



Italian Historical Society of America

Newsletter

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

The history of the [Amalfi Coast](#) has its share of legends. Among them, it's where Amalfi – the lover of Ercole (Hercules) – is buried; and where the city and coast get their name. Located on the southern coast of the [Sorrentine Peninsula](#), about ten miles south of Naples, the Amalfi Coast along with [Sorrento](#) and [Capri](#) form the foundation for Italy's popular liqueur, limoncello.

Limoncello has its share of legends, too. Some claim it was first introduced to the area by Zeus, the father of Ercole and Persephone, among many other gods and goddesses. In Greek mythology, Persephone was served by [sirens – half-woman, half-bird](#) – who lured sailors to the rocky cliffs of the “[Sirenas: the Gallo Lungo, La Castelluccia \(also known as Isola dei Briganti\), and La Rotonda](#).” There is no mention of whether the sirens or any surviving sailors imbibed the lemon liqueur, but it is noted that, in ancient times, [local fishermen and farmers would ward off the morning chill with a shot](#). The drink is also attributed to “[the monks' obsession with the production and consumption of the beverage in their convents](#).”

Historically, lemons were cultivated for ornamental use in the early years of the Roman Empire: [It's noted that paintings and mosaics of lemons](#) have been found in the ruins of Pompeii and Herculaneum. (Mt. Vesuvius erupted and destroyed those towns in 79 AD.) By the eleventh century, lemons were grown and used more for their medicinal value, and by the eighteenth century, lemon trees were part of the landscape on the terraced hillsides of the Sorrentine Peninsula.

It wasn't until 1988, though, that the first trademark for limoncello was registered. Based on a family recipe made from lemons harvested on Capri, the drink was first sold in a bar, and then later mass produced for wider distribution.

Two varieties of lemons grow on the peninsula: [Femminiello](#) – harvested in Sorrento (on the north coast) and Capri – and [Sfusato](#), grown on the Amalfi Coast. Both are used to produce limoncello and are certified with the protected geographical indication (PGI).

(Thank you, Mary.)

[Lemons, Lemon Trees, Limoncello](#)

[Limoncello, the Sun in a Glass](#)

[What Is Limoncello & How To Drink Italian Limoncello](#)

[The True Story of the Italian Liqueur Limoncello](#)

[Recipe of Limoncello](#)

[How Traditional Limoncello is Made in Italy](#) (Great Video)

[Growing Lemons on the Amalfi Coast](#) (Excellent Video)

[Panoramic View of Amalfi](#)

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.

Summer Reading

[Featured Books](#)

Coal War in the Mahoning Valley by Joe Tucciarone and Ben Lariccia

Out of Rushmore's Shadow - The Luigi Del Bianco Story by Lou Del Bianco

Sweet Figs, Bitter Greens by Donna L. Gestri

Vina, A Brooklyn Memoir by Joseph C Polacco

With Tears and Laughter: An Immigrant Voyage by John C. Alessio

Update on DiMaggio

From author Lawrence Baldassaro: “Joe DiMaggio joined the Yankees in 1936, not 1934. They did sign him in 1934, but because he had suffered a knee injury they insisted that he play another season with the San Francisco Seals in 1935 to prove that he was healthy.”

[“Joe DiMaggio Day” at Yankee Stadium, October 1, 1949](#)

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.](#)

The Legacy of Two Remarkable Men (La Gazzetta Italiana; May 2022)

[Global Licensing Rights to Historic Italian American Newspaper America Oggi Purchased by North Sixth Group; to Launch America Domani](#) (apnews.com; May 19, 2022)

[The New Orleans' Lynching and New York's Columbus Statue](#) (La Voce di New York; April 29, 2022)

[U.S. Army Garrison Italy Soldiers Return Italian Woman's Birthday Cake](#) (U.S. Army; April 28, 2022)

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