest international airport is in Naples, where regional trains and buses depart for Isernia and Campobasso. From there, you can take the bus to Castelpizzuto.

Acciano ABRUZZO



Where history encounters breathtaking landscapes

The gem on the border
between the Aterno river
and the Subequana valley
is rich of historical wonders

Acciano is a small municipality of the Abruzzo region surrounded by oak forests and located on the border between the Aterno River valley, the Subequana valley, part of the Sirente-Velino Regional Nature Park and the Sirentina mountain community. Perched on a spur of rock between the Bufame and Pietre Fitte mountains, this small village also enjoys a magnificent panoramic view of the rocky crusts of Mount Sirente. But Acciano is much more than nature and breathtaking landscapes. It is a place rich in traditions and archaeological sites that tell the history of the village, such as the remains of the medieval castle, in Beffi, a hamlet of Acciano: on a rocky outcrop overlooking the Aterno River, the pentagonal tower of this early medieval castle stands out, facing the neighbouring tower of Goriano Valli and overlooking the picturesque landscape of the Middle Aterno Valley and the Sirente mountain range. The four-story tower can also be visited inside, where there is tourist information and display cases illustrating the history of the castle, which dates back to the 11th Century and fully developed from the 12th-13th Centuries, when the Normans set out to conquer the region,





ADDITIONAL DESTINATIONS TO EXPLORE

The San Venanzio Gorges, a natural reserve of limestone gorges surrounded by unspoiled wilderness, is only 15 minutes away from Acciano. Between the two rocky banks of the river, stands the Hermitage of San Venanzio, the symbol of the reserve, where a chapel and cells formerly inhabited by hermits are located.

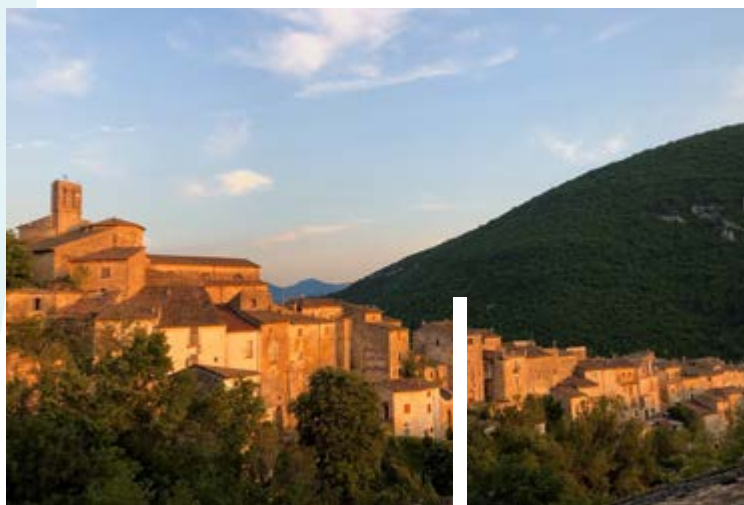


HOW TO GET THERE

Acciano can be reached by car via the state road, or by departing from L'Aquila using the regional train lines, which also provide reliable service to L'Aquila itself. The nearest airport is in Pescara, offering connections to various national and international destinations. From Rome, it is possible to reach Acciano by both bus and regional trains.



unifying it and kick-starting an economic and social revival. The tower terrace in addition to a unique panoramic view, still boasts some original crenellations. On the other hand, the oldest part of Acciano, inside the walls, still retains the typical appearance of a village, with fortified houses and three entrance gates: Porta dell'Aia, Porta Martino and Porta Torrone. Here one can admire the parish church of Saints Peter and Lawrence, which has a front gate dating from 1534 and interiors decorated with a rich Baroque style with relics of Saints Anthony of Padua, Petronilla, Peter and Rocco, and the Renaissance Public Fountain, built in the first half of the 15th Century and consisting of two masks enclosed within a small niche. Above the town, one can reach the small rural church of Santa Petronilla, patron saint of the town, built in the 12th Century, while near the village one can see the ruins of the church of Sant'Antonio Abate, with remains of frescoes of the lives of saints and of St. Anthony in particular. Finally, not far from the station there is an old watermill with sawmill and oil mill, dating from the 10th-11th Centuries and remaining active until 1960.



