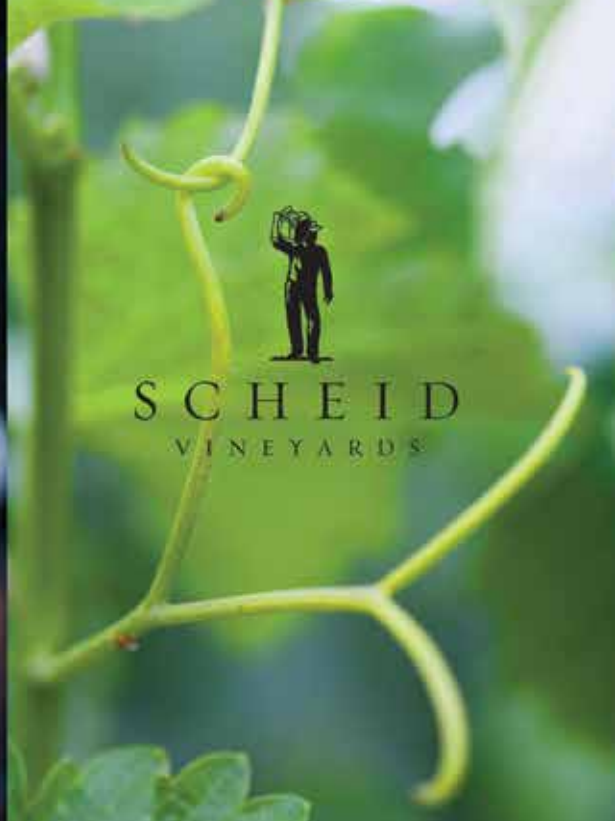




Festa Italiand MONTEREY 92

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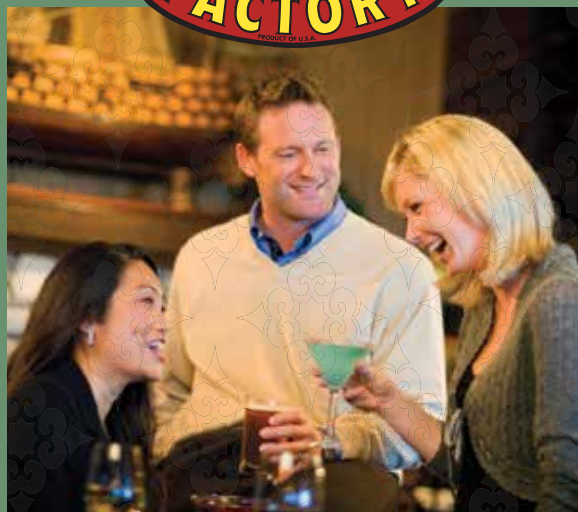
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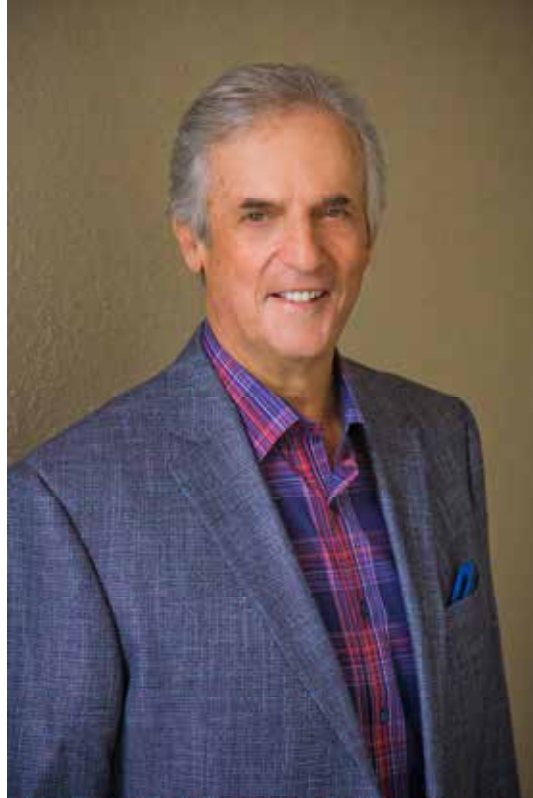


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Congratulations to Festa Italia



Eat, drink, and be italian

BENVENUTI!

We are delighted to welcome everyone to the grand

Festa Italia 92nd Anniversary!

We gather with family, friends and Visitors to honor the history of the fishing industry in Monterey. As usual we invite everyone to become a part of our heritage and tradition of “being Italian” during three days of fun, festivities and food. Please enjoy the food, music, dancing, crafts and all that we work towards year round to bring this admission FREE event to our community, visitors and friends. We work year-round to bring the event; the camaraderie and good cheer to the Festa. Without the sacrifice, dedication and blood, sweat and tears that our local fisherman have given this community, Monterey would not be what it is today. We thank all the volunteers, the board of directors, committee members and our sponsors, donors and advertisers. Please eat, drink, and be Italian! Ciao and Mille Grazie

Table of Contents

6	Benvenuti!
7	A Welcome from Joe Cardinali
8	Board of Directors Committee Members
10	Letter from the Office of the Mayor
12	Schedule of Events
16	Festa Italia Santa Rosalia Festival
18	2025 Grand Marshall - Paul Peter Aliotti
20	The Fisherman's Festival
22	Bounty of the Sea Exhibit
24	Bocce Ball Teams and Winners
26	Volunteers We Will Miss
39	Outgoing Queens 2024
40	Queen's Court and Princesses 2025
45	Mille Grazie BBQ
46	Festival Photos
54	Tene Shake's Recipes
56	Santa Rosalia - Her Story
57	Fishing Vessels
58	Tarantella Dancers

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BENVENUTO!

Welcome to the Festa Italia Santa Rosalia Fisherman's 92nd Festival Remembering the Past From the President of Festa Italia Foundation, Joe Cardinalli



Steve working on a fish truck in the 40's.

2025 marks the 92nd Anniversary of the Festa Italia Santa Rosalia Fisherman's Festival. It is important to remember our history to move into the future. In 1933 Monterey, the tradition of the blessing of the Monterey Fishing Fleet and praying for the safety of the fisherman and those who were lost at sea to the patron Saint of the Monterey Fisherman, Santa Rosalia, was established. The four women credited with establishing the Santa Rosalia blessing of the fishing fleet ceremony and the sharing of traditional Sicilian food and culture in 1933 were Francesca (Ferranti) Giamona, Giovanna Balbo, Rosa Ferrante, Domenica Enea. Always central to the celebration, was the tradition that the fishing boats and the lives of the fishermen were to be protected from the dangerous sea through the intercession of the patron Santa Rosalia. The Festa Italia mission remains today to honor those men and women who left their homes in Sicily and established new lives in the greater Monterey Peninsula. Their cultural heritage, traditions and cuisine contributed to the growth of the City of Monterey and the establishment of Monterey as the "Sardine Capital of the World" during World War II.

It is great to remember, know and share your history. At the close of World War II, my father Steve and mother (Josephine Russo) moved from Pittsburg and San Francisco respectively to Monterey, where the Cardinalli family had settled.

