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Dear Dante Members,

We made it to another quarterly newsletter! A lot has happened since my last letter - we had a wonderful scholarship luncheon, awarding **\$14,500** in awards to high school and college students; several of our local students graduated from high school and college (Congratulations Class of 2025!); we concluded the *Circolo Italiano* weekly conversations at Thunderzone Pizzeria; our Vice President, Anissa Madrill, visited the Dante Alighieri headquarters in Rome for a special visit and meeting, and we lost our beloved Argentine Pope Francis on Easter Monday.



Much like the Italian saying, “Morto un Papa se ne fa un altro” (When one Pope dies, another one is made), leaders of the Roman Catholic Church elected the Chicago native, Robert Francis Prevost, as Leo XIV, after just 2 days of deliberations. On May 8th the 267th Pope was elected by a conclave of cardinals in the Sistine Chapel in Rome. He is the first American Pope and is truly a Pan-American since he is also a Peruvian national. He is a compassionate, thoughtful, talented, multilingual man with a background in mathematics and was a missionary in the Order of Saint Augustine (OSA).

Summer is always exciting in Italy! Italians call it “la bella stagione” (the beautiful season). The smells, tastes, sights, and sunsets are some of the most memorable in the world. In Italy, on any given summer day, it is possible to smell a variety of delectable scents, including fresh jasmine bushes, the sweet and delicate fragrance of oleander bushes, sweet basil, fresh breads and pizzas, and scents of a variety of freshly cut citrus fruits and treats like fresh almonds, figs, and melons.

Of course, what would Italy be without its espresso coffee, often emanating from the entrances of cafes. I’ve always admired the delicious produce found in just about any Italian city or village. As a child, I have fond memories of waking up to the sounds of mobile fruit and vegetable vendors in my grandparents’ village in Calabria. The Italians’ love for local, fresh, seasonal, and organic 0-kilometer (local farm to table) products is admirable.

I invite you to take time this summer to enjoy the people, activities, and foods that matter to you most. The longer days of summer beg us to appreciate nature’s bounty, as well as the colors, scents, and places that we hold dear. We are grateful for your membership, and we are thankful for your continued support and passion for promoting the Italian language and culture in our community and all of southern Colorado. We look forward to seeing you at our next event in October, our Regional Dinner and then closing out the year with our Christmas Party at the Leonardo Da Vinci Museum of North America in December.

We wish you an enjoyable and relaxing summer season.

Grazie e a presto!

Chris Picicci





Dante.global. la nostra pietra angolare... *(Dante.global, our cornerstone)*

This past spring, on a rainy and blustery day in May (20th), Anissa Madrill, VP of Dante Pueblo went to Rome headquarters and met with Eugenio Vender, Head of Foreign Committees Services and his lovely staff, Giada and Francesca. We discussed the new partnership between the Dante Alighieri Society and the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) and how we could further partner with each other to promote Italian language learning and culture in the United States and more specifically, Pueblo, Colorado and the southern Colorado region. I personally invited him and his staff to come to Pueblo for our chapter's 50 year anniversary in 2027. We also discussed the possibility of opening a PLIDA Certification Testing Center in Denver sponsored by our chapter.



Giada, Francesca, Anissa & Eugenio Vender

PLIDA stands for “Progetto Lingua Italiana Dante Alighieri”, which translates to Dante Alighieri Italian Language Project. It is a certification program for Italian language proficiency developed by the Dante Alighieri Society. The PLIDA certification is recognized by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other Italian authorities.

The Dante Alighieri Society's headquarters is located in Palazzo Firenze in Rome, Italy. Specifically, it's situated in the Campo Marzio area of Rome, in Piazza di Firenze. The society has been headquartered there since 1926. The Palazzo Firenze has a rich history, having previously belonged to the Monte family and later the Medici family. It also served as the seat of the Ministry of Grace and Justice. The building itself is of considerable architectural and artistic value, with contributions from notable figures like Bartolomeo Ammannati, Jacopo Zucchi, and Prospero Fontana.

Tutte le strade portano a Roma!
(all roads lead to Rome!!)

“Beauty awakens
the soul to act.”

Dante Alighieri



PLIDA Team, Anissa Madrill & Eugenio Vender



“un naso importante”
(Dante statue at headquarters)



Piazza di Firenze, Headquarters



Dante Alighieri of Pueblo - Food & Wine: Northern Italy & the Italian Riviera

12 days|14 days with Venice extension | Jun 06 2026—Jun 17 2026

Eating isn't just a part of the daily grind here—it's a full-on art form. Stand beside the masters in their kitchens, farms, and wineries and learn the ins and outs of the region's knockout delights. From wine on the Riviera to Parmigiano-Reggiano in Parma to fresh-cooked tagliatelle in Bologna, prepare to indulge in the best the region has to offer on this small group Food & Wine Tour.



Your tour package includes 10

- nights in handpicked hotels
- 10 breakfasts
- 3 lunches
- 4 dinners with beer or wine
- 2 wine tastings
- 4 food tastings
- 1 cooking class
- 6 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights Turin's

- Palazzo Madama
- Alba truffle hunt
- Castle of Grinzane Cavour
- Barolo wine tasting
- Parmigiano-Reggiano tasting
- Balsamic vinegar tasting
- Piazza Maggiore market
- Pasta-making class
- Valpolicella wine tasting
- Verona Arena

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 3 hours daily across mostly flat terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with few hills.



Scan the QR code to enroll!

