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Calabria's English speaking newspaper - Online

ISSUE 3

JANUARY 2010

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WE WISH ALL OUR READERS A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR AND BEST WISHES FOR 2010.

WHY NOT VISIT US HERE NEXT YEAR AND SEE FOR YOURSELF.



Christmas in Pizzo

This year in Pizzo we had celebrations and events through the festive period. Music, food, dancing.

See more photos inside.



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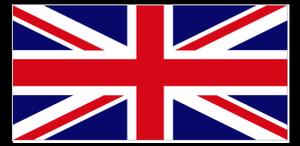
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Designed, printed and sponsored by Pizzo, Vibo Valentia



NEWS IN ENGLISH



Letters from the editors



Lorraine Baker

Welcome back.
Whats 2010 got installed for us this year?
Well...all the regular features plus the much missed "silly scopes", a new special features writer "Fred" and our mugs in the newspaper.
It is always great to receive articles from you, the readers but there are just not enough of them so don't be shy.

Remember its your paper.

Buon Anno Lorraine



Paul Clare

This festive season has had its battles but we are through, gone has the turkey, finished is the ham. Now we concentrate on a new year and a new beginning. For Lorraine and myself it is a time of our new business, Calabrian Services, our new newspaper and we are looking forward to forging new friendships and a better Calabria for all.

I would personally like to thank all the people that have made this possible and wish them and everyone a Great New Year

All the best for 2010 Paul

Ryanair may ground Italian domestic flights in ID row

RYANAIR.COM

Ryanair is threatening to stop domestic flights in Italy in a dispute over new flight boarding identification rules.

ENAC, Italy's civil aviation authority, wants airlines to accept ID such as driving, hunting and fishing licences.

On its Italian website, Ryanair says flights within Italy involving 10 airports will be grounded indefinitely from 23 January. Ryanair chief executive Michael O'Leary said he was "really sorry" for the inconvenience the decision will cause.

Ryanair says that since it started moving towards using entirely online check-ins, passengers are asked to show their passport or identity card before boarding.

The airline argues that the documents now allowed are less secure and this threatens flight security.

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con noi**

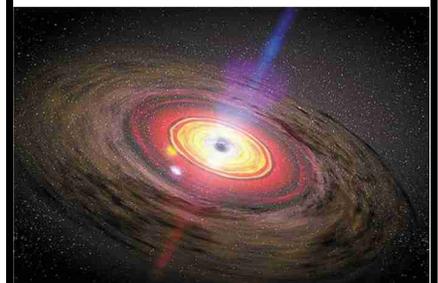
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Celestial phenomena

Mercury is visible at dawn in the second half of the month. Venus could be envisaged at sunset on Mars, the Sun visible in the second part of the night earlier this month and then also in the first part, later this month rises nearly an hour before sunset the Sun Jupiter is visible in the first part of the night. Saturn rises around midnight and around the top h.22.00 the end of the month.

Eclipses: January 15 annular eclipse of the sun visible as such from central Africa, India, Indochina and northern part of China, lasting 11 minutes and 08 seconds.

Central h.08.07 and 39 seconds.



Sunspots: in a significant recovery from last December. Largely mid month.

Magnetic Storms: rather weak.

Favorable days: mainly, earlier this month.

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LETTERS FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

Thank you for visiting the 3rd issue of the Calabrian Voice.

After 17 months of being editor and creator of the Vibo Voice and Pizzo Express English language newspaper we have now moved on and launched the all new Calabrian Voice English language newspaper.

We have also launched online this month and you can find us at

www.calabrianvoice.com

COME ONE COME ALL IS THE CRY.

If you have any comments, stories or wish to announce an event here in Vibo Valentia we hope you will use this publication and be part of our family. ENJOY...

READERS LETTERS

Please contact us with your questions and comments and we will be happy to add it to our publication.

Paul and Lorraine

The Calabrian Voice

Does your property come to completion soon here in Calabria?

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We are now looking for properties to go on our books for next summer. To have that option you need to be advertising your property now in order to gain some bookings from next years season. For more information please visit us at the Via Marcello Salomone 110 in Pizzo or call

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Italy might sue Ryanair in check -in row

MILAN, Dec 30 Reuters) - Italy's civil aviation regulator said on Wednesday it might sue Irish low-cost carrier Ryanair Holdings Plc for libel in a row over security check -in documents.

The Irish airline said last week it would stop domestic flights at 10 Italian airports from January 23 because of reduced security in check -in measures. Ryanair objects to a decision by ENAC, the civil aviation body, to lower requirements on documents presented by passengers. ENAC Chairman Vito Riggio told Reuters he was studying possible cases of libel against Ryanair. He said security standards at Italian airports were certified by international bodies.

"Their statement is defamatory and damages the image of our country and affects the government as a whole," Riggio said in a telephone interview.

He added that if Ryanair cut its domestic flights in Italy, other operators would replace it.

Ryanair said on Wednesday it has been forced to cancel its domestic routes in Italy because the new rules do not provide adequate security compared with international standards.

The airline will resume domestic flights as soon as the new identification requirements are removed by ENAC, it said in a statement.

Ryanair, which only accepts passports and ID cards on its flights, has said the documents which ENAC had approved included fishing permits and company IDs.

ENAC has invited Ryanair's representatives to a meeting in Rome on January 7 to discuss the issue.

(Additional reporting by Padraic Halpin in Dublin; writing by Antonella Ciancio and Ian Simpson; editing by Simon Jessop and Hans Peters)

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Italy drops plans for Internet crackdown

(AP)

ROME — Italy has abandoned plans to crack down on Web sites inciting hatred or violence — a proposal floated after an attack on Premier Silvio Berlusconi earlier this month drew some praise over the Internet.

