



ISSUE 581

JULY 2022

★ ★ ★ HAPPY ★ ★ ★
INDEPENDENCE DAY





HAPPY 4TH OF JULY



NEWS & EVENTS

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SOCIAL CALENDAR

July



**7/01~ Friday Nights At The Pavilion (Special: Greens & Beans \$12)
5pm-8pm**

**7/04~ At The I.A.C.C. Pool: Early Morning Lap Swimming
7:30 am-9:30 am**

7/04~ Independence Day / 4th of July BBQ At The Pool- 12:00 pm

7/05 ~ Women's Bocce League - 6:30 pm

**7/08 ~ Friday Nights At The Pavilion (Special: Lasagna, Meat &
Meatless \$12) 5pm-8pm**

7/11 ~ Men's Bocce League - 6:30 pm

7/12 ~ Women's Bocce League - 6:30 pm

7/13 ~ Women's League Meeting Pool Area (Water Aerobics) - 6:00 pm

**7/15 ~ Friday Nights At The Pavilion (Special: Cavatelli with
Broccoli \$12) 5pm-8pm**

7/18 ~ Men's Bocce League - 6:30 pm

7/19 ~ Women's Bocce League - 6:30 pm

**7/22 ~ Friday Nights At The Pavilion (Special: Chicken Parm with
Pasta \$15) 5pm-8pm**

7/25 ~ Men's Bocce League - 6:30 pm

7/26 ~ Women's Bocce League - 6:30 pm

**7/29 ~ Friday Nights At The Pavilion (Special: Linguine with White
Clam Sauce \$14) 5pm-8pm**

Upcoming Events :

8/13 ~ 2:00pm

Ferragosto





I.A.C.C. OFFICERS

PRESIDENT ~ FRANK ZEOLI

(518) 463-2106

VICE PRESIDENT ~ SHARON PATREI

(518) 765-3283

TREASURER ~ PETE SCAVULLO

(518) 869-8234

SECRETARY ~ DONNA ZUMBO

(518) 452-2617

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JIM SANO, IACC FOUNDATION ~ (518) 438-4631

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HOURS: M-F 9:30AM TO 2:30PM

THERESA LAJOY- OFFICE MANAGER

PHONE # (518) 456-4222

EMAIL: IACCOFFICE@ITALIANAMERICAN.COM

PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE



The Italian American Community Center is the place to be during the summer months. Whether you are swimming in the pool, playing bocce in a league or enjoying a sausage and pepper sandwich on Friday nights in our pavilion, there is something for everyone.

I would like to thank everyone who attended our annual St. Anthony's Mass and Luncheon. This event is a long-standing tradition that dates back to the days of St. Anthony's Church in downtown Albany, and I am proud that the IACC is able to continue the tradition and pass it on to a new generation of Italian Americans.

On August 13th, we will hold our annual Ferragosto, a family event celebrating the most important day of summer in Italy. This event also serves as our annual IACC Member Picnic and is free for all members. Guests of members are welcome to attend for \$20. There is music, food, dessert and, of course, our famous bonfire at dusk. Don't forget to bring a lawn chair!

In order for us to continue offering events like these, we need additional volunteers. We do need your help in whatever capacity you can offer. Please consider volunteering to help at an upcoming event.

What a great start to the summer season so far. I look forward to seeing you all on Friday nights at the pavilion or at one of our many activities here at the IACC.

Ciao,

FRANK ZEOLI
ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER - PRESIDENT



**ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER
PRESENTS**

ferragosto

**Saturday, August 13, 2022
2PM | Bonfire at Dusk**

**Lunch, Dinner, Dessert
Coffee & Tea are Included.
*Other beverages are available
for purchase.***

**Ferragosto is a free
member event.
*Guests of members are
welcome for \$20.00.***

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.ITALIANAMERICAN.COM



St. Anthony of Padua



Our 2022 St Anthony's Mass was held on June 12 at the Pavilion. After the mass a procession was led throughout the IACC grounds to the St. Anthony's Shrine & the IACC Pavilion for an authentic Sunday dinner. A special thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this annual event possible.

COME TO OUR ANNUAL

4TH
of
July

POOL PARTY *BBQ*



Grilling from 12:00 to 3:00 pm. Please bring a covered dish to share.



