

Febbraio 2021

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GO AHEAD, WINE A LITTLE ON FEB. 21

Our next Tuscan Zoom on Sunday, **Feb. 21 at 3:30pm** should bring a smile to your face. Or leave a good taste in your mouth. We're going to do a wine tasting, where each of us will have the chance to share a favorite bottle, virtually, with the crowd. George's column to the right has a few more details. Use this link on Feb. 21 to join in:

<https://cplusc.zoom.us/j/97394377094?pwd=VEFFN3Q0NGRpVVgwUetPUEVOMDZz09>

Meeting ID: 973 9437 7094

Passcode: 143113

THREE MORE VIRTUAL EVENTS TO KEEP AN EYE ON...

Festa Italiana looks at Italian popular music of the past 70 years on Feb. 20 at 7:00pm. Leading the discussion will be Andrea Scasso, the host of the bi-weekly KBOO-FM program, *The Italian Hour*. Starting with Neapolitan festivals of the 1950s, Andrea will bring us musically up to date. Register for the event here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/history-of-italian-music-tickets-140958742393>



Caffè Culturale takes a look at what it means to be Black and Italian on Feb. 27 at 11:00am. It features a conversation with Italian political activist Kwanza Musi Dos Santos, founder of the multi-cultural organization *Questaèroma* (Thisisrome). Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/black-italy-tickets-139547808251>

On Mar. 2 at 8:00pm ItalianPortland.com takes us on a virtual tour of Civic and Archeological Museum of Manduria in Puglia. Register here:

<https://www.italianportland.com/events>

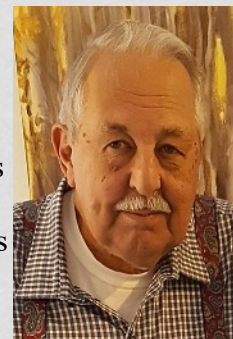
**NEXT ZOOM:
SUNDAY, FEB. 21,
3:30 PM**

**BRING ALONG YOUR
FAVORITE WINE!**

THE PREZ SEZ...

BY GEORGE LAFRAZIA

Welcome to 2021. Yes, it is a new year, but there seems to be the same old problems to contend with.



Well, let's forget the troubles and think of some of the good things.

Donna and I are alive and well, as well as 80-somethings can be. We have had our vaccines and we have a new great-grandson who arrived to help us celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary.

So, in spite of a world with what seems to be insurmountable problems, life goes on and we should make the best of what we have.

And that brings me to our next ZOOM meeting. I asked for ideas and Frank Palandrani came up with a good one. We will have a virtual wine tasting. Everyone will have their own bottle of their favorite wine. We can take turns describing the wine, why we like it and

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TIRED OF POLITICS? CNN HAS SOMETHING ELSE COOKED UP FOR YOU

On Valentines' night, Italian-American actor Stanley Tucci (near right) sends a gastronomical love letter to the land of his forebears. And we get to watch for six weeks.

Tucci once wrote, directed and starred in a movie about an Italian restaurant, 1996's *Big Night*. Now he'll have six big nights on CNN – the next six Sundays at 9:00pm – as he leads viewers on a food-oriented tour of Italy.

Stanley Tucci, Searching for Italy is CNN's first food and travel series since the death of Anthony Bourdain in 2018. The actor says the new show isn't Bourdain 2.0, but rather is something unto itself.

"During a time when everyone wishes they could travel, the series will transport you through Italy's cultural past and present through its extraordinary cuisine," said Tucci. "The food tells the story of this country's unique history and I'm thrilled to serve as a guide through this journey."

The six-part series features a different region each week. The kick-off show this weekend features Naples and the Amalfi Coast. The series finale visits Sicily and, among others, its fishmongers (above). He stops along the way in Milan, Rome, Bologna and, on March 14, Tuscany.



Here's [a sample of the Tuscan segment](#) which features Renaissance wine windows.

Tucci and the series are getting a lot of "buzz." He was the cover story of the Jan. 24 [Parade magazine](#). And he recently told Alex Weplin of *The Hollywood Reporter*, "The idea of *Searching For Italy* was something I have had in mind for a very long time ... I am fascinated by the culture, the profound history, and of course the food. I wanted also to show that Italy isn't just pizza and pasta and spaghetti and meatballs. It is an incredibly complex and varied cuisine."

In addition to being on cable, it will be available on the CNN app and the CNNgo streaming service. So, if you have an appetite for old country fun in these COVID times, you might want to travel vicariously with Tucci as he explores the beauty and taste buds of Italy.

BE READY TO DISCUSS THE WINE YOU'RE SIPPING

(continued from page 1)

anything unique about that wine in your view. Of course we will sample the wines as we listen to all the presentations. We should all be sure to keep some bread and cheese handy to help keep our minds clear as the day moves on.

Lucia Galizia thought we could have a bingo game. I like that idea and I am looking into how to do it virtually. As a side benefit, to make it more interesting we should do it in Italian. I think it is called TROMBULA (check spelling).

Happy Valentines' Day and see you on Sunday, Feb. 21 at 3:30pm.

FREE VIRTUAL ITALIAN FILM FEST KICKS OFF THIS WEEKEND



A month-long festival featuring contemporary Italian feature films and short subjects begins this weekend. You can watch these free films at home. Check out the festival lineup here:

<http://www.italianfilmfests.org/winter.html>.

But in order to access the festival, you must send an e-mail to info@italianfilmfests.org and tell them you are interested in the Portland festival. You will receive a return e-mail containing links and passcodes to the movies.