



Italian Historical Society of America

Newsletter

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

In the legend of [Romulus and Remus](#), the twin brothers wanted to build a city along the east bank of the Tiber River, but each had a different location in mind. Two sites were selected, both part of the fabled [Seven Hills of Rome](#), located within several miles next to the river: Romulus chose [Palatine Hill](#), Remus preferred [Aventine Hill](#). The brothers quarreled, and Romulus won, making Palatine Hill the beginning of a city – that would become an empire – named for him.

At the time the city was founded in 753 BC and for centuries after, the [hills were more distinct](#), forming both a geographical and societal landscape. Overlooking the [Roman Forum](#) to its north, the Colosseum to the northeast, and [Circus Maximus](#) to the south, Palatine Hill was the site of numerous emperors' palaces. Forming the southern border to Circus Maximus, Aventine Hill was home to working-class locals and foreigners. Their churches and monasteries dot the hillside; and include the Knights of Malta piazza and its famous keyhole with a spectacular view.

Northeast of Aventine Hill and sloping south to the Colosseum, [Caelian Hill](#) was home to wealthy residents of Rome. Numerous churches and ruins of the Temple of Claudius, the Baths of Caracalla, and the arches of Nero's temple depict a lifestyle of luxury. North of Caelian, [Esquiline Hill](#) was also populated by prosperous Romans, among them Nero, who built his [Golden House](#) there after fire swept through Rome in AD 64.

[Viminal Hill](#), northwest of Esquiline, is the smallest of the seven hills, but contains the ruins of the [Baths of Diocletian](#), completed in AD 298. Built to accommodate 3,000 people, it was the largest bath complex in Rome. West of Viminal, the palaces built on [Quirinal Hill](#) are now occupied by Italy's government and include the Presidential Palace. It's noted the last of the grand Roman baths was built there, under the rule of Constantine the Great (306 to 337).

Diagonally south of Quirinal Hill and northwest of Palatine Hill, [Capitoline Hill](#) was the center of Rome. Political and religious leaders created the basis of both governmental and spiritual decrees, with the Archives and Temple of Jupiter. Commissioned by Pope Paul III in 1536, Michelangelo designed [Piazza del Campidoglio](#).

The Seven Hills of Rome formed the heart of the city, and in the eighth century BC, Romulus had the first wall built to protect Palatine Hill. As Rome expanded, [walls continued to be built up to the seventeenth century](#).

[Ancient Rome: The Seven Hills](#)

[The Seven Hills of Rome](#)

[The Seven Hills of Rome: History and Highlights](#)

[ItaliaRail: The Seven Hills of Rome](#)

[A Tourist in Rome: Seven Hills in Rome](#)

[Palatine Hill: Ancient Sites and Ruins](#) (Great Video)

[Aventine Hill](#)

[The Aventine Keyhole](#)

[Aventine Hill Guide | Rome](#)

[Nero's Golden House](#)

[Golden House of an Emperor](#)

[Famous Places in Rome: the Quirinal Hill](#)

[Capitoline Hill \(Campidoglio\)](#)

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.

[Great Summer Reads](#)

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

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