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Trenitalia: benefits for Italians residing abroad

Services Citizens registered in the AIRE will be eligible for discounts ranging from 20% to 80% on ticket purchases

As the flagship of the Passenger Division within the FS Italiane Group, Trenitalia has introduced a new benefit for Italians living overseas. Until December 31st, 2024, citizens registered in the AIRE will have access to special offers, including significant discounts on ticket purchases. Additionally, they can enjoy promotions of up to 40% off the base fare for group travel on high-speed trains with a minimum of 10 passengers. Moreover, they can now also purchase the "Trenitalia Pass," a multi-journey ticket previously exclusive to non-Italian citizens. This announcement was made at the Farnesina during a meeting attended by prominent figures including the Vice Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Antonio Tajani; the CEO of the FS Italiane Group, Luigi Ferraris; the President of Trenitalia, Stefano Cuzzilla; and the Director of Trenitalia's High-Speed Business Division, Pietro Diamantini. The primary objective of this initiative is to grant Italian citizens residing abroad the opportunity to access Trenitalia's Frecciarossa train services under favorable conditions.





**Slow tourism
to discover
local beauties**

«For the nearly 7 million Italians abroad, there is the opportunity to access discounted packages that allow them to visit their country of origin; for us, High-Speed is the gateway to European travels. We are already connected with other European capitals. Access to our railway line and the use of regional trains allow you to visit lesser-known areas with the aim of promoting slow tourism». We will propose fast tourism to reach your destination quickly and slow tourism to appreciate local beauties,» said Luigi Ferraris.



Toronto



ITA Airways' Rome-Toronto route opens doors to roots journeys

Migration and tourism, intertwined with heritage and memories, all encapsulated within the essence of a single word: journey. Now, this extraordinary voyage becomes more attainable as the geographical distance between Rome and Canada diminishes. The inaugural direct flight connecting Rome Fiumicino and Toronto, launched on Friday, May 10th by ITA Airways, symbolizes a profound bond with the Italian-Canadian community and opens doors for heritage tourism opportunities. «We applaud ITA Airways' decision to reintroduce direct flights. It presents a remarkable opportunity to bridge Italy with a significant community exceeding two million individuals. This development aligns fittingly with 2024, globally recognized as the year of Italian heritage,» expressed Giovanni Maria De Vita, overseeing the Roots Tourism initiative at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These senti-



ITA Airways initiates connections with Canada, marking a significant step forward to promote tourism in Italy and strengthen ties with the Italian-Canadian community, which comprises over 2 million people

ments were conveyed during a press conference held at the Italian Cultural Institute of Toronto, attended by executives from ITA Airways and Enac, Toronto City Councilor Vincent Crisanti, Italian parliamentarian Gianluca Caramanna and Italian Consul in Toronto, Luca Zelioli. «We are orchestrating a series of events to warmly embrace our expatriates, while also equipping them with the necessary resources to embark on a roots journey within Italy. Initiatives like the italea.com platform will empower our diaspora and Italian descendants to plan these ventures even before setting foot in Italy. Additionally, through collaboration with ITA Airways, we aim to formalize agreements offering discounts and promotions to Italian-Canadians eager to reconnect with their ancestral roots in Italy,» stated De Vita.



From left: Ivan Bassato, Chief Aviation Officer of Aeroporti di Roma; Raffaello Biselli, Councillor for Commerce and Markets, Productive Activities and SUAP, Municipality of Fiumicino; Mario Baccini, Mayor of the Municipality of Fiumicino; Emiliana Limosani, Chief Commercial Officer of ITA Airways and CEO of Volare; Ivana Jelinic, CEO of ENIT; Gianluca Caramanna, Member of Parliament and Advisor to the Minister of Tourism; Giovanni Maria De Vita, Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and Coordinator of the "Turismo delle Radici" project; Sameena Qureshi, Minister Counsellor of the Embassy of Canada in Italy.



Daily flights set for Summer 2024

The new service operates with six weekly frequencies, which will increase to daily flights from June to September and reduce to five weekly frequencies in October. In May, the schedule includes a departure from Rome Fiumicino at 10:15, arriving in Toronto at 14:05 (local time). The return flight departs from Toronto at 16:40 (local time) and arrives in Rome Fiumicino at 7:15 the following day. The inaugural flight was operated with the new, technologically advanced Airbus A330-900. To ensure an exceptional travel experience, the A330-900 offers three-class seating: 30 seats in Business Class with fully reclining seats, 24 seats in Premium Economy, and 237 seats in Economy, including 36 designated as Comfort Economy, all designed to provide a comfortable and pleasant journey for passengers. Additionally, on June 2, direct flights from Rome Fiumicino to Riyadh will be inaugurated, followed by new routes to Accra, Dakar, Kuwait City, and Jeddah. This will bring the total number of destinations served in the summer of 2024 to 57, including 16 domestic, 26 international and 15 intercontinental. Moreover, during the peak summer season, the airline will operate flights to 11 additional seasonal destinations, chosen from the most popular Mediterranean tourist spots, including Greece, Spain, Croatia, and the Italian islands. These destinations will be accessible via direct flights from Rome Fiumicino and Milan Linate.