Groups and videos praising Berlusconi's assailant had appeared on Facebook and YouTube in the aftermath of the Dec. 13 attack, leading officials to mull a ban on hate sites.

But Interior Minister Roberto Maroni said in a statement Wednesday that no measure would be taken by the government.

Maroni, who held a meeting with Internet operators on Tuesday, said he favored "outlining a code of self-regulation that involves all parties and averts the intervention of authorities."

Such a route would safeguard freedom of expression while moving from the Internet any material that instigates violence or other crimes, the minister said. Details would be worked out further meetings in coming weeks.

Berlusconi, 73, was attacked during a rally in Milan by a mentally ill man who threw a metal statuette — a replica of Milan's Duomo cathedral — at him. The attack broke Berlusconi's nose and two teeth, forcing the premier to be hospitalized for a few days and skip some international meetings. The man, Massimo Tartaglia, has been arrested.

Berlusconi was quoted by Wednesday papers as saying that he forgives his assailant, though he said he hopes he will not be released from jail too soon as the attack appeared to be premeditated. The comments came in a conference call with members of his party, the reports said.



Fiat plans to make one million cars a year in Italy

Fiat has unveiled plans to increase annual car production in Italy to one million over the next three years.

But it will still go ahead with plans to shut down the smallest of its five Italian factories based in Sicily.

The announcements were made by Fiat chief executive Sergio Marchionne after a meeting with government and union officials in Rome.

Fiat also said it would spend 8bn euros (£7bn; \$11bn) in investments and research over the next two years.

Two-thirds of that investment will be in Italy.



Increased production

The Turin-based carmaker produced nearly 650,000 vehicles in the country in 2009, and the Italian government has been urging Fiat to increase production.

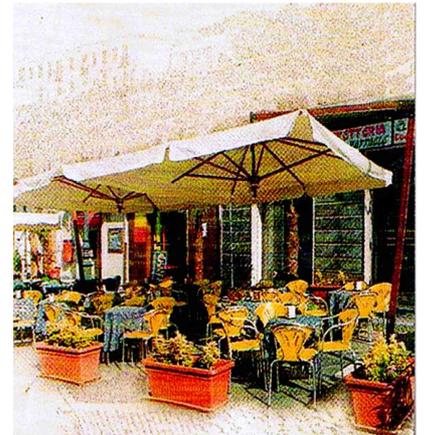
Mr Marchionne said that within a company restructuring plan a Fiat factory in Turin would produce two Chrysler models by 2012. The Fiat chief has been running Chrysler since June.

He also hinted that the production of the Fiat Panda could be transferred to its Pomigliano factory in Southern Italy. But he confirmed that the unit in Sicily's Termini Imerese would shut down at the end of 2011.

Mr Marchionne said cars coming out of the plant cost up to 1,000 euros more than those from other factories due to the lack of infrastructure in the area.

A demonstration by workers took place outside the meeting.

Christmas time in Pizzo. On the Via San Francesco located near the Church of San Francesco.



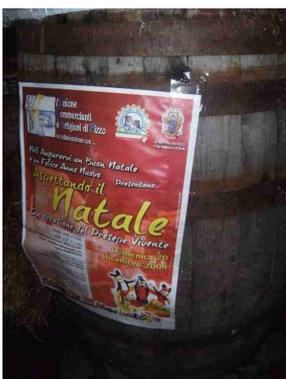
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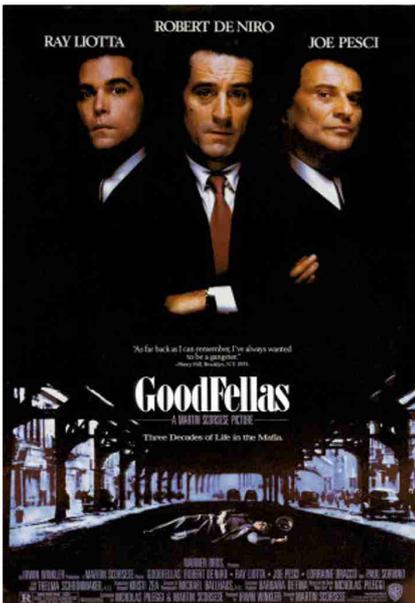
Angry Italian -Americans demand MTV pull 'hateful' reality show

They put up with The Godfather, Goodfellas, and decades of gangster movies. They endured The Sopranos. But one thing Italian -Americans will not stomach is a reality TV programme which appears to suggest that their community consists entirely of Mafia members, bimbos and buffoons.

Or so MTV discovered after launching its latest docu-drama, Jersey Shore. The show is on only its third episode, but after being accused of advancing ugly stereotypes by a string of race-relations groups it has been boycotted by two advertisers and reawakened a rumbling debate over the alleged excesses of "fly-on-the-wall" TV.

The programme follows eight twentysomething New Yorkers whose lives revolve principally (in the words of one cast-member) around "being Italian, representing family, friends, tanning, and hair-gel". They were filmed spending this summer's holiday season on New Jersey's "shore" region, a portion of the East coast that is roughly equivalent to Blackpool.

Its stars, whose home is painted in the colours of the Italian flag, have devoted early episodes almost entirely to excessive drinking, fighting, and sexual promiscuity. Critics noted that the men count abdominal muscles among their proudest possessions, while the women endlessly discuss sex, make-up and breast implants. Crying racism, America's three largest Italian -American organisations – Unico National, the Order Sons of Italy in America, and the National Italian American Foundation – have called for the show to be pulled. "You wouldn't believe how much anger there is about this," said Unico's president Andre DiMino. "There's a major problem with the way Italian -Americans are presented in the media. But, normally, the negative stereotypes exist in fiction. Here, they're presented as reality."



