



NAVIGATOR

JANUARY 2026

THE HOUSE OF ITALY (HOI) MISSION:

Our mission is to offer to its members and the public through its cultural and social programs, an understanding and appreciation of the history and culture of Italy. Our vision is that our HOI members celebrate their Italian heritage and culture with the people of San Diego.



Entrance of House of Italy San Diego



House of Italy Bar

Ciao membri,
Just a reminder about the opera Carmen which will be performed in March of this year. Matt Graber, the Chief Marketing Director of the San Diego Opera has given House of Italy members an opportunity to save 20% on tickets to the Sunday March 29 Matinee of Carmen. We need ten people for this group discount.
You can call Matt at (619) 533-7090 and he will help you find good seats with this special discount.

At January's member meeting Amy Chamber presented a history of the Italian Aperitivo. Her company sponsored a Spritz tasting event and we were treated to tasting Italian Spritz with Aperol, Campari and Limoncello. My favorite was the Limoncello Spritz. We have plenty of ingredients left so if you missed the January meeting come to the February 15 member meeting and you will have an opportunity to taste the Spritz of your choice. Thank you, Amy and Scappare Travel Club!

Speaking of February, we have another fun event with Maria De Leon whose presentation title is "From Maranello to Motor City: the Italian/American automotive connection". Don't forget to send an RSVP by Thursday February 12 to the following email address, houseofitaly@houseofitalysandiego.org, to reserve your place. See you on Feb 15.

Carol



Otranto (Puglia) Ph. Siddhartha Kundalkar

2024 HOUSE OF ITALY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- February 15, 2025 From Maranello to Motor City: The Italian/American automotive connection Maria Romano de León
- March 15, 2025 La Musica Italiana with Dora Bonaventura
- April 19 with Graham Kent with TBA.
- May 17 with Antonio Iannotta with Italian film.
- June 21, 2025 La cucina Italiana with Mark Pelliccia

NEXT EVENT

**From Maranello to Motor City:
The Italian-American Automotive
Connection**

Automotive Curator
Maria Romano de León
shows the deep
connections between the
Italian and the American
automotive industries.



From Maranello to Motor City: The Italian-American Automotive Connection
This presentation by Maria Romano de Leon, automotive curator, will examine the reciprocal influence and inspiration between the Italian and American automotive industries. We will explore iconic models like Ferrari's 250 GT California, the Ford-powered De Tomaso Pantera, and Lamborghini's Countach and address the exchange of engineering and design philosophies. We will discover how American production techniques revolutionized Italian manufacturing approaches while Italian design aesthetics transformed American automotive styling and inspired memorable collaborations.

Maria Romano de León is a curator, administrator, and arts educator with over a decade of experience in museum and nonprofit management, curatorial work, and academic instruction. Currently the Executive Director of the Italian Cultural Center of San Diego, she previously developed groundbreaking exhibits and authored automotive texts as Chief Curator at the San Diego Automotive Museum and as an Assistant Curator at the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles. Maria is a graduate of UC San Diego with a B.A. in Art History, where she studied abroad at the Università degli Studi di Padova. She earned an M.A. in Arts & Heritage Policy from Maastricht University in the Netherlands, with her thesis research completed in Istanbul, Türkiye. Maria brings a global perspective to her work and a dedication to inclusive storytelling. A native of San Diego, Maria currently resides there with her family.

WELCOME TO THE NEW MEMBERS



represent Italy, during international events.

We are a family of 4. My husband Greg was a young American sailor when he was stationed, in Italy in 1993. He was assigned to USS Belknap in Gaeta, Italy. That's where we met in 1993 and we got married a year later. Most of his Navy career he was in Italy from one USN command to another until his retirement, in 2012. And that's when we decided to move here in San Diego. We have 2 daughters: Isabella 24 and Angelica 18, both were born in Italy and attended school there until we moved here. We decided to join HOI because we want to help maintain the Italian culture alive and remain close to our Italian heritage. My family is all in Italy and even if we are part of a large Italian community here in San Diego, we still want to be able to

PAST EVENTS



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

SDG&E recognizes the House of Italy as a collaborating partner and as such information is sent monthly to you, our members, to ensure you are updated on the latest SDG&E products, services and resources. Additional information is also available at their website <http://www.sdge.com/residential>



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