

Piccola Italia



Italian Cultural Center of San Diego Newsletter

Vol. 16, N. 1 | January – February – March 2014 | quarterly publication



**Buone Feste
from ICC!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 13 : Cristina Fontanelli's
concert at the MCA

December 14 : ICC Christmas Party
at ICC

December 15: 10% registration
discount deadline

January 6: Winter term begins

Jan 16 & 30, Feb 6: Book Club

Jan 30, Feb 17: NO CLASS

*For more information on these
and other exciting classes, read
the full description on page 9*

NEW WINTER CLASSES

Three of the Special Classes Coming this Winter



NEW! Su E Giu' Per L'Italia

From the Alps to the coasts of Sicily: Italy is divided into twenty regions, each with its own identity full of beautiful landscapes, unique culture, customs and traditions. During this journey we will stop in every region and study the physical characteristics, the cities, the climate, the economy and the political and social conditions. The lessons will include activities of written and oral comprehension, vocabulary and grammar practice, and free research on the topics studied during the class.



NEW! Laugh, Read, Sing, Celebrate And Speak Italian

This course is designed for intermediate and advanced students. Learn how the language is used in media, fashion, movies, literature, opera and music. Learn idiomatic expressions and current use of the language. Explore new terminology and build vocabulary utilizing current captivating subject matter.



NEW! Letteratura Italiana: il Settecento

In this Italian language and literature course we will explore the transition from the 1700's to the first half of the 1800's with a look into the era of Neoclassicism through eminent writers like Vincenzo Monti and Ugo Foscolo. We will then explore the Romantic Era through memorable writers like Giacomo Leopardi and Alessandro Manzoni. We will conclude the course by studying the patriotic literary works of eminent writers like Silvio Pellico and Ippolito Nievo who lived during the Risorgimento Era.



Roberto Ruocco, ICC President



ICC Newsletter

Published quarterly

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CARI SOCI,

Che autunno meraviglioso! Il mese di ottobre come al solito è stato pieno di iniziative italiane che hanno visto l'ICC protagonista. Il nostro stand al Columbus Day era pieno di gente che chiedeva informazioni su come iniziare/ continuare l'apprendimento della nostra bella lingua. Grazie a tutti coloro del nostro staff che hanno dedicato questo giorno al volontariato per il Centro.

Dal giorno 25 ottobre al 2 Novembre come tradizione si è svolta la stagione del cinema italiano di San Diego che ha visto come madrina Maria Grazia Cucinotta, celebrata protagonista di "Il Postino" e di tanti altri film. Inoltre, alla Gala ha partecipato il regista Francesco Bruni con il suo film " Scialla". Tutti i film hanno riscosso grande successo, troppo successo! Grazie ai volontari dell'ICC che hanno partecipato al raggiungimento di questo risultato.

Anche quest'anno l'ICC sta organizzando una stupenda festa di Natale. Controllate il nostro sito e la pagina successiva per i dettagli e siate pronti per la famosa estrazione di simpatici e ricchi premi.

Restate fedeli al vostro Italian Cultural Center,

Roberto Ruocco – Presidente ICC

What a wonderful autumn! The month of October as usual has been full of Italian initiatives which saw the ICC as a central player. Our booth at the Columbus Day street fair was crowded by many people requesting information on how to begin or continue learning our beautiful language. Thanks to all our staff who dedicated this day to volunteering for the Center.

From October 25 to November 2, as a tradition, we celebrated our season of Italian movies which saw Maria Grazia Cucinotta as festival godmother, acclaimed female lead in "Il Postino" and many other movies. And bookending the festival, Francesco Bruni, director of the movie "Scialla", was guest of honor from Italy at our Gala. All movies resulted in a great success, too much success. Thanks to the ICC volunteers who helped reach this fantastic goal.

Also, this year the ICC has prepared an outstanding Festa di Natale. Please check our webpage and the next page for all the details and be ready to win our renowned raffle.

Please be faithful to yours Italian Cultural Center.

Cordially,

Roberto Ruocco – ICC President

UPCOMING EVENTS

It's all about Italian Books!

ICC is very happy to introduce a quarterly Book Club meeting and a great opportunity to immerse in Italian culture! Come and enjoy an evening of conversation with other members and our teachers. Books will be in Italian and are selected to ensure cultural enrichment. Purchase your book in time! This wonderful cultural activity is free of charge for ICC members only.

Please be informed that in case of low enrollment (min. 4 participants) the book discussion group meeting will be re-scheduled or cancelled.