Islands of Tuscany

By JIM SANO

REGIONS
OF
ITALY

Island of Elba

The Tuscan Archipelago is a group of islands off the west coast of Italy in the Tyrrhenian Sea. Tuscany's islands are thrilling pearls of land, home to crystal-clear seas and Mediterranean scrub, pine groves sitting atop cliffs, hidden bays, and long beaches of soft sand. Legend says that when Venus rose from the waves, seven precious stones fell from her tiara, creating seven islands off the Tuscan coast. The islands that make up the Tuscan Archipelago each have their unique character, all rich in history and protected by the Archipelago Toscano National Park. Elba, Giglio, Giannutri, Capraia, Pianosa, Montecristo, and Gorgona are the seven Tuscan Archipelago islands. Here are all the things you need to know about each of them.

Elba is the largest Tuscan Island (86 square miles) and the third biggest island in Italy after Sicily and Sardinia. The busiest island in the Tuscan Archipelago, Elba boasts 100 miles of coastline and offers a wide variety of beaches: from golden sand to pebbles, and even

black sand beaches, whose coloring comes from the presence of iron. The island is rich in minerals and has been an important mining center since antiquity. It can be reached throughout the year with a one-hour journey by boat from the port of Piombino. Elba is not only an island with stunning beaches and beautiful inland areas, but it is also a territory steeped in history.

Elba is famous for having been Napoleon's place of exile in 1814–15. Napoleon's chief residence, the Mulini Palace (open to the public), overlooks the sea near Portoferraio, Elba's principal town, on the north coast. His summer residence, Villa San Martino, lies 4 miles southwest and contains a museum and a collection of engravings. Further west, at the village of Poggio, is a spring named after Napoleon; it is known for its mineral water.

There does not exist a single civilization in the Mediterranean that has not left a mark of their time on Elba Island. The island has nature, art, and culture thousands of years old. According to mythology, Jason stopped at Porto Argon, today Capo Bianco, during his adventurous search for the Golden Fleece.

The Etruscans mined iron ore on Elba, which was then called Aethalia (Smoky Place) by the Greeks, probably because of the smelting furnaces. The Romans, who called it Ilva, also mined iron ore and established a naval base on the island. Pisa ruled Elba in the early Middle Ages, but it passed to Genoa in 1290 and to the dukes of Piombino in 1399, who ceded it to Cosimo I de Medici of Florence in 1548. In 1802, it was ceded to France, and when Napoleon I abdicated in 1814, he was exiled to Elba. He arrived there on May 4th. The island was recognized as an independent principality with Napoleon as its ruler until February 26, 1815, on which he returned to France for the Hundred Days. Elba was restored to Tuscany with the Italian reunification in 1860.

Elba's Aleatico red wine has been known since antiquity as "Liviatico" or "Liatico". This grape varietal of probable Greek origins arrived in Elba thanks to the Romans. Centuries later during the Renaissance, Aleatico wine became famous thanks to Lorenzo de' Medici.

In addition to Aleatico wine, Elba's best products are honey, produced in many different flavors and varieties. Chestnut honey, eucalyptus honey, rosemary honey, the different types are limitless, and each one has a unique Mediterranean island aroma. Mushrooms would be next. The most interesting species found there are the "porcino" and the "ovulo". The last is chestnuts. Chestnut trees have been grown on the island's verdant mountain slopes since the late fourteenth century, and chestnuts, either fresh, dried, or ground down to chestnut flour, have been a fundamental part of the local diet for centuries. Elba's diet is primarily based on fish and seafood dishes that are flavored with local spices. The most famous dishes are Palamita, Stockfish with potatoes, Sburrita, and Octopus.

Giglio Island is the second-largest island of the Tuscan Archipelago; this mountainous, rocky island is 11 miles from the closest mainland port of Porto Santo Stefano, on the Argentario peninsula. It is part of the Province of Grosseto, which is part of the region of Tuscany. Giglio is a natural paradise, known for its colorful port towns (Giglio Porto, Giglio Castello, and Giglio Campese), pristine sea, rugged, unspoiled terrain, and relaxed island lifestyle. Giglio has long been a destination for day-trippers, who arrive via a short ferry ride. The cities of Pisa and Florence controlled the island during most of the European Middle Ages. Giglio means "lily" in Italian, but its name originates from the Greek word *aegilion*, "island of goats," most probably because of its mountainous terrain. The rare seahorse can be seen along the island's seabeds, where even seagrass can be found at unusual depths.

Giglio Porto is a picturesque little port nestled on a cove, enclosed by two piers and a hilly amphitheater terraced with vineyards. In town, tourists can shop for souvenirs, including locally made ceramics and jewelry, in the many shops right along the harbor front. There are also plenty of shaded outdoor bars if you want to take a break for a coffee or a glass of wine.

Giglio Castello is a medieval, walled fortress on a high point on the island; it is the center of the municipality, which also administers over the Island of Giannutri. There are sweeping views of the island and surrounding sea from its castle walls and a Baroque-style church with some important religious icons, including a carved ivory crucifix.

