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## **IAHCSCD SEPTEMBER 2025 Newsletter (IAHCSCD bollettino mensile di settembre 2025)**

### **Message from the President (Messaggio da la Presidente)**

Hope you all had a wonderful summer. Your IAHC Board has been working over the last few weeks preparing for our next event which happens Sunday, Sept 14th at 11am at HOLTZ Landing State Park. For those of you who signed up to attend, you can bring a folding chair to sit on. Picnic tables are available but whatever works for you is fine. Restrooms are available and plenty of parking.

Any other information can be found on our web site IAHCSD.COM.

Hope to see you all soon and thank you for your continued support

Mille Grazie  
Maria

“TOGETHER LET US DO GOOD!

## Congratulations & thank you!

To **PETER BOSCO** for volunteering his time and talents to the IAH CLUB as our new VICE-PRESIDENT. Peter formerly was a Director-at-Large for the Club.

## Thank you!

A new **Events Committee** has been established which includes Grace Plantamura, Dolly Sidlowski, Jeanne Palmieri, Maria Diaferia & Tina Donofrio. Many thanks and much appreciation to those who are contributing their time and talents.

## IAHCSCD FOUNDATION Updates

**NOTE TO MEMBERS:** If you volunteer or donate at a non-profit in Sussex County, please send information (name, contact, background, how the organization supports Sussex County communities & your involvement) to [www.iahcsd.com](http://www.iahcsd.com) and the Foundation will consider adding to our growing list of non-profits to support.

**Thank you to our members for making all IAHC Foundation's donations possible by your endless generosity!**

## Upcoming Meetings, Dine & Donate & Events SAVE THE DATE!

### September 14, Sunday ... IAHC Annual Picnic

- Holts Landing Park, 27046 Holts Landing Road, Dagsboro
- Event starts **11am**
- \$10 per person
- BYOB, no glass bottles per park rules
- Bring a folding chair if wanted. Seating at picnic tables only.
- Games & fun! Don't miss it!

### October 13, Monday ... Annual Fundraising Event

- Mulligans Point Country Club, 22426 Sussex Pines Rd, Georgetown
- Event starts at 5pm
- \$65 per person
- Raffles & chances galore! Don't miss this!
- Entertainment & music by Vincent Varassi
- Cash bar
- Menu to include grazing table, Caesar salad, bread, roast pork, Zinfandel chicken, pasta primavera, vegetables, mashed potatoes, & dessert

### October 27, Monday ... Dine & Donate, Palm Beach Bar & Grill

18585 Costal Hwy, Rehoboth

### November 11, Tuesday ... Dine & Donate, Bethany Blues

18385 Coastal Hwy, Lewes

### November 17, Monday

- Beaver Creek Clubhouse, 18963 Beaver Creek Drive, Harbeson
- Event starts at 5PM
- Pizza nite
- Right, left, center ... we know how much you like to play!

December, date TBD ... **Buon Natale**, more information to come!

## September Birthdays (compleanni di settembre)

### Buon compleanno! 🎉

Domenico Bernardo	September 6
Stephen Florek	September 13
Toni Flora	September 17
Joanna Trani	September 20
Theresa Dippolito	September 23
Cindy Lou Cusimano	September 24
John DeNoia	September 24
Paul Lokie	September 26

## For your conversations (Per le tue conversazioni)

### Italian with Maria ....

ENGLISH	ITALIAN	Pronunciation
Car	auto	OW-toh
Brakes	freni	FREH-nee
Tire	pneumatico	pneh-oo-MAH-tee-koh
Steering wheel	volante	voh-LAN-teh
License plate	targa	TAR-gah
Highway	autostrada	ow-toh-STRAH-dah
Intersection	incrocio	een-KROH-choh
Roundabout	rotonda	roh-TOHN-dah
Driver	autista	ow-TEE-stah
Passenger	passeggero	pahs-seh-JEHR-oh
To drive	guidare	gwee-DAH-reh
To park	parcheggiare	par-keh-JAHR-eh
To brake	frenare	freh-NAH-reh

# Italian History and Culture (Storia e cultura Italiane)

## THE BEAUTIFUL CHAOS OF ITALIAN CONVERSATIONS

Speaking like an Italian is part verbal, part theatrical, and – let's be honest – entirely contagious. On any street in Italy, **conversation** feels like a performance: arms wave, eyebrows arch, voices overlap. It starts with a simple “*Ciao!*” and turns into a friendly competition of expression that's as much about heart as it is about words. And yes, you'll find tiny but meaningful differences across regions, from Milan's measured tone to Naples's musical intonation.