Book Title: Fai Bei Sogni

Author: Massimo Gramellini

Order at: amazon.com

“Fai bei Sogni”, is the story of a secret hidden in an envelope for 40 years. It's the story of a child first, and an adult then, who will learn how to confront the emotional pain deriving from the loss of his mother and at the same time, he will learn how to face the pain of living too. “Fai bei sogni”, is a book dedicated to all the people who have lost something in life, weather is love, a job or a treasure, and while refusing to accept the reality, they end up losing themselves. The book is available for purchase online at www.amazon.com.



Meetings dates:

Thursday January 16, 2014

Thursday January 30, 2014

Thursday February 6, 2014

Meetings Time:

7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m

**Reading schedule provided during first meeting **

Location: ICC - 1669 Columbia Street | San Diego (CA)

RSVP at info@icc-sd.org by January 14th 2014



Let's Party!

Celebrate the joy of the season the Italian way. Join us for our annual Christmas Party!

ICC Members are cordially invited to our Festa di Natale

Delicious food and selected wines offered by ICC.

Live musical entertainment by Rosario Monetti and James Bianchi.

**Saturday, December 14
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Italian Cultural Center**

**RSVP by December 10
at: info@icc-sd.org**

Space is limited, so you need to respond quickly!

This wonderful event is for current ICC members only.

Christmas Raffle!

Ticket Prices: 1 ticket \$3

5 tickets \$10

10 tickets \$15

Special Raffle: 1 ticket \$10

Prizes: ICC classes and scholarship for Il Sasso school

Raffle tickets can be purchased in advanced at the office, or at the Christmas party.

EVENT REVIEW

SDIFF finishes a big season

by Victor Laruccia



Maria Grazia Cucinotta in San Diego

It was never going to be easy. And much of it came at us like a force of nature, very much an Italian condition, but learning to dance with forces of nature has become a hallmark of the San Diego Italian Film Festival. Have you ever watched a great athlete fight chance and gravity? Sometimes the SDIFF seems to work that way.

Last December the SDIFF was presented with two really unusual and attractive opportunities: One was to have a band of musicians, based in the Milan area and dedicated to Pugliese traditions, fly into San Diego to play a world premier of their new concert. And the other was to host

the world premier of Maria Grazia Cucinotta's newest film *C'e' sempre un perche'*, a romantic comedy, a production between Sicily and China.

We had to write a letter inviting Khaossia, the musicians seeking funds from Italian government agencies. Our research determined that no Italian government could afford to send anything to the U.S., never mind a whole band. But we found a great partner, the Center for Jewish Culture, so we invited Khaossia in the hopes that the SDIFF would get a break of Olympic proportions.

As for Maria Grazia Cucinotta, since

she was involved in a new film project, it seemed unlikely that she could come, but the idea that we could bring a world premier of a romantic comedy in which she starred seemed like a grand idea. And how could we resist a grand idea, one that fit well with the principle of shining a light on San Diego's Italian culture?

Imagine the shock when we learned that Khaossia got a government grant and was coming and that Maria Grazia had decided to join us, too. Suddenly the steep slope we had been climbing became a cliff and the SDIFF had tumbled off the edge. All summer and fall every last resource of the SDIFF was stretched to make as good a show as possible while flying through the air.

But in fact, the SDIFF always had great support, good luck, and special events and the show was in fact quite spectacular. The SDIFF teamed up with the Center for Jewish Culture to produce the world premier of Khaossia's *EOS*, a moving, complex and brilliant piece of music and theater telling a special love story. The theater was full, the staging sumptuous, the music thrilling, and the production team of SDIFF and the Center for Jewish Culture produced something unique, significant and completely satisfying.

The outcome of the Maria Grazia Cucinotta visit was splendid, although not quite as planned – the Sicilian-Chinese production, we were

SAN DIEGO ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL

Not just Italian films – an Italian perspective.

continued from previous page

informed late in September, could not be shown in San Diego. In fact, it could not be shown anywhere, at least not for a long while. Chinese culture loomed up and grabbed us by the hearts: The Chinese censors, who must approve all movies made in China, had not yet released the movie and would certainly not do so before the festival ended. Fortunately Maria Grazia and the SDIFF recovered quickly, arranging for another of Cucinotta's works, an excellent historic comedy, shot by one of the most famous cinematographers in Europe, Vittorio Storaro, and directed by a Mexican filmmaker whose reputation for exquisite tales of magical realism is deep and global. And so the visit with Maria Grazia, with a grand party in the new Library transformed a tumble into an Olympic moment of grace in motion.

There was an important selection of new feature fiction films, and Professor Pasquale Verdicchio and director Marco Bertozzi selected some penetrating and touching documentaries for a whole new SDIFF documentary program, the Anita Laing Memorial Documentary Project. This project was supported by friends of Anita Laing and will continue into 2014 in partnership with the new Central Library.