Giglio Campese, on the west coast of the island, is primarily a holiday resort. Giglio Campese has the island's biggest sandy beach, lined with bars and restaurants. There are stabilimenti or private beach areas with lounge chairs and umbrella rentals, but there are plenty of free beaches too.

In 600 BC, it was the site of an Etruscan shipwreck dating back to the early Iron Age. The ship's cargo included copper and lead ingots, iron spits, amphorae, and a Corinthian helmet. Even a wooden writing tablet with a stylus was preserved. In 805 A.D., the island was donated by Charlemagne to the abbey of the Tre Fontane in Rome. It was later successively a possession of the Aldobrandeschi, Pannocchieschi, Caetani, and Orsini families, and the municipality of Perugia. In 1241, the Sicilian and Pisan fleet of Emperor Frederick II destroyed a Genoese fleet in Giglio's Battle. From 1264, Isola del Giglio was a Pisan dominion, from which it passed to the Medici family. On June 14, 1646, Grand Admiral Jean Armand de Maillé-Brézé was killed at the Battle of Orbetello, at sunset on his flagship, the Grand Saint Louis.

Alongside its history, the island was always renowned for its mineral ore: many of Rome's columns and buildings were built with the Gigliese granite. In 2012, the island received prolonged international media attention, following the January 13, 2012 disaster of the cruise liner Costa Concordia, running aground just off the island's shore. Most of the more than 4,200 passengers and crew were rescued and taken to the island. The island people rushed to help, providing hot drinks and blankets, and many opened their homes to the victims. In July 2020, the island attracted global attention because it had not yet experienced any known cases of COVID-19.

The most important annual events are the local patron saints' feasts (San Lorenzo, August 10th, San Rocco, August 15th, and San Mamiliano, September 15th). These feasts always include parades, races, and fireworks. The story behind the legend of Saint Mamilliano is a particularly interesting one.



Giglio Island

Four hundred years had passed since the birth of Christ. A man who was unpopular with Vandals' king was escaping via the Mediterranean Sea, seeking refuge. Mamiliano set sail from Sicily and thought he had finally found peace on Giglio Island. No one would have followed him all the way there. It wasn't long, though, before he was forced to stop ignoring the bleak, grim screams coming from the top of the mountain; the island was infested by an ancestral beast, an immense winged dragon that had dug out its den right there. Mamiliano ambushed the dragon. After a fierce battle, the dragon fell to its end in the Cannelle bay, leaving a treasure behind to the island, something that can still be admired today. If you go underwater in the bay, you can see golden flakes, dissolved remnants of the dragon's scales.

Centuries later, Mamiliano, now the island's patron saint, was prayed to for relief from invaders. For centuries, the buccaneers had oppressed the coasts with bloody ferocity, but on the fateful day of November 18, 1799, the situation was desperate. Natives were few and far between and mostly unarmed. They defended themselves just by firing for hours from the towers of the Castle. The outpost of the Campese tower fell, but the island's residents didn't surrender, continuing to resist and to pray to Saint Mamiliano, who sent a sign: the image of a band of soldiers, which appeared on the walls of the fortress. There were so many of them that it scared off the assailants and convinced them to disperse.

Giannutri is the southernmost island of the Tuscan Archipelago, and it is a part of the comune of Isola del Giglio in the Province of Grosseto. It was first inhabited in the Stone Age and became a bustling port during the Roman Empire when it was known as Artemisia to the Greeks and Dianium to the Romans. Cala Maestra is the only beach on the island where visitors can go swimming. Giannutri is also home to the stunning ruins of an ancient Roman villa.

Giannutri is the Tuscan Archipelago's most beautiful island. It is part of the Parco Nazionale dell'Arcipelago Toscano, which means visitors must be careful not to disturb any flora or fauna. The island is mainly privately owned, with some areas owned by Italy's Ministry of the Environment. It is involved in the Coastal Area Management Program issued by the Ministry of the Environment. Giannutri is also a central stopping point for seasonal bird migration.

Giannutri was inhabited by Romans, as witnessed by the ruins of a 1st century Roman villa, Domizia Villa. The villa is in the center of the island. Giannutri was abandoned for mysterious reasons from the 3rd century until 805, when Charlemagne donated some lands to the Tre Fontane Abbey, including the island. The Spanish, French, and German all took turns ruling this island.

