



The Ambassador



*Embassy of Italy
Washington*

I am pleased to put pen to paper for the second time to introduce the 2018 edition of Eduitalia's "Study in Italy" guide, a tradition I warmly welcome.

Through the eighty participating institutions - from schools to academies for foreign students, and the variety of courses offered - this edition, once again, provides an invaluable selection for students who wish to learn Italian in the best environment possible.

The success of our language in the world, which is associated everywhere with the style and quality which distinguishes both our *made in Italy* and the *Italian way of life*, is the result of the joint effort of the Embassy of Italy in Washington D.C., the Consular network in the United States and the many associations and universities committed to promoting Italian language and culture.

This year, 2571 AP Italian exams were successfully taken, enabling students to earn credits which are recognized in many universities throughout the United States and facilitate access to the Italian university system. Italy is the second country of choice - and the first non-English language one - for US students wishing to continue their studies abroad (over 35,000 last year alone) in fields as different as Art, Sociology, Architecture, Physics and Engineering.

Thanks to Eduitalia, on October 23rd, 23 successful AP Italian students were awarded prizes. They will have the opportunity to spend several weeks in Italy in one of Eduitalia's partner schools and academies, and enjoy an amazing experience of a full immersion in Italian language and culture.

For the first time, during the same ceremony, eight deserving teachers who distinguished themselves for their dedication to teaching Italian, received scholarships sponsored by Eduitalia. The teachers came from the consular jurisdictions of Washington D.C., New York, Houston, Miami, San Francisco, Chicago, Los Angeles and Boston and will spend two weeks in Italy and attend a course on language teaching.

Recognizing commitment is certainly an incentive both for teachers and students who can thus enjoy the best of what Italy has to offer, thanks to the rich variety of cultural and language programs offered.

I am confident that the excellent cooperation with Eduitalia will continue to grow in years to come, helping us to increase the number of students of Italian via the many opportunities offered to speak our language as the beautiful "lingua viva" that it is, and to visit so many wonderful places of our *Bel Paese*.

Armando Varricchio