

A Romantic and Spiritually Courageous People

THE ITALIANS HAVE MIGRATED from their mother country because of natural and man-made disasters. These emigres brought their hard work ethic and bright spirit.

IMMIGRATION BEGAN:

- after 1850, disillusioned soldiers of the Risorgimento left failing to unify Italy
- from Genoa, sailors who simply left their ships to work in Detroit
- severe economic hardships in 1894
- crop failure of 1897
- destruction of vineyards by plant lice, phloxera
- Messina earthquake in 1908

ITALIANS CAME TO MICHIGAN:

- with opening of Erie Canal
- to mine copper in the Upper Peninsula in 1918
- to work in the new car industries

STERLING HEIGHTS BOASTS of 18,967 Italian residents, 12.5% of the city's population (1990 census)

Physical Characteristics of Italy

ITALIA, "LAND OF OXEN," IS A BOOT-SHAPED PENINSULA which extends into the Mediterranean Sea from Southern Europe. It is easily recognizable on a map.

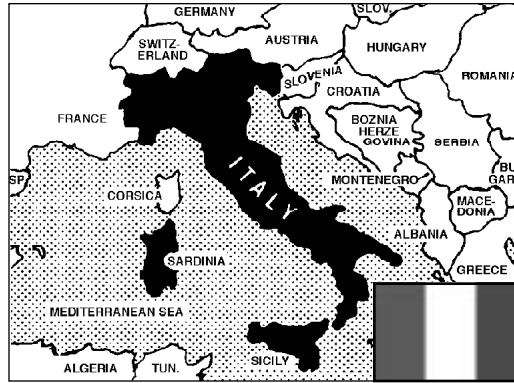
- Italy includes two large islands, Sicily and Sardinia, as well as smaller islands of Capri, Elba, Pantelleria, and Lampedusa
- within Italy are two independent states: San Marino and Vatican City

TOPOGRAPHICAL REGIONS:

- 75% hilly, mountainous: Alps extend from France and Switzerland; Apennines stretch from north to the southern tip of peninsula
- one major lowland, North Italian Plain, along Po Valley
- minor lowlands in coastal regions

NATIONAL BORDERS of mountains and sea:

- Alps form border to north, shared by neighbors France, Austria and Switzerland
- Several seas within the Mediterranean Sea form borders:
 - Ligurian Sea on northwest
 - Tyrrhenian Sea on west
 - Adriatic Sea on east
 - Ionian Sea on south
- closest neighbors across the seas are:
 - African countries of Tunisia and Libya to south
 - Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Yugoslavia and Greece lie eastward



Climate

- temperate in north; south has "Mediterranean" climate: mild winter; long, dry summer
- mainland exposed to strong, hot, dry wind (Sirocco) from northern African desert; often causes drought
- average temperature in Rome: January 74°, July 78.3° F

Cultural Characteristics

- Italian motto: "Faith, Bread and Work". Hard-workers, ingenious, making the most of Italy's limited resources
- love of babies ("bambini"); children highly esteemed
- supreme pride in foods, customs and history, always "The best in the world"
- "Fare uno bella figura" - to make a good impression or appearance: consciousness for fine manners, high fashion
- coffee: a rite rather than a beverage. Coffee houses offer "dolce far niente" - sweet idleness
- each region of Italy boasts of its unique dish of pasta and the sauce; excellent cuisine
- friendly, outgoing, gregarious, people-oriented
- generous, exhibiting love
- seldom hide feelings when sad or angry
- family is source of shelter and strength
- the passeggiata: evening stroll, an age-old custom still practiced by many
- today, northern Italy is among Europe's wealthiest, most modern regions
- creativity: evidenced in art, literature, architecture and fashion:
 - Milan is one of world's fashion, design centers
 - Venetian glassware: an ancient skill over 1000 years old, still world-renowned
- Fiat, Alfa Romeo, Ferrari and Maserati lead car industry in design and performance

Holidays

JUNE 2 - Festa della Repubblica: anniversary of Italian Republic

Ancient History

THREE DISTINCT GROUPS OF PEOPLE inhabited the Italian peninsula by the 10th century B.C.