The Minister of Finances Quintino Sella, with a royal decree, donated the island to the Comune of Giglio in 1865. In 1908, the comune sold the island to the family of Ruffo della Scaletta which remained the owner until Prince Rufo's death. In the 1960s and 1970s, real estate investing radically transformed the island. A holiday resort at Cala Spalmatoio and many houses scattered through the island were built in a few years. The Società Porto Romano declared bankruptcy, and the numerous



Giannutri Island



Capraia Island

owners of the homes were obliged to form a society, called Libero Consorzio Giannutri, to administer the island.

Capraia is the northwesternmost of the Tuscan Archipelago's seven islands and the third-largest after Elba and Giglio. It is also a commune, Capraia Isola, belonging to the Province of Livorno. The island has a population of about 400. It was named Aegylon by the Greeks in around 1000 BC which translated as the "place of goats"(see Giglio). Its current name derives from the Latin capraria, which comes from the Etruscan kapra, or "rocky".

Out of all the islands, Capraia is the only one with volcanic origins. The island has an area of 7.3 square miles, and its highest point is 1,529 ft above sea level. It is about five miles long from Punta della Teglia to Punta dello Zenobio and about two miles wide. It has a coastline that is about 19 miles in circumference. The island is part of the Arcipelago Toscano National Park and marine sanctuary. Capraia is 39 miles from the city of Livorno, 20 miles northwest of the Island of Elba, and 19 miles from the Island of Corsica. The island is accessible by ferries that depart from the port of Livorno. The Church of San Nicola is found in the village's main square and still displays a wooden statue dedicated to the Saint, which was recovered from the sea. Away from the small port of Marina di Capraia, you can immerse yourself in the fields and land, which is cultivated by local farms that produce jams, preserves, grappas, cheese, honey, and wine.

In 1055, Capraia was raided by Saracen pirates, and later the Republic of Pisa owned it. It became part of the Republic of Genoa after the Battle of Meloria, being assigned to the patrician Jacopo de Mari in 1430. In 1540, the Genoese built the Forte San Giorgio on a pre-existing fortification that the Ottoman corsair Turgut Reis had demolished. The Genoese also built three coastal watchtowers to protect against pirates. The three are Torre delle Barbici (1699), also known as Torre della Teja or Torre della Regina. It is the only tower with

a square shape, which makes it somewhat like the De Redin towers in Malta. Torre delle Barbici is in a dilapidated state.

In 1767, troops under Pasquale Paoli of the newly independent Corsican Republic occupied Capraia. In 1796, the British, under Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson, occupied the island for a short time, following the short-lived Anglo-Corsican Kingdom's creation. After the Congress of Vienna in 1815 annexed the Republic of Genoa to Sardinia's Kingdom, Capraia became part of Genoa's province. Then in 1925, it was assigned to Livorno. Between 1873 and 1986, a penal colony occupied almost two-thirds of Capraia. In 1986, the government closed the penal colony and opened the island to visitors.

Totano Festival is the most famous event in Capraia and is held every year in November. The event is divided into two main parts: a squid fishing competition and the festival itself, with many food and wine stalls. The Tuscan Archipelago Palio Marinaro is part of a historical tradition that also involves Capraia. Between August and September, crews from the various Tuscan islands compete in a rowing competition.

The Island of Capraia is well-known for the quality and excellence of its fresh and mature goats' cheese. The Romans called the island Capraia precisely because it was, and still is, inhabited by goats. Another typical local product is the Capraia nectar, mixed flower honey with an aromatic, slightly floral scent. Stuffed squid and seafood dishes are the locals' preferred recipes, although delicacies are based on sammola, a bulbous plant similar to garlic.

Pianosa's highest point stands at only 95 ft above sea level. Pianosa (Italian for flat island) is the only one of the seven islands of the Tuscan Archipelago formed out of sedimentary rock. Its area is four square miles, with a coastal perimeter of 16 miles. The island permits visits by only 250 tourists per day, arriving by ferry from the Island of Elba. Fishing, diving, or anchoring are not allowed without special authorization. It is possible to visit the island, but only with organized excursions or trekking by



Pianosa Island

bicycle escorted by park guides. Since the mid-19th century, Pianosa's local story has revolved mostly around its prison: the small island was a maximum-security penal colony from 1863 until 1998. With it being an island, the prisoners worked on farms there from the beginning, additionally taking care of its prisons and, in some periods, the small marina and the town as well. Given this system, the penitentiary was, in turn, the island's primary caretaker. Thanks to the prison's presence, the protection given to the island has safeguarded the sea around Pianosa, where today you can go scuba diving and see one of the most intact underwater sceneries in the entire Mediterranean.