Turin

The "Guide to Italian Roots: a journey following the footprints of your ancestors" comes from the collaboration between the Directorate General for Italians Abroad of Farnesina and Raíz Italiana Association

The "compass" to explore your places of origins

Spotlight on roots tourism during Italy's most important event dedicated to publishing, reading, and culture. The Turin International Book Fair served as the backdrop for the presentation of the fourth volume of "Guide to Italian Roots: A Journey Following the Footprints of Your Ancestors," which took place on the afternoon of Saturday, May 11th, in the Farnesina stand. Paolo Monea, from the Directorate General for Italians Abroad of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, introduced and moderated the meeting. The Raíz Italiana Social Promotion Association, with the support of the Directorate General for Italians Abroad and Migration Policies of Farnesina, edited the guide as part of the Italea project on Roots Tourism, which is included in the National Recovery and Resilience Plan. This volume features chapters dedicated to the regions of Campania, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Piedmont, and Trentino-Alto Adige. «We are trying to create a tourism offering that allows roots travelers to visit the places connected to their family histories,» explained Marina Gabrieli, National Coordinator of the Farnesina Roots Tourism Project, «and to delve deeper into the knowledge of their cultural origins.»

Rosanna Romano, Director General for Cultural Policies and Tourism of the Campania Region, also participated in the meeting, highlighting how the project establishes

«connections among the regions, like a red thread, because Roots Tourism is something that binds us together. In the guide,» she added, «you will find music, theatre, literature, monuments of our region, and a narrative where people and communities play the starring role.»

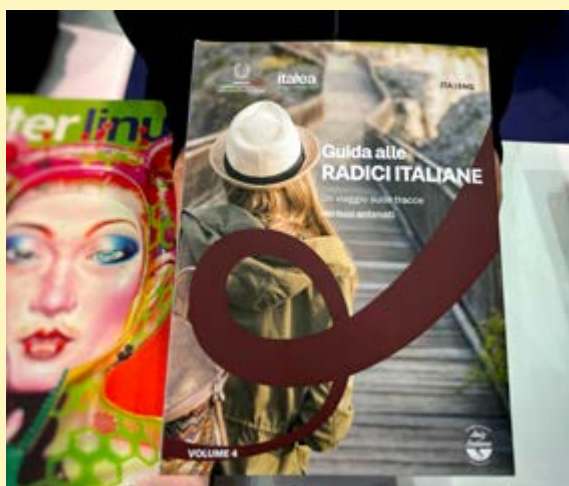
Additionally, Davide Gandolfi, Coordinator of International Relations and Cooperation for the Piedmont Region, noted, «today, there are about 6 million Piedmontese around the world. In our region,» he emphasized, «there are many evocative places that recall the migratory experience, as well as numerous attractions. In this guide, we also wanted to present a more dynamic image of Piedmont to appeal to young people.»

«The strength of this project,» Monea emphasized, «lies in organizing what the territories offer and enhancing the uniqueness of each region.» As Attilio Ardito, President of Raíz Italiana, illustrated to the fair's audience, the four regions in this volume are described through their traditions, notable figures, typical dishes and a calendar of events, allowing readers to discover stories and places connected to their roots and migrant heritage.

«A journey back to one's country of origin,» concluded Giorgia Salicandro, author of the guide, «that narrates important pages of our collective history, belonging to all Italians and Italian descendants living around the world.»



From left sinistra, Rosanna Romano, Davide Gandolfi, Paolo Monea and Giorgia Salicandro



A collection of Italy's regional essence

The guide aims at catching the essence of each Region and leading roots travelers in an amazing experience of discovering their origins. It is not just a collection of tourist information but a call, targeted at all Italians and Italian-descendants around the world, to explore the deep connections with the country. Each page is meant to guide the reader through places steeped in history, authentic traditions, food and wine delicacies and tangible memories of past generations. One of the distinctive features of this volume is the possibility for readers to autonomously trace their own travel itinerary following the interests and the places that tell the history of their families. It is one-of-a-kind authentic guide, full of content and written in an empathetic and engaging style, which delves into the heart of communities' life, offering a personalized and original travel experience. It is an extraordinary tool for exploring an unusual Italy rich in history.