My father was a fisherman starting at age 12 to help support the family by fishing in the river off Pittsburg, next, on to San Francisco Bay and then to Monterey and South. I remember as a small guy my brother and I sitting (or pushing each other) in the back seat of our 1952 Oldsmobile Rocket 88 following the fishing boats, while driving along Ocean View Blvd. in Pacific Grove, until the fleet was out of site. I didn't realize it then but now I remember my mom was always sad when the boats went out of site. After fishing my dad became a truck driver, he owned and operated "Steve's Bait" delivering fresh fish and bait up and down California from Northern California to San Pedro. I think he was away from home more driving "truck" than fishing. Later in life, my mom and dad owned and operated a motel on Fremont Street in Monterey and another motel on Munras Avenue known as the "Carmel Hill" motel row.

It's funny how memories pop up as I'm writing this welcome. Accompanying my dad to deliver bait, I remember when he shifted gears, the old rubber cover around the gear shift shaft moved and you could see the highway below. It was always cold and windy in the truck. I also remember playing under Fisherman's wharf with the "guys" from San Carlos School jumping from skiff to skiff,

starting below the Wharf Theater jumping back and forth on the wharf beams all the way to Lou's Fish Grotto (Domenico's), then climbing up the ladder to get a drink from the bar, a "Davy Crocket" from my godfather. Every so often one of us, not me, would fall into the water and had to go home. We played until it was too dark to see and had to go home. I'm glad my mom didn't know the crazy stuff we did as kids. Today, with my wife Marilyn, we continue to have a great life. I would not change it for the world.

Being here at the Custom House Plaza, is now part of your own legacy and part of Monterey's Festa Italia's legacy, you are making your own memories. Please share your own family stories and history with the younger generations. The youth is our future.

I encourage you to enjoy all the Festa's traditional Italian culinary favorites including: Arancini, Calamari, Deep Fried Prawns, Eggplant Parmesan Sandwich, Steak Sandwich and a Sausage Sandwich. Of course, we would not be an Italian Festival without Pasta, Meatballs and Pizza. Visit the Beer and Wine booth for a glass of wine from local vineyards or an ice-cold beer.

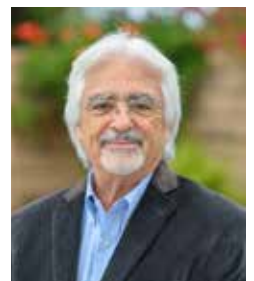
New for Festa Italia 2025, on the upper Custom House Plaza level, is our Italian Dessert Court. Enjoy Italian cookies and coffee, fresh filled Cannoli's and new this year Italian ice cups. Enjoy the entertainment from the professional musicians and take a "Sweets" break sitting at our new cafe tables. Look for the World Traveler's Directional Sign post and remember to have fun and take a photo at one of our painted Photo Walls to commemorate your day at Festa Italia, Monterey California. Sunday morning at 11am we will have free Tarantella lessons in front of the main stage, come and join us.

The Festa Italia Foundation is a non-profit, volunteer organization. Everyone is most welcome to join. The names of the Board Members appear in this magazine. As President of the Board, I am blessed by their commitment, dedication, and spirit to keep the Festa Italia Santa Rosalia Festival Completely Admission FREE.

Enjoy the 92nd Festa Italia Santa Rosalia Fisherman's Festival.

Viva Santa Rosalia,

Joe Cardinalli, President
Festa Italia Foundation



Festa Italia 7

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Festa Italia 9



September 5 - 7, 2025

The 92nd Annual Festa Italia Santa Rosalia Fisherman's Festival is here, and I am honored to welcome you and celebrate this special tradition with you. Much of the rich history that shapes the Monterey Peninsula experience comes from the Sicilian fishermen and their families who immigrated here decades ago, building a life along California's Central Coast. Festa Italia proudly celebrates this heritage—keeping the stories, traditions, and cultural pride alive for future generations.

This beloved festival is a joyous tradition that welcomes families from all cultures to join in the celebration. The Sicilian warmth and charm amidst the idyllic backdrop of Custom House Plaza and Old Fisherman's Wharf sets the perfect ambiance. With festive music and dancing, new friendships, community spirit, and, of course, the world-class deliciousness of savory Italian cuisine—Festa Italia offers something for everyone.

A heartfelt thank you to the Festa Italia Committee for your dedication to preserving and sharing this tradition year after year. The Festa Italia Foundation is powered entirely by volunteers, and we are deeply grateful to each and every one of you for your time, passion, and hard work.

Included in the City of Monterey's seal is the word "Anda," meaning *onward* in Spanish and *go* in Italian. It symbolizes the spirit of our city—always moving forward—and reflects our hope for continued progress, connection, and celebration. We extend that same spirit to all of you.

Whether you're a visitor enjoying the festival or a local resident, thank you for being kind—to each other, to our charming city, and to the beautiful natural resources we all work so hard to protect.

Join in the fun and have a wonderful time at this year's Festa Italia—onward together!

Alla Salute!



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "T. Williamson".



Tyller Williamson
Mayor of Monterey



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Festa Italia

Entertainment Schedule Santa Rosalia Fisherman's Festival September 5, 6, & 7, 2025

Friday Night, September 5th

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM "DANCING UNDER THE STARS" with
The Money Band - Voted Best Band in Monterey County 2022

Saturday, September 6th

10:00 AM Mass San Carlos Cathedral/Crowning the Statue of Santa Rosalia
11:30 AM – 12 PM Opening Ceremonies
Opening Ceremony Main Stage
Procession to Wharf & Blessing of the Fleet
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM Mike Marotta and Friends
1:00 PM – 1:25 PM Cooking Demonstration - Master Chef Tene Shake
- Classic Fisherman's Wharf Cioppino
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM Anthony Lane Band
Tarantella Dancers
2:45 PM – 3:45 PM Pasquale Esposito
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM Anthony Lane Band
5:15 PM – 6:15 PM Pasquale Esposito
6:30 PM – 9:30 PM "DANCING UNDER THE STARS" with
Scarlet - Monterey Bay's High-Energy Dance Band

Sunday, September 7th

11:00 AM – 11:25 AM Tarantella Dancer Lessons in front of main stage "Free" Phyllis Grillo,
Master Tarantella Dance Instructor Everyone welcome to attend and learn
the Tarantella
11:45 AM – 12:50 PM Anthony Lane Band
Tarantella Dancers
1:00 PM – 1:25 PM Cooking Demonstration - Master Chef Tene Shake
Classic Fisherman's Wharf Cioppino
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM Pasquale Esposito
2:45 PM – 3:45 PM Mike Marotta and Friends
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM Pasquale Esposito
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM Anthony Lane Band, Bocce Awards,
Raffle Announcements



David Marzetti
Master of Ceremonies



Pasquale Esposito



Mike Marotta, Jr.



Anthony Lane



Scarlet



The Money Band



Scarlet Band



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Mike Marotta and Friends

Mike Marotta & Friends will include Mike Marotta on accordion, Paul Langford on bass, Paul Tarantino on clarinet and sax, Dave Dally on violin, John Beron on drums, with singers Erasmo “Orazio” Aiello, Dave Marzetti, Rachel Marotta Halim and Anna Marotta Halim.