The island was first inhabited in the Upper Palaeolithic, the Later Stone Age. In 5000 BC, the sea level rose and reached the current level; the few inhabitants took refuge on the nearby Scola islet, where traces of their presence were found. The ancient Romans' Planasia had structures and was extensively cultivated. It became noted in history when Augustus banished his grandson and former designated heir, Agrippa Postumus, there in 6 or 7 A.D. Postumus remained there until his murder by an assassin sent by Tiberius, around 14 A.D.

In the Middle Ages, Pianosa was fought over by Pisa and Genoa until the late 14th century when it passed under Piombino rule, without ever managing to be permanently colonized.

Pianosa underwent numerous pirate invasions, but the worst took place in 1553 by a French Turkish fleet commanded by Dragut, who wiped out the population. After that, the island changed ownership several times and was populated only seasonally by Elba farmers to cultivate the land. On August 27, 1802, Napoleon established that Elba, Capraia, Gorgona, Pianosa, Palmaiola, and Montecristo were part of French terri-

tory. In 1805, he assigned the regions of Piombino, Elba, and the part of Pianosa that was fortified to his sister, Elisa Bonaparte. On April 9, 1809, the Archipelago returned to Tuscan ownership when the French ruled Tuscany. On May 10th, British marines and sailors from HMS Seahorse and HMS Halcyon landed on Pianosa and Giannutri. The landing parties

destroyed the forts and captured about 100 prisoners during four hours of fighting. British losses were one marine killed and one wounded. The landing party also sent the farmers back to Elba and left the island deserted. Napoleon went to Pianosa from Elba twice, rebuilt the tower, set up a garrison to defend the island, and built some houses to settle farmers. The Congress of Vienna assigned Elba and the Tuscan Archipelago to the Grand Duke of Tuscany.

In 1856, Leopold II, Grand Duke of Tuscany, established a penal colony in Pianosa because it was considered a perfect place to isolate, segregate, and oversee detainees. At the proclamation of the Kingdom of Italy in 1861, there were 149 prisoners on the island. In 1864, a structure was built to house 350 prisoners, but in 1872 the island was divided into numerous farms organizing the inmates as small communities. In 1880, there were 960 detainees. The captives cultivated cereals, produced oil and wine such as Sangiovese and Procanico. There were poultry, pig, and cattle farms. From 1884 until 1965, Pianosa hosted convicts from the Italian mainland affected by tuberculosis. At the beginning of the 1900s, the island's population was 21 civilians, 80 correctional officers, 40 soldiers, and 800 prisoners. Sandro Pertini, later President of the Republic of Italy, became an inmate in 1932 for political reasons. During World War II, on September 17, 1943, German troops invaded Pianosa and occupied it.

In the post-war period, the colony returned to its original role as a prison island. A Carabinieri station was established, as was a detachment of Guardia di Finanza, and houses were built to accommodate the soldiers' families. In the 1970s, by order of General Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa, the former sanatorium, named Agrippa Branch, was transformed into a maximum-security prison to confine Mafia bosses and terrorists of the Red Brigades: Giovanni Senzani, Renato Curcio, Alberto Franceschini, and Bruno Seghetti. Under the article, 41-bis prison regime, in May 1977, aircraft

and helicopters transferred 600 convicts from Italy to Pianosa in only two days. A reinforced concrete wall, six meters high and two miles long, was built in 1979 to separate the village from the jail. The murder of judges, Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino, in 1992 led to the reopening of the Agrippa Branch under the 41-bis regime (Maximum security designation for Mafia-type association, homicide, aggravated robbery, and extortion, kidnapping, terrorism, and attempting to subvert the constitutional system). During the night of July 20, 1992, fifty-five Mafia bosses incarcerated at Palermo Ucciardone's prison, among them Michele Greco, were transferred by military transport aircraft to Pisa Airport and then to Pianosa by helicopter.

The island was a prison fortress until July 1997, when Gaetano Murana, the last 41-bis prison regime detainee, was transferred to another prison. Before that time, Pianosa had hosted Mafia bosses such as Pippo Calò, Nitto Santapaola, and Giovanni Brusca and had become well known for the physical abuse inflicted on the prisoners. The Prodi government decided to close the jail permanently in June 1998. The remaining detainees and residents were evacuated from Pianosa in a single day leaving a few guards on the island as caretakers.

The fact that the island was home to a prison for many centuries enabled the total preservation of Pianosa, whose marine environment brims with life like nowhere else in the Mediterranean.

