



Cover artwork by Stephanie Sokcharoeung, Polytechnic H.S., 11<sup>th</sup> grade



# Italy Makes Me Smile!

---

Buono's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Youth Poetry Competition 2012

May 2012

Dear Schools, Students, and Community:

The Buono's family knows first hand how Italy's vibrant culture and history bring happiness to youth and adults alike. Thus, this year's theme for our 13th Annual Youth Cultural Poetry Contest is fitting: "Authentic Italy Makes Me Smile." We're pleased to present to you the wonderful top poems chosen out of hundreds submitted by elementary and high school age youth from 17 schools and YMCAs throughout Long Beach and San Pedro, California. Happy reading!



As you will soon see, the youth learned a great deal about what makes those in Italy smile - from its people, rich history and culture, to its celebrations, unique landscape, and wonderful foods. We applaud all the youth who participated and thank you (Grazie!) for your creativity. Because of your wonderful poetry, people here in San Pedro and Long Beach will smile, too!

We are especially grateful to the dedicated parents, school administrators, and teachers who have inspired their children/students to participate in this competition. We are also thankful for the volunteer judges who made time amidst their busy schedules. Our first round of judges included: Rob Wahrhaftig, Keri Gee, and Elliot Semmelman. Our Poet's Choice judges were Dr. Gerald Locklin, a well respected published poet, author, and retired CSU-Long Beach professor; Dr. Patricia Cherin, a first rate published poet and experienced teacher of creative writing and literature at the University level whose official title is Director of the External Humanities Program at CSU-Dominguez Hills; Shannon Phillips, editor of the online poetry magazine called Carnival Literary Review; and Neena Strichart, Publisher of the Signal Tribune Newspaper. Judging the artwork were longtime graphic designer Greg Covey and a very creative youth from south O.C. Rachel Kowarsky. Our judges enjoyed reading all the poems and reviewing the artwork and smiled a lot about Italy in the process. May you, our readers, do the same!

To those of you now reading this poetry booklet, Grazie for honoring the students and the Italian heritage. We look forward to carrying on this tradition for many years to come and are honored to be delivering this slice of Italian culture to so many students, schools, and the community!

Smiling about Italy,

**Frank Buono**

and the entire Buono's Family and Pizzeria Team Members

### Key



Schools that submitted maximum allowed number of poems. Way to go!



Ranked "funniest poems" as judged by professional Happiness Historian Keri Gee, our contest coordinator.

### Poet

Those poets whose name are highlighted in yellow throughout this booklet are in the running for the first-ever Facebook Fans' Choice Award. They were selected by Poets' Choice Judges. Now it's your turn to choose the top winners!

**Go to [www.buonospozza.com/poetry.htm](http://www.buonospozza.com/poetry.htm) to vote!**

**Winners announced June 22. VOTING DEADLINE: June 18, 2012.**

**1432 Gaffey St.  
San Pedro  
(310) 547-0655**

**401 W. Willow  
Long Beach  
(562) 595-6138**

**250 W. Ocean Blvd.  
Long Beach  
(562) 432-2211**



Artwork by  
Mindie Armas  
Briney Elementary, 5th grade



Artwork by  
Yesenia Garzilazo  
Holy Innocents, 5th grade

## Birney Elementary

Thank You Flavia Fraysure for being our poetry liaison!

### 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE

#### *Wonders of Italy*

~ Mindie Armas, 5th Grade,  
Age 11, Ms. Kearn's Class

Italy, Italy, oh how you woe me!  
With your beauty and such.  
All of your wonders, excitements,  
and so much.

Every day I wonder, all about Rome.  
The capital of Italy would sure make  
my home!

I would be painting or watching His  
great Italian artist,  
The Great Michael Angelo paint the  
ceiling.

As I walk around town, I spot a  
shop, no it has no clowns!

Instead I find all of the arts,  
from pizza to pasta, from sculptures  
and more art.

I love Italy, I love it all!  
Now let's go and check out the mall!

I love Italy, it's so worth our while!  
Italy, Italy! You make me smile!!!!

---

### 2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE

#### *Italy Makes Me Smile*

~ Jessica Morfin, 5th Grade,  
Age 10, Ms. Goodman's Class

Italy, oh Italy  
It only takes a while  
To see your beautiful places  
And turn them to a smile.

Italy makes me smile  
Do you know why?  
Italy, oh Italy  
I always want to pass by.

You make me smile  
With all your beautiful places  
Italy, oh Italy  
With all your different faces.

Italy, oh Italy  
Your smile makes me want to play  
Italy, oh literally  
All your long and beautiful day.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE

#### *Italy, Italy*

~ Londyn Thomas, 5th Grade,  
Age 10, Ms. Goodman's Class

Italy, Italy  
Where do I go?  
I want some pizza  
So I have to use dough.

Italy looks like a boot  
Milan is in a shoe  
Oh where could it be  
It is no where to be seen.

So where could it be  
It's in this boot  
That I can't see  
This boot is so big.

I can't find Milan  
In this big shoe  
That I am in.  
I can't find Milan at all.

Honorable Mention  
Honesty Villa



# Burnett Elementary ★

Thank You Matthew Monaghan for being our poetry liaison!