Following the withdrawal of the advertisers Domino's Pizza and America Family Insurance, MTV has agreed to drop the word "Guido", a derogatory term similar to "wop", from Jersey Shore's publicity material, but is resisting calls to drop the show. "Our intention was never to stereotype, discriminate or offend," said the channel's Brad Schwartz. "This is not a scripted comedy show. This is a documentary."

The commentariat isn't so sure. Linda Stasi of The New York Post was among those to condemn the show's "hateful" portrayal of Italian-Americans as "gel-haired, thuggish ignoramuses with fake tans, no manners, no diction, no taste, no

education... no real knowledge of Italian culture and no ambition beyond expanding [their] steroid and silicone-enhanced bodies". Would the programme have been broadcast, she asked: "if the group were African Americans, Asians, Hispanics, Jewish people?"

Perhaps inevitably, the controversy was a boon to ratings, helping Jersey Shore to 1.4 million viewers.

The furore comes at a time when reality programme-makers are facing scrutiny. "It follows a long line of freak shows," said Sharon Waxman, editor-in-chief of The-Wrap.com, a website which recently revealed that 11 former reality stars had committed suicide. "We are witnessing the Jerry Springer-isation of American culture." Mayors from Calabria and Gozo meet to promote links.

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“Sono Pizzitano” or “Man of Pizzo”

Ever wanted to buy a house in Italy? The author did and in this book he has written the story of his quest and its successful conclusion, along with all the disappointment, joy, frustration and excitement he experienced along the way. Firstly, he describes his motives and background and gives his initial impressions of Italy. The practicalities involved in buying there and his personal reactions and of those close to him are outlined. Read about the problems involved, the people he met and the situations he found himself in, as the search went on for the perfect place and an affordable house, which could meet his needs and those of his family but which also ticked the boxes of his fantasy. In trying out a different lifestyle, at a new stage of his life, he discovers a way to live the dream and banish the doldrums, while having the odd nightmare. His wife and family also experience the search and have to deal with the consequences before enjoying the final result, a house in sunny Italy by the sea, in a “centro storico” among the lively, local Italians of Pizzo.

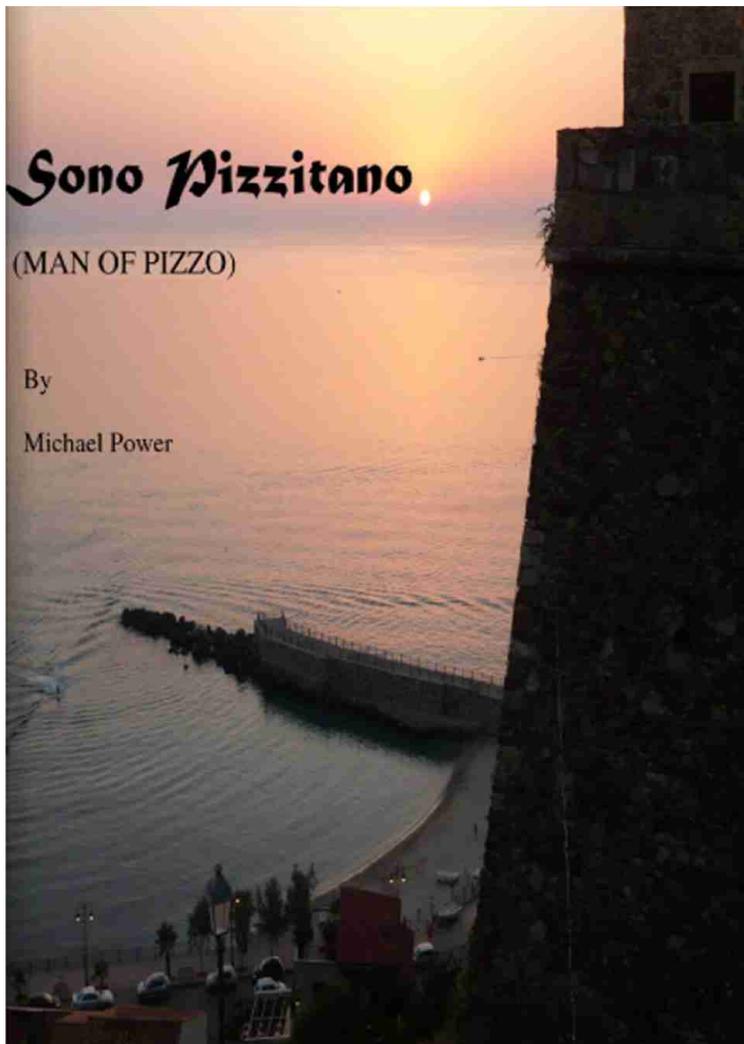
With special thank to Michael Power who wrote Sono Pizzitano and with his permission we will be publishing parts of the book every month here in The Calabrian Voice.

Visit the website and purchase yourself a copy [at www.sonopizzitano.weebly.com](http://www.sonopizzitano.weebly.com)

CHAPTER 1

“FINDING PIZZO”

“The sun is warm, the sky is clear, The waves are dancing fast and bright
Blue isles and snowy mountains wear The purple noon’s transparent might”
(from “Stanzas Written in Dejection near Naples” by P. B. Shelley)



Summer 2007 was terrible in Ireland. Cold, grey and cloudy skies were the order of the day and it seemed to rain a lot through June, July and August. May had been beautiful.

Bright, warm, sunny days followed each other for about two or more weeks. With our usual pessimism and knowledge of the Irish weather, many of us knew our summer might already be over. Even though my daughter upbraided me for saying so, I did, and so it was.

