

June Questo Mese Newsletter

From Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America <nationaloffice@osia.org>

Date Monday, June 1st, 2026



June | Giugno 2026

A MESSAGE FROM

National President, Thomas A. Lupo



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we welcome the month of June, I would like to thank all of our members for their ongoing support of OSDIA. The time, energy, and commitment demonstrated throughout our organization continue to strengthen our programs, support our charitable efforts, and preserve our proud Italian American heritage.

This past month was particularly meaningful, as on May 25th, millions of Americans, and OSDIA members throughout the United States, recognized Memorial Day—a time to remember and honor all of the brave men and women who serve or have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. [Click here](#) to read my joint Memorial Day message with Shayla Kaestle, OSDIA National Executive Director.

Additionally, last Thursday, May 28th, we were proud to host the Sons of Italy Foundation's 37th Annual National Education & Leadership Awards (NELA) Gala at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C. The evening brought together distinguished leaders, supporters, scholarship recipients, and members of our Italian American community for a memorable celebration of achievement, service, and philanthropy.

Also significant that day was the long-awaited restoration of the Christopher Columbus fountain outside of Union Station in Washington, D.C., just minutes away from the OSDIA National Office. I'm proud to announce that a large delegation of OSDIA leadership joined federal officials—including Interior Secretary Doug Burgum, Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy, and White House Task Force Executive Director Andrew Giuliani—alongside the ambassadors of Italy and Spain in celebration of this important milestone honoring Italian American heritage ahead of the nation's 250th anniversary. Read further in the newsletter for more information about this year's Gala and the fountain restoration.

On the Friday following NELA, we proudly hosted the Quarterly Board Meeting of the Italian American Leadership Forum (IALF) at the OSDIA National Office. The meeting was conducted in a hybrid format, allowing for strong participation both in person and virtually. Representatives from UNICO, UNICO Foundation, OSDIA, SIF, and CSJ attended on site, while additional board members and partners joined remotely. It was a productive session featuring thoughtful discussion about the direction of IALF and the broader future of the Italian American community, reinforcing the collaborative spirit among participating organizations.

On a separate note, I would like to provide an update regarding our Cyclone Harry relief efforts. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our members and supporters, I am proud to announce that we have already raised nearly \$60,000 to support relief efforts in the affected regions of southern Italy, which will provide meaningful and lasting assistance in the months to come. Additionally, during our recent Sons of Italy Foundation board meeting, our trustees voted to allocate funds to two community rebuilding projects in Sicily and Calabria. Additional details will soon be formally released. To learn more about our fundraising efforts, and to make a donation today, please visit <https://onecau.se/cycloneharry>.

On another note, Italians around the world are preparing to celebrate Festa della Repubblica tomorrow, on June 2. This important national holiday commemorates the 1946 referendum that established Italy as a republic and reflects the democratic values, resilience, and unity that continue to shape the nation today. It is a meaningful opportunity for Italian Americans to honor our shared heritage and reflect on the enduring bond between Italy and its communities abroad.

I continue to lead weekly meetings of the OSDIA Executive Leadership Team with Shayla Kaestle, National Executive Director. During one of our recent calls, we focused on ensuring that the Supreme Lodge maximizes participation and engagement during the upcoming Grand Lodge plenaries and conventions this month, as to further strengthen communication across the Order.

As I close, I encourage each of you to remain active within your lodges, participate in local events, and continue sharing the traditions and values that make our organization so special. Through our collective efforts, we ensure that the legacy of our Italian American heritage remains strong for generations to come.

Fraternally,

Thomas A. Lupo

National President, Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America



Sons of Italy Foundation Honors Leaders, Dignitaries and Scholars at 37th Annual NELA Gala



Guests gather at the Sons of Italy Foundation's 37th Annual National Education & Leadership Awards Gala at the Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center in Washington, D.C.

The Sons of Italy Foundation® (SIF) welcomed distinguished guests, community leaders, scholarship recipients, and supporters to its 37th Annual National Education & Leadership Awards (NELA) Gala on May 28, 2026, at the Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center in Washington, D.C.

The Foundation's premier fundraising and public affairs event celebrated the **Region of Umbria** as the 2026 Region of Celebration while honoring individuals whose leadership, service, and achievements have made a lasting impact in business, education, philanthropy, and Italian American culture.

