



The Ambassador



*Embassy of Italy
Washington*

I am delighted to continue a welcome tradition and once again introduce this year's edition of Eduitalia's interesting and practical "Study in Italy" guide.

Through the ninety-four participating institutions — ranging from schools to academies for foreign students offering a wide variety of courses — this 2019 edition provides an invaluable selection for students wishing to learn Italian in the best possible environments.

The great — and growing — success of our language worldwide goes hand—in—hand with its association to the style and quality of both our *made in Italy* and *Italian way of life*. Furthermore, it is the result of a joint effort of the Italian Embassy in Washington D.C., the Italian Consular Network in the U.S. and the associations and universities that, in accordance with the Strategic Plan of National Observatory, are committed to the promotion of Italian language and culture.

This year, 2926 AP Italian exams were successfully taken thanks to the growth of exam preparation courses (up to 330 from 297). AP exams enable students to earn credits which are recognized in many universities throughout the United States and which facilitate admission to the Italian university system. Italy is the first non—English language destination choice — and overall second — for US students wishing to continue their studies abroad (more than 35,300 just last year) in different fields of study — be it Art, Sociology, Architecture, Physics or Engineering.

On November 5, 2018, Eduitalia recognized and awarded 23 highly valued AP Italian students. They will now have the opportunity to spend several weeks in Italy in one of Eduitalia's partner schools and academies, living an amazing full immersion experience in the Italian language and culture. I am sure that this first—hand period in Italy will mark a milestone in their lives and career paths, as they will discover the multifaceted aspects of a country rich in both tradition and innovation.

During the same ceremony, Eduitalia awarded scholarships to nine outstanding teachers, whose commitment to motivating students and preparing them for the demanding exam went above and beyond.

These teachers came from the consular jurisdictions of Washington D.C., Boston, Chicago, Miami, New York and San Francisco. They will spend two weeks in Italy attending courses on teaching and methodology.

This excellent cooperation with Eduitalia will continue to grow in years to come and to play a key role in the pursuit of our mission: to increase the number of Italian language students by offering opportunities to speak our beautiful language and to go on a journey of discovery of the immense cultural heritage of our *Bel Paese*.

Grazie mille, Eduitalia!

Armando Varricchio