My wife’s mother had died slowly during those glorious days in May when we, daughters, son, sons-in-law and daughter-in-law and her own sister and others, had all had a chance to see her and each other and talk, remember and grieve. It had been a tough time for all, but the weather and the fact we had a chance to say “Good bye” and get together once more, probably for the last time in such numbers, had made a difference, and now it was over, and my wife and I were on our way to Italy, which had been our favourite destination for many years.

We had booked a hotel in Sorrento for 2 days at the beginning of June, flying into Naples, which was a new experience for us. Mostly we had been in central and Northern Italy before, which we had enjoyed greatly, but now we had decided to try somewhere different.

Our Sorrento hotel was not so great and it was not exactly convenient to the town, but supposedly it had its own beach, which turned out to be not so great an attraction as it was very small and the sand almost black. In fact, I read an article recently which claimed there were no beaches in Naples and I wouldn’t really disagree. We also had to endure a thunder and lightning storm which was quite dramatic but not what we wanted on our holidays. After two days there, wandering around as tourists, surrounded by other tourists and paying crazy tourist prices I decided it had to get out.

I went on the internet and checked out places in Calabria which I had previously investigated, months and weeks earlier at home. I phoned one apartment owner in Tropea, whose apartment, and especially, a blue sea and clean, long, sandy beach I had viewed on his website, I had been greatly taken by. He seemed friendly and agreed to meet us from the train which probably sealed the deal. We made our way back into Naples and then eventually booked tickets to Tropea, a resort well-known to Italians, many of whom come there every year from the north of Italy for their holidays. I say “eventually” as we had some difficulty buying the tickets. A none-too-friendly official in the ticket office refused to help my wife as she tried to get information, sticking his nose in the air and waving her away with his hand to his throat and refusing to have anything to do with her (maybe because she was at the wrong window, but we were finding our way in a foreign land and trying out our less-than-perfect Italian). I find most Italians helpful but there are such people everywhere.

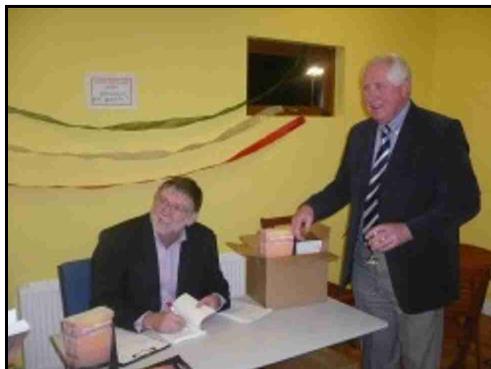
After a pleasant enough train journey, despite it being crowded, we arrived in Tropea about 4 hours later and our friendly apartment owner was at hand to collect us. He drove us to our destination, through a delightful, typically Italian town, with its narrow alleys, piazzas and historic buildings, especially in the “centro storico” (historic centre). They are not really interested in selling, especially in the centro storico.

(historic centre). He informed us about the huge increase in population it enjoyed every summer. His apartments to let were actually in an old palazzo, which delighted us. He explained how he had bought the building as an investment and part-time home, where he himself was living, but not his wife and children at that time. He made us feel very welcome. He gave us the local information about the beach and the general area in good English and a discount card for some restaurants in the area, which we got great use of.

The apartment was not too big, but sufficient for our needs, with a mezzanine floor used as a sleeping area. It was a little dark, which we found irksome after a while, but the open air entrance into the old palazzo, behind the massive door, was brighter at times and he allowed us make use of it for sitting in and reading and we also dried our clothes there, but later he objected to this. He had a computer with an internet connection installed afterwards which pleased me greatly, but even before that he would allow me use his own when he was around.

We were delighted with our new-found accommodation and soon set out to explore the town. There were many steps down to the beaches so we did not venture there on our first night but wandered around the town, enjoying the great views of the sea and surrounding countryside from various high vantage points, and trying out our discount card in the nearest restaurant and being thrilled with the food and the price. We had our drinks in another, where I made friends with the owner, Franco, introducing myself as 'Michelle' as I wanted him and others to know we had some Italian and we wanted to show respect for the country, its people and language. We often sat and drank there over the next two weeks or so, while relaxing, people-watching and viewing the goings-on in the square. The next day we made for the beach. There were many steps down from the 'centro storico' and my knees were not the best but the beach was beautiful and it was well worth the struggle down the steps. Pure, clean, blue, almost still Mediterranean waters beckoned. The sand was of the finest golden grains and hot but not so hot I couldn't walk on it. A few people were scattered around as it was early in the season and across the road there was a café with cold beer just waiting for my custom. At the far end of the

beach a huge rocky outcrop rose from up from the sea and the beach, with an old building at its top and a long winding path of steps up to it. It made for a great dramatic scene.



Later we discovered it was a convent, which gave rise to stories and imaginings on my part and a wish that my sister, a nun, would see it and even join the community (if there was one left) so we could get in!

At the other end of the beach was a private area with chalets and a bar and other facilities and on further a marina or harbour, with the mountains rising behind. We were well pleased with our choice of venue for our holiday.

The sun shone down all day and we stayed for hours, me swimming at times, and both of us sun-bathing and relaxing with a beer or snack now and then. There was a little dip just as one entered the cool blue water so almost immediately one found a good depth and little waves added to the pure, physical pleasure of diving in, especially after coming from Ireland with its cold, cloudy, grey skies. I found a bit of pumice stone one day, which brought thoughts of the Romantic Poets to my mind and a certain poem I had learnt for my Leaving Certificate Examination in Ireland many years before. I felt I was joining them in a way, on their grand tours! I still have the pumice stone.

This is an excerpt from Sono Pizzitano by Michael Power who has moved to Pizzo in Calabria and tells his story. We will be having excerpts every month here at The Calabrian Voice.