- Etruscans in central Italy in (modern) Tuscany
- Sabine tribe along Tiber River in central Italy, with the Latins in small villages on seven hills
- Greeks colonized southern Italy and Sicily to trade, fish

753 B.C. MARKS LEGENDARY FOUNDING OF ROME by Romulus and Remus

- 616 B.C.: rule by Etruscans; allied with Carthage (African), controlled trade in W. Mediterranean, prevented spread of Greek colonization
- 509 B.C.: Roman republic established by Lucius Junius Brutus in central Italy
 - Roman Empire spanned 1000 years: building, roads, irrigation, law, public institutions, individual liberty, respect for law; a fragmented world became united
- 264 - 146 B.C.: Three Punic Wars with Carthage; Roman Empire established supremacy in Mediterranean
 - by 1st c. A.D. empire stretched from Middle East to Spain, Saharan North Africa to Britain
- 3rd - 6th c. A.D.: attacks by barbarian tribes destroyed Roman Empire
 - Visigoths (Germanic) occupied Gaul by 419 A.D.
 - Vandals (Germanic) took African land and from bases there sacked Rome in 455 A.D.
 - 376 A.D.: Empire in west collapsed; 1492 A.D.: Eastern Empire became known as Byzantine Empire
- 1175 A.D.: Italian city-states formed Lombard League
- 12th - 15th c. A.D.: land divided into powerful city-states: ie: Venice, Genoa and Florence
- 13th - 15th c. A.D.: Guelph and Ghibelline struggles; Papist and Imperialist parties fight for control of city-states
- 14th - 15th c. A.D.: Renaissance started in Italy, spread over Europe: a period of classical learning and art; humanistic studies of sciences; transition from medieval to modern
 - Medici Family political and religious powers, patrons of Renaissance; produced two Popes: Leo X, Clement VII
- 1492 - 1706 A.D.: French and Spanish invasions of Italy
- 1713 - 1796 A.D.: Italy under Austrian influence
- 1796 - 1814: Napoleon in Italy. First campaigns were in 1796 with Napoleon's brother, Joseph Bonaparte, crowned King of Naples in 1806
- 1831: Insurrections erupted in Papal States
- 1846: Pope Pious IX began reform programs
- 1848 - 1861: Garibaldi leads revolutionary wars to oust foreign empires from Italian soil
- 1861: Victor Emmanuel II proclaimed King; first to rule a unified Italy in over 1500 years; capital at Turin

National Hero

GIUSEPPE GARIBALDI AND HIS "RED SHIRTS", an army of thousands of volunteers

- sailed to Sicily in 1860 to help people in their fight for freedom against Kingdom of Naples.
- defeated a large, professional army
- embodied the hope of a unified Italy achieved with its own people against foreign aggressors

GARIBALDI LEFT ITALY (age 28, 1834) in opposition to Carlo Alberto

- 1835: fought in Uruguayan Civil War and in Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul
- stayed for short time on Staten Island, NY before returning to Italy in 1851 to reorganize his "Red Shirts"
- 1861: fought successfully against French, Austrian and Spanish forces which were trying to colonize Italy; Italy unified

Modern History

EMPEROR OF FRANCE, NAPOLEON BONAPARTE TOOK ITALY for himself and his family, crowning himself King of Italy in 1804.

- his brother Joseph ruled over northern Italy
- later, Joachim Murat ruled over Naples; Rome became annexed to France
 - this forced the Pope to reside at Fountainebleau, FR
 - 1815: after defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo, Carbonari (The "Red Shirts") revolted against foreign intruders
 - these armies tried to establish the Resorgimento (resurgence, a national unification movement), but Austrian forces captured the country
- 1831: Carlo Alberto, of royal house Piedmont-Savoy tried to unite Italy against Austrians
 - he abdicated his throne to son, Victor Emmanuel
- 1859: defense agreement with Napoleon III against Austria
- 1860: Giuseppe Garibaldi led "Red Shirts" to victories; later defeated by Spanish, then by French
- 1871: Victor Emmanuel II achieved unity by supporting Prussia; Rome became capital
- 1870-1915: Italy was a fledgling country with many problems
- World War I: Italy entered Triple Alliance with Germany and Austria-Hungary; an attempt to gain colonies in Africa
- 1915: Italy changed allegiance to the Allies and declared war against Austria
- 1918: Treaty of Paris failed to return territories to Italy
- 1921: Benito Mussolini unified Italy, rectified treaties, brought social reform
- 1935: Under Mussolini, Italy allied with Germany; Italy entered World War II; severe losses for Italy: fewer territories, more problems
- post-war Italy gave birth to a parliamentary government with three parties: Christian Democrats, Socialists and Communists
- 1985, July 3: Francesco Cossiga became President of the Republic