## 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE

### **Italy, a Dream Come True**

~ **Kim Lim**, 5th Grade, Age 12,  
Mr. Monaghan's Class



The flag of Italy waves gracefully in the sky.  
Their country stands tall as the Alps are high.  
People are riding gondolas in the starry night.  
Watching operas with its shining lights.  
Milan covers the world of fashion like a blanket on a bed.  
Try tasty wines that glimmer in shades of red.  
Italy to me is a work of art.  
Its streets filled with people who have loving hearts.  
The Leaning Tower of Pisa shall forever stand.  
Italy will always be the best throughout the lands.  
Italy will always bring surprises to people's eyes.  
No one will ever want to say to Italy, "Goodbye."  
Italy, without question, is a dream come true.  
So I say, "Arrivederci, Italy." from me to you.

Artwork by  
Jessie Cruz  
Burnett Elementary, 3rd grade

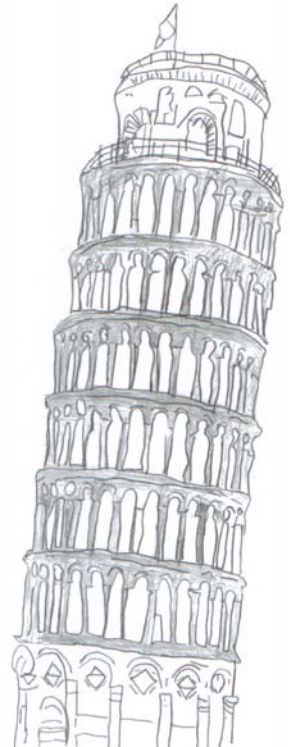
## 2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE

### **Beautiful Italy**

~ **Jose Gutierrez**, 5th Grade,  
Age 10, Mr. Monaghan's Class

Beautiful for art, sculptures, and fountains  
Enna is an important city in Sicilia  
Alfredo fettuccini is a delicious plate originated in Italy  
Under the ash and dirt lies Pompeii, a treasure  
Turin is the place they have the cloth that covered  
Jesus Christ  
Italy is wonderful for ancient cities and museums  
Famous for pasta, cheese, wine, pizza, and bread  
U dine is the historical capital of Friuli  
La Bella Italia

Its beauty is incomparable  
The most famous painters were born in Italy  
Are Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Rafael,  
and Donatello  
La Mona Lisa has radiant beauty  
You should visit Italy someday!



*Burnett Elementary* ★

(Continued)

**3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE**

***I See Italy as a Perfect Place***

~ Alicia Perez, 5th Grade, Age 11,  
Mr. Monaghan's Class

Oh Italy, what a place  
The wind blows cold as I  
warm my face  
I walk your exquisite cobblestone  
streets without leaving a trace.

Oh Italy, what an amazing sight  
I watch bullfights and eat amazing  
foods all night  
Oh, it's just right, what a sight

I might dream of you, Italy  
As your light shines on me  
"Buonanotte," I say.  
What a good day.

**Honorable Mention**  
Alicia Avila  
Chelsea Chhem



Artwork by  
Margaret Soun  
Burnett Elementary, 4th grade

## Cabrillo Elementary

Thank You Margarida Young for being our poetry liaison!

### 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE

#### *My Favorite Place*

~ Jaymee Navarro, 5th Grade,  
Age 11, Ms. Bennett's Class

Italy makes me smile.  
Traveling all the while.  
Good and fancy food.  
And famous art that is sometimes  
nude.

Da Vinci and Michelangelo.  
My favorite artists that I know.  
After visiting the coliseum,  
Then we'll go to the  
Uffizi Museum.  
Mona Lisa, drank some wine  
Da Vinci thought she looked devine.  
Italy is my favorite place.  
It puts a smile upon my face.



### Did You Know?

Giosu  Alessandros Michele Carducci was regarded as the official national poet of modern Italy. In 1906 (at 71 years old), he became the first Italian to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE

#### *Italy Makes Me Smile*

~ Jessica Torres, 3rd Grade,  
Age 9, Mrs. Bertain's Class?

Pizza makes me smile.  
When I want it I run a mile.  
When I open the box  
There's a pepperoni pile  
When I eat too much I was full for  
awhile.  
My mouth opens when I see pizza  
When we want more  
We dial the phone number  
After we do that we eat all the pizza.  
Yummy, yum yum.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE

#### *Oh Italy Oh Italy*

~ Jose Estrava, 5th Grade,  
Age 11, Ms. Bennett's Class

Your food is so great  
Your country is so lovely  
Your country is filled with amazing  
ancient artifacts.

The Leaning Tower of Pisa is better  
than Paris.

Your famous pasta is so great with a  
hint of great garlic,  
bread, and your finest red or white  
wine.

**Honorable Mention**  
**Abigail Benitez**  
**Naydeline Torres**

Not too much because I will never  
stop eating  
And I will never leave.  
Oh Italy Oh Italy.

## Dominguez Elementary

Thank You Nancy Duenez for being our poetry liaison!