David Marzetti, Master of Ceremonies/Singer

This is the 32nd year that David Marzetti has emceed and performed at Festa Italia with his close friend, Mike Marotta. David comes from a radio background that spans over 48 years. Besides his weekly M-F Afternoon Show 3-6p, David hosts the “ShagBag Show” every Saturday morning as well as “Sundays with Sinatra: Live from Old Fisherman’s Wharf”. All of David’s shows are broadcast on KMBY 1240 AM/95.9 FM. He is highly regarded as “Monterey’s Emcee” and hosts many local functions and fundraisers including Festa Italia, Santa Rosalia Queen’s Coronation Ball, La Merienda/City of Monterey’s Annual Birthday Celebration, The City of Monterey’s 4th of July on the Lawn, Old Fisherman’s Wharf’s Annual Birthday Party, The Carmel Summer Live Music Series, and the Italian Heritage Society Awards Ceremony. David is the Winner of BEST TV/RADIO PERSONALITY in the Monterey Herald Readers Poll. And, a 3-time winner of the PGA Media Person of the Year Award. Congressman Jimmy Panetta calls David “The Voice of Monterey”.



Erasmo “Orazio” Aiello

Erasmo ‘Orazio’ Aiello comes from Palermo, Sicily. He has been discovered by musicians eager to share his gift of singing traditional Italian songs and opera with wider audiences. He just returned from Sicily last week.



Pasquale Esposito

Pasquale Esposito was born and raised in Naples, Italy. He immigrated to the United States winning the Green Card Lottery in 1998. He pursued his passion for music by studying at San Jose State University receiving his Bachelor of Arts Degree where he was a distinguished alumnus in 2009. He is an international crossover recording artist, acclaimed for his pop-opera delivery of songs. Esposito released 9 albums and began touring internationally with his first musical revue: Naples ... That’s Amore in 2005. Thereafter, he toured with his CD of Original Compositions: A Brand New Me (2009) and Il Tempo (2011).



Anthony Lane Band

Anthony “Nino” Lane was born as Antonino Pasquale Cotroneo in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Son of Giorgio Cotroneo of Santa Roberto, Reggio Di Calabria and Angelina Musitano of Deglia Nova, Reggio Di

Calabria. At the young age of ten Nino began to perform with many bands in the Italian community. Singing mainly in Italian he was known as “the little Italian Singer” While in the Harmony Dance Band he was

fortunate to open up for the Original “Ink Spots “ and many other Nationally known headliners. At the Age of fourteen he decided to leave his Italian sound and begin his first rock Band “Double Vision” later to be called “Clear Cut”, and they went on to record three albums. The first one under A&M records produced by Daniel Lanius (U-2, Peter Gabriel, Bonnie Raitt”). The second recorded under the CBS label, produced by Bob Destocki (Fast Times at Richmond High, The Ides of March”), and the final one on A & M Records again. At the same time Anthony studied with Rosemary Burns-Gazarra (the wife of Ben Gazzara) in Toronto, Canada. She was a former opera singer (New York Met) who had studied Bell Canto in Italy and had developed a technique for singing pop music. She called it ‘the mask’ and had been teaching it for many years. Her former students include Bryan Adams, Corey Heart, Jeff Healey, Sebastian Bach

(Skid Row) And James Labrie (Dream Theatre). This would later change Anthony’s life. Throughout the 80’s Anthony was a part of a powerful musical team. To make it easier in the music business, Anthony changed his name to Lane (Plain Lane is what he would say!) After 14 years on the road working fifty weeks a year, Anthony came to Los Angeles to try to secure a major label record contract. He had made his mark in L.A. but the music scene was beginning to change quickly. Anthony decided to move and open a Club in Monterey, named PLANET GEMINI which he ran successfully for 25 years. To keep Music alive, Nino purchased the Legendary FOX THEATER in Salinas, where he brings major shows and events. Anthony decided to follow his heart and sing the music he once enjoyed - Classic Italian. A performance you will all enjoy!

THE MONEY BAND



The Money Band is a high-energy band, entertaining crowds of all ages! For over fifteen years, they have earned their reputation as ambassadors of top 40 hits, performing for thousands of fans all over California and beyond. Also voted many recent years as Best Band on the Monterey Peninsula in The Carmel Pine Cone, The Monterey Herald, and The Monterey County weekly! Fronted by charismatic lead vocalist and harmonica player Zoe Alexander, The Money Band performs with a remarkable intensity and fire that garners new fans and critical acclaim.

with renowned and distinguished musicians, playing every style from country to funk, disco to classic rock, reggae, modern and pop, with songs from artists, including the Beatles, Rolling Stones, Elvis, Johnny Cash, Michael Jackson, Kid Rock, Bruno Mars, and Bon Jovi. “It’s humbling to know that people associate our songs with some of the most meaningful moments in their lives,” says Zoe Alexander. “We now have a multigenerational fan base and everyone is sure to hear their favorites.” This dynamic and popular band assures to get your party started, with a crowded dance floor all night long!

The Money Band is accompanied



SCARLET

Scarlet is a five-piece band comprised of some of the Monterey Bay area’s finest and most experienced musicians. They’ve put together a unique blend of high-energy dance tunes guaranteed to put smiles on faces and fill the dance floor. Fronted by lead singer Liz Raquelle, Scarlet is powered by the tight and exciting rhythm section of Michael Kobrinski on drums and bassist Michael Chatfield. Donnie Dickman on keys and sax and guitarist Scott Dickson bring exciting sounds and stellar solos. In addition to Liz, the band features three additional lead singers providing sublime backing vocal harmonies.

FESTA ITALIA

SANTA ROSALIA FISHERMAN'S FESTIVAL



Keeping the Italian-Sicilian Culture and way of life alive is what the Festa Italia is all about. The Italian and Sicilian fishermen and their families are who built this community that we all today call home. They brought jobs, housing, and prosperity to Monterey many years ago with the fishing and canning industries. The Santa Rosalia Festa Italia of Monterey is the celebration of the patron saint of the fishermen. This festival in Monterey makes many contributions in the form of scholarships, donations to San Carlos School and Church, and more.

During the admission free 3 days of the Festa, more than 20,000 people attend the festivities enjoying Italian and Sicilian style music, food, entertainment, and fun. From the amazing caliber of top

entertainment, delicious authentic food, premier bocce tournament, authentic Italian-Sicilian gifts, Monterey's very own Tarantella Dancers who delight the crowd with colorful Italian costumes and traditional dancing. The Festa is the perfect way to celebrate anything and everything Italian and Sicilian from the Bocce ball tournament, raffle prizes, and authentic food; to the parade, crowning of the Santa Rosalia Statue and blessing of the fleet on the wharf; the festival is the place to be every September! We have a dedicated, hard working and enthusiastic board and committee that work year round to put on the first class festivities at the Festa. As always we have to thank our sponsors who are too numerous to list, but each and every one knows how grateful we are for their continued support. With the generous support Festa Italia, is able to continue this wonderful festival, which enriches the community through promoting and preserving the heritage, traditions, and cultures of Monterey's Italian-Sicilian Americans.