«We promote villages and small towns»

«Through this guide, we want to open a window onto the hidden gems of these Regions – says Luigi Maria Vignali, Director General for Italians Abroad and Migration Policies of Farnesina (in the photo) – suggesting that readers explore the roots which bind our communities worldwide to their places of origin. It is also an opportunity to deservedly promote the small municipalities and villages from which emigration stemmed». «With the Italea project, we want to provide a memorable journey, full of authentic experiences and meaningful events, which will leave a mark in the heart of those who decide to re-embrace their origins».



Italea News
Drawing inspiration
from the Farnesina's
project, it was
presented during
the Turin's Book Fair

A graphic novel to tell the story of roots travels

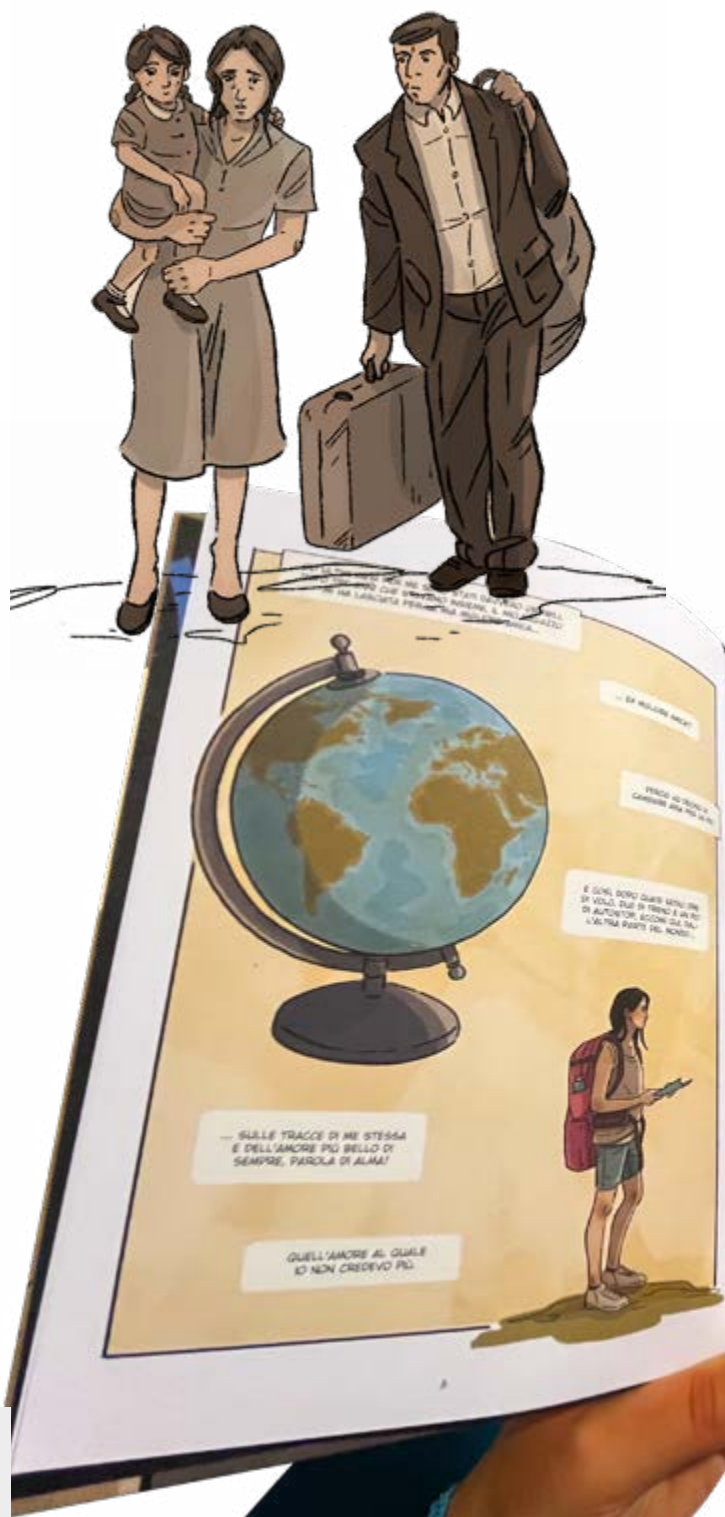
What happens when the ninth art meets a theme such as roots? When dreams and wishes, memories and memoirs meet the power and delicacy of illustrations? Illustrations transcending storytelling, capable of moving and thrilling? The result is the project "Under the Same Sky," a comic book inspired by MAECI's project on Roots Tourism. A graphic novel to illustrate the program promoted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, which was presented on May 13th in the Ivory Room of the Turin International Book Fair during a meeting with the public that saw the participation of Luigi Maria Vignali, director general for Italians abroad and Migration Policies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, together with the author Simona Binni.

