



*The Ambassador*



*Embassy of Italy  
Washington*

I am pleased to put pen to paper to introduce the 2017 edition of the Eduitalia "Study in Italy" guide, a first time for me but a long-standing and welcome tradition at the Embassy.

Through the wide range of participating institutions and variety of courses offered, this edition once again provides an invaluable selection for students wishing to learn Italian in the best environment possible.

The *States General of the Italian Language in the World*, held in Florence on October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, confirmed that interest in studying Italian is steadily on the rise worldwide. Furthermore, our well-loved and "trendy" Italian language goes hand-in-hand with another salient aspect of Italy's traditions – our distinctive "made in Italy".

College Board data on AP Italian and Language exams taken in the US, and published in May 2016, confirms this trend with an 8% increase (up to 2,774 exams from 2,573 taken in 2015). Let me also recall that Italy continues to be the second study destination of choice for American college students (after the United Kingdom), with a total of 33,768 in 2014-15, an additional 2,602 compared to the previous academic year.

This excellent result is due to the steadfast commitment and dedication of all the parties involved: the Embassy of Italy in Washington D.C. and the consular network in the United States, the committees representing Italians in the US (Comites), and representatives of Italian and Italian-American Associations and Universities. This joint endeavor has boosted both the quality and quantity of Italian courses in public and private US schools.

By awarding scholarships to the most deserving AP Italian students, Eduitalia plays a particularly significant role in this. Its tangible contribution enables students in the United States to live a unique experience, completely immersed in our language and beautiful Italian cities.

Just recently, on November 4<sup>th</sup>, I had the opportunity to meet the scholarship recipients of the Washington, D.C. constituency during the Eduitalia award ceremony that took place in Washington, D.C., Boston, Chicago, Miami, New York and San Francisco. These lucky, and deserving students will spend an unforgettable period in two Eduitalia Guide venues, and enjoy the best of what Italy has to offer first-hand, thanks to the rich cultural and language programs offered.

Once again, my greatest appreciation goes to Eduitalia for all its invaluable help in promoting our Italian language, and to you, *cari studenti*, for choosing Italy as your travel and study destination. *Buono studio!*



*Armando Varricchio*