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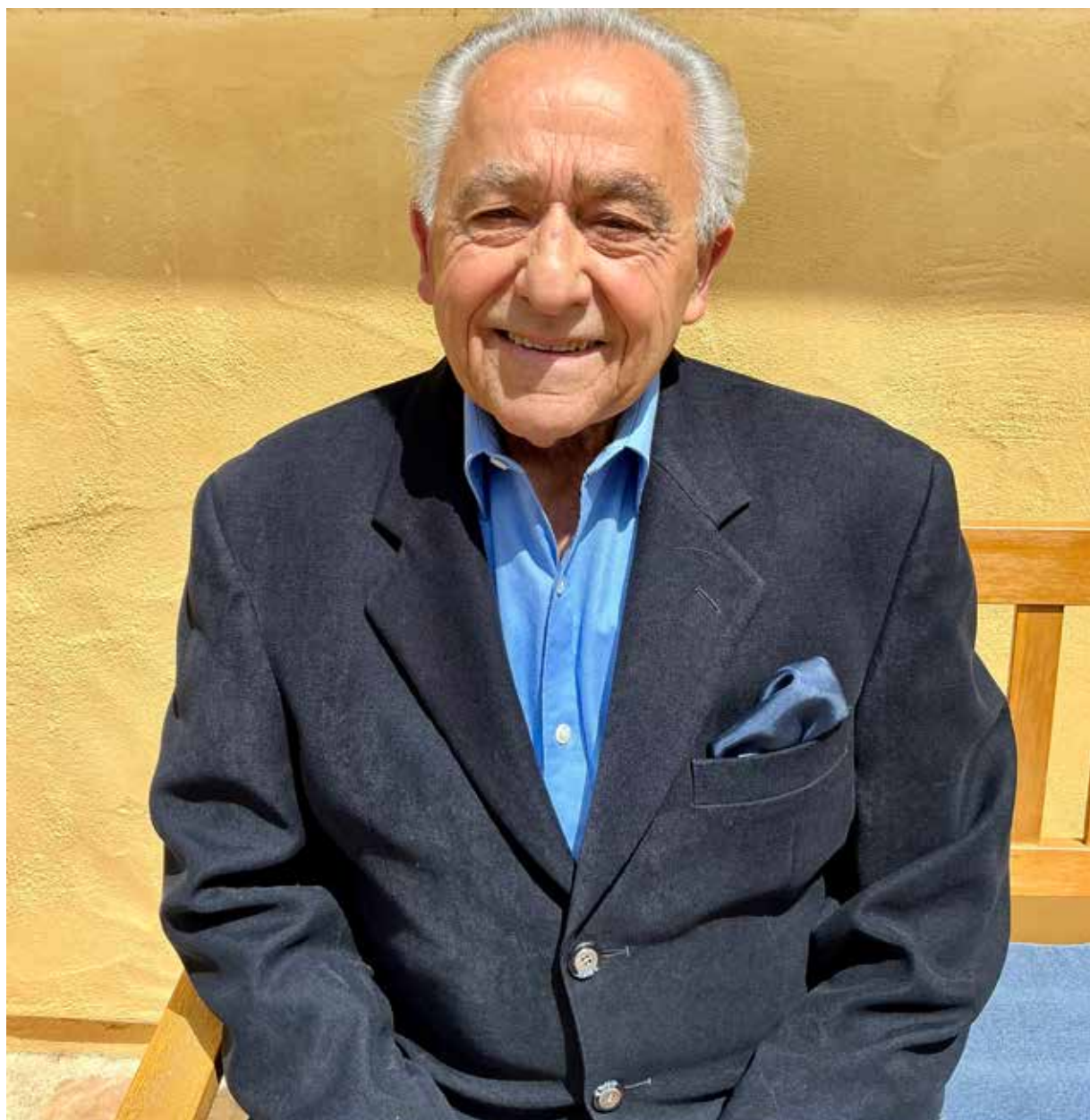
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Festa Italia 17



FESTA ITALIA 2025 GRAND MARSHALL

PAUL PETER ALIOTTI



Paul Peter Aliotti was born on December 17, 1946, on the island of Marettimo, Sicily, to Domenico Aliotti and Francesca Torrente. He is the third of four children. His siblings are Giuseppe Aliotti (Enza), Grand Marshal of Festa Italia 2012; Antonietta Asaro (Salvatore); and Giovanna D'Aquanno (Felipo).

In 1958, at the age of 11, Paul immigrated to the United States with his mother and sisters to reunite with his father and brother. The family settled in Monterey, California, on Monroe Street in the neighborhood affectionately known as Spaghetti Hill.

Domenico, a lifelong fisherman, was the driving force behind the family's move to Monterey. He worked aboard his own boat in both Monterey Bay and the waters off Alaska, passing on the tradition of fishing to his sons, Paul and Giuseppe.

By age 13, Paul was balancing school with work, washing dishes at Rappa's Restaurant on the wharf. He worked there for five years before moving to Lou's Fish Grotto, where he became a cook. It was during this time that Paul received the devastating news that his mother had passed away from breast cancer. Shortly afterward, he left Lou's in search of new opportunities.

Paul eventually walked into the Sardine Factory and asked co-founder Bert Cutino for a job. He was hired as a cook and remained there for three years. In 1971, while still working at the Sardine Factory, Paul began fishing for salmon in Alaska with his brother Joe aboard the Baby Francis. He later worked as a waiter at the Hyatt and The Rouge, continuing to fish during the summer months.

In June of 1973, fate intervened. Paul crossed paths with Sandy Scardina at San Diego Federal Bank in downtown Monterey. He knew of her through his sisters. They chatted briefly—he was heading to Alaska, and she was preparing for a trip to Sicily. Before parting ways, Paul joked that he owed her a drink when he returned. Sometime later, Sandy called The Rouge late one evening and reminded Paul of his promise. They met for drinks, followed by coffee at Denny's. Six months later, they were engaged. On September 28, 1974, they were married at Carmel Mission Church.

Their first child, Domenic Paul Aliotti, was born on February 29, 1976. At the time, both Paul and Sandy were working in restaurants to support their growing family. In May of 1977, they purchased Victorian Corner Restaurant in Pacific Grove. Their second son, Paul Salvatore Aliotti (Pauley), was born on June 25, 1979. That same year, the couple completed construction on their home in Pebble Beach. Their daughter, Maria Francesca Aliotti, completed the family on August 19, 1984.

During these years, Paul balanced restaurant life with seasonal fishing trips. In 1989, he and Sandy designed and built their own fishing vessel, Miss Maria, in Seattle, Washington—launching Paul's 30-year career as an independent fisherman. Over the years, both Domenic and Pauley joined their father aboard Miss Maria in Alaska. From 1998 to 2004, Paul also fished for herring in San Francisco during the winter months.

In 2007, while in Bristol Bay, Alaska, Paul suffered a near-fatal accident. He fell from a barge ladder, and his foot became entangled in a buoy line, leaving him dangling between the barge and his boat. Miraculously, he survived the fall, made a full recovery, and returned to fishing the following season without missing a beat.

Tragedy struck in 2014 when Paul's beloved wife, Sandy, passed away unexpectedly. Despite the immense grief, Paul continued fishing in Alaska until 2020. That same year, Pauley took over as captain of Miss Maria, ensuring that the family's fishing legacy would carry on.

Today, Paul enjoys mornings at Aliotti's Victorian Corner with his son Domenic, daughter-in-law Mary, loyal customers, and cherished friends. He also loves spending time with his three grandchildren, visiting with Pauley when he's in town from Orange County, and connecting with his daughter Maria, who was crowned Santa Rosalia Queen in 2000 and has proudly kept the family's Sicilian traditions alive since Sandy's passing.

Paul is deeply honored to serve as Grand Marshal of Festa Italia 2025. His family has deep roots in the celebration, with several nieces and grand-nieces having served as Queens and court members. Paul and his family extend heartfelt thanks to the Festa Italia Board of Directors for this recognition.

May God bless Festa Italia and everyone involved in preserving our shared traditions.



