



Italian Historical Society of America Newsletter

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Tutto Italiano **Benvenuto a *Tutto Italiano***

Nestled beside a hillside river on the western edge of the Apennines, the [Garden of Ninfa](#) flourishes amid the ruins of an ancient village. An early settlement – possibly Pre-Roman – the village, about 40 miles southeast of Rome, was built alongside a foot trail from Naples to Rome. Often cited as the location of a temple for nymphs, at some time during the eighth century, the land was part of a parcel acquired under the pope's administration.

Towards the end of the thirteenth century, Pope Boniface VIII (Benedetto Caetani) purchased the land for his nephew, but by the end of the next century – through family fractures and the increase in marshlands that brought malaria – the village was abandoned. While it remained uninhabited for centuries, the vegetation continued to grow; and during that time, several attempts were made to create a garden.

It wasn't until the early 1900s, though, when Pietro II Caetani began restoring the property; a task taking almost 20 years to drain the swamps, uproot weeds, and plant hundreds of species of tree, shrubs, and flowers; and restoring some of the ruins. Set between the mountains and the coast, the land has a unique microclimate that nourishes the varied types of plantings that include "[1300 botanical species over the eight acres of landscape](#): ... cypress trees, oaks, beeches ... varieties of deciduous magnolia, birch, water iris and several Japanese maples ... ornamental cherry trees ... apple trees ... tulip trees ... many varieties of roses that climb on trees and ruins along the river and streams ... tropical plants such as the avocado, the South American *Gunnera manicata* [giant rhubarb] banana" and grapefruit trees.

In 1972, the last heir of the Caetani family, Princess Lelia Caetani, established the [Roffredo Caetani Foundation](#), named for her father, to preserve the garden. Because of its distinctive microclimate, the garden is open from April to October, on limited days each month. The family estate, [Caetani Castle](#), is located in the nearby village of [Sermoneta](#).

Be sure to click on the links below to learn more about the Garden and to view beautiful photographs and videos.

[Life in Italy: The Gardens of Ninfa](#)

[Delicious Italy: The Garden of Ninfa](#)

[Italy Heaven: Gardens of Ninfa](#)

[The Romantic Garden of Ninfa, Italy](#)

[Most Beautiful Garden in Italy - A Walking Tour](#) (YouTube Video)

[I giardini di Ninfa – The Garden of Nymph](#) (Beautiful Video and Pictures)

["Enchanting Gardens in Italy"](#) (*La Gazzetta Italiana*)

Italian American Press

The Italian American Press offers a great selection of books – culture, history, memoirs, art, family, food, the supernatural, the natural beauty of Italy, and more – for every interest. Help preserve Italian American heritage and history. Support authors of Italian heritage who write about Italian American and Italian culture and let them know you found their books on the Italian American Press.

New on the Italian American Press

[No Distance Between Us](#) edited by Robert Savino and James P. Wagner (Ishwa)

[No Distance Between Us: The Next Collection](#) edited by Robert Savino and James P. Wagner (Ishwa)

Featuring the works of Italian American poets, each book presents a collection of thought-provoking compositions representing the diversity of Italian culture and heritage. The first collection, comprised of works by 47 poets of Italian heritage who live on Long Island, was a project of Robert Savino during his term as Poet Laureate (Suffolk County, NY). *The Next Collection*, a compilation of works from 64 poets across New York State, was conceived by his passion for the works of Dante. Both collections are in English with Italian translations.

[April is National Poetry Month.](#)

Italian American Heritage Project

Keep your Italian heritage alive. An excellent source for learning about Italian American culture and heritage is a museum specifically established to focus on the Italian American experience. Many have virtual exhibits and tours available on their websites. [List of Italian American Museums.](#)

Talk with your children (no matter what age), grandchildren, other family members, friends, and educators. Tell them about the significant contributions people of Italian heritage have made to America ... and the world. [List of more than 70 contributors on Thirty-One Days of Italians.](#)

Learn about Columbus. It's difficult to correct over 30 years of misinformation, and the rapid spread through digital sources is disheartening. In 2018, the Italian American Heritage Project was established to provide educational resources about Italian American history, heritage, and culture. The website also addresses the Columbus Controversy by providing facts about Columbus, how the controversy started, and why it continues. Read [What is the Truth About Columbus?](#) To understand how Columbus became an important part of American history, read [Christopher Columbus: When Did the Hero Become a Villain?](#) (Some links are no longer active.)

[Lesson plans developed from the letters Columbus wrote after his first voyage.](#)

The groups opposing Columbus Day have an organized agenda to eliminate it from America. The statements of truth and facts posted on Italian American websites are not working. Columbus Day has lost much of its relevance in American history. Indigenous People already have a designated day, and Native Americans have a day and a month to celebrate their culture.

Indigenous Peoples Day – August 9

Native American Month – November

Native American Heritage Day – Friday after Thanksgiving

Visit the [IAHP website](#) to read my articles, learn about the lesson plans, see the resources I've used, and support my work. Donate for a cause – preserving Italian heritage and Italian American history and culture through education. [All donations are tax-deductible.](#)

Italian American News

[Refuting Charges Against Christopher Columbus](#) (Columbus Heritage Coalition;

Rewriting the Script (Fra Noi; March 2022)

[Judge Says City of Syracuse Can't Remove Columbus Statue](https://www.wskg.org/news/local/judge-says-city-of-syracuse-cant-remove-columbus-statue) (wskg.org; March 2022)
[Thanks, John.]

[Little Italy Cut Out of \\$20 Million NY State Grant for Chinatown](#) (NY Post; March 2022)

News about Italy

[Italy Ends COVID-19 State of Emergency, Curbs to be Lifted Gradually](#) (reuters.com; April 2022)

Red Oranges, or The Red Gold of Sicily (L'Italo Americano; March 2022)

Finally, Science Says Coffee Helps Live Longer (L'Italo Americano; March 2022)

Buon anno, buon tutto, buona vita,
Janice

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Founder, [Thirty-One Days of Italians](#)

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Notice About Links: On the date of publication, the links in this newsletter were current. In older newsletters, some links may be inactive if the URL has changed or is no longer available.

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