«We launched a project aimed at Italians and Italian-descendants abroad to make them rediscover their origins, we want to invite them to return to Italy to embark on an exciting journey to rediscover their roots, to all that their ancestors left behind when they left and that they have only heard about», Vignali stressed, «We asked ourselves how to recount this journey to young people, how to entice them to come to Italy. Hence, we chose to tell the journey back to Italy of an Italian-descendant through a comic strip, and we did it by involving Simona Binni, a famous Italian cartoonist.»

«The main character, Cintia, sets out from Argentina to reach Italy. It may seem like a journey far away, but in reality it is close since it tells about something that is part of each and every one of us, of all those people who have gone far away from their land or who have never known it and have only heard about it - Binni emphasizes - The idea was to write a story and do it through drawings, trying to tell with simplicity but with truth what this journey to the roots could have been like from the point of view of a girl who hears about a distant land that she has never seen but that actually belongs to her and decides to go to the other side of the world to find it again. Rediscovering one's roots is important and surprising. The deep meaning of this project I think is all in the title, "Under the Same Sky": that is, the idea that the two protagonists, who come from two very distant countries, discover they actually have so much in common. Wherever we go and whoever we meet, this story teaches us that we are all the same.»



The Director General for Italians Abroad and Migration Policies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Luigi Maria Vignali, with Simona Binni.



Talking to young people through the ninth art

«At the Turin Book Fair we presented a graphic novel about the journey of roots. It is the invitation we have extended this year to the many Italians abroad and Italian descendants to come to Italy to rediscover their origins, to rediscover the places where their ancestors lived, and we want to do it with an exciting and engaging language, suited for the new generations.» This was stated by Luigi Maria Vignali, director general for Italians abroad and Migration Policies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. «Simona Binni has told us about an Italian who comes to Liguria from Argentina and rediscovers everything beautiful that the places have to offer,» Vignali stressed, «not only the folklore, not only the traditions, not only the cuisine, but also the people. This graphic novel is a journey to understand that we all live under the same sky, even if the distance temporarily sets us apart.»



The author, Simona Binni: «We're all migrants»

«This is a story about the roots of the heart, it tells where the heart finds its home, which can be the place where deep connections are rediscovered. Our protagonist does this by rediscovering the land and the history of her family that she did not know, through the contact with that land she feels is hers, but actually the title is a bit of a synthesis of everything, we are all travellers, we are all migrants, we can all reach parts of the world that we feel are ours and we can all really meet under the same sky, because this story is a story about people,» said Simona Binni, author of "Under the Same Sky".



John Fante, the American legend with Abruzzese roots

The character The writer has never forgotten his own origins, recounting them in his best-known novels

Born and raised in the mountains of Colorado, in the United States, John Fante is considered one of the most important American writers of his generation, not only in his homeland but also in the place that gave him his origins. Fante, whose father Nick was originally from Torricella Peligna, a village in southern Abruzzo about 100 kilometers away from Rome, has never hidden or forgotten his Italian origins, transporting his Abruzzese roots within his novels.

The "oh-so-Italian-looking" writer, as he was called by his mother-in-law, was rediscovered in the 1970s, when Charles Bukowski repeatedly declared how formidable Fante was; it was only in the 1990s that the American writer's work was successfully republished in many European countries, particularly in France and Italy. The village of Torricella Peligna, for its part, has never forgotten one of its stars, albeit born elsewhere, and starting in 2006 it established the "John Fante Festival - My Father's God", which is renewed every year in August. Later, the Abruzzese town also inaugurated the John Fante Mediatheque, where it is possible to find the Italian-American writer's works, films he scripted and critical texts dedicated to him.

Much more than a literary festival: it is a wide-ranging cultural event of international scope, structured around the figure of John, but then radiating towards an intercultural perspective. Thus, the initiative has become a place



Torricella Peligna wants to recover an important part of its history by renewing an event that takes place in its streets and squares in the summer. The 29th edition of the John Fante Festival, dedicated to the writer and entitled "My Father's God", will be held again this year from August 22nd to 25th.

During the event, the "John Fante" Mediatheque in the Abruzzo municipality will show the Italian-American author's novels and short stories, films he scripted and critical texts dedicated to him, as well as a wide selection of fiction and film works.

to enhance the cultural heritage of Italians around the world, promoting encounters between different cultures and encouraging that of young people on the themes of emigration and immigration. John Fante never detached himself from his Abruzzese roots, so much so that this influence can be found in several of his novels and short stories, occupying, in some cases, prominent places.