THE MONTEREY 92ND FISHERMAN'S FESTA ITALIA

A HISTORY OF
GIVING, SHARING,
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In 1997 the Festa Italia Santa Rosalia Foundation, a 501© (3) non-profit organization was incorporated. The Foundation's Board of Directors are responsible for planning and implementing the logistics, set-up operations while insuring the safety of all guests, visitors and volunteers. The Festa Foundation is plans and implements several fundraising events throughout the year. It is due to the Foundation board members hard work, commitment and dedication that the Monterey Fisherman's Festival has achieved unprecedented success year after year.

Grazie mille- Many Thanks to the Festa Volunteers

The continued success and keeping the Festa Italia Santa Rosalia Festival an admission Free Family event is due to the hundreds (thousands) of Volunteers, Civic Organizations, Magazine Sponsors and current Donors who give their time and energy to keep the Festa Italia Santa Rosalia open to families, friends and visitors to Monterey!

BOCCE Ci vediamo al campo de bocce!

One of the biggest draws to the Fisherman's Festival is the Bocce Tournament. Each year teams travel from far away to compete for cash prizes and bragging rights. There is an entrance fee per team, which includes lunch. There is a 32 team maximum and teams are accepted on a first come first served basis, they are matched at random. Teams must be able to play any time on Saturday and Sunday at the Festa Italia Bocce Court. Once a team is confirmed they are sent tournament rules.

We welcome and encourage all Bocce enthusiasts young and old to participate. Have fun cheering on your favorite team, and learn the rules and strategies at this exciting event.

Mangia cibo Bevanda Birra o Vino -Eat food, Beer & Wine

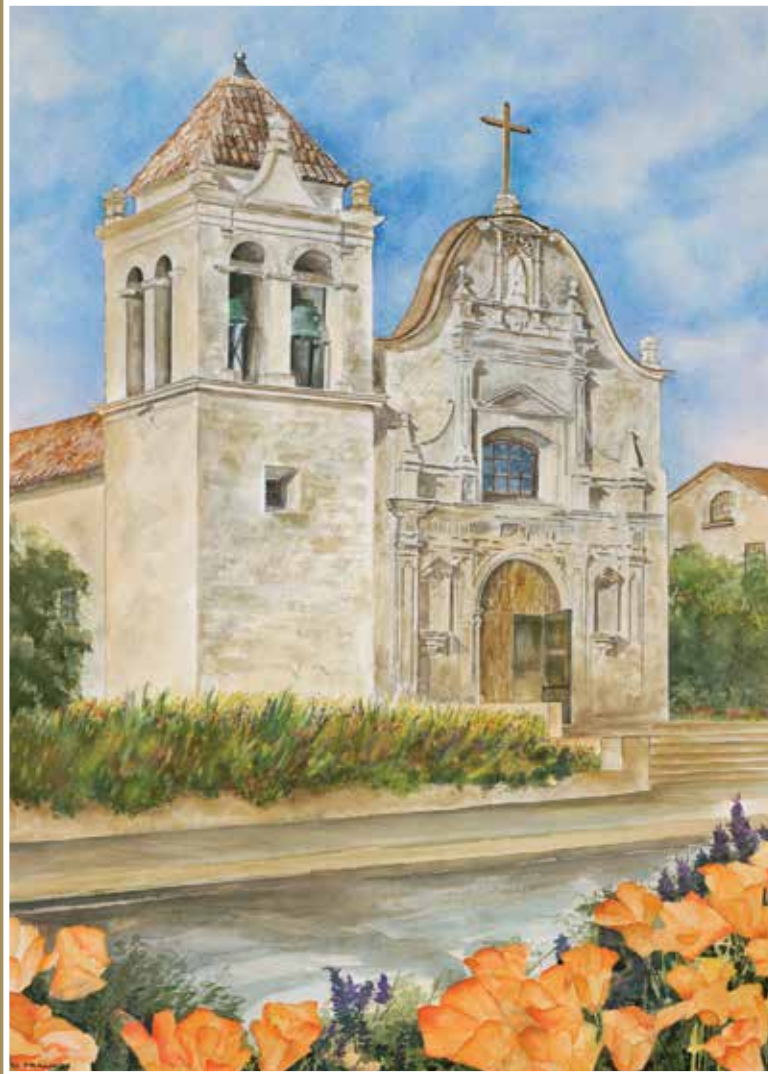
Crowd favorites include: **Arancini.** Delizioso! Rice balls, stuffed with sauce meat and cheese, rolled in bread crumbs then deep fried to a crispy golden brown with a tomato based sauce made fresh by our Festa Italia volunteer cooks. They are sold out by noon on Sunday. Other crowd pleasers include **Steak** and **Sausage Sandwiches**, and of course **Pizza!** And of course what would an Italian Festival be without **Pasta and Meatballs.** **Calamari** is back on the menu. The Deep Fried Prawns were a big success and will return. The Pasta sauce is made fresh and served hot to satisfy.

The introduction of the Eggplant Parmesan Sandwich was a hit not only for the vegetarian palate but it was enjoyed by all.

New for this year: Located on the Upper Custom House Plaza we placed the Cannoli Booth, Coffee and Cookie Booths. The Cannoli booth will also sell Italian Iced cups for a new dessert treat this year. Come and sit at one of the cocktail tables, have an Italian sweet and a cup of coffee and enjoy the sights and sounds of Festa Italia Santa Rosalia Festival.

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Bounty of the Sea Exhibit

At the Stanton Center beside Festa Italia



The Festa Italia Foundation in partnership with the Italian Heritage Society has created a timeline exhibit of the history of fishing in Monterey Bay—Bounty of the Sea—the exhibit includes text, photos and stories. The exhibit emphasizes the Sicilian/Italian contributions made during the sardine era that led to Monterey earning the title of Sardine Capital of the World. The display covers the Pittsburg connection, the Santa Rosalia ceremonial blessing of the fleet, the Festa Italia Celebration, a Tarantella traditional dress along with information on fishing boats, nets, canneries and the wharfs. It also highlights information on Indigenous, Chinese, Portuguese, and Japanese fishermen, the Western Flyer, and the Monterey Bay Fishing Trust.

The exhibit is located at the Monterey History and Art Stanton Center at the Custom House Plaza. Viewing is available Thursday - Monday from Noon to 4 pm. Admission fees are charged.