**1<sup>st</sup> PLACE** 😊

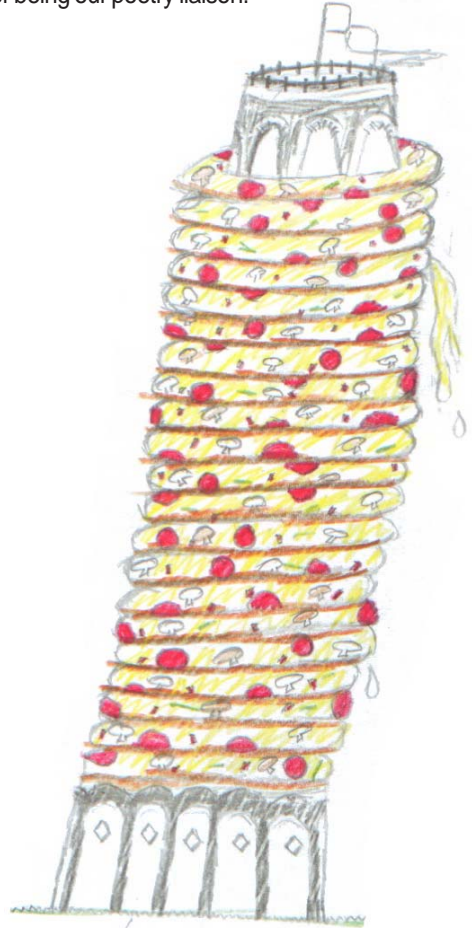
### **The Pizza Craze**

~ Amanda Padilla, 5th Grade,  
Age 11, Mrs. Agredano's Class

Pizza everywhere I go.  
Pizza everything I see  
But every pizza I see I may not  
    be able to eat.  
Pizza on the chairs,  
Pizza on the stairs,  
Pizza in people's hair?  
And also on bears.  
Pizza is yummy  
And satisfies my tummy.  
Pizza is delicious  
But not always nutritious.  
Pizza, pizza, pizza!  
Hey, is this pizza for me?  
Pepperoni, sausage,  
    and also cheese,  
Yay, this pizza really is for me!



Artwork by  
Eiton Marcus  
Fremont Elementary, 4th grade



**Artists' Choice Honorable Mention  
Elementary Category**

Artwork by  
Charley Littleworth  
Fremont Elementary, 4th grade

### **Did You Know?**

Giacomo da Lentini, a 13th Century poet, is believed to have invented the "sonnet."

# Fremont Elementary

Thank You Elizabeth Dilts for being our poetry liaison!

## 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE

### *Ode to Past!*

~ Aaron Friedman, 4th Grade,  
Age 10, Mrs. Durazzo's Class

There is nothing in my cabinet today.  
Nothing much, like lumps of hay.  
And then I notice. How very pleasant.  
As almost like a birthday present  
A box of pasta, rather nice.  
What more ingredients?  
Sauce and spice.  
All hiding in my cabinet.

I've put the noodles in just now.  
It's bubbling like a quiet sow.  
A pint of sauce, a pinch of spice.  
This pasta is going just nice!

I sit in chair, sleeping sound.  
I ate a quarter of a pound  
Of pasta, cooked rather nice  
With lots and lots of sauce and spice.  
Pasta, you make me smile!



Artwork by  
Amelia Huyck

Fremont Elementary, 4th grade

## 2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE



### *Letter to Leaning Tower of Pisa*

~ Chloe Porcher, 4th Grade,  
Age 10, Mrs. Durazzo's Class

Dear Tower of Pisa,  
You were supposed to be  
perfectly straight,  
And look like a giant wedding cake.  
You are the Leaning Tower of Pisa.  
Everyone loves to see ya!  
Everyone smiles for miles at you!  
So if someone sneezes, "Achoo!"  
The cracks will crackle beneath you.  
Uh oh, my nose is tingling.  
Ciao

## Honorable Mention

Eva Luna Smith  
Lydia Sheridan

## 3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE

### *Wonderful Sports of the Boot*

~ Alyvia Feliz, 4th Grade,  
Age 10, Mrs. Hanley's Class

Soccer soccer of soccer ball how I like to kick thy ball,  
In Italy soccer is one of three popular sports,  
Boys like to play and wear jersey shorts,  
Italy's team name is Azzurri which means  
blue and they will stay true.

Football football how they like to throw thy ball,  
When they get a touchdown the crowd screams  
"we will get the crown,"  
Cheerleaders yell that was a down.

You swim and pass in hopes to score,  
Water polo is never a bore,  
You tread water in order to float,  
You better not stop or you're bound to choke.

## 15th Street Elementary School

Thank You Jamie Gross for being our poetry liaison!

### 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE

#### **ITALIA ITALIA**

~ Brandy Wilson, 3rd Grade,  
Age 8, Mrs. Mack's Class

ITALIA, ITALIA I'll go one day to see the radio,  
But first I'll hear the stereo.  
ITALIA, ITALIA I could see because of your clear glasses,  
That's why I'm so intelligent in classes.  
ITALIA, ITALIA I know you're busy with your cool inventions,  
Galileo has helped us with our directions.  
ITALIA, ITALIA I like to play the yo-yo you made,  
That's the reason \$5 I paid.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE

#### **How I See Happy Italy**

~ Evelyn Lara, 4th Grade,  
Age 9, Ms. Dibrell's Class

When you look in the sky an Italian apron falls on the ground  
Full of happiness on every side.  
Happiness you see in the apron makes you happy  
For the rest of your life.  
Makes you want to eat pizza  
With a lot of cheese stretching out.  
Sing and dance and make some mud pie  
Makes you want to eat it.  
Makes your friend happier than ever.  
Before you know it you made everybody  
Happy for the rest of their lives.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE

#### **It's Italian, Really**

~ Michelle Contreras, 5th Grade,  
Age 11, Mr. Mack's Class

"Ars longa, vita brevis"  
It is a common saying  
It means "art is long, life is short"  
Reflects Italian love of playing  
The typewriter is an Italian invention  
Italy has a population of over 58 million  
The telephone was created by an Italian not to mention  
Alessandro Volta named the volt  
A pioneer in the study of electricity  
Be careful it will give you a jolt!

