Italy Makes Me Smile!

Buono’s 13th Annual Youth Poetry Competition 2012

Cover artwork by Stephanie Sokcharoeung, Polytechnic H.S., 11th grade
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

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**Key**

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

くださaru"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 to vote!

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

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401 W. Willow  
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250 W. Ocean Blvd.  
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Artwork by Mindie Armas
Briney Elementary, 5th grade

Artwork by Yesenia Garzilazo
Holy Innocents, 5th grade
Thank You Flavia Fraysure for being our poetry liaison!

1st 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!!!!

2nd 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.

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.

3rd 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.

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

Italy, oh Italy
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!!!!

Honorable Mention
Honesty Villa
Poetry Contest 2012

Burnett Elementary
Thank You Matthew Monaghan for being our poetry liaison!

1st 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.

2nd 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
Udine 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!
3rd 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.
1st 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.

2nd 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.

3rd 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.
Not too much because I will never
stop eating
And I will never leave.
Oh Italy Oh Italy.

Did You Know?
Giosuè Alessandro 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.

Honorable Mention
Abigail Benitez
Naydeline Torres
1st 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
Charley Littleworth
Fremont Elementary, 4th grade

Did You Know?
Giacomo da Lentini, a 13th Century poet, is believed to have invented the “sonnet.”
1st 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!

2nd 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

3rd 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.
1st 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.

2nd 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.

3rd 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
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
2nd 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.

3rd 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, Leoniardo DiCaprio, Madonna.
Source: Eupoedia’s Italy Guide
1st PLACE
Italy: What Makes Me Smile!
~ Jaiden Anakwenze, 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!

2nd 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!

3rd 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
1st 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.

2nd 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.

3rd 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!

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
Thank You Aggie DiTucci for being our poetry liaison!

1st 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.”

2nd 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
1st PLACE

*Italy of the Majestic*
~ Hanna Rae Murusic, 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!

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**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

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Artwork by
Cierra Agoncillo
St. Lucy Elementary
1st 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 ristorantes 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.

2nd 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 by 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

3rd 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
1st 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.

2nd 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

3rd 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
1st 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!

2nd 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.

3rd 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!
Buono’s Authentic Pizzeria

Mary Star of the Sea High School

Thank You John Erb for being our poetry liaison!

1st 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.

2nd 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.

3rd 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.

Honorable Mention
Thaddeus Barton
Clarissa Lomeli
1st PLACE

Sogni d’Italia (Dreams of Italy)
~ Stephanie Sokcharoeung, 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 Sokcharoeung
Polytechnic H.S., 11th grade
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 coon.
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
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
Italy, Italy, Italy,
The country filled with merry people and never ending things to do
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

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).
1st 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

2nd 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, Scalloppini,
Escarole, Braciole,
Insalata, Gremolata, Manicotti
Marinara, Carbonara,
Shrimp Francesce, Bolognere,
Ravioli, Montaccioi,
Mozzaarella, Tagliatelle,
Fried Zucchini, Rollatini,
Fettucine, Green Linguine,
And last but now least
Tortellini and Tetrazzini!

3rd 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.
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!
Here’s some Italian to help you feel even more at home at Buono’s Authentic Pizzeria!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Italian Word</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buono</td>
<td>(Bwon-oh)</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buona Notte</td>
<td>(Bwon-ah No-tay)</td>
<td>Good Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buon Giorno</td>
<td>(Bwone Jee-or-no)</td>
<td>Good Morning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buon Appetito</td>
<td>(Bwone-Ap-eh-tee-toe)</td>
<td>(I wish you) a hearty appetite.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buon Pomeriggio</td>
<td>(Bwone Pom-er-ee-jee-o)</td>
<td>Good Afternoon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buona Sera</td>
<td>(Bwone-ah Sar-ah)</td>
<td>Good Evening.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ciao</td>
<td>(Chow)</td>
<td>Hello/Goodbye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrivederci</td>
<td>(Ah-reev-a-dare-chee)</td>
<td>See you soon; Until we meet again.</td>
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