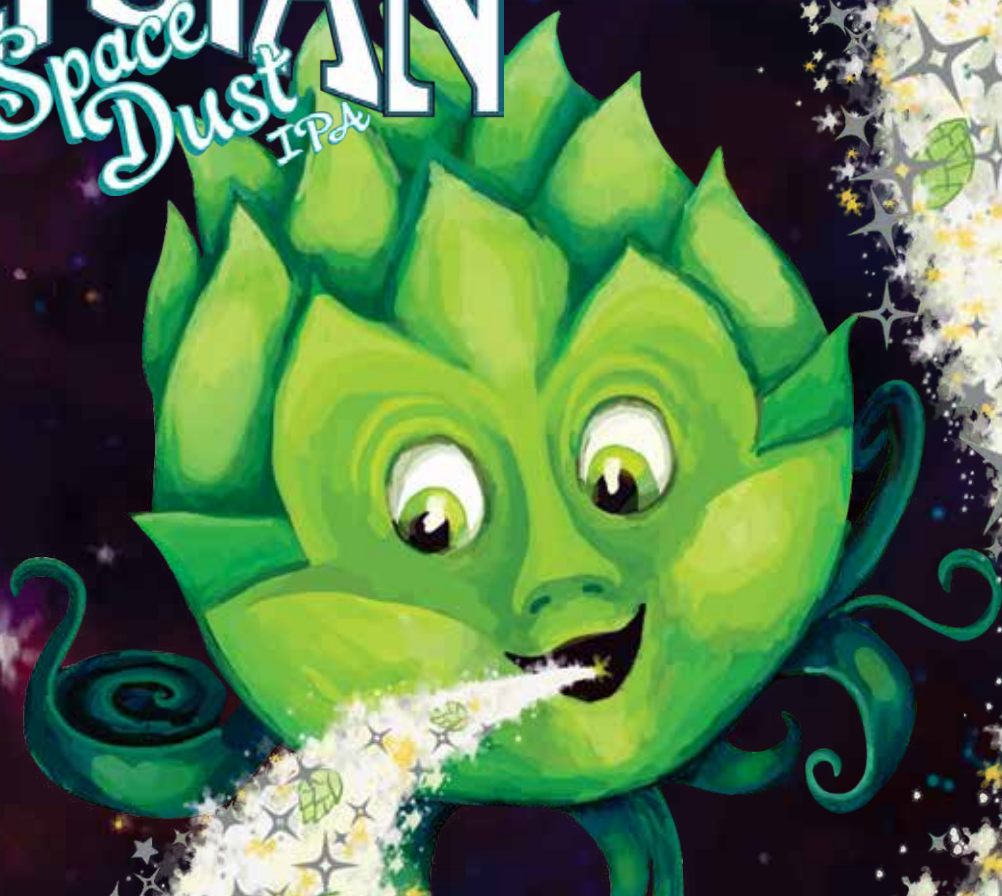


Thank you to AnnaMarie Della Sala-Stanton President of the Italian Heritage Society and Joe Cardinalli President of the Festa Italia Foundation for leading this exhibit project. Also Festa Italia volunteers Marilyn Cardinalli, Michael Paciorini and Andy Cardinalli, and Italian Heritage volunteers Mike Ventimiglia, Bob Enea and Joe Amelio, Mikko Mananghaya for the design of the Festa Italia museum panels.

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BOCCE BALL 2025 TEAMS

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Lydia Romo
Willy Lopez
Keith Lawrence

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Colleen Randazzo
Anthony Siino
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Old Fisherman's Grotto

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John Dine
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Steve Castellano

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Phyllis Tobnotti
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Festa Italia 25

TWO DEDICATED FESTA ITALIA SANTA ROSALIA VOLUNTEERS WE WILL MISS ...

This past year FESTA Italia Foundation lost two devoted and dedicated volunteers, Phyllis Campo and Gasper Cardinale. Within non-profit organizations and especially in Festa Italia, the Volunteers are the foundations from which we build.

Since the creation of the Santa Rosalia Celebration and the first Procession in Monterey in 1933, the four women volunteers, Francesca (Ferranti) Giamona, Giovanna Balbo, Rosa Ferrante and Domenica Enea were credited with establishing the Santa Rosalia ceremony and the blessing of the Monterey fishing fleet. These four women were the first Festa Italia Monterey volunteers in 1933.

Today, as in the past, the heart and soul of Festa Italia are the Sicilian-Italian people, preserving and educating the community on our Heritage, Culture, and Traditions. This labor of love is carried out by the fishermen, the individuals, the families and extended families and friends, the committees, the Festa Italia Board of Directors, and especially the volunteers to all the children. The children, who are the future, will assume our roles, pass on our vision, heritage, and culture, and will guide Festa Italia for future generations to come.

Everyone is welcome at Festa Italia. Phyllis and Gasper will be greatly missed.

Sincerely,

Joe Cardinalli, President &
The Board of Directors
Festa Italia Foundation

Gasper Cardinale

Gasper Cardinale (1935–2024) was born in Palermo, Sicily, immigrated to the United States at age 3, and married Carmela DiMaggio in 1957. Gasper and Carmela have four children; Vincenzo, twins Nellina and Josephine and their youngest son Rocco.

Gasper was an astute businessman and a dedicated Community Volunteer. He was a former Board of Director of the Festa Italia Foundation and held various Festa Committee positions for many years. He worked tirelessly giving back to his heritage, the community and to the Church.

Gasper became a member of the Carmel Business Association, and was elected as president. He also was the president of the Carmel-by-the-Sea Kiwanis Club. Gasper's contributions to community charities continued as a board of director for the American Cancer Society, a member of the Monterey County Grand Jury and as vice president of the Italian Catholic Federation. Gasper could often be found performing the duties of an usher and Eucharistic minister at the San Carlos Cathedral. Gasper was on the community committee that established Monterey, California, and Isola delle Femmine, Sicily, as Sister Cities.

Gasper was the consummate family man, business man, and community volunteer, who proudly represented his Sicilian Heritage throughout his life.



IN LOVING MEMORY

Phyllis Mary Campo

(1950 - 2024)



For decades, Phyllis Campo was a beloved and dedicated presence at the Festa Italia in Monterey, CA. Since the early 1970s, she took part in cherished traditions like the procession from San Carlos Cathedral and Blessing of the Fishing Fleet, embodying the heart and spirit of the Fisherman's Festival. Alongside her husband Frank, sons, daughters-in-law and 5 grandchildren, Phyllis lovingly worked the Arancini/Pasta booth—sharing not only delicious food, but also her warmth, laughter, and deep pride in her heritage. Preparing arancini and greeting generations of family and friends was her joy, and her presence brought comfort and connection to so many. Phyllis will be deeply missed by the entire Festa Italia community, her friends, and especially her family, who carry on her legacy with love and gratitude.



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- See Fun-loving characters Dory and Nemo from "Finding Nemo" and others for photo ops
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6th Place:
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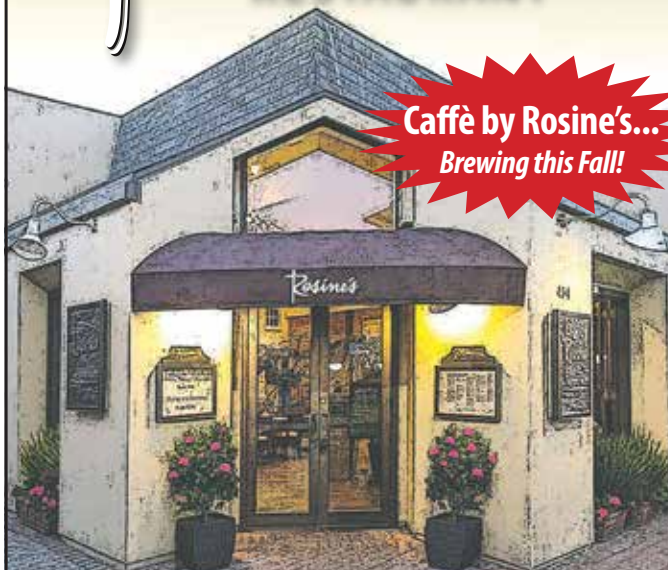
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History of Bocce

- The first documented history of the game was in 5200 BC in a painting in an Egyptian tomb.
- Bocce spread through Palestine and by 600 BC was adopted by the Greeks, who passed it on to the Romans.
- In 1319 AD, Bocce was prohibited from play by anyone of lesser than noble status, as it was feared that it took too much time away from practical endeavors and military training.
- By 1519, the game once again became public and spread to places like Belgium and Holland.
- The Republic of Venice condemned the sport in 1576 and the Catholic Church prohibited clergymen from playing bocce.
- Guiseppe Garibaldi, sometimes referred to as the George Washington of Italy, popularized the sport and made it what it is today whilst unifying Italy.
- In 1896, the first Bocce Olympiad was played in Athens, Greece. It has been an international sport ever since.
- The first bocce clubs were formed in Italy and the first recorded Italian league was established in 1947. This was also the first year of the annual Bocce World Championships.





