



*The Ambassador*



*Embassy of Italy  
Washington*

Dear Friends

In as different a school year as 2020-2021, I am pleased to introduce this new, fifth edition of Eduitalia Guide's "Study in Italy" and continue not only what has become a most welcome custom, but also express sincere appreciation to an Association that, over the years, has distinguished itself as the Embassy's reliable and generous partner in its mission to promote Italian language and culture.

Despite the fact that the start of this academic year was, inevitably, affected by the global crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing suspension of "in person" classes, replaced by distance learning, our Italian language network held up well thanks to the exceptional resilience of teachers and students alike, and to the team effort of all key players, including Eduitalia Association, a member of the National Observatory of the Italian Language. Through its 111 institutions, which include Italian schools, universities and academies, Eduitalia provides a variety of language and culture courses to meet the many and diverse needs of students in some of our beautiful Country's best locations.

Equally, demand to learn Italian in the United States continues to be strong, as can be seen by the 2,518 AP Italian exams taken by students last May, in the very midst of the pandemic crisis. The most recent "open doors" report from the International Education Institute highlighted how in the 2018/19 school year, for the seventh consecutive year, Italy was the second destination country abroad for student tourism with a total of 39,043 American students (just 315 fewer than the leader, the English language United Kingdom).

These numbers are significant, and we must use them to relaunch Italian learning, starting with limiting the loss of student enrollment in courses and with maintaining the excellent results achieved so far.

Eduitalia plays a pivotal role in this. Indeed, by offering scholarships to the most deserving students, to teachers who distinguish themselves for their commitment and dedication to teaching Italian, and to leading figures such as principals and supervisors who include Italian courses in their school curricula, the Association contributes to attaining the goals of the relaunch plan, working hand-in-hand with the U.S. diplomatic and consular network.

On October 21, 2020, during "Italian Language Week", in a virtual ceremony Eduitalia awarded 23 scholarships to students who passed the AP Italian language exam with outstanding results.

Awardees will have the opportunity to spend two or more weeks in Italy, at one of the schools, universities or academies located in our country's most beautiful cities.

This year marks the 700th anniversary of the death of Dante, and thus provides an additional incentive to learn Italian. Eduitalia offers many different options to stay and study in Italy, and to practice the language of the "Sommo Poeta" (the "Supreme Poet") in his homeland, our very own Bel Paese.

Grazie, Eduitalia!

  
*Armando Varricchio*