



WELCOME TO OUR

Newsletter

we're so glad you're here!

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Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome to our July newsletter! We hope you are enjoying a wonderful summer and taking time to relax, travel, and make special memories with family and friends.

Although many of our members are away during the summer months, we remain excited about all that lies ahead for the Italian American Club of Central Florida. We will not be holding a member meeting in July, but we look forward to reconnecting with everyone soon. Be sure to watch for announcements regarding the date of our next meeting.

Thank you for your continued support, participation, and dedication to our club. Your enthusiasm and friendship help keep our traditions alive and make our organization a welcoming place for both longtime members and those joining us for the first time.

We wish you a safe, happy, and relaxing 4th of July, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

With warm regards,
The Officers
Italian American Club of Central Florida

Two Flags, One Heart: Celebrating America's 250th Birthday Through Italian-American Pride

In 2026, the United States celebrates an extraordinary milestone, 250 years of independence! It is a time to reflect on the courage, sacrifice, and dreams that built a nation unlike any other. For Italian Americans, this anniversary carries a special meaning because our story has become inseparable from the story of America itself.

When the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776, Italy as we know it today did not yet exist. The Italian peninsula was a collection of kingdoms, republics, and duchies. Yet the ideals that inspired America's founders of liberty, family, hard work, and opportunity would one day inspire millions of Italians to cross the Atlantic in search of a better life.

Beginning in the late 1800s and continuing into the early 1900s, more than four million Italians arrived on American shores. They came with little more than hope, determination, and a willingness to work. Many settled in neighborhoods where they could hear familiar dialects, smell fresh bread baking, and celebrate the traditions they carried from villages across Sicily, Calabria, Campania, Tuscany, Veneto, Abruzzo, and beyond.

Life was rarely easy. Italian immigrants often faced language barriers, discrimination, and difficult working conditions. Yet they persevered. They built railroads and bridges, worked in factories, opened family businesses, cultivated farms, and helped transform cities and communities across America.

Over the generations, Italian Americans became teachers, physicians, firefighters, entrepreneurs, military heroes, public servants, artists, scientists, and community leaders. They helped shape the nation while never forgetting the values that defined their heritage: faith, family, hospitality, respect for elders, and pride in honest work.

Our contributions extend far beyond construction and commerce. Italian Americans enriched American culture through music, art, architecture, cuisine, and innovation. Sunday dinners became treasured family traditions. Festivals honoring patron saints continue to fill our neighborhoods with faith and celebration. The Italian language, recipes, and customs passed from grandparents to grandchildren remind us that preserving our heritage is one of the greatest gifts we can offer future generations.

As we celebrate America's 250th birthday, we also celebrate the remarkable journey of those who came before us. Our grandparents and great-grandparents did not simply seek a new country, they embraced a new future while honoring the old one. They proved that a person can love the land of their ancestors while pledging unwavering loyalty to the nation they now call home.

Today, many of us proudly display both the American flag and the Italian tricolore. Together they tell a beautiful story: one of Heritage and Hope, Tradition and Opportunity, Remembrance and Gratitude.

The Italian American Club of Central Florida proudly carries this legacy forward. Every gathering, shared meal, celebration, and friendship helps preserve the rich traditions that our ancestors worked so hard to maintain. By sharing their stories, recipes, songs, and customs, we ensure that future generations understand where they came from, and appreciate the opportunities they have today.

As America begins its next 250 years, may we continue to honor those who built this nation with courage and determination. May we celebrate the enduring spirit of our Italian heritage, cherish our families, serve our communities, and remain grateful for the freedoms that unite us all.

Buon Compleanno, America! Happy 250th Birthday!

May God continue to bless the United States of America, the land of opportunity, and may the traditions of our Italian ancestors continue to thrive for generations to come.

**"Due bandiere. Un solo cuore."
Two Flags. One Heart**



LA DOLCE VITA

Written By: Lisa Powell
Continued



Looking for a new Recipe?

Italian American Focaccia Bread

Ingredients

- **Dough:** 500g bread flour, 7g active dry yeast, 350 ml warm water, 10g salt, and 15ml extra-virgin olive oil.
- **The "Italian Flag" Toppings:** Cherry tomatoes (quartered), fresh mozzarella pearls, and fresh basil leaves.
- **Finishing:** Coarse sea salt, flaky rosemary, and high-quality olive oil.