2024 Queen's Coronation Ball





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Festa Italia 35



Building the Future of Italian Leadership

Our Festa Italia Monterey youth are proudly carrying their heritage forward by reestablishing the Italian Club at Monterey High School that had been inactive for almost a decade. This new chapter is more than just a club—it is a symbol of cultural leadership, giving our young people the opportunity to celebrate their roots, share traditions, and inspire their peers. Their dedication reflects the values of family, community, and pride that Festa Italia has upheld for generations. By stepping into leadership roles, these youth are not only honoring the past but also paving the way for the future of Italian presence and influence in Monterey, ensuring our culture continues to thrive for years to come. “The Italian Club lets us celebrate our heritage at school and share our traditions with pride.” - Giada Nuovo



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Bella Cutino

2024 Outgoing Queen

My name is Bella Cutino, and I am deeply honored to represent my Italian community as the 2024–2025 Santa Rosalia Queen. I am the daughter of Bart and Kim Cutino and the proud granddaughter of Bert and Bella Cutino—names that reflect the legacy and strength of our family’s roots. My heritage traces back to the Sicilian towns of Isola delle Femmine, Trapani, and San Vito—places that carry the spirit, resilience, and tradition that have shaped who I am.

The Santa Rosalia Festival was more than an annual event—it was a cherished tradition that brought my family and community together. Volunteering at the festival, dancing at the coronation ball, and spending time with fellow Italian families have been highlights of my upbringing. These experiences instilled in me a deep appreciation for community, service, and culture. The bonds I’ve built with fellow princesses, junior queens, court members, and past queens have expanded my sense of belonging and created lifelong friendships rooted in shared pride and purpose.

Currently, I’m a dedicated 11th-grade student at Chartwell School. I thrive on staying active and engaged—whether I’m competing in volleyball, basketball, or track, or stepping into leadership roles in school and beyond. Summers are spent as a camp counselor at Santa Catalina School, where I find joy in mentoring younger kids and creating meaningful experiences. When I’m not working or studying, I enjoy babysitting, gardening, spending time with friends, and experimenting in the kitchen.

Cooking is my greatest passions—a love passed down through generations. Inspired by my Nano, I dream of becoming a chef and one day opening my own YouTube channel dedicated to homesteading and farm-to-table cooking. For me, food is more than nourishment; it’s storytelling, tradition, and a way to honor those who came before me.

The Santa Rosalia tradition has been woven into my life since I was a baby—waving from the parade float before I could even walk. To now stand as the 2024–2025 Queen is both humbling and exhilarating. It is a privilege to represent not only my family and our enduring legacy, but also the vibrant Italian-American community that has given me so much. I wear this crown with gratitude, pride, and a heartfelt commitment to honoring the culture that has shaped my identity and my dreams.



Bella As An Festa Angel



2025 City Of Monterey 4th Of July Parade

Queens Court 2025

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Aliotti**



**Ciana
Nuovo**



**Dahlia
Borges**



**Ella
Miller**



**Florence
Cavaliere**



**Giada
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**Kylie
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**Leah
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**Mackenzie
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Gollihar**





2025 Concorso Italiano



Junior Queens 2025

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Searle**



**Ava
Sillman**



**Cecilia
Marotta
Gallegos**



**Elise
Miller**



**Grace
Rudisill**



**Isabella
Aliotti**



**Layla
Marotta
Halim**



**Madison
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**Olivia
Ferrill**



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Princesses 2025

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Goldman**



**Bailey
Williams**



**Emerson
Sanchez**



**Emery
Williams**



**Everly
Santiago
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**Francesca
Evola-Alvarez**



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Marotta
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**Mia
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**Peyton
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Williams**



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Junior Princess



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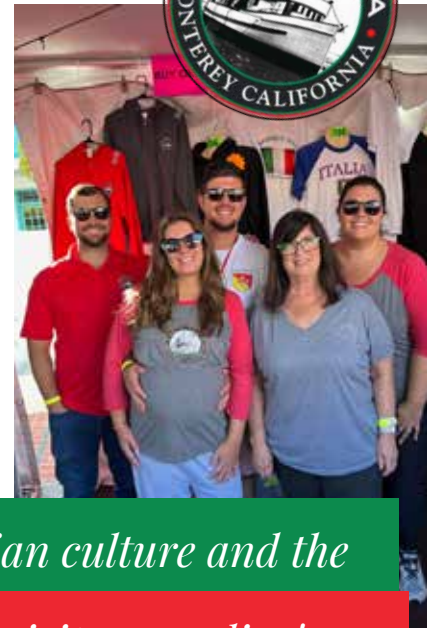
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CHEF - TENE SHAKE

Award-winning Chef Tene Shake is a part of the iconic Shake Family, which has been in Monterey for generations and played an integral role in the rich history and success of fabulous Fisherman's Wharf. The Shake family legacy lives on today, operating several restaurants, fish markets and boats. Tene is the youngest of five brothers, thus earning him the nickname "Tene."

Tene graduated from Bethany University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1988. Following college, he completed levels 1-3 at the California Culinary Academy and attended Le Cordon Bleu and the International Culinary Center/French Culinary Institute. In 2009, Tene was honored to spend time at the White House with Chef Sam Kass. Chef Tene was voted 2014 Chef of the year and Chairman of Les Toque Blanches International-Monterey and the American Culinary Federation, Central Coast and President of the National Chapter of ACF Central Coast.

Born and raised on the Monterey Peninsula, Tene Shake is an authentic "Local Real Estate Expert" with "local Knowledge" of real estate on the Monterey Peninsula. Tene has a passion for real estate buying his first home at age 19. Tene follows in the tradition of giving back instilled in him as a young man by his Mom & Dad that simply taught him "you receive in order to give."

Tene is proud to support over 300 charities. One of Tene's most humbling experiences was meeting Mother Teresa in Calcutta, India in 1991 and spending a half day with her visit the areas of the poor and homeless she visited often.

Tene lives in Monterey County with his wife, Tracy. January 2025 marked the celebration of their 43rd wedding anniversary.

ENJOY! MANGIARE!

Classic Fisherman's Wharf Cioppino

Chef Tene Shake Signature Recipe

Cioppino is a tomato-based seafood stew that was originated by the San Francisco Italian fishermen of North Beach in the late 1800s using whatever seafood was left over from the day's catch.