And now that the festival is over our plans turn to 2014. SDIFF will produce three separate monthly series, one in north County, one at MOPA, and a documentary series at the Central Library. As you may have guessed, the SDIFF is transforming itself, and while it is experiencing some growing pains, it is also making heroic efforts to bring the best in modern Italian cinema, both fiction and documentary. All these efforts, however, are not done magically. There is an extraordinary group of volunteers who really pitch in to make all these events shine. And if you would like to join those very engaged cultural warriors, please let us know. The SDIFF website will carry all the upcoming events, as well as give you a doorway into the organization as member, volunteer and audience. Check it out: www.sandiegoitalianfilmfestival.com. And thank you for coming out to the SDIFF events.



Giulio Violati, marito di Maria Grazia, Christian e Maria Grazia Cucinotta.

Parliamo!

Welcome to our brand new conversation classes.

These courses will combine several integrated approaches aimed at developing the students' skills. Most in-class time, driven by the material provided by the instructor, is devoted to speaking and practicing Italian through a combination of group-based and individual activities, focusing on language functions and vocabulary. Lessons also focus on a wide range of contemporary cultural themes through the use varied materials such as newspaper articles, advertising material and short film clips. Each level will cover the following topics:

ABC Conversation – greetings and presentations (both formal and informal), the city and how to ask and give directions, how to describe people and things, how to order your food, leisure time and hobbies. Requires Beginner Italian II level completed (or equivalent). No textbook required.

Beginner Conversation – builds on ABC conversation and adds two new topics, family and traveling, with real-life situations. Requires Intermediate Italian I level completed (or equivalent). No textbook required

Intermediate Conversation – builds on Beginner Conversation and adds two new topics, money and time and media. Requires Intermediate Italian II level completed (or equivalent). No textbook required.



Course Registration Form – Winter 2014

To enroll, please drop off, mail, or place this form in our mailbox **with payment**. Pre – registration is strongly encouraged since we attempt to limit class size to 12 students (8 for conversation classes).

- Please add me to your mailing list for information on Italian classes and cultural events
- I'd like to register for classes now as indicated below

Name: First _____ Last _____

E-mail _____ Home phone _____

Work phone _____ Cell phone _____

Address _____ City and Zip _____

Specify: New student Returning student

Register me for the following:

Class _____ Day _____ Time _____ Class _____ Day _____ Time _____

Alternatives—in case the above choices are full:

Class _____ Day _____ Time _____ Class _____ Day _____ Time _____

Please check the boxes to indicate your selections and amount		check	
ICC Annual Membership >You must be a member to enroll in courses	Single	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$30
	Family	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$40
Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced Italian (textbook below is required)		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$165
ABC, Beginner or Intermediate Conversation		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$165
Su e giu' per l'Italia		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$198
Musicando e Grammaticando		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$144
Letteratura Italiana		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$144
Storia d'Italia		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$198
Italiano Che Passione (Book required: Nuovo Magari Advanced Level C1/C2)		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$198
Doppio Espresso I, Doppio Espresso II (Textbook below is required)		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$220
Laugh, Read, Sing, Celebrate and Speak Italian		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$180
Early registration discount (10% off class cost) ONLY by December 15th, 2013		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$_____

TEXTBOOK (Please note: the ICC does not sell textbooks. Allow some time for ordering, buy your books early!)		
Ciao! 7th Edition Book and CD + Workbook with CD available for order at major bookstores (Barnes & Noble, UCSD, etc.) and online (Amazon.com, Textbooks.com, Half.com, etc.). Please note the ICC does not sell textbooks.		
OTHER BOOKS (Please note: the ICC does not sell textbooks. Allow some time for ordering, buy your books early!)		
Nuovo Magari Advanced Level C1/C2- Alma edizioni www.applauselearning.com (<i>Italiano Che Passione Class</i>)		
TOTAL (have you checked the boxes to indicate your choices?)		
Paid by: <input type="checkbox"/> Cash \$_____ <input type="checkbox"/> Check #_____		\$_____

Refund Policy—please review and sign below. The ICC reserves the right to cancel or rearrange classes for any reason. If ICC cancels a class, students can transfer to a different class or receive a full refund. Approvals for transfers will be based on course and space availability. Up to and including the first class, students who send a cancellation **in writing** will receive a full refund. Up to and including the second class, a credit is available for a subsequent session. After the third class **NO** refund or credit will be given. **Classes missed are not prorated or refunded and no makeup class is offered for classes missed by the student.**