This is a great illustrated read for people who have or are thinking of buying a place abroad and a great read for those who just wish to escape and experience someone else's pain and pleasure.

Sono Pizzitano is available to buy from the authors website.

With special thank to Michael Power who wrote Sono Pizzitano and with his permission we will be publishing parts of the book every month here in The Calabrian Voice.

Visit the website and purchase yourself a copy at www.sonopizzitano.weebly.com

Carissimi amici, (dear friends)

Another year, a new resolution. This year I am going to make an improvement with my language skills, or lack of them.

By the end of this year I want to be able to feel comfortable having a conversation with a complete stranger, in Italian, of course.

Firstly, it is important to be able to walk before we can run.

Quick pronunciation guide

Read the phonetic symbol as though you were reading English and you're sure to be understood.

Each syllable is separated by a dot, and italics indicate that you need to put stress on that syllable, for example:

Buongiorno. b-won.r-no

Study hard, and we will get there together.

fino alla prossima volta

until next time

Symbol

a
e
ee
o
oo
ay
ai
oy
ow
ly
n
p
s
t
v
y

Equivalent

father
red
bee
pot
took
say
aisle
boy
cow
million
no
pig
so
tin
van
yes

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ch
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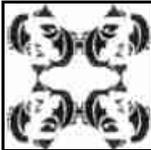
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AQUARIUS
January 21st- Feb 19th

New year, new fear, No worries. This year may be filling you with dread but don't worry or have a Simpson's cow, just go with the flow and remember there is always next year etc etc.

Teamwork is essential, it gives them someone else to shoot at.



PISCES
Feb 20th- March 20th

A wise man once said, "choi bin quoi mai choo" This is indeed the path to riches and happiness. Good luck.

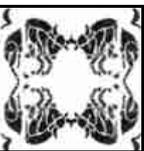
Forgive your enemies, but remember their names.



ARIES
March 21st- April 20th

Remember the Alamo? then you are too old, don't move too much or you may snap.

Error. Keyboard not found. Press any key to continue...



TAURUS
April 21st- May 21st

Like all Taurus's you are mad as hell with the world. Well it likes you A LOT so be nice and take a pill. Bill...

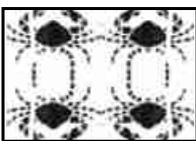
A cat will blink when struck with a hammer.



GEMINI
May 22nd- June 21st

Are you thinking of a new years resolution. Remember to keep it small and insignificant so you will not feel bad when you break it.

Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.



CANCER
June 22nd- July 23rd

Depressing star sign but did you know that you are great and an absolute star.

How's that for accurate.

Gravity is a myth, the Earth sucks..

SILLY-SCOPE

For those who don't take it too seriously

Pasta with Sausage and Tomatoes

2 tablespoons olive oil
1 medium sweet onion, diced
1 pound sweet Italian sausage meat (stuffing from 4 links)
1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes
salt to taste
1 35oz can of imported Italian tomatoes
6 fresh basil leaves
1 pound mezzi rigatoni



Heat olive oil in a medium sauce pan over medium-high heat. Add onion and sauté, stirring occasionally with a wooden spoon until softened and translucent, about 5 minutes.

Add sausage meat, red pepper and salt to taste. Cook, stirring occasionally until sausage is browned approximately 10 minutes.

In a large bowl, crush the tomatoes with your hands then add them with their juices to the pan. Add 1/2 cup of water and bring to a simmer. Turn heat to low and let simmer until thickened, about 45 minutes. At the very end of cooking, tear 2 of the basil leaves into pieces with your hands and stir into the sauce.

While sauce is cooking, bring a large pot of salted water to a boil and add the mezzi rigatoni. Cook uncovered over high heat until al dente.

Drain the pasta and toss with half of the sauce. Dish pasta out into individual serving plates, top with a little more sauce, garnish with the remaining basil leaves torn by hand and serve.

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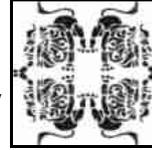
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Recipe from www.italianchefs.com



LEO
July 24th- August 23rd

I feel a change coming on for all Leos, possible a life change, possibly a change of location. When it comes jump don't step down or you may tread in potholes and not break your ankle.

Why is the word 'Abbreviation' so long?



VIRGO
August 24th- Sept 23rd

Looking for a new love, try a dating agency, your stars tell you to look for the right/other/extra love of your life

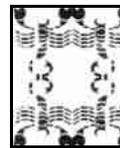
If your attack is going really well, it's an ambush.



LIBRA
Sept 24th- October 23rd

Need a break, look east, then west, glance North and South then say where you are and just go to a different pub.

It's not an optical illusion, it just looks like one.



SCORPIO
October 24th- Nov 22nd

Scorpions are the kings of stings but like other lesser star signs we are loving, compassionate and in good humour. Oh yes and are mostly full of it.

A day without sunshine is like ... night.



SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23rd- Dec 21st

When you walk, down the street, hold your head up high. That way your love or opportunity will have a chance of seeing you. Short, stand on a box!

Never advise anyone to go to war or to marry.



CAPRICORN
Dec 22nd—January 20th

Wonderful month to start afresh, dump the turkey, forget the stuffing and look for the love of your life.

The only time I open my mouth is to change feet.

Minister scores victory on olive oil labelling

Rome, 23 Dec. (AKI) - Italy's agriculture minister Luca Zaia has won a hard-fought battle to obtain labelling for virgin and extra virgin olive oil that clearly states where the olives used to make it come from. The victory is a boost for Italian olive oil producers, who are counting on the exceptional quality of the 2009-2010 season's oil to make up for a 15 percent fall in output compared with the previous season.