During the evening, the following distinguished honorees were recognized: **Comm. Joseph Sciame**, Vice President Emeritus, St. John's University, NY and President of the Sons of Italy Foundation; **Mary Naccarato**, Chair Emeritus, OSDIA Grand Lodge of New York Gift of Sight Committee and Grand Lodge of New York Past First Lady; **Cav. Anthony Julian Tamburri, Ph.D.**, Dean, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute & Distinguished Professor of

European Languages and Literatures, Queens College, CUNY and **Vincent J. Delie, Jr.**, Chairman, President, and CEO of F.N.B. Corporation (NYSE: FNB) and its banking subsidiary, First National Bank.



The 2026 NELA Gala Honorees pose for a photo at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C. From left to right: Vincent J. Delie, Jr., Comm. Joseph Sciame; Can. Anthony Julian Tamburri, Ph.D., and Mary Naccarato.

Serving as Honorary Chair was **Stefania Proietti**, President of the Region of Umbria, while Ambassador of Italy to the United States **Marco Peronaci** served as Honorary Co-Chair. Both delivered remarks highlighting the enduring relationship between Italy and the Italian American community and the importance of preserving Italian heritage and culture for future generations. Also present at the event was Andrew Giuliani, Executive Director of the White House Task Force on the FIFA World Cup 2026, who delivered remarks as a special guest.

A highlight of the evening was the recognition of the Sons of Italy Foundation's 2026 scholarship recipients. Selected from a record-breaking pool of applicants, this year's scholars were recognized for their outstanding academic achievement, leadership, and commitment to community service. The Foundation awarded more than **\$220,000 in scholarships this year** to deserving Italian American students, continuing its longstanding commitment to educational excellence.

Further enhancing the evening were Sal "The Voice" Valentinetti, serving as Master of Ceremonies, and acclaimed tenor Christopher Macchio, who provided special performances as the

Gala's Musical Guest.

As the philanthropic arm of the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America, the Sons of Italy Foundation has raised tens of millions of dollars in support of scholarships, medical research, disaster relief, cultural preservation, veterans' causes, and charitable initiatives throughout the United States and abroad. Over the past four years alone, the Foundation has awarded more than \$600,000 in scholarships.

See below for some event highlights.



Eleven of the twenty-one 2026 SIF National Leadership Grant recipients pose for a photo at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C.



From left to right: Thomas A. Lupo, OSDIA National President; Stefania Proietti, President of the Region of Umbria & NELA Gala Honorary Chair; Shayla Kaestle, OSDIA National Executive Director; and Marco Peronaci, Ambassador of Italy to the U.S. & NELA Gala Honorary Co-Chair.



NELA Gala Master of Ceremonies Sal "The Voice" Valentinetti addresses the crowd.



NELA Gala Musical Guest Christopher Macchio performs on stage.

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Regione Umbria

All photos courtesy of OSDIA / Varner Creative.



Columbus Fountain Restored Outside Washington DC's Union Station



With a strong presence of OSDIA leadership, DC's iconic Columbus Fountain is flowing once again for the first time in nearly two decades. As OSDIA's positive image and anti-defamation arm, the Commission for Social Justice has long worked to honor Italian American heritage and protect historic symbols, including Christopher Columbus statues around the nation, like this landmark just two blocks from OSDIA's National Office.

Inoperable since 2007, the fountain outside of DC's historic Union Station, has now been fully restored as part of a broader effort to revitalize the nation's capital ahead of America's 250th anniversary in 2026.

OSDLA leadership was honored to celebrate the unveiling and ribbon cutting with Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum, Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy, and Andrew Giuliani, Executive Director of the White House Task Force on the FIFA World Cup 2026, alongside Ambassador of Italy to the United States Marco Peronaci and Ambassador of Spain to the United States Ángeles Moreno Bau.



From left to right: Justin Smith, OSDLA Managing Director, Shayla Kaestle, OSDLA National Executive Director, Marco Peronaci, Ambassador of Italy to the U.S., Michael G. Polo, OSDLA National Immediate Past President, and Thomas A. Lupo, OSDLA National President.



From left to right: Ángeles Moreno Bau, Ambassador of Spain to the U.S., Marco Peronaci, Ambassador of Italy to the U.S., Sean Duffy, U.S. Transportation Secretary, Doug Burgum, U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Andrew Giuliani, Executive Director of the White House Special Task Force for FIFA, and Jessica Bonron, Acting Director of the United States National Park Service.