A bond that the Festival renews every summer by giving space to Italian and Abruzzese literary production. As for the title of the event, "My Father's God", it is a reference to one of Fante's writings, in which the figure of the father with a "Torricellian" character stands out prominently and, as elsewhere, becomes the iconization of his lineage.

Torricella Peligna: a small village with a great history



A view
of Torricella
Peligna. Photo
by Antonio
Di Renzo

The town in the province of Chieti continues to hold tightly to the thread that binds it to its “children” scattered all over the world

The village of Torricella Peligna, in the province of Chieti, a picturesque location not far from the sea, carries high the banner of its cultural heritage. Not too old a land of emigration, it experienced considerable depopulation when many of its inhabitants left in search of a better future, but, despite this, it continues to hold tightly to the thread that connects it to its descendants, so much so that it established the Torricellano nel Mondo Award. Among churches, War Memorial and Alpine Monuments, and historical wonders enshrined in Juvanum, the most important

archaeological site in the province of Chieti, the village boasts a record in culture, since illustrious men recognized nationally and internationally were born within its walls: from Vincenzo Bellini Senior, grandfather of the famous musician of the same name from Catania, to Ettore Troilo, founder of the Maiella Brigade; Antonio Piccone Stella, director and RAI executive; Silvio D'Amico, founder of the Academy of Dramatic Art in Rome. Not to forget Nick Fante, father of the famous Italian-American writer John, and Vincent Persichetti, composer, pianist and pedagogue.



The book "Meals and Memories with Nonno" explores emigration, Mediterranean food and dreams



The tale of grandpa Angelo a mentor from a bygone era

A book that explores the themes of emigration, Mediterranean cuisine, dreams and aspirations, and, most importantly, the coveted Italian lifestyle that is admired worldwide. "Recipes and Memories of Grandpa - A Mediterranean Lifestyle" by Frank Iovine and Ashley Carr, published by Graus Publishing House, is a book for those who want to immerse themselves in memories and relive the journey of an Italian-American grandfather, absorbing his passions and rediscovering a Mediterranean lifestyle through traditional recipes. Grandpa Angelo has always had a wealth of stories and wisdom to share, just like any loving grandparent. Having been born in Italy, he made the decision to emigrate to America in order to forge his own path and create a prosperous future. Despite the difficulty of his voyage, he faced it with unwavering resolve, an attribute that has consistently set him apart. This, therefore, is not just a mere collection of memories, but rather a true testament to the enduring legacy of Grandpa Angelo. The recipes, reflecting a fusion of Italian and American culinary traditions, showcase the rich culinary heritage that the Iovine family passionately upholds. It's more than just the ingredients and preparations, it's a genuine way of life. Angelo Iovine's Mediterranean way of life.