I acknowledge and accept the refund policy: _____
Signature of Student Date





Italian Adult Classes – WINTER 2014

Day / Dates	Class Title	Time	Weeks	Teacher	Price
MONDAYS					
01/06 - 03/31	ABC Conversation (<i>Requires Beg. It. II</i>)	5:50 – 7:20pm	11	Michela	\$165
01/06 - 03/31	Intermediate Italian I	5:50 – 7:20pm	11	Paola	\$165
01/06 - 03/31	Beginner Italian I	5:50 – 7:20pm	11	Gabriella	\$165
01/27 - 03/24	Letteratura Italiana: : Neoclassicismo e Romanticismo (<i>For Advanced Students</i>) NEW!	5:50 – 7:20pm	8	Eleonora	\$144
01/06 - 03/31	Intermediate Italian II	7:30 – 9:00pm	11	Paola	\$165
01/06 - 03/31	Beginner Italian II	7:30 – 9:00pm	11	Gabriella	\$165
01/13 - 03/31	Advanced Italian I ** Class is in session on 01/20 **	7:30 – 9:00pm	11	Antonio	\$165
01/27 - 03/24	Musicando e Grammaticando - NEW! (<i>For high beginners and low intermediate students</i>)	7:30 – 9:00pm	8	Eleonora	\$144
TUESDAYS					
01/14 - 03/25	Beginner Conversation (<i>Req. Inter. It. I</i>)	5:50 – 7:20pm	11	Antonio	\$165
01/14 - 03/25	Su e giu' per l'Italia - NEW! (<i>For Intermediate students</i>)	5:50 – 7:20pm	11	Gabriella	\$198
01/14 - 03/25	Beginner Italian II	5:50 – 7:20pm	11	Rossella B.	\$165
01/14 - 03/25	Advanced Italian III	7:30 – 9:00pm	11	Antonio	\$165
01/14 - 03/25	Intermediate Italian I	7:30 – 9:00pm	11	Gabriella	\$165
01/14 - 03/25	Beginner Italian I	7:30 – 9:00pm	11	Rossella B.	\$165
WEDNESDAYS					
01/08 - 03/19	Intermediate Conversation (<i>Req. Inter. It. II</i>)	5:50 – 7:20pm	11	Michela	\$165
01/08 - 03/19	Italiano che Passione NEW! (<i>For students who have nearly mastered the Italian language</i>) Book Required	5:50 – 7:20pm	11	Gabriella	\$198
01/22 - 04/02	Intermediate Italian II	5:50 – 7:20pm	11	Silvia M.	\$165
01/22 - 04/02	Beginner Italian I	5:50 – 7:20pm	11		\$165
01/15 - 03/26	Advanced Italian II	7:30 – 9:00pm	11	Antonio	\$165
01/22 - 04/02	ABC Conversation (<i>Requires Beg. It. II</i>)	7:30 – 9:00pm	11	Silvia M.	\$165
01/08 - 03/19	Storia d'Italia: La Storia Di Roma NEW! (<i>Req. Intermediate Italian II</i>)	7:30 – 9:00pm	11	Gabriella	\$198
01/22 - 04/02	Intermediate Italian I	7:30 – 9:00pm	11	Eleonora	\$165
SATURDAYS					
01/11 - 3/22	ABC Conversation (<i>Requires Beg. It. II</i>)	8:50 – 10:20am	11	Paola	\$165
01/11 - 3/22	Beginner Conversation (<i>Req. Inter. It. I</i>)	8:50 – 10:20am	11	Silvia K.	\$165
01/11 - 3/22	Intermediated Conversation (<i>Req. Inter. It. II</i>)	8:50 – 10:20am	11	Ilaria	\$165
01/11 - 3/22	Beginner Italian II	10:30am – 12:00pm	11	Silvia K.	\$165
01/11 - 3/22	Advanced Italian I	10:30am – 12:00pm	11	Ilaria	\$165
01/11 - 3/22	Beginner Italian I	10:30am – 12:00pm	11	Paola	\$165
01/25 - 3/29	Laugh, Read, Sing, Celebrate and Speak Italian - NEW! (<i>For intermediate and advanced students</i>)	11:00am – 12:30pm	10	Rossella C.	\$180
MONDAYS / WEDNESDAYS					
Mon 1/6-3/31 Wed 1/8-3/19	Doppio Espresso I (<i>For Absolute Beginners</i>) <i>This class meets twice a week on Mon and Wednesday</i>	7:30pm -8:30pm	11	Michela	\$220
Mon 1/6-3/31 Wed 1/8-3/19	Doppio Espresso II ** Class is in session on 01/20 ** <i>This class meets twice a week on Mon and Wednesday</i>	6:15pm -7:15pm	11	Antonio	\$220

Classes meet once a week at the ICC unless otherwise specified. **NO CLASS on: Mon, January 20 (Martin Luther King's Day) and Mon-February 17 (Presidents' Day)** Please note that the classes "Doppio Espresso II" and "Advanced Italian I" held on Monday evenings are in session on Monday January 20th. Register before Dec 15th and get 10% discount off class cost.