The coastline of Pianosa alternates between rocky stretches and beautiful sandstone bays. Cala San Giovanni is the best known, a striking white sandy beach where bathers can wonder at a Roman villa's remains. The island's seabeds are blanketed in a lawn of seagrass, saved from savage anchoring and fishing trawlers. Snorkeling in the island's waters is an unforgettable experience, a chance to observe groupers, lobsters, bass, snappers, and moray eels, and many more Mediterranean species in shallow waters. In 2013, the national park launched the opportunity to go diving near Pianosa thanks to a partnership with qualified divers.

Pianosa offers more than just nature. On the island, you can check out the countless traces of previous settlements dating back to prehistoric times, including a Copper Age burial ground, a Roman villa, and early Christian catacombs.

Montecristo is the only one of the seven islands making up the Tuscan Archipelago that is inaccessible and kept by the Italian government as a protected nature preserve where only researchers can access it. It is a natural jewel that only the guardian and his wife inhabit. The guards are selected and receive a contract that lasts for ten years. The pair lives side-by-side with



Montecristo Island

a couple of forestry guards who alternate protecting the island. The island is severely regulated and is managed by the Chief of the State Forestry Corps in Follonica. Swimming, fishing less than three miles from the coast, and sailing less than 1,000 meters from the coastline are forbidden. If you would like to visit Montecristo, there are around 15,000 requests to see the exclusive island, against the just 1,000 permits issued per year, so the average wait time is between 3 and 4 years.

The historical circumstances that have impeded populous settlements on Montecristo have made the island the best place in the Mediterranean when imagining how the coasts appeared without human intervention. One of the reasons for the great interest surrounding Montecristo is the exceptional state of conservation of its flora and fauna. Here, animal and plant species have survived that were once found all along the Mediterranean coasts. It is not a coincidence that one of the symbols of protecting the island is the Montecristo goat, a non-native breed introduced in the early years of colonization and made wild. The wild goats on Montecristo are the only Italian population of its kind; the race is of Middle Eastern origin (*Capra aegagrus*) and is characterized by their curved, sharp horns.

Montecristo is a large granite "rock" traversed by a mountain chain with three prominent peaks. From far away, the Island of Montecristo looks like a dark mountain, a vivid spectacle that, once appearing before you, will never fail to amaze you. It was historically known as Oglasa, but it began to be called Monte Christi during the Middle Ages, perhaps because of its ancient monastic settlements. In the 5th century, the island was home to the Monastery of San Mamiliano.

After various attempts to colonize Montecristo in 1878, a penal colony was established after Italy's Unification. The island is probably best known as the fictional setting in the novel "The Count of Monte

Cristo" by Alexandre Dumas. Still, the actual island does not correspond closely to the description in the story. Monte Cristo is Italian for "The mountain of Christ," which has led some to believe it is why Dumas picked it for the book.

For centuries, Tuscan noblemen and the Church continued to send new monks and military families to Montecristo, hoping to keep them away from privateer danger. But their attempts were unsuccessful because, in the 1500s, two of the most famous pirates of all, Red Beard and his successor Dragut, chose Montecristo as one of their favorite bases. Legend has it that on the little Island of Montecristo, the pirate Dragut hid glorious riches accumulated over years of privateer raids. Many have attempted to find Dragut's treasures over the centuries, but no one has ever been successful.

The Island of Gorgona is the smallest, northernmost island in the Tuscan Archipelago. In the Ligurian Sea 22 miles straight out from Livorno, it is home to the last agricultural prison island colony in Italy. Access to the Island is forbidden without permission from the Italian Ministry of Justice. An agreement was reached in 2016 between the Commune of Livorno, the Tuscan Archipelago National Park, and the Livorno Prison Authorities. This agreement means that a boat leaves from Livorno and goes directly to the pier in Gorgona. The Archipelago National Park has strict limits of 75 adults (over 12 years of age) per day, on a maximum of four days a week, to protect the natural habitat. Reservations must be made a week before the planned excursion date in order to send names to the penitentiary administration. Photographic equipment is not allowed. Private boats may approach the island no closer than 1,600 ft.

except in emergencies. It is impossible to move around individually, and visitors cannot sail, swim, or fish around the entire island. Gorgona is under the Tuscan Archipelago National Park's protection and carries the designation "1", the strictest environmental protection.

The territory is mainly mountainous, with Punta Gorgona being the highest peak at 255 meters above sea level. The mountain peaks are covered in the lush Mediterranean bush: woods of holm oaks, chestnut trees, black alder, and Aleppo pine trees, and over 400 different species of flowers. This tiny island has been valued most for its wildlife, especially marine birds, and its isolation. Many migrating birds come to Gorgona to build their nest, enabling many rare and delicate birds to breed and multiply. Gorgona is one of only five islands in the world on which the Corsican finch is found. The blue sea that surrounds the island is rich in a variety of marine species. The island is in the heart of the International Cetacean Sanctuary, home to monk seals, dolphins, and whales.