Serves 8-10

3 Cups Marinara (your favorite prepared brand or homemade)

1/2 Cup Butter

2 Tbsps.. Garlic, minced

1 Cup Clam Juice

1 Cup of White Wine

1/2 lb Cod – cut into 2" chunks

1/2 lb Swordfish- cut into 2" chunks

6 ea. Scallops

6 ea. Prawns

1/2 lb Dungeness Crab Legs –Cracked at the joints

6 ea. Clams

6 ea. Mussels

- 1. Melt the butter in a large, deep sauté pan.*
- 2. Add the garlic and stir together over medium heat.*
- 3. Add the marinara, clam juice and white wine and stir to incorporate for 5 minutes*
- 4. Carefully add all fish and shellfish to the marinara and combine.*
- 5. Cover and simmer together for 15-20 mins.*

Serve with some crusty garlic bread and a glass of Monterey County Chardonnay



Calamari Scampi

Serves 2 to 4 - Ingredients

- 1/2 pound linguini or thin spaghetti
 - 1 pound squid bodies (5 to 10 bodies, depending on the size)
 - 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil, divided
 - 2 tablespoons Capers
 - 2 tablespoons butter
 - 2 cloves garlic, finely minced
 - 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
 - 1/4 cup chopped fresh herbs, such as parsley, basil, or chives, or any combination
 - 1/4 cup pasta water, if needed
 - Salt and pepper to taste
- Lemon slices for garnish

Directions

- Bring a large pot of water with a nice amount of salt to a boil and cook the pasta according to directions. Save some pasta water just before straining.
- Cut the squid into rings, and dry slightly with a paper towel. In a large skillet, heat the olive oil and capers over medium-high heat. Add the squid and cook, stirring constantly, for 3 to 5 minutes. Season with salt and pepper as you cook. Try one or two starting at 3 minutes to gauge doneness. The rings will be white and tender when cooked.
- Remove the squid from the skillet and turn the heat to low. Add the remaining tablespoon of olive oil, the butter, and the garlic to the same pan, and sauté for less than one minute until the garlic is fragrant. Stir in the lemon juice and then return the squid to the pan. Mix in the pasta and the fresh herbs. Add some reserved pasta water if the dish needs extra moisture.
- Serve immediately, garnished with 2 or 3 thin lemon slices.

Calamari Diablo

Ingredients

- 4tablespoons olive oil
- 5minced garlic cloves
- 1tablespoon red pepper flakes 2green onions, chopped
- 10 ounces diced Chorizo
- 1cup dry white wine
- 8 squid, tubes and tentacles cut tubes into rings
- 1cup tomato puree
- 1/2cup fresh grated pecorino romano cheese
- 1lb pasta, of your choice
- 4 -5sprigs of chopped parsley (to garnish)

Directions

Heat oil in non stick skillet, add garlic, green onions, red pepper flake and pepperoni, bring to simmer.

- Turn up heat and add wine while stirring constantly. Bring to near boil.
- Add shrimp and cook for one minute, then flip and cook for another minute. (I hate overcooked shrimp, so at this point I removed shrimp and placed in a bowl.).
- Add squid rings and tentacles. They will cook very quickly so pay close attention. After 2 minutes return shrimp to skillet. Reduce heat to simmer.
- Add your tomato puree. This is where you can be creative. I actually used one cup of Barilla's Arrabbiata sauce for extra kick!
- Grate in some of the fresh Pecorino Romano cheese and stir inches Remove from heat.



Saint Rosalia HER STORY



Who was Santa Rosalia? She was born in 1130 AD and is the Patron Saint of Palermo, Sicily. According to legend, Rosalia was born to a Norman noble family that claimed descent from Charlemagne. Devoutly religious she abandoned her family's wealth and royal lifestyle to live as a hermit in a cave on Mount Pellegrino, where she died alone in 1166. Tradition says that she was led to the cave by two angels. There she lived as a hermit dedicating her life to prayer and solitude.

According to her story, a ship carrying the bubonic plague landed in Palermo in May 1624. The epidemic that ensued caused the deaths of about one third of Palermo's population. The epidemic raged on until the middle of July when a young man, Matteo Bonello, had a vision in which Rosalia appeared to him and directed him to her cave. She instructed him to retrieve her bones and to carry them to the four corners of the city. Bonello found the cave, Rosalia's bones and a rock with Rosalia's name on it. He carried the bones to the city and soon Palermo's horrible plague was over. Santa Rosalia became the patron saint of the City of Palermo. In fact, she is generally revered throughout Sicily.

Every July 15-17, Palermo holds a festival to commemorate the ending of the plague and to honor their patron saint. The annual festivities are elaborate and attract people from great distances. The Community of Isola delle Femmine is a mere 15 kilometers from Palermo. Many of the original Isola delle Femmine immigrants participated in Palermo's annual festivals bringing the tradition to Monterey.

In 1933, the tradition of blessing the fishing fleet and mass at San Carlos Cathedral followed by Saint Rosalia traveling in a procession to the Monterey Wharf was established. As Santa Rosalia traveled from the Cathedral she is led by the Local Catholic clergy, Knights of Columbus, the congregation and community members. Upon arriving at the waterfront, the names of those lost at sea are read aloud and a wreath is placed in their honor. A blessing is offered for all who make their living on or by the Monterey Bay.

Santa Rosalia's float is adorned with fresh flowers donated in honor and memory of fishing families. There are a limited number of spots available. If you are interested in honoring a family member, please contact Phyllis Grillo at pgriilo831@gmail.com Or (831) 402-8030

Thank you to Seaside Florist, Mission Mortuary, and J&M Sport Fishing for their ongoing support.

FISHING VESSELS & CAPTAINS

Festa Italia's-Santa Rosalia Fisherman's Festival gratefully acknowledges the following Fishing Vessels and Captains. Their ongoing support has contributed in making our Festa successful. Our Festival could not continue without the generosity of the whole fish dealers that advertise, support and participate in our wonderful annual festivities.



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Fishing Vessel-Irenes' Way
Owner: Joe Pennisi



Fishing Vessel- Ocean Angel II Owner: Joe Cappuccio



THE MONTEREY TARANTELLA DANCERS

Celebrate Festa Italia 92nd Anniversary



2025 Festa Italia Tarantella Dancers

Phyllis Grillo, Tarantella Director
Lynn Rombi
Nicole Perry
Michelle Spadaro
Geraldyn Spadaro
Maria Mineo Burns
Phyllis Mineo Aiello
Angeline Sickler
Jerilynn Crivello
Isabella Pennisi Steigman
Laney Pennisi Nozicka
Meica Bruno
Eva Real-Goldman
Amanda Ausonio
Maribel Amaya
Amanda Killough

The Tarantella Dancers perform on Saturday and Sunday at Festa Italia. No Italian wedding or celebration would be complete without the rhythmic song and dance of the Tarantella. It is considered by some to be the most popular of all the Italian songs and it is even considered by many as the song of Italy. The dance is both lively and graceful, with light and quick steps mixed with passionate gestures. The Tarantella, originally an Italian folk dance of the lower-and middle-classes has been labeled as a dance to cure sickness. Legend states that between the 15th and 17th centuries, an epidemic of tarantism swept through the

town of Taranto in southern Italy, from being bitten by the poisonous tarantula spider. The victim, which is referred to as the tarantata, once bitten, could fall into a trance that could only be cured by frenzied dancing. People would surround the victim while musicians would play mandolins, guitars and tambourines in search of the correct rhythm. Each bet would have a different effect on the tarantata causing various movements and gestures. Once the correct rhythm was found, it was almost certain that the tarantata was cured. The Tarantella Dancers of Monterey perform annually at Festa Italia and other cultural events.

The Tarantella Dancers perform on Saturday and Sunday

The Tarantella Dancers of Monterey are sponsored by Festa Italia/Santa Rosalia Foundation, a 501© (3) non-profit organization. They perform annually at the Festival and other cultural events. If you are interested in

joining the group or booking them for an event, please contact Phyllis Grillo at pgrillo831@gmail.com or (831) 402-8030 for more information.

Si prega di venire in italiano per la giornata!
(Please come be Italian for the day!)

Congratulations Festa Italia



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