### Honorable Mention

**Bionda Molina**  
**Ailed Carranza**

# Garfield Elementary

Thank You Donna McKeehan & Laura Castillo for being our poetry liaisons!

## 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE

### Italy's Creations

~ Julia Dava, 5th Grade,

Mrs. Richardson's Class

Italy is astounding and especially exciting,  
It has the Leaning Tower of Pisa,  
And it's famous, greatest Mona Lisa.

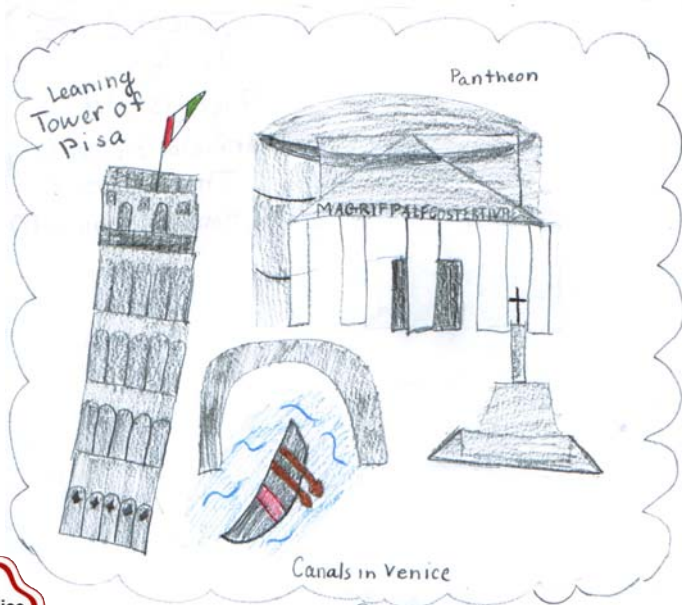
Italy, I wish you were my home  
If you were, right now I'd be in Rome.

You have the most delicious food,

And, best of all you're never rude,  
You're always in a good mood,  
And you don't call anyone a dude.

You have wonderful music  
that soothes,  
And unique statues that are nude.  
When its night, all your lights  
are bright  
And you can see all your  
bright delights.

Although you're far away, for miles  
I'll always know you give out smiles :)



Artwork by  
Julienne Quides  
Garfield Elementary, 3rd grade

## Garfield Elementary

(continued)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE

#### *The Most Beautiful Things*

~ Olga Zambada, 5th Grade,  
Mrs. Richardson's Class

I'm glancing away from today, and thinking of Italy.  
I'm thinking of the flavor of foods, pizza and spaghetti.  
Then I smile at the water way as the gondolas join.  
I wish I went; I went to Italy today,  
I smile abandoning the gondola dream, and begin thinking of the sea.  
I smile at the waters gleam.  
The most beautiful things in Italy,  
The most beautiful things to me.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE

#### *Oh Italy*

~ Aileen Magana, 3rd Grade,  
Age 8, Ms. Morales' Class

Italy, Italy oh what a fine place  
Oh, why the fine, beautiful buildings  
The buildings are so tall  
I can barely see them all  
Italy, Italy, the perfect place for  
romance  
And the perfect place to dance  
Italy, I love you so much  
It's a good place to eat lunch  
Now I have to leave  
I'll miss you, Italy  
Italy, Italy oh what a fine place



**Honorable Mention**  
**Julienne Quides**  
**Hannah Samaniego**

### Did You Know?

Some of the well known celebrities in the US are of Italian descent, such as Frank Sinatra, Al Pacino, Robert De Niro, Sylvester Stallone, John Travolta, Leonardo DiCaprio, Madonna.

Source: Eupodia's Italy Guide

*Holy Innocents* ★

Thank You Sister Madeleine for being our poetry liaison!

**1<sup>st</sup> PLACE**

***Italy: What Makes Me Smile!***

~ **Jaiden Anakewenze**, 4th Grade,  
Mrs. Mullin's Class

OH, the fashion!  
The handbags. Purses and scarves!  
Also, necklaces, dresses and earrings  
All of this beautiful stuff comes from  
a country shaped like a boot!

It really makes me smile.

OH, Gucci, Prada, Fendi, Armani!  
All this shopping is making me tired.

I think I need a cappuccino!

**2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE**

***Pisa and Pizza***

~ **Julian Speed**, 5th Grade,  
Mrs. Doan's Class

Pisa, a wonderful view  
Venice, there is much to do.  
Did I say?  
Pisa has a beautiful view?

Kids play in the snow.  
Are there opera shows?  
Pizza, I'm in the mood.  
On the side, I'd like  
spaghetti alamode.