Let's begin with the basics:

Italians love to fill space in conversation. **Silence? Almost never.** Instead, there's a natural humility-free flood of words, questions, and opinions. Pause too long, and someone will jump in to fill it, but it's not rude: it's interactive. In the north, speech stays polite and structured, but in the south, people will interrupt, overlap, and laugh so freely it sounds like chaos until you realize it's more akin to harmony. Overlapping signals interest, not disagreement. So, if your friends in Puglia speak over you, it probably means they're invested in the topic.

**Directness is appreciated**, but there are limits: in other words, no need to beat around the bush but stay kind. Another thing Italians like is **honesty**, but avoid politics or religion unless someone starts it, because there is a clear line between open hearts and what may be considered private boundaries.

As we all know, **gestures** do the heavy lifting in any Italian conversation, so much so that around 250 of them have been named: a silent vocabulary of their own. Some of them are famous, like the classic finger-purse, where you tip your fingers together and wobble them up and down – “*Che vuoi?*” – “What do you want?” Mostly found in central and southern Italy, it expresses disbelief or impatience, while in the north, that same move means “Get lost.” But there are other gestures crossing regional boundaries, like the cheek-twist – when you twist a finger across a cheek – which broadly translates to “Delicious” or “Cute.” Flicking the chin back (“chin flick”) can mean “no” in Naples or “go away” in Milan, so tread carefully.

Always keep in mind that **hands aren't extras**, they're essential punctuation, used to add emphasis as if your thoughts deserve exclamation points in mid-air.

**Voice and volume vary**, too. In Rome and Naples, louder voices suggest excitement, not aggression; in Turin or Verona, conversations might sound like whispers: still warm, but more restrained. **Eye contact** is widely expected: you look at the person you're addressing; careful though because too much gaze can be seen as confrontational. Needless to say, **touch and proximity** matter: Italians are Mediterraneans and that's why they tend to stand closer than Americans, at about an arm's length. Some of them may hug or pat your back when speaking; others may just shake your hand but remember, but always with warmth.

**Regional words** can add some extra flavor, too. In Tuscany, for example, people say “*boh*” for “I don't know” with a shrug; in Rome, you might hear “*daje!*” to mean “come on, let's go,” and in Naples “*statte buono*” means “take it easy” or “be careful.” If someone from Umbria says “*sci*,” they probably mean “yes.”

Under all circumstances, never forget about **humor**: Italians enjoy teasing, sarcasm, irony, and the occasional self-deprecating aside: “You? A chef?” might mean “you cook well,” said with a grin. So, avoid taking teasing personally, because teasing in Italy is just a sign of affection: joke back or smile and continue. If you do laugh, however, do so fully: a little laugh can be viewed as a lack of engagement.

Ultimately, speaking like an Italian is about presence: touch, voice, gesture, facial tune; it's enthusiastic, sometimes loud, but never cold; it welcomes you in and pushes you to join. Learning to overlap, joke, and gesture isn't stealing cultural habits, it's more like participating in them: Italians won't say it outright, but if you

speak with hands, heart, and eyes, they'll welcome you, and you might just end up with an invitation to dinner. So, say "Ciao," lean in, move your hands with flair, laugh loud, and expect someone else to jump in before you finish. Delight in the small gestures: cheek twist, arm hug, hearty "Daje!" That's the way Italians express themselves



## From the Italian Kitchen (Dalla cucina italiana)

### IT CRANBERRY BRIE PROSCIUTTO CROSTINI IT



#### Cranberry Brie Prosciutto Crostini

##### Ingredients:

##### INGREDIENTS:

French baguette or crostini  
Brie cheese  
Prosciutto  
Cranberry sauce  
Balsamic glaze

##### INSTRUCTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C).

Slice the baguette into 1/2-inch thick pieces and arrange on a baking sheet.

Bake for 5-7 minutes, until lightly toasted.

Remove from oven and let cool slightly.

Top each slice with a piece of Brie cheese, a slice of prosciutto, and a spoonful of cranberry sauce.

Drizzle with balsamic glaze before serving.

\*\*\*Please share your Italian recipes with other IAHCSD members\*\*\*

\*\*\*Send your favorite recipes to Tina @ [bdonofrio2010@yahoo.com](mailto:bdonofrio2010@yahoo.com)\*\*\*

**QUESTIONS, SUGGESTIONS OR COMMENTS?**

Please contact Tina Donofrio, Newsletter Editor

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