A delegation of OSDIA leadership poses for a photo in front of the newly-renovated Christopher Columbus fountain outside Union Station in Washington, D.C.

[View More Photos](#)



Sons of Italy Foundation Raises Nearly \$60,000 for Cyclone Harry Relief in Southern Italy



A community in Southern Italy in the aftermath of Cyclone Harry. Photo courtesy of Exploring Italy via Facebook.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our members, lodges, and supporters across the country, the Sons of Italy Foundation® (SIF) has raised nearly **\$60,000** to support relief and recovery efforts following the devastating impact of Cyclone Harry across Southern Italy, Sicily, and Sardinia.

In coordination with Italian officials and humanitarian partners, OSDIA leadership has remained actively engaged in relief discussions and recovery initiatives. On February 4, 2026, OSDIA National President Thomas A. Lupo and National Executive Director Shayla Kaestle met with Italy's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Antonio Tajani and Ambassador Marco Peronaci at the Italian Embassy in Washington, D.C., alongside other Italian American leaders, to discuss ongoing support efforts for impacted regions. Since then, OSDIA leadership has kept an ongoing dialogue with the Italian government to coordinate the allocation of funds raised.

This past May, SIF trustees voted to allocate funds to two community projects in Sicily and Calabria, which will directly support affected communities facing severe flooding, infrastructure damage, prolonged power outages, and displacement in the aftermath of the storm. More details on the selected projects will be formally announced in the coming weeks.

Current fundraising numbers reflect the strength and compassion of the Italian American community and demonstrate what can be accomplished when we come together in support of our brothers and sisters in need.

While the Sons of Italy Foundation extends its sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed, shared the campaign, and helped make a meaningful difference for communities across Italy, our Italian brothers and sisters still need our help. If you haven't already, click the button below to

show your support for the southern Italian community and to help us achieve our **\$100,000 fundraising goal**.

Learn More & Donate



Exclusive Members-Only Webinar: A Legal Guide to the Elective Residence Visa



Dreaming of purchasing a home in Italy or spending extended time abroad? **Join us on Thursday, June 11, at 12 p.m. ET** for a special webinar exploring Italy's Elective Residence Visa, a residency option designed for individuals who wish to live in Italy long-term without working in the country.

The webinar will feature attorney **Giandomenico De Tullio, Managing Partner of De Tullio Law Firm**, with offices in Rome and Martina Franca. De Tullio Law Firm assists international clients with purchasing property throughout Italy and navigating the legal and logistical process of relocating abroad. Many attendees may remember Giandomenico from last year's highly attended webinar focused on buying property in Italy.

A multilingual attorney with more than 20 years of experience in cross-border real estate transactions, Giandomenico has been featured in publications including *The Times* for his expertise in Italian property law and international relocation.



Giandomenico is also a proud member of Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America's Capitolo di Roma Lodge #3002, chartered in 2019 as the organization's first lodge established outside of North America.

Whether you are considering retirement in Italy, purchasing a second home, reconnecting with your heritage, or simply exploring the possibility of living abroad, this informative webinar will provide valuable insight into the Elective Residence Visa process and what life in Italy could look like.

Even if you're not sure you can attend, be sure to register* anyway to gain access to our webinar recording.

Register Today!

**Registration will close on Tuesday, June 9th at 11:59pm ET*



Manhattan and Rome Launch Three-Year Cultural Exchange Agreement



New York's Manhattan and Rome's historic center (Municipio I) have launched a three-year cultural partnership aimed at deepening ties between two of the world's most iconic urban districts. The agreement, signed by local officials from both cities, promotes collaboration across a wide network of institutions, including museums, libraries, universities, and cultural organizations, and is intended to foster a dynamic exchange of ideas and creative projects.

Through this partnership, the two cities plan to develop joint initiatives such as artistic exchanges, public art installations, and youth-focused educational programs, all designed to strengthen cultural connections and international dialogue. Beyond institutional cooperation, the initiative seeks to bring culture directly into everyday urban life, ensuring that residents—not just visitors—benefit from renewed cultural investment.