Pisa and Pizza one more thing,  
I love to sing!

**3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE**

***Italy, the Place to Be***

~ **Breana Gonzales**, 5th Grade,  
Mrs. Doan's Class

Italy is the place to be  
Skiing, sledding, snowboarding in the winter  
Soccer in the spring.

Italy is the place to be  
Mt. Etna, Pompeii and the Leaning Tower  
To see.

Spaghetti to eat!  
Parades, festivals and carnivals  
Is to me.  
Italy is the place to be!



**Honorable Mention**  
**Angelika Lopez**  
**Izabella Rivera**

## Leland Street Elementary School

Thank You Merrie Nishisaka for being our poetry liaison!

### 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE

#### ***Awesome Life in Italy***

~ Tai Criss, 4th Grade,  
Age 9, Mrs. Posod's Class

Kids can drink wine.  
That is quite fine.  
They invented the typewriter.  
Do they screw bolts tighter?  
They have Naples and have maples.  
Italian pizza dough is made of  
only flour, natural yeast, and water  
American pizza dough has  
oil and other fats.  
Italy's tradition dish is pasta!  
They have 60% of the world's  
treasured art.  
I don't think they invented the tart.  
The oldest tree in Italy is over  
1700 years old.  
Italy is beautiful to look at.  
Their pizza dough has no fat.

### Did You Know?

The very word "trivia" is Italian – from the plural of the Latin word "Trivium" meaning the intersection of three roads or some unimportant place.

**Honorable Mention**  
**Eunice Ramos**  
**Gabrielle Guzman**

### 2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE

#### ***Italian Food!***

~ Minea Ortega, 4th Grade,  
Age 11, Mrs. Posod's Class

Italian food makes me smile as big  
as a tower.  
Pizza, as big as the sun.  
Lasagna is like the waves at the  
beach and  
Pasta, pasta is like a slide.  
  
Pizza, pasta, lasagna are like a big  
dish of taste and  
Italian food is a big bowl of  
deliciousness.  
  
Italian food makes me as  
happy as a goose.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE

#### ***Oh Italy!***

~ Dina Antoun, 5th Grade,  
Age 10, Mrs. Whalen's Class

Oh Italy!

Oh Italy, oh Italy!  
How beautiful your pizza is!  
How tasty your pastas are!

Oh Italy! When you were born  
How beautiful your sights are!

We all love your beautiful food  
And tasty pizzas and pastas!

Oh Italy, the beautiful!  
Oh Italy, the beautiful country in Europe!  
Oh Italy, we love you so much!

# Mary Star of the Sea Elementary

Thank You Aggie DiTucci for being our poetry liaison!



## 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE

### *My Perfect Italian Day*

~ **Kelsey Kavanaugh**, 5th Grade,  
Age 10, Mrs. D'Amato's Class

As I gaze out upon Italy, everything seems so divine,  
I see the people dancing and celebrating with pizza and good wine.  
All the food and all the places really make me smile,  
I jump out of my gondola to maybe talk awhile.  
With Michelangelo the artist who painted the Sistine chapel,  
Even after that amazing feat, he was still extremely bashful!  
As I stroll down the street, I spot a Ferrari,  
Such style, such grace, for the owner I don't feel sorry!  
After my midday walk, I take a quick rest,  
Unlike the grouchy Mona Lisa, my smile's at its best!  
I speed over to the Vatican to visit a good friend of mine;  
I'll give you a hint: he's very religious and his house isn't hard to find!  
As the sun sets on my perfect Italian day,  
I must go back to my home so very far away.  
As I head to my gondola, I have to leave now,  
And so the final word I say to Italy is "Ciao."

## 2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE

### *Yumm*

~ **Laurencia Botts**, 3rd Grade,  
Age 8, Ms. Di Tucci's Class

The pizza in Italy is so good.  
I love it!  
Italy is just so beautiful  
Peaceful  
Relaxing,  
And so Big  
Shaped like a boot.

It makes me SMILE



Artwork by  
Gabriel Sanders  
Fremont Elementary, 4th grade

## 7th Street Elementary

Thank You Lisa Saldivar for being our poetry liaison!

### 1st PLACE

#### *Italy of the Majestic*

~ Hanna Rae Muresic, 3rd Grade,  
Age 8, Ms. Wong's Class

A soft breeze filled with sweet  
smells of pastries.  
Buildings towering over my head.  
Majestic birds singing  
beautiful songs.  
This salty sea washes upon my toes.  
It is a peaceful place of wonders.  
Beautiful flowers everywhere,  
from here to there.  
For beautiful things are everywhere.  
And Italy has made me smile!

### Did You Know?

Every day about 3,000 Euro  
(about \$4,000 in US dollars)  
are thrown into the Trevi  
Fountain in Rome and  
collected nightly to be given  
to a charitable organization.  
Source: [www.Italiantrips.com](http://www.Italiantrips.com)



Artwork by  
Cierra Agoncillo  
St. Lucy Elementary

*South Shores Magnet School* ★  
*for the Visual and Performing Arts*

Thank You Milay Sinatra for being our poetry liaison!