>>> SEE NEXT PAGES FOR REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND REGISTRATION INFO >>>

ITALIAN ADULT LANGUAGE CLASSES

WINTER 2014

Adult Classes Description

BEGINNER ITALIAN I - *for absolute beginners*

Goal: This course gives students the basic tools needed to successfully understand and communicate in Italian. At the completion of this course students should be able to greet others, introduce themselves, talk about themselves and others, and describe people, things, and places. **Grammar:** Pronunciation, subject pronouns, c'è (there is) and ci sono (there are), indicative present tense of essere (to be), avere (to have), articles, gender and plural of nouns, numbers 0-49

BEGINNER ITALIAN II - *for students with very basic knowledge of Italian*

Goal: this course builds on Beginner Italian I and provides students a stronger and wider skills set necessary to understand, speak, read and write in Italian. At the end of the course students should be able to talk about the Italian education system, to order and to talk about food and drinks, as well as discuss common activities, leisure time, trip planning, daily life. **Grammar:** reinforcement and practice of tenses of the indicative mood, irregular verbs in -are, prepositions, partitive, adjectives and adverbs of quantity.

INTERMEDIATE ITALIAN I - *for students with a fairly good command of Italian*

Goal: this course builds on Beginner Italian II and provides students a stronger and wider skill set necessary to understand, speak, read and write in Italian. At the end of the course students should be able to talk about the family and traditions, trip reservation and planning. **Grammar:** reinforcement and practice of tenses of the indicative mood; irregular verbs in -ere, -ire; possessive adjectives, direct pronouns, present perfect with essere or avere, reflexive verbs.

INTERMEDIATE ITALIAN II - *for students with a good command of Italian*

Goal: this course builds on Intermediate Italian I. At the end of the course students should be able to talk about money and work, media and movies. **Grammar:** reflexive verbs, indirect pronouns, imperfetto tense and the use of imperfetto versus passato prossimo, pluperfect tense and adverbs.

ADVANCED ITALIAN I - *for students with strong command of the language*

Goal: to give students the tools to be able to talk in detail about Italian fashion, free time and house and furniture. **Grammar:** the course will be focused on imperative and demonstrative adjectives will be studied, future tense, verb piacere, ne and ci, double pronouns.

ADVANCED ITALIAN II - *for students with strong command of the language*

Goal: to give students the tools to talk in detail about trades and professions, geographical descriptions, sports.

Grammar: conditional mood, present and past, comparatives and superlatives, relative pronouns and indefinite pronouns, negative expressions, gerund and progressive form.

ADVANCED ITALIAN III - *for students with strong command of the language*

Goal: to give students the tools to talk in detail about health, environment; music, art and theatre. **Grammar:** remote past, verbs and verbal expressions with infinitive, subjunctive mood; present and past subjunctive of irregular verbs; conjunctions and subjunctive; subjunctive imperfetto and pluperfect; how to use all the subjunctive tenses in complex sentences.

BEGINNER INTERMEDIATE AND ADVANCED CONVERSATION

Italian culture - art, cuisine, cinema, lifestyles, music, fashion, etc- is the starting point for a number of conversations and discussions that will help students to both enrich their knowledge of Italy and build a larger vocabulary. Includes practical usage and review of the grammar previously studied.

ABC CONVERSATION (requires Beginner 2 completed)

This is a very basic conversation class and it is intended for students that have completed Beginner 2. Students will have the chance to practice the grammar structures acquired in Beginner 1 and Beginner 2 and expand their vocabulary. An easy reader book will be used in class to guide the students through the course.

NOTE:

- ABC Conversation requires Begin. Italian II+ (or equivalent)
- Beginner Conversation requires Intermediate Italian I+ (or equivalent)
- Intermediate Conversation requires Intermediate Italian II+ (or equivalent);
- Advanced Conversation requires Advanced Italian I+ (or equivalent)

Grammar Classes Book:



Ciao! Book and CD by Carla Larese Riga

Publisher: Heinle

Edition: 7th ISBN-13: 9781428288379

Order at: Major bookstores or online.