"It gives me great pride and a profound humility to be able to represent the Grand Lodge of New York in this most historic partnership," says Arthur Spera, President of the OSDIA Grand Lodge of New York, adding that "We are committed to playing a role in educational, cultural and youth initiatives that will strengthen the fellowship and friendship between Rome and New York City."

"As Italian members of OSDIA, we enthusiastically welcome this partnership and the vision that inspires it," said Carmelo Cutuli, President of the Capitolo di Roma Lodge 3002 in Rome, Italy. "Sincere praise goes to those who worked to make this agreement possible - a far-sighted act that gives institutional form to a bond that has united our two cities for generations."

City leaders emphasized that the project is about more than heritage preservation—it is about reimagining historic centers as living, evolving communities. By prioritizing creativity, inclusivity, and local engagement, the partnership aims to keep both Manhattan and Rome vibrant and relevant in the modern era, reinforcing culture as a key driver of urban vitality and international collaboration.

Learn More



Valley Regional Lodge 151 Honors Italian American Heroes at Annual Derby-Shelton Memorial Day Parade



Members of Valley Regional Lodge 151 hold up their lodge banner during the Derby-Shelton Memorial Day Parade.

Valley Regional Lodge 151 of Connecticut proudly marched in the Annual Derby-Shelton Memorial Day Parade alongside the Shelton and Derby High School Italian Programs, continuing a powerful tradition of remembrance and education.

As recounted by Past Grand Lodge President Dan Onofrio, the collaboration began with a meaningful challenge to the students: research Italian Americans from the Lower Naugatuck Valley who perished in foreign wars and ensure their names were remembered. The students responded by creating banners and

billboards, each bearing the name of a fallen hero, and carried them through the parade route so the community would never forget their sacrifice.

One particularly moving moment occurred as the group crossed the bridge during an earlier parade. A woman standing along the route recognized her grandfather's name on one of the banners. With tears in her eyes, she asked for a photo and thanked the group for honoring his memory—an experience that left a lasting impression on all involved.



Students of Shelton High School's Italian club marching in the Derby-Shelton Memorial Day Parade.



A participant driving a yellow Fiat in the Derby-Shelton Memorial Day Parade.

All photos courtesy of Dan Onofrio.



OSDIA Spotlight: Vincenzo Sellaro Chapter 3009 of Palermo, Sicily Participates in Alimentiamo Award Celebration



Attendees of the Alimentiamo Award ceremony pose for a photo.

The Vincenzo Sellaro Chapter 3009 of Palermo, Sicily proudly participated in the recent Alimentiamo Award celebration, an event dedicated to recognizing excellence in Sicilian culture, culinary innovation, hospitality, and regional enterprise. Coordinated by Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America (OSDIA) member Sabrina Gianforte, the event brought together distinguished guests, business leaders, cultural advocates, and representatives committed to preserving and promoting the traditions and future of Sicily.

Representing OSDIA was Dr. Mark DeNunzio, National 2nd Vice President, whose attendance further strengthened the growing cultural bridge between Italy and Italian Americans throughout the United States. Also in attendance was Tiberio Mantia, President of the Palermo Chapter, whose leadership continues to foster meaningful relationships and promote the mission of the Order in Sicily. The participation of the Vincenzo Sellaro Chapter highlighted the important international connections that continue to develop through shared heritage, fraternity, and cultural exchange.



(Left to right): Ferdinando Pedone, Domenico Favata, Daniele Favata, Dr. Mark DeNunzio, Sabrina

Following the awards ceremony, attendees gathered for a special reception at Porta

Carbone 1943, where guests enjoyed an exceptional culinary showcase featuring creations and specialties from several of the award recipients. The evening provided a remarkable opportunity to experience firsthand the creativity, passion, and authenticity that define Sicilian cuisine and hospitality.

*Gianforte, and Giovanni La Rossa at Porta Carbone
1943 in Palermo.*

The Alimentiamo Award and the fellowship that followed reflected the very best of Sicily — a celebration of culture, tradition, innovation, and community — while reinforcing the enduring mission of OSDIA to preserve and promote Italian heritage worldwide.



(Left to right) Ferdinando Pedone, Dr. Mark DeNunzio, Tiberio Mantia, and Sabrina Gianforte during the Alimentiamo Award celebration in Palermo, Sicily.



(Left to right) Daniele and Domenico Favata, Pina Castronovo, and Sabrina Gianforte.