**1<sup>st</sup> PLACE**

***Authentic Italy Makes Me Smile***

~ Annaliese Litton, 3rd Grade,  
Age 8, Mrs. Finnley's Class

When I think of being in Italy on a summer day, I smile  
Oh, to walk down those cobblestones streets for a while!  
Over a bridge, looking down at the water,  
In a gondola- a mother, son, and a daughter.  
"Familia" gathers in ristorante and cafes  
To sip vino, eat antipasti and talk about their days.  
I dream of Italy, the aqua water, the rocky beach;  
Lemons, oranges, and figs I can nearly taste, and almost reach.  
I tossed a coin in the Trevis Fountain and was very pleased to learn,  
Italians say if you do this you surely will return.

**2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE**

***Italy Makes Me Smile***

~ Audrey McDonald, 3rd Grade,  
Age 8, Mrs. Finnley's Class

I've never been to Italy  
But I've heard such wonderful things  
Imagining a long visit  
Pulls on my heart strings

Flying into Milan  
A city of fashion and fun  
Wearing a bright yellow dress  
And shopping in the sun

And then I'll go down South  
To eat some great gelato  
I'll fill my belly with pizza  
And enjoy it all a lot-o

Then I'd travel on to Venice  
For a long gondola ride  
Enjoying the sites and yummy food  
With a friend by my side

**3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE**

***Beautiful Italy***

~ Adam Nunez, 5th Grade,  
Age 10, Ms. Brown's Class

Beautiful Italy  
With its golden light  
A glorious setting  
An artist's delight  
Beautiful Italy  
Blue water, blue sky  
But what I love most  
Is the pizza pie!

**Honorable Mention**  
**Allison Torstensen**  
**Ayana Boke**

**1<sup>st</sup> PLACE**

***Authentic Italy Makes Me Smile***

~ John Henry Dy, 5th Grade,  
Age 10, Ms. Whorl's Class

Italy is pretty. It's shaped like a boot.  
Boots look cool when you're wearing a suit.  
Italy is lovely. You can see all the sights.  
You can look at all the art, and all the pretty lights.  
There's a lot of famous artists in Italy.  
Just look at Michaelangelo and Da Vinci.  
There's a lot of good food in Italy, like pasta and pizza.  
Authentic Italy makes me smile.

**2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE**

***Authentic Italy Makes Me Happy***

~ Joshua Dungca, 5th Grade,  
Age 10, Ms. Whorl's Class

Italy is known for many things  
But is not known for  
    queens and kings  
They are known for their food  
Which puts you in a good mood  
  
Pizza, ravioli, pasta, and more  
If you want some better do a chore  
  
The Coliseum is in Rome  
It feels like home sweet home  
Florence is known for their art  
Their art is off the chart  
  
Italy is a great place to see  
It might be where you want to be

**3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE**

***La Dolce Vita (The Good Life)***

~ Mariella Vergara, 3rd Grade,  
Age 8, Miss Andric's Class

Italy oh Italy  
Why do people like to go to Italy?  
Is it because of spaghetti or  
Listen to Pavarotti  
But I'd rather have pizza  
With lots of mozzarella  
Pasta, lasagna, and gelato  
Oh my...Magnifico!!!  
I'd like to go to the Vatican City  
Or maybe Sicily  
Maybe ride the gondola  
Or take a tour to Padua  
Italy...You're a wonder  
And in my thoughts I ponder  
One of these days I'll see yah  
    and I would say  
Arrivederci Roma...

**Honorable Mention**  
**Matthew Catalasan**  
**Kelsey Porras**

# YMCA of Greater Long Beach (Elementary Category)

Thank You C.J. Brewer for being our poetry liaison!

## 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE

### *Travel To Italy*

~ Nicole Morris, 5th Grade,  
Age 10, Mr. C.J. Brewer's Program

Italy's flag is red, green, and white.  
Which are the colors of a beautiful  
kite.

Italy's food is good and ripe.  
I want to talk to an Italian kid  
on Skype.

They say Italy is very romantic.  
To get there I have to sail  
transatlantic.

I want to float in a gondola down  
their canals.  
And eat lots of pizza with my pals!

## 2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE

### *Good Food = Good Mood*

~ Evelyn Acevez, 5th Grade,  
Age 11, Mr. C.J. Brewer's Program

The colors of the flag are green,  
white, and red.

I heard they have really good bread.  
Their pasta is also green, white,  
and red.

Don't believe me, then google  
what I said!

Also look up the Ferrari and their  
spaghetti...

Before I eat spaghetti, I play outside  
and get sweaty.

After I eat spaghetti, I throw confetti!  
Then I relax and watch films made  
by Daniele Luchetti.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE



### *The Home of Mario and Luigi*

~ Michael Rose Jr., 4th Grade,  
Age 9, Mr. C.J. Brewer's Program

The flag is so neat  
and so are the eats.

The spaghetti is cool  
and so are the stools.

Italy is the place of romance  
and trendy pants.

So romantic.  
So gigantic,  
and shaped by shifting subvolanic.



Their pizza is the best  
and no one shall contest.

Yup, their pizza is good,  
like I knew it would...

Translation: Their pizza is so  
delectable,

I would eat is off a dirty ol' table!

# Mary Star of the Sea High School

Thank You John Erb for being our poetry liaison!