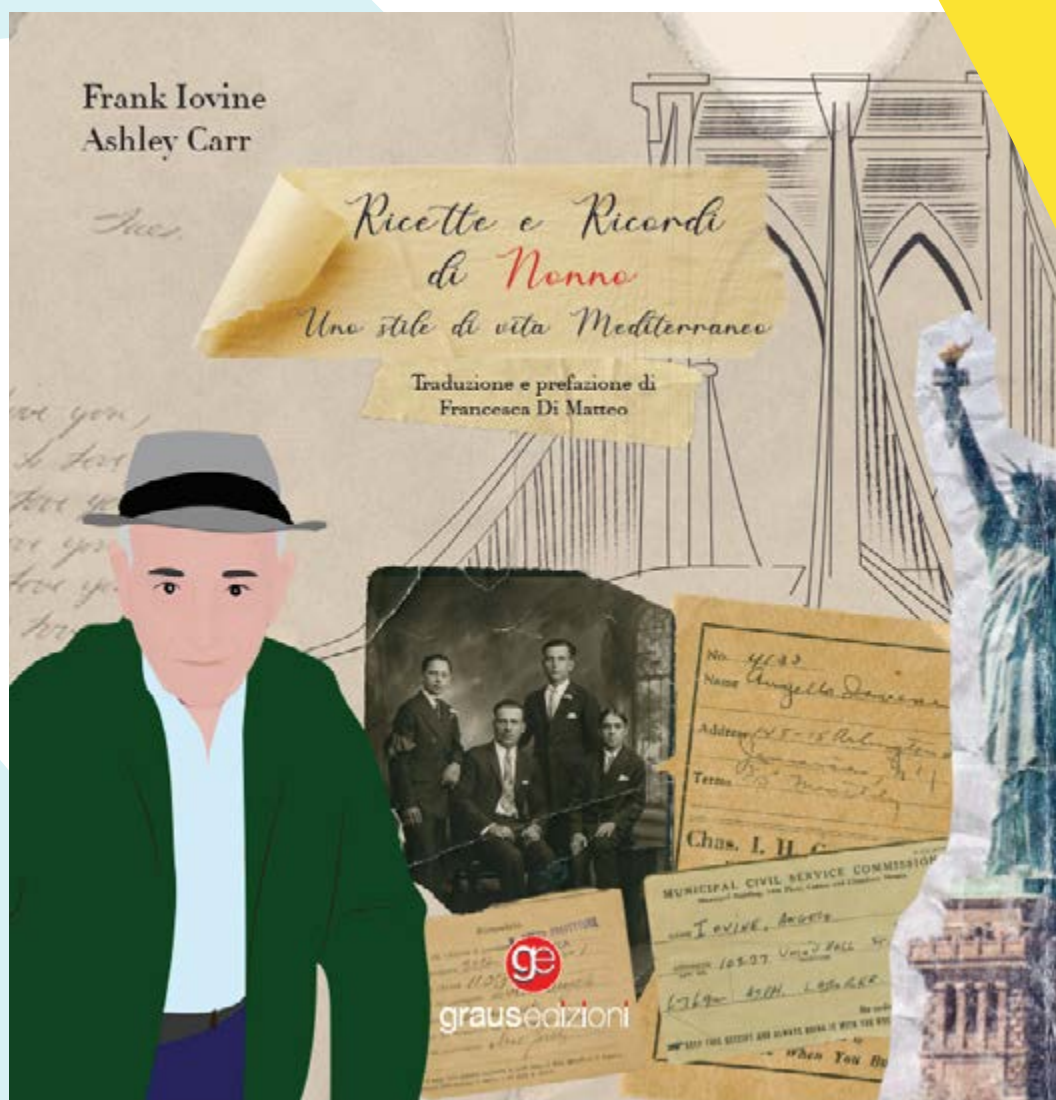
About the author

Frank Iovine was born and raised in New York, where food has consistently played a central role in his development and existence. His passion for the culinary arts blossomed during his childhood, as he spent countless hours in the kitchen of his beloved grandparents. This love only grew stronger as he embarked on his journey working at a German delicatessen, under the guidance of Bruno, a talented chef who had escaped from East Germany. Bruno instructed him in the art of knife handling, while he acquired the rest of his culinary knowledge by closely observing his grandparents and other skilled individuals in the realm of regional Italian cuisine. Frank developed his culinary expertise by skillfully incorporating a wide range of flavors and aromas. As a result, the book contains only a list of ingredients rather than images of the final recipes and their plating. An attempt to "educate" the reader via smell and flavor in order to replicate Grandpa Angelo's recipes.

The secret of living a hundred years

Who here doesn't want a guide to a healthy and long-lived life? In this age of development, where the answer to any query can be discovered with a single click, no one knows the right "ingredients" for longevity. However, history, experience, and scientific research demonstrate the significance of not only genetics but also daily living standards. And through embracing physical and mental training, maintaining a healthy diet, and cultivating a sense of total harmony with the world around you, you can truly have a fulfilling lifestyle. You can discover all of this within the pages of "Meals and Memories with Nonno - Ricordi e Ricette con Nonno": a bilingual book available in both English and Italian. At the time of grandfather Angelo Iovine's birth in 1903, the term "lifestyle" as we know it was certainly unknown, and he was unaware of the potential of that elixir of life that he understood how to apply on a daily basis. Only after several years did his grandson Frank Iovine, who recognized his wonderful traits, chose to share them by narrating them in a book co-written with a young co-writer capable of reviving those exceptional grandfather's memories. Thus begins the tale of an ordinary Italian immigrant, who departed in 1921 from a small village near Naples at the tender age of 16, and it has since evolved into the blueprint for a timeless way of life.





Ancient wisdom for a healthy life

Pills of homely knowledge to take every day, which made this Italian immigrant in New York a model of good living for all who knew him during those years. A simple but capable man who enjoys nature, animals, and others. We would say that he was a man in harmony with himself and the world around him, one who was acclimated to consuming only fresh and nutritious food and who approached life with that incomparable Italian philosophy of values. Grandfather Angelo, like all other immigrants at the time, disembarked at Ellis Island, bringing with him a suitcase poor in clothes but rich in wisdom: a life coach of the past who now, due to the book "Recipes and Memories of Grandpa - A Mediterranean Lifestyle," offers his secrets.