Italiano Che Passione Class:

Nuovo Magari- Advanced Level - 2 CD set

Item Number: ALM993 Publisher: Alma edizioni

Order at: www.applauselearning.com



SPECIAL INTEREST CLASSES

NEW! SU E GIU' PER L'ITALIA

From the Alps to the coasts of Sicily: Italy is divided into twenty regions, each with its own identity full of beautiful landscapes, unique culture, customs and traditions. During this journey we will stop in every region and study the physical characteristics, the cities, the climate, the economy and the political and social conditions. The lessons will include activities of written and oral comprehension, vocabulary and grammar practice, and free research on the topics studied during the class.

NEW! LAUGH, READ, SING, CELEBRATE & SPEAK ITALIAN

This course is designed for intermediate and advanced students. Learn how the language is used in media, fashion, movies, literature, opera and music. Learn idiomatic expressions and current use of the language. Explore new terminology and build vocabulary utilizing current captivating subject matter.

NEW! MUSICANDO E GRAMMATICANDO

This entertaining course aims to teach Italian through selected popular Italian songs. Each fun song is followed by a worksheet activity which includes conversation, grammar exercises and much more! If you want to learn Italian through lively then the Musicando and Grammaticando's course is right for you!

NEW! LETTERATURA ITALIANA: L'Ottocento: Neoclassicismo e Romanticismo

In this Italian language and literature course we will explore the transition from the 1700's to the first half of the 1800's with a look into the era of Neoclassicism through eminent writers like Vincenzo Monti and Ugo Foscolo. We will then explore the Romantic Era through memorable writers like Giacomo Leopardi and Alessandro Manzoni. We will conclude the course by studying the patriotic literary works of eminent writers like Silvio Pellico and Ippolito Nievo who lived during the Risorgimento Era.

NEW! STORIA D'ITALIA: La Storia di Roma

The rise of Rome, from the mythically simple beginnings of a few dwellings above the river Tiber to dominion over the whole Mediterranean world, to the Fall of the Empire. Students will travel back in time to learn how and why Rome became an unrivalled cultural as well as political superpower that continues to inspire and influence the world long after its fall.

ITALIANO CHE PASSIONE

This course is specifically designed for those students who have nearly mastered the Italian language with a high level of competency and wish to strengthen and deepen their learning experience. The Nuovo Magari textbook provides grammar exercises, reading and listening comprehension as well as cultural insight through Italian history, geography, art and much more. Placement test required for new students.

DOPPIO ESPRESSO I – *for absolute beginners*

Beginner class that meets twice a week! This class is intended for absolute beginners and gives the basic tools needed to successfully understand and communicate in Italian. Goal: at the completion of this course students should be able to greet others, introduce themselves, talk about themselves and others and describe people, things and places. Grammar: pronunciation, subject pronouns, c'è (there is) and ci sono (there are), indicative present tense of essere (to be), avere (to have), articles, genere and plural of nouns, numbers 0-49.

DOPPIO ESPRESSO II – *For students with a very basic knowledge of Italian*

This course build on Doppio Espresso I and Beginner Italian I and provides students a stronger and wider skills set necessary to understand, speak, read and write in Italian. At the end of the course students should be able to talk about the Italian education system, to order and to talk about food and drinks, as well as discuss common activities, leisure time, trip planning, daily life. This class meets twice a week and Mondays and Wednesdays.

REGISTRATION INFO

REGISTRATION starts **December 1st** at the ICC, via website, or by mail, with completed registration form and payment. Enrollment is confirmed with full payment of tuition or cash, check, (credit card is available online only).

Current **ICC membership** (\$30 individual, \$40 family) is required to enroll in all courses.

Early registration DISCOUNT: Register before Dec. 15th and get 10% discount off class cost.

LANGUAGE PROGRAMS DATES

WINTER QUARTER 2014: January 6th - March 31st - Registrations open on December 1st 2013

SPRING QUARTER 2014: April 2nd - June 28th - Registrations open on March 1st 2014

SUMMER QUARTER 2014: July 7th - September 29th - Registrations open on June 1st 2014

FALL QUARTER 2014: September 29th - December 20th - Registrations open on September 1st 2014

GUEST BLOGGER

The Abbey of San Galgano

by Jessica Andrews — www.OneDayInItaly.com

I'm not one of those girls who plans their wedding before they even have a boyfriend, but as soon as I saw photos of the Abbey of San Galgano in Tuscany I thought, "I want to get married THERE!"

Galgano Guidotti was a knight born in 1148 in nearby Chiusdino. When he was 32 years old the Angel Gabriel appeared to him and told him to follow him, forsake violence, build a round chapel at Montesiepi and retire there to live. Against the advice of his family, Galgano gets on his horse that - miraculously - takes him straight to Montesiepi without even being guided. When he arrives there, Galgano jumps from his mount and, as a symbol of his rejection of war, unsheathes his sword and with great force shoves it into a rock (which is said to have "parted like butter"). After hearing of this miracle, pilgrims began to come see Galgano at Montesiepi, and before his death in 1181AD (only a short year later) 19 such miracles were performed. Galgano never got the chance to build his chapel, but in the last year of his life he became a Cistercian monk and after his death and canonization (just four years after his death) his monastic brothers completed his task for him.