"Since 1 July, transparent labelling indicating the country of origin of the olives has been mandatory in all of Europe," said Zaia.

This means consumers will see 'Italian virgin and extra virgin olive oil' written on the labels of bottles, and will know where the oil comes from rather than unwittingly being sold blends of oils from various countries that, he told journalists at a year-end press conference rounding up on his ministry's activities.

Around 500,000 tonnes of Italian virgin and extra virgin olive oil was produced this year, compared with 600,000 tonnes in 2008. Annual consumer demand in Italy of is around 700,000 tonnes, according to producers.

The European labelling norms are the result of 15 years of negotiations, Zaia noted, adding that he is spearheading campaigns at the European Union to obtain labelling transparency for various agricultural products, most recently milk.

"Italy will in future be a standard-bearer of mandatory labelling that will give citizens clear and reliable information on products and on food safety," said Zaia.

"People want to know if what they are putting into their bodies is safe."



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A group of Mayors from the region of Calabria in Italy visited Gozo



On a day trip and had the opportunity to visit several places of interest and meet with the local Mayors. The visit was arranged by the Link School of English in Malta and the delegation was led by Giuseppe Scopelliti Mayor of Reggio Calabria.

Mayor Scopelliti is running a project to assess the links between Calabria and Malta and

to strengthen and promote Malta in the region of Calabria. Accompanying Mayor Scopelliti were all the mayors from the region of Calabria who are interested in this project, they were able to find out about what had already been achieved and on the plans for the future.

At a meeting held at the Citadel, Parliamentary Secretary for Public Dialogue and Information Chris Said thanked Mayor Scopelliti for the work that is being undertaken to strengthen ties with Malta.

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We are always looking for new stories and recipes so please contact us here or view our food and drink page at www.calabrianvoice.com

A LITTLE HISTORY

Artichoke History

Native to the Mediterranean region, the artichoke is the edible flower bud of a thistle-like plant in the sunflower family. It is eaten as a vegetable. Its botanical name, *Cynara scolymus*, derives from the Latin *canina* meaning canine and the Greek *skolymos* meaning thistle. Its English name comes from the Arabic *al-khurshuf* also meaning thistle, which became *articiocco* in Italian, and ultimately *artichoke*.

Although mankind has been eating artichokes for more than 3000 years, the fall of Rome plunged the artichoke into obscurity until its revival in Italy the mid-15th century. Catherine de Médici, who was married to King Henry II of France at the tender young age of 14, is credited with bringing the artichoke from her native Italy to France, where its success was instant. The artichoke quickly made its way to Britain and as a result, the term *artichoke* first appeared in written English records in the 15th century. It made its way to America via French and Italian explorers.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

If you know of a restaurant that has given you great service together with great flavours then please contact us with your review. We hope to keep this open for the public to contribute as you are the future clients. When writing your review we may wish to edit before printing in order to add further comments, information etc. Please contact us at : info@calabrianvoice.com

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Home Made Pasta

Though it's often easier to buy pasta in a store, there is something special about making it from scratch at home: the quiet rhythms of kneading the dough, the exertion of rolling it out, the concentration involved in cutting the pasta into strips -- "*Short bills and long tagliatelle*," say the people of Bologna, knowing whereof they speak, for long bills frighten husbands, while short tagliatelle are proof of the inexperience of the person who made them, and look like left-overs when served," wrote Pellegrino Artusi a century ago...

In short, making pasta at home is *satisfying*. Moreover, you can make precisely the shape you want, and make specially flavored pastas that are quite difficult to find in stores. To make enough home-made pasta to serve four to six as a first course, you will need:



- 7/8 pound (400 g, or 3 1/3 cups) fine white flour (grade 00 if you wish to use Italian flour, or American bread flour, which has slightly more gluten and is thus better because it will make for somewhat firmer pasta)
- 4 eggs (you can also increase the number of yolks while decreasing the volume of whites proportionally to make richer pasta)
- A healthy pinch of salt

Make mound with the flour on your work surface and scoop out a well in the middle. Pour the eggs into the hole, add the salt, and work the eggs and the flour together till you have a smooth dough, adding just a drop of water if necessary, and no more. Knead the dough for ten to fifteen minutes, until it is smooth, firm, and quite elastic. Don't skimp on the kneading or the dough will tear while you're rolling it out.

You are now ready for the hard part: separate the dough into two pieces. Flour your work surface (the marble counter tops in Italian kitchens are ideal for this, though wood or Formica work as well -- a pastry cloth gets in the way) and start to roll out the dough, rolling from the middle, flipping it occasionally, and flouring it as necessary to keep it from sticking. To keep the sheet from breaking, once it has reached a certain size, roll it up around the rolling pin and then invert the rolling pin; you can, as you are unrolling the sheet, gently stretch it by holding the

unrolled part firm and pulling gently away with the rolling pin. Keep on flipping and rolling till you have a sheet that's almost transparent -- as thin as a dime, or thinner, if you can manage it (the pasta will almost double in thickness while cooking). The Emilians, acknowledged masters of home-made pasta, say your backside should work up a sweat as you're rolling out the sheet.

Once you've rolled out the sheet, either use it to make stuffed pasta such as ravioli or tortellini, for lasagna, or cut it into strips. If you choose the latter course the easiest thing to do is roll the sheet of dough up into a tube, then slice the tube into rounds of the desired width and shake the sheet out with your hands to free the strands; set them to dry on a rack or between two chair backs, supported by a towel (you often see this in the country). Roll out the second piece and cut it as you did the first. Cook the pasta in salted, boiling water. Since it's fresh, it will cook in three to five minutes. Do not let it overcook! Soft wheat flour has much less gluten than the durum wheat used in commercially prepared dry pastas, and will consequently become flabby if it overcooks.