## 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE

### *A Trip Around Italia*

~ **Madison McKinley**, 10th Grade,  
Age 16, Mr. Erb's Class



For the first stop, we shall visit Rome,  
The cobbled streets are quite far from my home.  
Now it's time for an artistic creation,  
Florence is the best for that inspiration.  
Fashion is the next site we'll come upon  
And that is clearly the city of Milan.  
If you want to find old literature here,  
Go to Verona, set in plays by Shakespeare.  
Now here's a city filled with by boats,  
Venice, known as the city that floats.  
This is the end of our trip of admiration,  
Italy makes the authentic vacation.

**Honorable Mention**  
**Thaddeus Barton**  
**Clarissa Lomeli**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE

### *Italy: The Place to Be*

~ **Ingrid Laing**, 10th Grade,  
Age 16, Mr. Erb's Class

Authentic Italy is the place to be I so agree,  
Look from left to right to see those  
filled with glee.  
As the cool breeze from the coast  
cheers you up the most,  
It is the food that you will admire and boast.  
Italy is the place to be, I so agree  
No time to waste but to taste and see.  
While touring all of Rome,  
church and dome,  
You will never be wishing to return  
back to home.  
Search and then find, something  
desired in the mind,  
Authentic Italy is the most precious  
of its kind.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE

### *Love in Italy*

~ **Elizabeth Andersson**, 10th Grade,  
Age 16, Mr. Erb's Class

Cara mia, te voglio bene,  
"My darling, I love you"  
Are five words that start life anew  
For in nine months a baby will be due,  
Adding life to the generation,  
Bringing them happiness for the duration.  
Mother, father, siblings, and all family  
Make Italians live life authentic and happily.  
They love each other,  
From father to mother,  
From sister to brother,  
From neighbors to all others.  
All Italians are family,  
Living life authentic and happily.

# Long Beach Polytechnic High School

Thank You Jason Hazel for being our poetry liaison!



## 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE

### *Sogni d'Italia (Dreams of Italy)*

~ Stephanie Sokcharoeng, 11th Grade,  
Age 16, Mr. Jason Hazel's Class



Dreams open up with heart's content,  
And laughter fills the open veranda.  
No one sighs or sheds a tear,  
When there is music playing and hearts so near.

Laughter is the key to joy,  
Here in Italy a page is turned on a new story.  
No one can say that songs will not be played,  
But the aiuto (help) of those forever stayed.

If the little boot could only fit,  
A world cup that no one would ever quit.  
The stories of old will always be passed down.  
And we will always hear laughter from a soundless clown.

If only we can simply take a step.  
But difficulties and trials must always be met.  
Too much is this small idea of mine,  
But simply dreaming is just fine.

Artwork by  
Stephanie Sokcharoeng  
Polytechnic H.S., 11th grade





**2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE**

***Golden Ticket Into Italy***

~ Amani Headspeth, 11th Grade,  
Age 16, Mr. Jason Hazel's Class

Closer and closer to the most sought after prize in history,  
That impatient wait to open the golden gate into Italy.  
Italy has many beautiful and historic cities worth a visit,  
Five top places that are the most exquisite.

Keep all your senses open to what you see, feel, taste, hear and touch,  
Take a bite of Italian food and BAM! Your taste buds explode  
with a watery rush.  
There's a lot of contrast to take in but so astonishingly,  
Rome is the capital of modern Italy.

Venice is a unique city built on water in the middle of a lagoon,  
Most beautiful and romantic cities, wandering along Venice's canals  
as you croon.  
Florence, known for Renaissance architectural, art centers and one  
of most vibrant cities,  
Milan, one of Europe's richest cities known for stylish shops and galleries.

The contrast is as well in the people with accents that modify,  
Especially Naples, people tend to speak loud, scream, and that might terrify.  
Yet they're willing to help you, show the road, or point out the  
best food and all,  
It's all there, black and white, clear as crystal overall!

"The finalists seem the best ever. I enjoyed greatly reading the poems. They all contained lines worthy of praise. At least some of this excellence must, in my opinion, be attributed to the attention Buono's contest has focused on poetry, the culture of Italy, and the cultural values of all our heritages. Nor should we ever undervalue the excellence of instruction with which we are blessed in the schools of Long Beach and San Pedro. I commend the teachers of these students, as well as the students and their parents, and I applaud Buono's continuing dedication to our educational goals."

- Gerald Locklin, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of English, CSULB

*Long Beach Polytechnic High School*

(Continued)



**3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE**

***The Boot***

~ Taylor Love, 11th Grade,

Age 17, Mr. Jason Hazel's Class

**Honorable Mention**

**Brandon Staton**

**Amelia Johnson**

Rome is the capital of this magical place  
The joy in all that live there is clearly seen in their face  
Beautiful scenery amongst mountains  
Or small cafes in the city next to huge fountains  
The winters become extremely cold  
While the summers are hot as the sun shines bold  
On the map this country is shaped like a boot  
And their sports teams they proudly root  
One fun place to visit is Naples  
Where u can pick grapes which is an Italian staple  
Pizza, pastas, espressos, and wine  
All make for a delicious dine  
There are so many fun things to do and see  
That is why you should take a trip down to Italy



Artwork by  
Adrian Durazzo  
Fremont Elementary, 4th grade

**Did You Know?**

The popular salute 'ciao', meaning both "hello" or "goodbye," comes from the old Italian expression "schiavo" meaning "at your service."

