



STATE OF NEW YORK  
**EXECUTIVE CHAMBER**  
ALBANY 12224

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
GOVERNOR

September 30, 2020

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to send greetings to the Italian American community of New York City and State as you welcome the arrival of October and this year's observance of "Italian Heritage and Culture Month" with a host of virtual events.

The Empire State's strength is its diversity of people, including thriving communities of individuals of Italian ancestry, whose heritage and history I proudly share. As an Italian American, I appreciate events that honor the culture and traditions of our ancestors and that highlight the respected legacy of those who came to America's shores from our familial homeland.

October brings us together for a commemoration of Italy's immense contributions to the entire world. Here in America, we take the opportunity to mark a special day in honor of Christopher Columbus – the brave Italian explorer who changed the map of the world and the course of human civilization. Throughout the month, we celebrate various aspects of Italian heritage and culture, this year recognizing the legendary Academy-Award-winning Italian film director and screenwriter, Federico Fellini, who brought the world so many iconic cinematic works and stories, full of insight and depth into the human experience. The art of filmmaking and motion picture industry have been forever influenced by this visionary Italian, whose creative passion captured our hearts and souls, and left such profound impressions on our intellect.

This celebration is an expression of the strength and unity that exists among our Italian American community in the metropolitan area, and across our state and nation. While these challenging times ask each of us to exercise safety and respect through social distancing, technology thankfully allows you to continue this meaningful tradition in an online venue, reinforcing your sense of togetherness and purpose.

We appreciate the Italian Heritage Committee of New York for setting this virtual stage that invites the community to continue an important observance that honors our heritage and culture. All New Yorkers embrace the spirit of this lively celebration of our Italian community as we look forward to resuming next year's event in times of good health and heartiness.

Warmest regard and best wishes to my fellow Italian Americans.

Distinti saluti,

A stylized blue ink signature of Andrew M. Cuomo.

ANDREW M. CUOMO

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