

Buongiorno

## *Our Culture Corner:*

Il caffè is a barista's symphony in Italy. The beverage can go from a cappuccino, espresso, macchiato (an espresso with a spot of milk), corretto (with liquor), lungo (with added hot water), doppio ristretto (double shot), bollente (boiling), to tiepido (warm). The barista takes his job seriously to create the perfect feast for the senses. There is the hissing of milk, the clumping of the filters, clinking of tiny spoons and yes the captivating aroma. Lingering over a cup of coffee is not part of the scene. An espresso is consumed quickly either as a breakfast shot, a midafternoon pick me up or digestive aid after dinner. Oh yes and the most disappointing of all, the cappuccino is a breakfast drink and not an after meal drink. In Italy the coffee to-go cup will probably not be coming any time soon. So enjoy your espresso or cappuccino at your slow breakfast. For the American some terms come to mean something totally different. For instance, the so loved 'latte' in the USA delivers a steamed milk with espresso coffee. Order a 'latte' in Italy and be served a glass of steamed milk. The word 'latte' in Italian means 'milk' and not a coffee drink. So remember, terminology so frequent in the USA may not translate perfectly when speaking to a barista. Hey when in Rome....

## *2015 Tours*

I am excited to share my 2015 lineup of tours. The fact is trips fill up quickly because they are truly 'small group' tours based upon 8 travelers. It is not too early to think about plans in 2015. In fact, I am accepting names for specific slots at this time. If you are thinking about one of the opportunities below, please contact me. In doing so, you will be the first to know that a particular trip is filling to capacity.

The Spring Lineup:

April 2015

Start Date April 11, 2015 for either:

Grand Tour  
Tuscan Adventure  
Puglia the Pearl

May 2015

Start Date May 3, 2015 for either:

Tuscan Adventure

Start Date May 20, 2015 for:

Puglia the Pearl

The Fall Lineup:

September 2015

Start Date September 8, 2015 for:

Tuscan Adventure

Start Date September 24, 2015 for either:

Puglia the Pearl

Tuscan Adventure

**Dates listed might change one or two days before or after what I am indicating at this time. Once the trip is booked, however, the dates will be confirmed as agreed.**

For more information ask me for a brochure at: [info@ginasitaly.com](mailto:info@ginasitaly.com)

Or visit: [The Grand Tour](#)

[Tuscan Adventure](#)

[Puglia the Pearl](#)

Other tours can be available for private groups. Contact me about the possibilities: [Gina](#)

### *Olive Oil from small farm in Tuscany*

So many olive oils are produced in Italy. Through my travels I have found what I feel is the best ever. In fact, I have been importing this oil for over 15 years. Each fall when the olives are ripe and ready for pressing the small producer contacts me. I, in turn, let you know it is your opportunity to order some of this outstanding, pure and pesticide-free product. Prices vary little from year to year but are established according to exchange rates in effect at the time of the order. Plan now for your Christmas gifts, hostess gifts, birthday gift for that special cook. I will contact you in early November for this year's order.

### *A 2016 Teaser*

Have you ever thought how nice it would be to create an artistic memory of your travel to Italy? The opportunity is closer than you think. With *Paint Your Own Colors of Tuscany* this thought can become reality. Gina's Italy and Sarah Hansen (NWWWS Watercolor Artist) have joined forces to give you an experience of a lifetime. Create your own Art Journal as you Explore Tuscany. No experience of art is necessary. Enjoy learning the basics of watercolor techniques and design your unique art journal of sights, sounds, smells and thoughts of each day. The tour of the region will include food, culture, architecture, history and visits to a cheese factory, a winery, a local market and more. Stay tuned with future Bollettinos di Gina's Italy. You might find the Leonardo hidden in your soul.

**Grazie, Thank you,** for your attention to this issue of Bollettino di Gina's Italy. If Italy is on your radar, I would hope you consider Gina's Italy to be your guide. For over 21 years I have designed and led tours for many fabulous travel companions. Feel free to share this Bollettino with friends. Until next time!!!

Gina

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