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New website availabilities for property owners in Calabria.

If like many people in Calabria who are reading this you have bought a property here and are looking to reap a little reward in the form of rental then this could help you realise more from your property.

A new service by Calabrian Services, located in Pizzo in Calabria helps property owners showcase their property on their own website. This can be used with individual properties or for whole developments and together with a management company can help you see more rentals than ever.

This can be used in conjunction with other rentals or on its own as you have full access to

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If you are like many people who have bought here in Calabria in a development you will have come across the situation where your property is complete and it is time to organise a management committee for your building. This is a requirement here in Italy that will save you time and money on your new home. The procedure is very simple, firstly a company is formed to manage the development. This company will be responsible for ensuring that the development is kept legal, clean and habitable. Once the company is formed it will then have the responsibility to maintain the public spaces in the development such as stairways, car

parks, lift, gardens and swimming pools and ensure that all the relevant taxes, insurances and maintenance works are carried out. We are able to help you in this matter.

For further information please contact ourselves here at Studio Ruoppolo at : studioruoppolo@libero.it or 53120 or visit www.calabrianservices.com/condominiums **more information in English**

call + 39 0963

Turkey may want Santa bones back

Top officials in Turkey say the country is considering requesting the return of St Nicholas's remains from Italy so they may be placed at a museum to be built at his birthplace.

St Nicholas, from whom the story of Santa Claus emerged, was born and served as a bishop of what is now the Turkish Mediterranean town of Demre, in the 4th century AD.

He was buried there, but his bones were later taken to the southern Italian town of Bari.

Turkish Culture Minister Ertugrul Gunay told the Anatolia news agency that Turkey was planning to build a museum in the region and was likely to request the bones once construction was complete.

Mr Gunay said his ministry had no timetable yet for the museum's construction.

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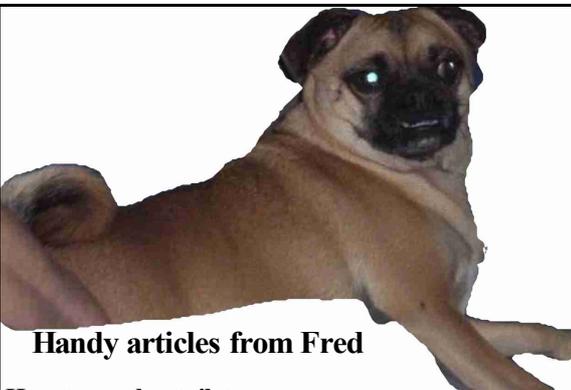


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Handy articles from Fred

How to wash a toilet

1. Put both lids of the toilet up and add 1/8 cup of pet shampoo to the water in the bowl.
2. Pick up the cat and soothe him while you carry him towards the bathroom.
3. In one smooth movement, put the cat in the toilet and close the lid. You may need to stand on the lid.
4. The cat will self agitate and make ample suds. Never mind the noises that come from the toilet, the cat is actually enjoying this.
5. Flush the toilet three or four times. This provides a 'power-wash' and rinse'.
6. Have someone open the front door of your home. Be sure that there are no people between the bathroom and the front door.
7. Stand behind the toilet as far as you can, and quickly lift the lid.
8. The cat will rocket out of the toilet, streak through the bathroom, and run outside where he will dry himself off.
9. Both the toilet and the cat will be sparkling clean.

Yours Sincerely,

A. Dog

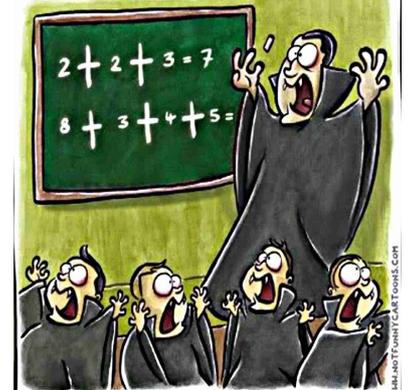
Thank you for your advice, please note The Calabrian Voice may print articles and advice from readers however we recommend that you call in experts and not try any of them at home... unless you are a dog of course...