## San Pedro High School

Thank You Jeanette Stevens and Ida Lanza for being our poetry liaison!

### 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE

#### *That Italy Filled with Joy and Wonder*

~ Misael Cortes, 11th grade,  
Age 16, Mrs. Ida Lanza's Class



Italy, Italy, Italy,

The country filled with merry people and never ending things to do

The country where exploring is adventure

From eating pasta to first tasting gelato

From boarding a gondola in Venice, to admiring the statue of  
David in Florence

From dressing up and wearing masks during Carnevale, to having a  
jolly good time with family during La Vigilia di Natale

How great it is to spend a day running through the city and noticing  
all the small little wonders it can bring

The place where your experiences are full of joy and content

The country where diversity of language, art, and culture are found

Yes! That Italy that makes me smile

...Oh Italy, Italy, Italy

### 2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE

#### *Italian Vineyard*

~ Jacob Bergensen, 10th Grade,  
Mrs. Ida Lanza's Class

The rows of the vineyard

Stretch forever onward

As far as the eye can see

The sweet aroma of grapes

Playfully teases around my nose

Drawing me farther inward

Getting lost in the hills of Italy



### Did You Know?

The colors of the Italian flag represent three virtues: hope (green), faith (white), and charity (red).

# YMCA of Greater Long Beach (High School Category)

Thank You C.J. Brewer for being our poetry liaison!

## 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE

### *The Red, White, and Green*

~ Evelyn Tran, 12th Grade, Age 17,  
Mr. C.J. Brewer's Program

To the land that stretches  
116,000 square miles long  
It is Italy where the athletes  
are strong

From cycling, to rugby, to soccer...  
called football  
There are artists like Michelangelo,  
Leonardo, and Donatello  
on the walls

To marry on Sunday when it rains  
means good luck and love  
Built into the cake and to be  
released is the dove

Eating pasta, spaghetti, pizza,  
and lasagna makes me smile  
To celebrate Ferragosto,  
I want to stay here for awhile

## 2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE

### *Sounds Good to Me*

~ Al'Shon Dozier, 11th Grade, Age 16,  
Mr. C.J. Brewer's Program

Oh, how I love Italian food.  
I eat it most of the time,  
Not just 'cause how good it tastes,  
But 'cause how good it rhymes:

Minestrone, Cannelloni  
Macaroni, Rigatoni,  
Spaghetti, Scallopini,  
Escarole, Bracirole,  
Insalata, Gremolata, Manicotti  
Marinara, Carbonara,  
Shrimp Francese, Bolognere,  
Ravioli, Montaccioni,  
Mozzarella, Tagliatelle,  
Fried Zucchini, Rollatini,  
Fettuccine, Green Linguine,  
And last but not least  
Tortellini and Tetrizzini!

## 3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE

### *An Italian Love Story*

~ Jose Garcia, 10th Grade, Age 16,  
Mr. C.J. Brewer's Program

Amidst two lovers, haughty and sincere,  
A land I regarded and that lord  
In whose sway gods and men as peers accord:  
I, opposite the side the sun did peer,

Saw her, thereby, enclosed within the sphere  
Of her more beautiful friend. She turned toward  
My eyes, delightful, and it shall concord  
With me if she were ever so severe!

Thus very suddenly to joy converted  
That jealousy which in my heart, at sight  
Of such a peerless adversary, was born:

Of him, his face so triste, in tears bedlight,  
A floating bit of scud around was girted:  
For being defeated made him most forlorn.



Artwork by  
Joshua Dungca  
St. Lucy Elementary

### *Where do the Buonos Come From?*

The Buono Family was raised in a little beach town called Ischia in Southern Italy. The town is on a volcanic island that is only 18 square miles.

Known as the Emerald Isle, its mineral springs have made it popular as a health resort and a tourist center. People there fish and farm, and also make wine, tile and pottery.

The Buono family were bakers, which explains why the pizza dough at Buono's Authentic Pizzeria is just wonderful!

The Buonos take pride in their heritage and traditions and encourages everyone to enjoy what they bring to you in their restaurants since 1973. Buon Appetito!

# Italian Spoken Here!



Here's some Italian to help you feel even more at home  
at Buono's Authentic Pizzeria!

**Buono:**  
(Bwon-oh)  
Good.

**Buona Notte:**  
(Bwon-ah No-tay)  
Good Night.

**Buon Giorno:**  
(Bwone Jee-or-no)  
Good Morning.

**Buon Appetito:**  
(Bwone-Ap-eh-tee-toe)  
(I wish you) a hearty appetite.

**Buon Pomeriggio:**  
(Bwone Pom-er-ee-jee-o)  
Good Afternoon.

**Ciao:**  
(Chow)  
Hello/Goodbye.

**Buona Sera:**  
(Bwone-ah Sar-ah)  
Good Evening.

**Arrivederci:**  
(Ah-reev-a-dare-chee)  
See you soon;  
Until we meet again.

1432 Gaffey St.  
San Pedro  
(310) 547-0655

401 W. Willow  
Long Beach  
(562) 595-6138

250 W. Ocean Blvd.  
Long Beach  
(562) 432-2211

[www.BuonosPizza.com](http://www.BuonosPizza.com)