Experiences

From Genoa to Reggio Calabria: Italy offers immersive activities with the aim of evoking memories and emotions

Turin



A "Semitoun" is all it takes for the perfect party

In the mountain villages from where so many Piedmontese left, there were not many pastimes, but when young people gathered on holidays, all it took was a "semitoun" (diatonic accordion or concertina) player to create a big party and give rise to carefree dancing. One of the best-known sung dances in Piedmont was the Monferrina. In recent decades there has been a great rediscovery of traditional dances, and today many people gather to dance the correnta, giga, and cadrilha accompanied by live music. A workshop in the Pinerolo area will revive this joyful atmosphere along with teaching the rudiments of some traditional Piedmontese dances and instructing about typical musical instruments.

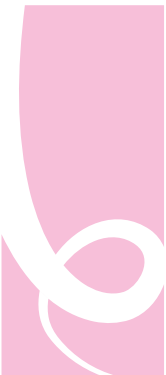
Genoa



The special museum that tells stories, dreams and identities

The Museum of Italian Emigration in Genoa is a tribute to the history of Italians who emigrated in search of better life opportunities. This museum of national importance is spread over three floors and serves as a custodian of memories and stories. Through 16 thematic areas, the journey of millions of Italians who, from the late 19th Century to the mid-20th Century left their country to settle in new lands is narrated with empathy and detail. In the halls of the museum, one can immerse oneself in the experiences of emigrants, combining historical documents, photographs, personal letters, and audiovisual evidence from both chronological and thematic perspectives.

Florence



Words, proverbs, sayings: everyone at dialect school

Florence, the cradle of Italian culture and a place steeped in history and tradition, becomes the stage for a special workshop dedicated to those who wish to immerse themselves in the Tuscan dialect. The workshop aims to preserve and share the linguistic roots of Tuscany. Through lessons and hands-on activities, you will have the opportunity to explore dialect in all its nuances, learning everyday expressions, idioms and proverbs that characterize the language spoken in the region. Teachers will guide participants in immersive lessons that go beyond grammar rules. The melody of the dialect will be taught through traditional songs and stories.

Perugia



The power of words to unlock the essence of the Italian style

Knowledge of Italian culture comes through language: a workshop in Montone will introduce many small words, colloquial expressions and idioms to immerse oneself in the Italian Style of Life. A theme will be chosen from art, literature, cinema, music and songwriting, food and wine, and traditions based on the location chosen for the appointment. Once the theme is chosen, lexical tables will be worked on with key words, associated adjectives, curiosities to enrich vocabulary and thus knowledge of Italian culture. The tables will be accompanied by photos, illustrations and videos to facilitate understanding and make learning more engaging.

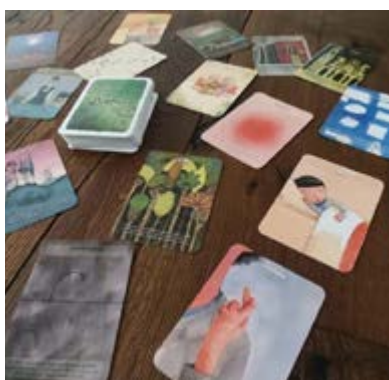
Isernia



Exploring the intricacies of lace and crochet

A journey to discover the culture hidden behind clothes, jewelry and accessories created by the skilled hands of Molisian women and artisans. Clothes and accessories passed down from generation to generation, often made for grandchildren and great-grandchildren as gifts and family mementos. Local guides will lead visitors through private collections to rediscover the ancient textiles, laces and crochets that accompanied ancestors on their journey across the border. It will be possible to explore the fashions of the past and relive the moments immortalized in family stories, savouring the sounds again, diving in the legends and seeing for yourself the beauty of simplicity.

Reggio Calabria



Play cards with Calabrians all over the world

To experience an extraordinary adventure, there is "Distorie: cards of origins": an engaging card game that reveals the emotions, traditions and stories of Calabrian emigrants. The 162 game cards, divided into categories and inspired by five books, reflect the rich history of Calabria: characters, historical figures and icons associated with the region, towns, cities and symbolic places of Calabrian emigration. It will be possible to explore the origins, traditions and secrets of Calabria through the game cards during a journey through the area, and conclude one's experience with a treasure hunt, learning details about Calabrian traditions and the history of each area.

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The journey to your roots



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