Some scholars think that the story of Saint Galgano shoving his sword into the stone may have inspired the tale of Excalibur and that Galgano himself may be the true inspiration for King Arthur. Taking it one step further, some people believe that the round chapel at Montesiepi might just be the hiding place of the fabled Holy Grail. There have been rumors for

centuries of a secret underground space that can only be accessed by moving a specific stone in the floor of the anteroom. Shockingly, no one has found this stone (yet), but perhaps I'll try when I go. :)

You can reach the Abbey of San Galgano and the Hermitage of Montesiepi from Florence by taking the FI-SI to the exit called "San Lorenzo a Merse" and then following the signs for Monticiano. Or exit at Siena and take the SS73 to arrive directly at the ruins of Saint Galgano.

Silver Linings on Via Truglio (shortened from a longer post on the site)

When the ferry pulled into the harbor on the Island of Capri and all of the other tourists veered right to catch the bus up to Capri town, I spotted a sign for "Capri" with an area pointing left and decided to explore and walk there instead.

All I saw for thirty minutes of an upward climb was a narrow cobblestoned walk and high cobblestoned walls on both sides of me.

Now, perhaps I should've seen a silver lining here. I've read a couple of other people's blog entries talking about the wonderful magic of walking Via Truglio, wondering about the homes and gardens on the other sides of the walls, the magic and mystery and beauty of it.

I was just pissed off.

When I thought of walking up to Capri town, I thought of beautiful views of the bay or of the town. Perhaps I'd



run into some locals, see old men in their gardens or women hanging up laundry while children played jump-rope in the yard.

Instead, all I saw were tall stone walls enclosing a narrow lane that seemed to go on FOREVER. No people, no homes, no gardens, no enchantment, and at this point in my solo trip my imagination was too exhausted to get any enjoyment out of "wondering". I had no idea where I was or if this tiny cobble pathway would actually lead to the main part of Capri. There were no turn-offs; it was either go forward or admit defeat and turn around to take the bus from the port...

... which I'm WAY too stubborn to even consider.

Ok, ok - that may be a tad dramatic. Whatever. Just be forewarned: If you don't want to take the bus from the port to the town square, don't expect to see sprawling vistas on the walk up. On another day I might've considered it an adventure, but on that day I just wanted to scream (if only there had been anyone around to hear me!). Hopefully my warning will save you from feeling as grumpy as I did when you walk Via Truglio. You're welcome :)

article shortened from a longer post on www.OneDayInItaly.com

Best Italian Blogs

Follow these interesting bloggers to practice your Italian.

1) MONDI E SAPORI: Appunti e informazioni di viaggio condite dai sapori migliori provenienti da tutto il mondo.
<http://mondiesapori.blogspot.it/>

2) CERCO RISTORANTI: esperienze di tanti viaggiatori e le opinioni sui ristoranti scritte dai food blogger. Cerco ristoranti è un blog in cui sono recensiti in modo amatoriale i ristoranti più particolari d'Italia.
www.cercoristoranti.it/

3) FUORI CASA: è un blog nato dall'esigenza di raccontare i miei viaggi. Un blog personale scritto con l'intento di condividere i luoghi più belli d'Italia. Città, borghi, ris-

toranti e paesaggi... tutto quello che può essere raccontato da un viaggiatore appassionato.

<http://fuoricasa.wordpress.com>

4) I LOVE MARCHE: La passione per la mia Regione, le Marche, raccontata attraverso le foto, i racconti e le emozioni che questa terra mi trasmette.
<http://ilovemarche.it/>

5) FOURFANCY: Italian way of life, moda e mode, viaggi, cucina, design. Blog tenuto da 4 milanesi più una milanese ora trasferita a Dallas. Osserviamo quello che ci circonda cercando di scovare oggetti, posti, indirizzi, situazioni che abbiano qualcosa di speciale.

<http://fourfancy.blogspot.com>



BUON NATALE!

Panettone, che bontà!

Ludovico il Moro, Lord of Milan, was giving a great Christmas Eve dinner one year, to be crowned with a sumptuous cake prepared by the head chef himself. Alas, disaster struck as the rich dessert collapsed into a sticky heap. Frenzied, the head chef caught sight of a large, tall sweet bread that a servant named Toni had just made himself from leftover odds and ends. He slapped it onto a silver tray and served it to the waiting guests. When everyone loved it, Ludovico il Moro asked for its creator to come forward and identify himself. Someone shouted “Evviva il pan de Toni!” and so the name panettone was born.