Steps

1. **Prepare the Dough:** Mix the flour, water, yeast, and salt. Knead until smooth, then let it rise in a warm, oiled bowl for 1.5 – 2 hours until doubled in size.
2. **Shape and Dimple:** Transfer the dough to a well-oiled baking sheet. Gently stretch it to the edges, then use your fingers to press deep dimples all over the surface.
3. **Decorate:** Arrange the toppings to mimic the Italian flag (green basil on the left, white mozzarella in the center, and red tomatoes on the right).
4. **Bake:** Drizzle generously with olive oil and sprinkle with coarse sea salt. Bake at 425°F (220°C) for 20–25 minutes until golden and bubbly.



Events

MEMBER MEETING NEWS

As a Reminder.....At our upcoming September Anniversary Dinner Meeting, nominations will officially open for the position of Sergeant at Arms. Members interested in serving in this important role or wishing to nominate a fellow member are encouraged to participate. The final voting process will follow in October. The position includes duties such as signing members and guests into Club events. Keeping order at Club Events. Assisting with Event Set up as well as other duties as needed.

We appreciate the dedication and support of our members as we continue working together to strengthen and grow our Club Community.



Upcoming Events

Volunteers Needed!



ITALIAN Festival

Arts & Crafts

Live Music

Taste of Italy

Food Vendors

DATE- **Saturday, October 10**

Clermont Waterfront Park
100 3rd St Clermont FL 34711

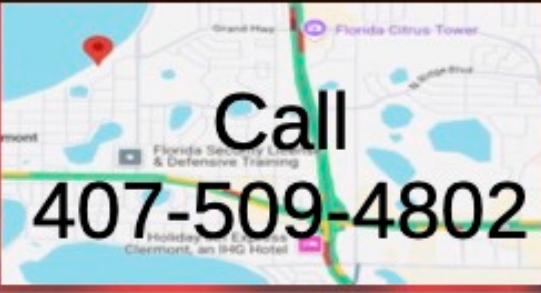
11am – 4pm

Family Fun

To Benefit - Camp Boggy Creek & New beginnings

 italianamericanclubofcfl@gmail.com

[HTTPS://ItalianAmericanClubofCFL.com](https://ItalianAmericanClubofCFL.com)

Call
407-509-4802

Upcoming Events

LAKELAND FESTIVAL IS COMING!

Save the Date for our very first Lakeland Festival!!

November 7, 2026 5:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Volunteers Needed!



NEW IAC ITEMS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE



Wine Glasses
\$11 Each or 6 for \$55



Coffee Mugs
\$10 Each or 3 for \$25



Espresso Cups
\$9.50 Each or 6 for \$50



Key Chains
\$5 Each

To order call 407-509-4802 or email: italianamericanclubofcfl@gmail.com

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If you would like to sponsor a Business Ad please contact IAC for details

Calendar of Events

Please see individual events in newsletter for times and locations

JULY MEMBER MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED!

**SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARY MEMBER MEETING DETAILS
COMING SOON**

OCTOBER 10TH CLERMONT ITALIAN FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 7TH LAKELAND ITALIAN FESTIVAL





WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

This club is truly “*your*” club, and we wholeheartedly encourage your active participation and generous sponsorships. We are always eager to hear your ideas for future events, as your input is invaluable in shaping our community. Exciting committees will be formed in the coming weeks, and we are actively seeking enthusiastic volunteers to join us in making our vision a reality. Whether you have a specific skill to share or simply a desire to contribute, we welcome your involvement in strengthening the Italian American Club of Central Florida.

We Need You!

JOIN OUR EVENT COMMITTEE

We are looking for passionate members to join our Event Committee and help bring the spirit of Italy to life within our club. Whether you have a knack for planning small or large scale events, a talent for sourcing the best authentic catering, or simply a desire to help decorate and organize our socials, we would love to have your input. By joining the committee, you'll play a vital role in preserving our heritage through memorable gatherings, from traditional feasts to contemporary celebrations. If you're ready to share your ideas and a little bit of your time to help our community thrive, please reach out to us at our next meeting or reply to this message.

(407-509-4802) or email us at: italianamericanclubofcfl@gmail.com