How to access our deals:

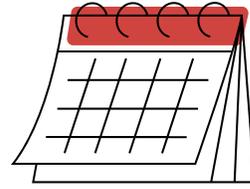
Give us a call at (800) 438-7672 to find out how much you can save!
Access email for this tour:
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For more information, contact

<https://groups.goaheadtours.com/tours/dante-alighieri-of-pueblo-food-wine-northern-italy-the-italian-riviera> | 1-800-438-7672

Calendar of Events:

- October 17th, 2025 - Regional Dinner
- December 6th, 2025 - Christmas Party
- January 10th, 2026 - Annual Meeting
- February 6th, 2026 - Carnevale



REGIONAL DINNER 2025

DETAILS COMING SOON!

THE DANTE ALIGHIERI SOCIETY OF PUEBLO WILL HOLD OUR ANNUAL REGIONAL DINNER IN OCTOBER!
BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR INFORMATION ON THE DATE, TIME, LOCATION, AND PRICE
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!





From the Heart: Students Express Gratitude



My Experience in Rome (Cinema Italiano)

by Jonah Parker

I recently participated in a three-week study abroad trip to Rome with the University of Colorado Boulder. I studied Italian cinema while living in the Eternal City. This trip was one of the most eye-opening experiences I've ever had. Students were required to watch at least two films prior to arriving in Rome followed by additional screenings while in Italy. The filmography for the class included: Roma città aperta, Ladri di biciclette, Roman Holiday, Three Coins in the Fountain, Mamma Roma, Il conformista, The Talented Mr. Ripley, and Conclave. As we watched these movies throughout the trip, we journeyed and toured the locations and settings of the films, such as La Fontana di Trevi, Cinecittà Studios, Città del Vaticano, etc., and we were able to see a new perspective of these many popular and historical locations. Most of the American-made films were set on portraying these locations as lavish and exotic as possible, often with American actors and Italians being props for larger-than-life actors like Gregory Peck and Audrey Hepburn, while Italian films often portrayed life as actual Italians had experienced it, complete with struggle and political strife that was common during and following the fascist period of Italian history.

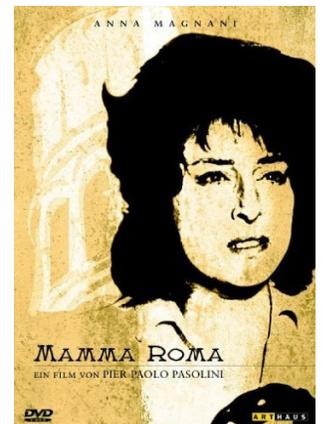
My trip to Roma and Italia was all around a life-changing experience, especially being my first time in Europe and second time outside of the U.S., and I would love to travel back again someday and experience other cities in Italy. Thank you to the Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo for helping me make this overseas experience possible and more affordable!



Jonah at the Colosseo



View from St. Peters





From the Heart: Students Express Gratitude



Summer in Bergamo

by Halka Brunerova

My journey through the three-week Italian language and culture course in Bergamo, Italy, presented an opportunity of a lifetime. Thanks to the Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo scholarship, I will always cherish this memory. I was the only student from CSU Pueblo in attendance. It was a bit of a challenge navigating this experience on my own in Italy; I eventually figured everything out on my own, while also immersing myself in the city and meeting new people.

I participated in the A2 Italian course, lessons for students with some knowledge of Italian. There were approximately 24 students in my class, comprising all ages and at least ten different nationalities. We supported and cheered each other on while stumbling over grammar, accents, and many mistakes, as well as a lot of progress. By the third week, I began to have conversations in Italian!

I was impressed with the overall organization and all the cultural and sightseeing events organized by the University of Bergamo. The value of the course was far greater than what I paid for it. I loved my teacher, Simona. She was kind, patient, and at the same time held a high standard for our learning, challenging us with fun exercises. She prepared a variety of games, group games as well, helping us to get to know each other.

I made a few friends in the course with whom I explored the town in my free time. We also traveled to Milan, Lake Iseo, and the San Pellegrino Terme. We tasted local cuisine and drank many cappuccinos at the school's cantina, which provided affordable meals. I participated in local activities such as yoga and Pilates and swam at the local pool. I covered miles of the old city on foot, exploring UNESCO treasures as well as random streets, shops, and churches. I stayed at the Bergamo hostel close to the train station in a private room.

None of this would have been possible without the generous support of Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo, and once again, I express my sincere gratitude.



Halka & studenti



Lake Iseo



Milano Duomo



Dante Pueblo's historical and on-going mission is to (i) award scholarships to Pueblo area senior high school and university students to continue the study of the Italian language at the University level; (ii) to assist the various school boards of Pueblo with keeping Italian language classes in all of the area high schools whenever possible, and to (iii) sponsor cultural and social activities to enhance the Italian-American community of Pueblo and Southern Colorado regions."





Congratulations

DANTE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

CLASS OF

2025

view photo slideshow here:
<https://vimeo.com/1104762643>

Suggestion Box:

Comments? Questions?
Suggestions? Corrections?

Email:
notizariodas@gmail.com

WE WANT



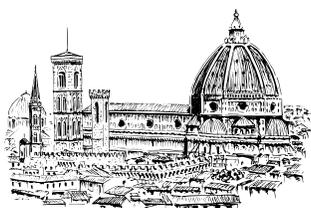
Open positions:



- Marketing Liaison
- Historian
- Membership Committee Chair

If interested, please email:
notizariodas@gmail.com

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our team!



Pay your Membership Dues online!

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or mail your check to:

Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo
P.O. Box 1561
Pueblo, CO 81002