Today, not only is panettone a traditional Christmas staple, it is also a culture unto itself. I stand uncertainly before the pyramid of cardboard boxes with their string handles. There is the classic panettone, for the purists, or the chocolate covered one, for the innovative, or the one with filling, for the adventurous. And which brand to buy? Alemagna is the traditional one, with its pale blue box and silvery Milan Cathedral on it. A definite classic. But maybe a bit too stuffy? Too conservative? Then there's Perugina, in the shiny red box with gold lettering.

But they make chocolates; what do they know about panettone? Bauli is a good brand, but hey, how about this store brand one in a plastic sack at half the price? And so on. The difficult selection having been made I trundle home laden with panettoni because, and here is the second part of the panettone culture, I bring them as gifts when I visit someone over the holidays. Equally importantly, I keep some 'emergency' ones, so when the doorbell rings (“good grief, it's Signora Luisa with a gift! Didn't she move in with her son in Australia?”) I can graciously accept the poinsettia and hand over the panettone. In the final count, when the holidays are over every Italian home has a dozen poinsettias and an equal number of panettoni. The difference is that while poinsettias are poisonous, panettoni remain delicious for a long time. In their many permutations (panettone culture part three) they are dunked in caffelatte, warmed and covered with rum sauce and layered with chocolate. And with the two-for-one sales after the holidays, with any luck I can have enough to last until Easter (just in time for Colomba...).



The beautiful pictures in these pages are by Manuela Zangara. In her site, www.manusmenu.com/panettone, she also has a full recipe to cook your own Panettone.

ITALIAN RECIPE

AVANZI DI PANETTONE



Si avvicina San Biagio, festa nella quale si consumano gli avanzi del panettone natalizio, e si implora la protezione del Santo contro le affezioni della gola. Nelle tradizioni ambrosiane c'è un vecchio modo di riciclare gli avanzi di panettone, che val la pena di provare. Una volta si chiamava "el budin de la serva", ecco sotto la ricetta. Pare che san Biagio non farà mancare la propria protezione a chi vorrà provare questa ricetta.

Ingredients

- 350 gr di panettone raffermo, tagliato a cubetti e magari seccato un pochino (ma solo un pochino) nel forno
- 4 uova intere;
- 120 g di zucchero
- 1/2 litro di latte
- cannella
- buccia di limone
- poco burro
- alchermes
- zucchero caramellato.

Preparation time:

30 min + cooking time (1 hour) + cooling time

Needed:

Occorre uno stampo da budino, di quelli a tronco di cono, tutti smerlati.

Recipe:

Si fa bollire il latte, vi si mette in infusione un pezzo di cannella e la scorza di mezzo limone e si lascia riposare coperto per un quarto d'ora.

Intanto si sbattono bene le uova con lo zucchero, poi vi si versa sopra, attraverso un passino, il latte bollente.

Si mettono i cubetti di panettone nello stampo, prima unto con un poco di burro, vi si vuota sopra lentamente il composto di uova, zucchero e latte, si copre con un foglio di alluminio e si mette a bagno maria in forno già a 200° per un'ora.

Quando sarà cotto lo si lascia raffreddare, poi si versano sulla superficie (dove sarà affiorato il panettone) due o tre cucchiaini di alchermes, in modo che un poco scivoli anche lungo i bordi dello stampo.

Dopo un altro breve riposo si capovolge sul piatto di portata e si copre con tre cucchiaini di zucchero fate caramellare in un tegamino e allungate con due cucchiaini d'acqua calda.



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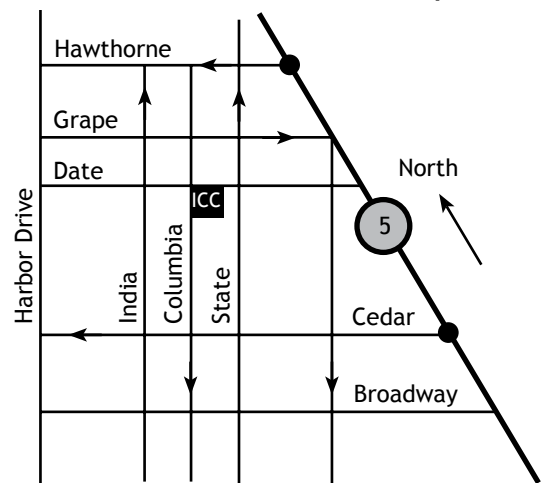
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ICC Map



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