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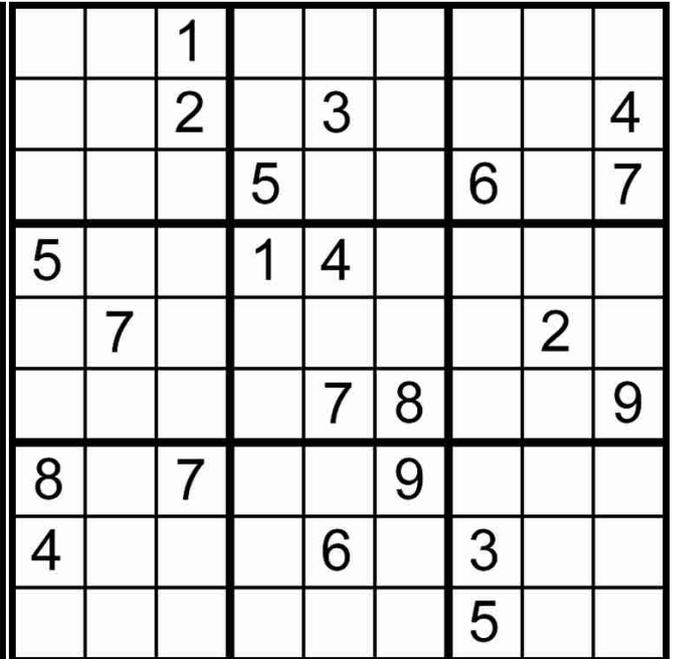
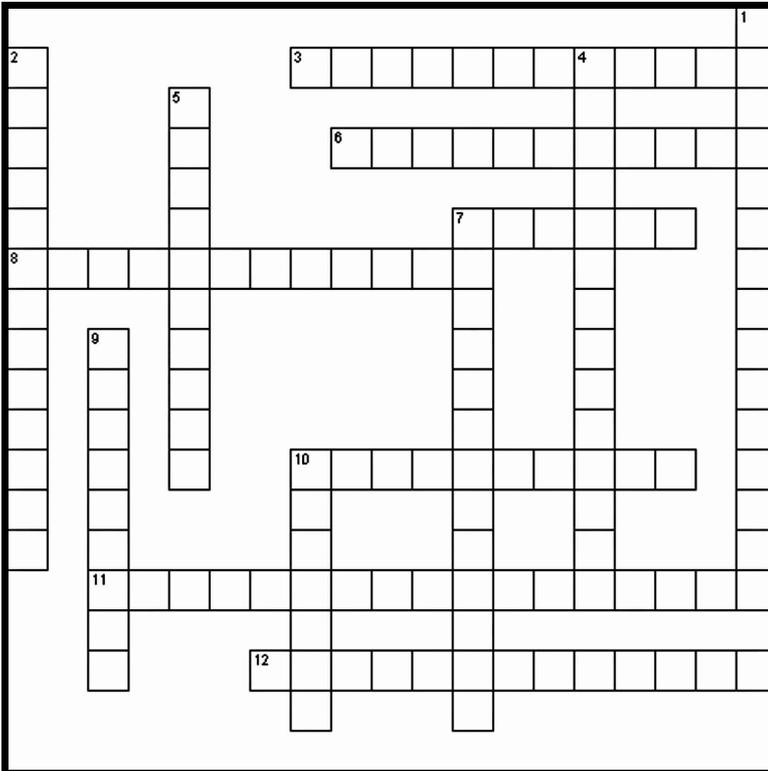


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**Here is one sent in by a good friend and reader.
Thank you Helen**

Use the 1st letter of your name to answer each of the following.
They have to be real places, names, things.. nothing made up!
Try to use different answers if the person in front of you had the same 1st initial.
You CAN'T use your name for the boy/girl name question.

Across

3. Jim Braddock in the 2005 movie, Cinderella Man (7,5)
6. Clouseau in the 2006 movie, The Pink Panther (5,6)
7. Director of the 2005 movie, Brokeback Mountain (3,3)
8. Nanny McPhee in the 2006 movie of the same name (4,8)
10. Sweeney Todd in the 2007 movie, Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (6,4)
11. Nola Rice in the 2005 movie, Match Point (8,9)
12. Harry Sanborn in the 2003 movie, Something's Gotta Give (4,9)

Down

1. Sarah Huttinger in the 2005 movie, Rumor Has It (8,7)
2. Frankie Dunn in the 2005 movie, Million Dollar Baby (5,8)
4. Aeon Flux in the 2005 movie of the same name (8,6)
5. Larry Daley in the 2006 movie, Night at the Museum (3,7)
7. Grendel's mother in the 2007 movie, Beowulf (8,5)
9. Rev Graham Hess in the 2002 movie, Signs (3,6)
10. Errol Flynn in the 2004 movie, The Aviator (4,3)

A New Year's Wish

On New Year's Eve, Marilyn stood up in the local pub and said that it was time to get ready. At the stroke of midnight, she wanted every husband to be standing next to the one person who made his life worth living. Well, it was kind of embarrassing. As the clock struck, the bartender was almost crushed to death.

WHAT IS YOUR NAME:	
BOYS NAME:	
4 LETTER WORD:	
GIRL NAME:	
OCCUPATION:	
A COLOR:	
SOMETHING YOU WEAR:	
BEVERAGE:	
FOOD:	
SOMETHING FOUND IN A BATHROOM:	
A PLACE :	
REASON FOR BEING LATE:	
SOMETHING YOU SHOUT:	

New Year's Eve in Italy - La Festa di San Silvestro

La Festa di San Silvestro is celebrated December 31 on New Year's Eve. As with most Italian festivals, food plays a major role. Families and friends get together for a huge feast. The star of the dinner is lentils, symbolizing money and good fortune for the coming year. Traditionally, the dinner in many parts of Italy also includes *cotechino*, a large spiced sausage, or *zampone*, stuffed pig's trotter. The pork symbolizes the richness of life in the coming year. Fireworks and Dancing

Huge midnight fireworks displays celebrate the coming of the new year. Most towns have public displays in a central square but private parties will also include firecrackers or sparklers, too, and will continue for a long time. Naples is known for having one of the best and biggest New Year's fireworks displays in Italy. Some smaller towns build a bonfire in the central square where villagers will congregate into the early morning. If you're near the coast, lake, or river you will hear boats and ships blowing their horns.

Dancing is also popular and many towns have public musical dancing before the fireworks. Rome, Milan, Bologna, Palermo and Naples put on huge popular outdoor shows with pop and rock bands. These events can sometimes be seen on television, too.



More New Year's Eve Traditions in Italy

Guests of private or public parties are sometimes entertained with a game called "Tombola", similar to Bingo.

The New Year is also celebrated with *pumante* or *prosecco*, Italian sparkling wine. New Year's parties, whether public or private, will often last until sunrise in order to catch the first sunrise of the newborn year.

An old custom that is still followed in some places, especially in the south, is throwing your old things out the window to symbolize your readiness to accept the New Year. So, keep an eye out for falling objects if you're walking around near midnight!

Oh, one more thing, don't forget to wear your red underwear to ring in the new year! They say it'll bring you luck in the coming year.

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