



WELCOME TO OUR
Newsletter
we're so glad you're here!

From the Officers

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Dear Friends,

As we turn the calendar page to January, we hope you all had a wonderful Christmas holiday filled with the warmth of family, the joy of tradition, and, of course, excellent food! There is nothing quite like the holiday season to remind us of the deep bonds we share within our Italian American community.

We want to take a moment to say thank you. Whether you joined us for our recent events, volunteered your time, or simply shared a laugh with a fellow member, you are what makes the Italian American Club of Central Florida so special. Your presence keeps our heritage alive and our club thriving.

We hope you enjoy this month's edition of the newsletter! We are looking forward to a year full of celebration, culture, and friendship with all of you. Wishing you a healthy, happy, and prosperous New Year!

Warmly,
The Italian American Club of Central Florida Officers

Upcoming Events

MEMBER MEETING

Our First Member Meeting of 2026!

Date: January 21st

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: The Elks Lodge
12 Primrose Drive
Orlando FL 32803



Agenda:

2025 Financial Disclosure

Upcoming Events

Sharing ideas for the Club (bring your creative ideas)

Event Committee Creation

And More...

Light Finger Food and refreshments will be served.

Entrance will be on the side of the Building where the club flag will be displayed.

Please let us know if you will be attending as seating is limited.

Upcoming Events

TASTE OF ITALY FESTIVAL
GROVELAND FL



The Italian American Club of Central Florida Presents

Taste Of Italy Festival

MARCH 7, 2026

11 AM - 4 PM

Lake David Park
459 S Lake Ave
Groveland FL 34736

**All Proceeds go to benefit the charity
New Beginnings and The Lupus Foundation**

The poster features a vibrant background with a blue sky, green leaves, and colorful bunting. At the top, a circular logo for the Italian American Club of Central Florida is displayed. Below the logo, the festival title is written in a large, elegant script. The date and time are prominently displayed in bold, black text. The location is also clearly stated. At the bottom, a variety of Italian food items, including a large pizza, spaghetti, salami, and cheese, are shown on a red and white checkered tablecloth. In the background, a picturesque Italian village with a church and rolling hills is visible.

Volunteers Needed!

Upcoming Events

BINGO NIGHT!

Join us for Bingo night at the Elks Lodge
Monday February 9th
Hall opens at 4:30 PM
Bingo Begins at 5:45 PM



Location:

12 North Primrose Drive, Orlando FL. 32803

Bingo at the Elks is a Public Event

Food and Beverages are available for purchase



Upcoming Events

Purchase Your Tickets Now and Save the Date!

February 21st

The Elks Lodge - 12 N Primrose Dr. Orlando FL

6:00 PM Doors Open

6:00-7:00 PM Cocktail Hour (Alcohol available for purchase)

6:30 PM. Message from the President

7:00 PM Dinner

8:00 PM Music and Dancing

Dinner will be buffet style. Catering by Dough Boyz of Oviedo, prepared by Chef Mario.

Menu:

Antipasto Salad

Pasta Bolognese

Chicken Parmesan

Chicken Scappariello

Sausage and Peppers

Water and Soft Drinks are included.

Ticket Price: \$40.00 Per Person Members

\$45.00 Per Person Non-Members

Music will be provided by our very own Italian Connection

Carnevale is celebrated with Masks and costumes as if you are in Venice, Italy. You can do both if you like or with just a mask. Prizes for the best dressed will be awarded.

For tickets reservation please call or text Nunzio at 407-509-4802. You can also call or text or email Maddalena at 321-624-5161. Email: tre.italianamericanclubofcfl@gmail.com. Payment can be through Zelle, Venmo or Cash Up.



LA DOLCE VITA

Did You Know? There is a Town Built to "Disappear" in Italy?

If you ever travel to the "heel" of Italy's boot, you'll find a town that looks like it was plucked from a storybook: Alberobello in Puglia. It is famous for its Trulli, small, whitewashed round houses with cone-shaped stone roofs.

But these houses weren't designed that way just for looks—they were built to dodge taxes!

In the 15th century, the local Count (Giangirolamo II) wanted to avoid paying a "settlement tax" to the King of Naples. To get around the law, he ordered the local peasants to build their homes without mortar (dry-stone construction). Why?

Because if the Royal Tax Inspector was spotted coming down the road, the residents could quickly pull out a few key stones and the entire house would collapse into a pile of rubble!

When the inspector arrived, he didn't see a town he just saw a bunch of "unfinished" stone heaps. Once the taxman left, the resilient villagers would simply stack the stones back up and go about their day.

Today, those "temporary" homes are a UNESCO World Heritage site and have stood strong for centuries—a beautiful (and clever) testament to Italian ingenuity!

Written By: Lisa Powell



Looking for a new Recipe?

The classic dish of the Pugliese region is **Orecchiette con Cime di Rapa** (Orecchiette with Broccoli Rabe).

In Puglia, orecchiette (meaning "little ears") are still often made by hand on wooden tables right in the streets. Below are two authentic ways to prepare this dish

Option 1: The Traditional Classic (Orecchiette con Cime di Rapa)

This is the vegetarian-friendly original. It relies on high-quality olive oil and the slight bitterness of the greens.

- **Ingredients:** 1 lb Orecchiette, 1 bunch Broccoli Rabe (trimmed), 3 cloves garlic (sliced), 3-4 anchovy fillets (optional, for "umami"), red pepper flakes, and the best Extra Virgin Olive Oil you can find.
- **The Secret:** Boil the broccoli rabe in the same water as the pasta. The pasta absorbs the flavor of the greens as it cooks!
- **Finish:** Sauté the garlic, anchovies, and pepper flakes in plenty of olive oil until the garlic is golden. Toss in the drained pasta and greens with a splash of pasta water.

Option 2: The Hearty Sunday Version (with Italian Sausage)

For a more filling meal, many Italian-American families add crumbled sausage.

- **The Addition:** Brown 1 lb of loose Italian sausage (sweet or spicy) in your pan before adding the garlic.
- **Pro Tip:** Use a "bronze-cut" orecchiette. The rougher texture helps the bits of sausage and oil cling to the "ears" so you get the perfect bite every time.



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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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