

Volume 27
Issue 261
July
2022

ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB of JACKSONVILLE



Save the Date

FUND RAISING REVERSE DRAW & DINNER

Saturday September 17, 2022 5pm - 9pm

GRAND PRIZE
\$1000

\$1,500 IN CASH PRIZES

10 CASH PRIZES
& GIFT
CERTIFICATES

*You don't have to be
present to win!*

**\$50 Donation
for each Ticket**

Sign up at general meeting or contact
the club 904-586-2700
rsvp@jacofjacksonville.com



Save the Date

October Italian Heritage Month

October 9, 2022 Sunday - 1pm

Celebrate and Explore
History, Culture,
Language, Genius,
Artistry, and
Centuries of Discoveries
and Accomplishments



OFFICERS

Melanie Matrascia
President
Mark Rose
Vice President
Mike Matrascia
Treasurer
Sal Santapola
**Asst. Treasurer &
Membership Dir.**
De Santapola
Secretary
John Corsi
Club Chef
Tom Cody
Club Chaplain

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jack Cosentino
Joe Farina
Eunice Manzo
Gina Mielech
Anne Stepp
Al Zammataro



General Meeting

Members & their Guests Only

Sunday, July 17th, 2022 @ 1:00 PM.

MENU:

Hamburgers, Hot Dogs
POT LUCK SIDE DISHES



HOST:

IAC Board and Members

DONATIONS:

ALL: \$5.00 PLUS A DISH

**RSVP's are for maximum headcount of 80 people OR
Wednesday, July 13th, 2022 *WHICHEVER COMES FIRST.***

using Evite (preference) OR rsvp@iacofjacksonville.com

OR call the Club at 904-586-2700

PLEASE, NO WALK INS IF YOU DID NOT RSVP

**Well wishes for a speedy
recovery to our members**

**Peter Casella
Pat Flaherty
&
Al Zammataro**



Upcoming! Cocktails & Dance

Saturday, August 20th, 2022

7:00 PM to 10:00 PM

**With DJ Smilin' Tom
Fridley**

\$30.00 per person

One (1) Free Drink

Pay in advance



**Our sympathy to Kathy Abbott on the passing of her
mother Carol Peaver, a longtime member of our club and
a wonderful person. Carol will be greatly missed.**

**Our condolences to Jim Powell, son of Anne Powell,
a former long time member.**



Italian Heritage

Best Hidden Gems in Italy

By Sal Santapola



The tiny coastal town of Sperlonga (sper·lon·ga) is one of the most picturesque towns in Italy with 3300 inhabitants. Located in the province of Latina in the Lazio Region, about halfway between Rome and Naples. The city stands on a rock, an extension of the Aurunci mountains which extends overlooking the Tyrrhenian Sea. Sperlong is the best keep secret and could easily be mistaken as a secret spot on a Greek Island. Sperlonga is known for its beaches of fine and white sand and for various rock spurs that form wonderful coves. On the west side of Sperlonga is their longest beach going all the way to Terracina, and a series of short beaches and rocky cliffs on its east side towards Gaeta.



Sperlonga is considered a tourist town though you seldom see foreign visitors and a beautiful place to get off the highly populated areas of Italy. It's popular on weekends with Italians from Rome and Naples. To travel to Sperlonga you take a train from Rome or Naples and then get a bus which takes approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes, a fantastic way to spend on a day or a weekend.

According to tradition, Sperlonga was built on the former site of the ancient city founded by the Spatans, *Amyclae*. In Roman times, villas were constructed in the area, the most famous being the one belonging to the emperor Tiberius.

Starting with the sixth century, the city developed around a castle built on the promontory of San Magno, taking its name from the natural cavities in the area (*speluncae*). Around the castle, the town progressively developed in concentric circles. In the 11th century, the town was surrounded by walls, now demolished, from which two gates remain - Porta Carrese and Porta Marina. Despite the construction of a series of watchtowers for coastal defense, the town was destroyed in 1534 and again in 1622, by the same Ottoman pirates. Sperlonga was rebuilt between the 17th and 19th centuries, taking its current shape.

One of the most prominent landmarks in Sperlonga is the Torre Truglia, a watchtower built for defensive purposes standing on a rock on the promontory of Sperlonga, built in the 16th century as part of the defense mechanism of the Tyrrhenian coast, which was designed to detect and defend against attacks from the sea. Today it is a small museum and worth a visit.



Walk along the beach and you will reach the famous grotto, where the Roman Emperor Tiberius had installed groups of sculptures celebrating the deeds of Odysseus. The natural grotto collapsed in 26 AD and the sculptures lay crushed, for almost two thousand years, until they were discovered in 1957 by civil engineers building the coastal road above the site.



In Roman times, the grotto was used as a dining space. A fishpond ran into the grotto and in the middle, there was a rectangular island in the fishpond with a light pavilion and couches where guests could eat and admire the artwork. Today there are just the bare walls of rough stone, and your access is through the archaeological museum. A visit to the archaeological museum is for anyone with the slightest interest in mythology or the history of the Roman Empire.

The most ancient church is that of *Santa Maria* (early 12th century), currently used for cultural events and spectacles and has some mediaeval mosaics discovered during the last restorations.

Pizza and seafood are the preferred foods along the coast. Other regional specialties include octopus, fried squid, and prawns, grilled or baked sole and gilthead, and pasta sauces made with crabmeat.

For more information got to: [History, facts and travel tips about Sperlonga - Dove Come Quando Italia](#)
Next up [Le Marche](#)

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Italian American Club
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904.586.2700



www.iacofjacksonville.com

Board Meeting Wednesday, July 6th @ 6:30 PM

General Meeting/Pot Luck

Sunday July 17th, 2022 @ 1:00 PM



July 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6 BOD MTG 6:30 PM	7 *Club Rented*	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 General Mtg 1:00 PM	18	19	20	21	22	23 *Club Rented*
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30 *Club Rented*