Gorgona, called Urgon in ancient times, was founded by the Etruscans and then inhabited by the Romans; in medieval times, monks occupied it. In 1283, the island became part of Pisa's Maritime Republic; in 1406, it was occupied by the Medici family, who built fortifications. It later returned to the property of the Carthusian monks, who remained there until 1777. The Grand Duke Pietro Leopoldo then took back the island and tried to repopulate it without success. The Grand Duke of Tuscany first established the agricultural penal settlement. With the unification of Italy in 1861, ownership of Gorgona passed to the new Kingdom of Italy, which signed a contract in 1861 with the locals that remains valid even today. The agreement was that the locals



Gorgona Island





Palmaiola Island

conceded a part of the island, so long as the prison took care of all their essential needs. Gorgona became a new and experimental agricultural penal colony in 1869. The prison, which has been structured as a working farm, has responsibility for maintaining the entire island. Prisoners work in agriculture or raise animals or learn whatever building trades are useful to the enterprise. Here about 70 prisoners work the land either in the vegetable gardens or in the vineyards and look after the animals, enabling them to make their wine, cheese, and honey. Most of the prisoners work outdoors, in the village area too. So, interaction with residents and outsiders is controlled. In 2012, the Department of Justice approved and established the Granducato Project to provide prisoners professional training and real job opportunities with private enterprises in Gorgona. The first company getting a business agreement with the prison's management was the world-famous wine

producer, Marchesi de' Frescobaldi. Today, the oldest and more prestigious wine brand of Tuscany is giving prisoners of Gorgona the chance to get first-hand knowledge of centuries-old skills used to make Vermentino and Ansonica wines, extra virgin olive oil, and any other farm goods.

The island's main center consists of a historic fishing village where about seventy people live all year round. In the nineteenth century, the island was famous for its anchovies.

Palmaiola is an islet placed in the middle of the Piombino Channel, 1.9 miles from Elba, and is wholly owned by the State. The islet houses a lighthouse, the keeper's house, and a helipad to regularly fly in the maintenance team. The lighthouse has a solar power unit that emits a white flashing alternating signal every five seconds, visible to 10 nautical miles. □

❖ PAVILION RENTAL ❖



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Book The Pavilion For Birthdays, Family reunions, Corporate events!

\$250 - MEMBERS

\$400 - NON- MEMBERS

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WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Hello ladies,

The beautiful summer weather is finally here!! It is arguably my most favorite time of the year. The pool is open and Friday Nights at the Pavilion and bocce are in full swing!!

Our meeting last month was held outside on the back lawn/bocce area. The ladies were able to enjoy a pot luck BBQ with pulled pork and chicken. We had such a variety of foods and so much to eat with lots of leftovers!!

We discussed moving our meeting day to Mondays in October so we could take advantage of the dinner buffet. Also, we would appreciate any suggestions you might have for ways that we can strengthen participation in the Women's League. We invite all the ladies of the club to come and join us. We're a fun group!!

The July meeting will be on July 13, 2022 at 6:00 pm. We will begin by having water aerobics at the pool. After that we will gather by the pool/bocce area (or the pavilion in case of rain) and have hot dogs and hamburgers done by our grill masters, Tony and Joe. Everyone is asked to bring a side dish (salad, desserts, drinks) to share. Reservations can be made by contacting Jackie Brillling at (518) 339-9290 or at brillingj@gmail.com. Please also let Jackie know what you will be bringing so we won't have many duplicate dishes. The price will be \$5 if you bring something to share or \$10 if you don't. The cancellation policy remains in effect. Please remember that all reservations/cancellations need to be in no later than Monday, July 11, 2022.

Just as a reminder, we have our 2 charities that we will be collecting for monthly, Ronald McDonald House and St. Anne's Institute. For RMH, gift cards for Dunkin Donuts, Panera and Subway and pre-packaged soups, crackers, fruits and snacks are appreciated. For St Anne's, personal grooming items (soap, deodorant, shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste/toothbrushes, floss, etc.) are always needed. We will continue to collect throughout the year for both of these wonderful organizations. Thank you to everyone who has donated so far. Your kindness and generosity is greatly appreciated by the children, families and staff.

There are still some IACC Foundation Cash Raffle tickets for sale. The drawing will be held next month at Ferragosto. Tickets are \$100 (only 200 tickets will be sold). The Grand Prize is \$5,000 and 10 others will receive \$500 each. I can't wait to see who the winners will be!! Good luck to all who purchased tickets!!