Italy US Business, Investment, Science and Innovation Forum 2026



The Italy–USA Business, Investment, Science and Innovation Forum will take place on Monday, June 22, 2026, at the historic Biltmore Hotel in Miami, bringing together senior government officials, industry leaders, and leading researchers from both countries for a high-level transatlantic dialogue.

The Forum will feature plenary sessions and targeted sectoral discussions focused on strategic areas for joint growth and collaboration. Key focus sectors include frontier technologies shaping the future—such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, cybersecurity, energy, and space—as well as advanced manufacturing fields including automation, industrial robotics, agritech, and medical and biotech manufacturing. Additional sessions will explore mobility and resilient infrastructure, spanning energy systems, maritime, aviation, and land transport, alongside lifestyle industries such as agrifood, design, fashion, culture, sport, and furniture.

A dedicated science dialogue will be held in parallel, convening prominent Italian and American researchers to underscore the vital link between technological innovation, scientific research, and industrial development. All sessions will be led by experts designated for the program, ensuring substantive and forward-looking discussions.

On the Italian side, the Forum will feature the participation of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Antonio Tajani and Minister for University and Research Anna Maria Bernini. On the U.S. side, anticipated participants include Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis. Additionally, as expressed through a formal letter to OSDIA National President from Italian Ambassador Marco Pernoci, all OSDIA members are invited to register, underscoring the significance of our organization's role in strengthening Italy–U.S. relations.

Together, the Forum aims to strengthen Italy–U.S. economic ties, foster innovation-driven partnerships, and chart a shared path toward sustainable and inclusive growth. Click the button below to learn more and register today.

[Click Here to Register](#)



Throughout the United States and Italy, OSDIA is home to nearly 400 lodges, and more than 100,000 members and affiliates. Through scholarships, cultural activities, philanthropic efforts, and advocacy on behalf of the Italian American community, our members are making a difference in their communities.



Sons of Italy Foundation, l'Umbria protagonista a Washington

Ansa

Umbria was featured as OSDIA's 2026 Region of Celebration at its 37th Annual NELA Gala in Washington, D.C. The event showcased Umbria's heritage and strengthened ties between Italy and the United States, with regional leaders emphasizing cultural exchange, education, and future collaboration.

[Learn More](#)



Annual Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America for Southern West Virginia Scholarship Dinner

WWVA

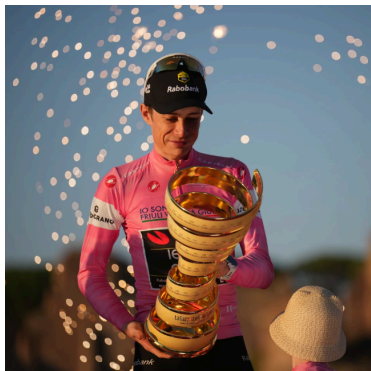
During its annual scholarship dinner, the Southern West Virginia Lodge in Bluefield, West Virginia gave away \$1,000 to five Italian American high school seniors.

[Learn More](#)



News from the Boot

Check out the latest from Italy!



Jonas Vingegaard wins Giro d'Italia to become the eighth male rider to win all 3 Grand Tours

AP News

Jonas Vingegaard won the 2026 Giro d'Italia in Rome, securing his first Giro title and becoming one of the few riders to win all three Grand Tours, while the final stage was taken by Italian sprinter Jonathan Milan.

Learn More

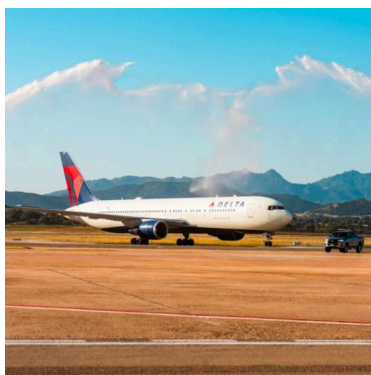
Jannik Sinner overpowers Casper Ruud to make history with Italian Open title

The Guardian

Jannik Sinner defeated Casper Ruud 6–4, 6–4 in the 2026 Italian Open final, overcoming a slow start to dominate on clay and secure a historic victory. His win made him the first Italian man in 50 years to claim the Rome title and only the second player ever to complete a “career Golden Masters” by winning all nine ATP Masters 1000 events. The triumph also underscored his exceptional dominance, extending a remarkable run of consecutive Masters titles and cementing his status as the clear world No. 1 and favorite heading into the French Open.