Famous Italians

ITALIANS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO CIVILIZATION

- Julius Caesar (100-44 B.C.): General and statesman
- Cicero (106-43 B.C.) Famous statesman and orator
- Girolamo Savonarola (1452-1498) Religious preacher & reformer
- Giuseppe Garibaldi (1807-1882) national hero who freed Italy from Austrian, French and Spanish colonizers; unified Italy
- **Famous Explorers:** Marco Polo, Christopher Columbus, Amerigo Vespucci, John Cabot (Giovanni Caboto) Sebastian, Giovanni Cabot, Giovanni da Verrazano, Umberto Nobile
- **Famous Composers:** Giuseppe Verdi, Giacomo Puccini, Gioacchino Rossini, Gaetano Donizetti, Pietro Mascagni, Niccolò Paganini, Ottorino Respighi, and Antonio Vivaldi
- **Famous Writers:** Dante Alighieri, Petrarch, Giovanni Boccaccio, Niccolò Machiavelli, Alberto Moravia, Ignazio Silone and Luigi Pirandello
- **Famous Artists:** Giotto, Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, Michelangelo, Titian, Donatello, Lorenzo Ghiberti, Andrea del Verrocchio, Giorgio de Chirico, Amedeo Modigliani, Giacomo Manzu, Marino Marini and Benevenuto Cellini
- **Famous Architects:** Filippo Brunelleschi, Donato Bramante, Leon Battista Alberti, Gian Bernini and Francesco Borromini
- **Famous Scientists:** Galileo, Luigi Galvani, Guglielmo Marconi

ITALIAN NAMES IN AMERICAN SOCIETY

- Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini (1850-1917): First United States citizen to be canonized. She was a pioneer in establishing schools, orphanages and free clinics
- Enrico Caruso (1873-1927): operatic singer
- Rudolph Valentino (1895-1926): silent screen star known as "The Great Lover"
- Enrico Fermi (1901-1954): physicist who designed the first atomic piles and produced the first nuclear chain reactor. He worked on the atomic bomb and won the 1938 Nobel Prize for nuclear research
- Arturo Toscanini (1867-1957) symphonic & operatic conductor
- Luciano Pavarotti: a great opera singer
- Frank Capra (1897-1991): Hollywood film director who won many academy awards, known especially for *It's a Wonderful Life*
- Frank Sinatra (1915-1998): American vocalist and actor
- Anne Bancroft (born Anne Marie Italiano, 1931): Famous "Oscar" award-winning actress
- Antonino Scalia (1936-) 1st American Italian named to Supreme Court
- Joe Dimaggio (1914-) led the Yankees to 10 World Championships
- Lee Iacocca (1924-) former president of Chrysler Corporation and designer of the Ford Mustang

City Council

Mayor Richard J. Notte
 Mayor Pro-Tem Kathryn George
 Councilman Richard L. Bracci
 Councilwoman Deanna Koski
 Councilman Steve Rice
 Councilman Joseph V. Romano
 Councilwoman Barbara A. Ziarko

City Manager

Steve M. Duchane

Sterling Heights Ethnic Issues Advisory Committee

Sharron D. Allen, Chair
 William Dechavez
 Harold Dallou
 Toni E. Dutchik
 Charles Franz
 Stojadin B. Naumovski
 Betty Rush
 Iqbal Singh
 City Liaison: Pat Lehman
 Police Dept. Liaison: Sgt. Al Gross



Getting to know your...

Italian-American Neighbors



The Vettrano family of Sterling Heights keep many Italian traditions part of their daily American life.