Wishing everyone a Happy 4th of July. Happy 246th Birthday America!!



Georgeann Greene
PRESIDENT



I.A.C.C Foundation

1st Annual

Cash

Raffle

Proceeds to benefit I.A.C.C. Foundation!

Drawing will be held at Ferragosto on August 13, 2022

\$100 a Ticket Only 200

\$5,000 + 10 \$500 Prizes

Ticket Number:

We are holding a cash raffle giveaway and your odds of winning are great! We are only selling 200 tickets for \$100 each. Go in partners with friends and family or buy them as gifts. The tickets will be available at the Monday Night Buffet as well as by calling the office at 518-456-4222. The raffle is open

to all not just members. The drawing will be held at our annual Ferragosto celebration on August 13, so come to Ferragosto, party and go home with some cash!





Mangia Bene, Viva Bene

By FRANK ZEOLI



My grandmother had a love of vegetables and would make them many different ways, all depending on what the rest of the menu consisted of. During the summer, she would make several cold salads using those vegetables. One of my favorites was her fresh beet salad with chickpeas. She would use fresh beets that she would get at a farm stand or farmer's market. However, in a pinch she would use canned beets. Either way, it was a great accompaniment to any backyard BBQ.



Fresh Beet Salad *with Chickpeas*



Prep Time: 2 Hours

Ingredients

- 3-4 large fresh beets (greens removed and skin on)
- 1 small red onion (peeled & cut julienne)
- 1 can or 16 oz of chickpeas (chi-chi beans)
- 2 oz of extra virgin olive oil
- 6 oz of red wine vinegar
- ½ teaspoon of kosher salt
- ¼ teaspoon of black pepper
- 1 tablespoon of dried oregano

Instructions

1. Add your fresh beets, with the skin on, to a medium pot of salted water. Bring the pot to a boil. Boil the beets until you can place a fork through them, approximately 45 minutes. Drain the water and let the beets cool for a few minutes. While still warm remove the skin.
2. Once the beets are fully cool, cut them into quarter size pieces about a ¼ inch thick.
3. Place the beets into a serving bowl. Add the julienned red onion and vinegar to the bowl and mix it thoroughly.

Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and place it in the refrigerator for at least an hour.

4. After an hour, take the bowl out of the refrigerator. Add the oregano, salt, pepper, olive oil and chickpeas to the bowl; give it a good mix.

Serve it with a piece of crusty Italian bread.

Look for more recipes in the next edition of the
SIAMO QUI



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- Monica Wilkes

July Birthdays



Welcome

new members

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Charlene Bradt | Janet & Peter Grant | Joanne Dolan |
| Lourdes Reyes | William & Diann Scialdo | Vince & Cynthia Mazzone |
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| Jennifer Kenna | Christiana Marshall | Theodora Lascaris |
| Deb Petridis | Gisela Garver | Kathryn & Edward Murray |
| Tess & Marc Kent | Deb Tutay | David & Mary Bryan |
| Brian Kile | Lauren Scialdo | Marie Coluccio |
| Michelle France | William & Madeline McClune | Michele Questel |

2022 IACC SWIMMING POOL SCHEDULE

POOL PHONE 518-380-2066 (to check conditions)

Members MUST have their membership card available while at the pool

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa		Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	
May								August							
29	30	31			27-Noon	28			1	2	3	4	5	6	
June								7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11		14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18		21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25		28	29	30	31				
26	27	28	29	30											
July								September							
					1	2						1	2	3	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23		18-5PM	19	20	21	22	23	24	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30		25	26	27	28	29	30		
31															

Early Morning Lap Swimming-7:30AM-9:30AM Starts on 6/26 and ends on 9/2

Noon – 8:00 p.m.

10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Noon – 5:00 p.m.

IACC Pool Regulations

Proper bathing attire required. No cut-off jeans in the pool.

Clothes and towels are not to be hung on or over the fence.

IACC is not responsible for lost or stolen articles in pool area.

NO running or jumping, profanity, horseplay, or pets permitted.

NO glassware permitted in pool area.

Children under age 12 MUST be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult at all times in pool area.

NO radios, cassettes, or CD players in the pool area.

ALL babies and small children not toilet trained MUST wear a swim diaper at all times.

Children using flotation devices must be accompanied by an adult in the water.

Children using flotation devices are allowed in the shallow end of the pool ONLY.

No smoking in the Pool area.

Guests must be accompanied by a member and must register with the lifeguard on duty.



PROUD INSURER OF THE I.A.C.C
AND THE I.A.C.C FOUNDATION

James H. Murray
President

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