



3659 Green Road, Suite 124
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July 2008

2008 Language Award Winners

Mayfield High School

Veronica Miniello
Yana Grinblat
Franco DiLiberto
Rachel Gagliardo
Kyler Lerz
Gianna Argie
Alexandra Conkey
Antonia Kopp
Julia Kramer
Olivia Morris
Alex Shkayev
Valeriya Khanina
Svetlana Avshalumov

Padua Franciscan High School

Craig Pataki



Paul & Nancy Matia Have a Ball in Italy as Winners of "A Trip of a Lifetime to Italy" Raffle by IACF

Retired Federal Judge, Paul Matia and his wife, Nancy were the lucky winners of Italian American Cultural Foundation's (IACF) 2007 "Trip of a Lifetime to Italy". Paul and Nancy spent 10 days and 8 nights in Tuscany, Umbria and Rome in April, 2008. They began their trip in the sweet rolling hills, picturesque vineyards and olive trees of Chianti, located between Florence and Siena. Next, they stopped for a quick visit to Orvieto, one of Italy's most beautiful hilltop towns, with a magnificent gothic cathedral. The Matias enjoyed luxury accommodations at the Relais Borgo Pietrafitta, located on a wine estate in the lovely Tuscan countryside.

On day three, Judge Matia and his wife had a full day excursion to San Gimignano, city of beautiful towers and Siena, the former capital of Tuscany. Their trip continued with a full day excursion to the Umbria region, where they stopped and visited Perugia, one of the best preserved medieval towns in Italy, with stops in Assisi and Spello.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of the trip for Judge Matia and his wife were the one-on-one cooking classes in Chianti. They met their personal chef at their hotel and joined her for shopping at the local market in Castellina. After obtaining the necessary produce and supplies for their class, they proceeded to the Querceto wine estate for instruction, cooking and a delicious lunch.

The following day they departed for a full tour of Florence, preceded by a stop at

the Piazzale Michelangelo, where they admired a panoramic view of the entire city. The Judge and his wife enjoyed shopping for fine leathers and gold in this area. While in Florence proper, they visited the Cathedral, the Baptistery, Piazza della Signoria, Ponte Vecchio and the Accademia Gallery.

Particularly memorable for the Judge and his wife was their visit to Montalcino and Pienza. In Montalcino, they visited the Abbey of Sant Antimo and heard mass sung in Gregorian chant. The Ninth Century Abbey is located in an isolated hillside of cypress and olive groves and is a fine example of fine Cisterian Romanesque architecture. This was followed by a visit to Pienza, a city which was commissioned by Pope Pius II as an example of the ideal village or Renaissance Town.

After another cooking class at the Agriturismo Fagiolari in Panzano, the Matias departed the Chianti area and arrived in Rome where they departed for the USA.

The Matias custom travel plans were prepared by Peter D'Attoma of DaVinci Custom Travel & Tours. By all accounts, travel arrangements were seamless. The Matias remarked that their English-speaking private driver, who accompanied them throughout the trip, became a friend to them, sharing meals and providing excellent recommendations for shopping, dining, etc. In particular, they enjoyed the Rose Garden Palace Hotel in Rome and hope to revisit that location in the very near future, as they are inveterate travelers.

2008 Italian American Cultural Foundation www.iacfcleveland.org

IACF Presents a Trip of a Lifetime to Italy

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Valid October 31, 2008 through March 31, 2009 - Not Valid During Christmas or Easter Holidays*

**ONLY 700 TICKETS Value \$13,000 Donation: \$50 per ticket
WILL BE SOLD!**

Drawing will be held Wednesday October 22, 2008 - Only One Trip Awarded
Winner need not be present for drawing. Winner responsible for all applicable taxes.

Proceeds Benefit IACF Literature & Language Award Programs
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