Learn More



Delta Air Lines launches a direct flight from Olbia to New York JFK

Costa Smeralda

Delta Air Lines has launched the first-ever nonstop flight between Olbia in Sardinia and New York’s JFK Airport, marking a historic milestone that directly connects the island with the United States and boosts its appeal to North American travelers. Operated four times a week during the summer using a Boeing 767-300, the route is seen as a major opportunity for tourism and economic growth in Sardinia, while offering passengers a premium travel experience with multiple service classes, onboard amenities, and onward connections through New York.

Learn More

Italy Acquires the François Tomb of Vulci, a Rare Masterpiece of Etruscan Painting

Arkeonews

Italy has acquired the François Tomb of Vulci, a major 4th-century BC Etruscan masterpiece, for €15 million, bringing its rare and historically important frescoes into public ownership. It will now be preserved and displayed at Rome's National Etruscan Museum for public access and research.



Learn More



Italy's Sal Da Vinci takes fifth place in Eurovision 2026

Wanted in Rome

Italy's Sal Da Vinci finished fifth at the Eurovision Song Contest 2026 in Vienna with his song *Per sempre sì*, earning 281 points in a competitive final won by Bulgaria's Dara. Despite not winning, his top-five placement was seen as a strong result, helped by a well-received performance that kept Italy among the leading contenders.

Learn More



Help us Highlight Your Lodge's Festivals & Festas!

We are compiling a comprehensive list of OSDIA lodges that sponsor or participate in local Italian festivals and festas. This resource will help showcase the incredible cultural traditions happening across our organization and serve as a valuable reference for members nationwide.

To ensure your lodge is included, please take a moment to complete this short questionnaire at the link below:

[Click Here for Submission Link](#)



Reminder: OSDIA Membership Pins, Banners & Regalia for Sale through Russell Hampton!

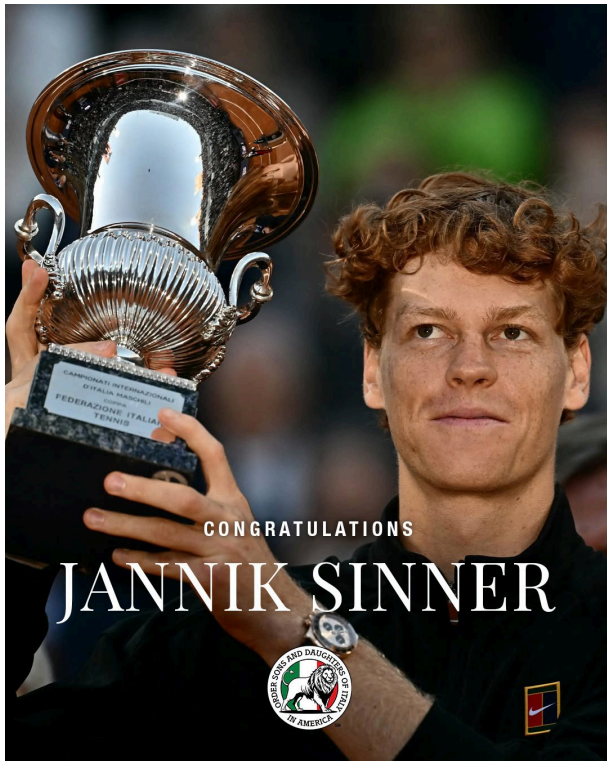


Calling all local lodge leaders!

All official OSDIA membership pins, banners, regalia, Dante scholarship medals, and other branded merchandise are available for purchase through our partners at Russell Hampton.

If you are an officer at a local lodge and are interested in these items for your lodge, please purchase directly through the link below!

[Order Through Russell Hampton](#)



50 years later, Italy finally has its champion.

Jannik Sinner became the first Italian man to win the Italian Open in 50 years, delivering a historic moment in front of a home crowd in Rome — and somehow, that wasn't even the biggest story of the week.

At just 24 years old, Sinner also became the youngest player ever to complete the Career Golden Masters, capturing all 9 ATP Masters 1000 titles and joining only Novak Djokovic in one of the rarest clubs tennis has ever seen.

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