

Valentine's Day

- **Name in English:** Valentine's Day/Saint Valentine's Day/Feast of Saint Valentine

- **Name in Italian:** **Festa di San Valentino** or **La Festa Degli Innamorati** or simply **San Valentino**.

- **Date in America:** Feb. 14

Date in Italian: **il 14 febbraio**

- Brief History in Italy:

- Valentine's Day is not a national public holiday in Italy. It is a romantic holiday, celebrated by adult couples and lovers. In cities where Saint Valentine is the patron saint, it is also a religious holiday. In addition to Terni, Umbria which is his birthplace, Saint Valentine is the patron saint of Musile di Piave (near Venice), Bussolengo (near Verona), San Valentino Torio (near Salerno), Bessica (near Treviso), Limana (near Belluno), Pozzoleone (near Viterbo), and Vico del Gargano, Puglia, and others.
- The holiday has its origins in Italy during the Roman Empire. San Valentino believed to be the Christian martyr Valentino, a Bishop from Terni, Italy who defied the emperor's orders and married Christian couples.
- Then in the 5th century the Pope named Feb 14th as San Valentino's feast day. He selected this date because it marked the day of San Valentino's martyrdom. Also, he wanted this new Christian holiday to diminish the importance of the celebration of the Roman holiday Lupercalia (dedicated to the Roman Goddess Juno) in which young unmarried couples participated in sexual game-playing from Feb. 13 to Feb 15.

- Regional or all of Italy:

- It is celebrated all over Italy but is more prominent in certain regions. Valentine's Day is considered a romantic holiday in Italy and is celebrated by lovers and adults in romantic relationships. Giving Valentines to your friends, like kids do in the US, is not a custom in Italy. Children don't celebrate the holiday at school.
- There is a specific 4-day festival in **Verona** with heart lanterns that line the city streets, free concerts in the Piazza Dei Signori, a love letter writing contest, and many restaurant specials.
- In **Terni**, Valentino's birthplace, they hold il **Cioccolentino**, a chocolate festival that lasts several days!
- **Vico del Gargano**, in Puglia, also hosts a festival with religious as well as cultural events, but the festa's most famous feature is oranges which lavishly decorate the streets.

- How is it celebrated:

- Italians give flowers, or **flori**, to their sweethearts on Valentine's Day. Red roses, or **rose rosse**, are a favorite flower.
- They may also give each other a romantic note.
- Chocolates are another popular gift. There are heart shaped chocolates, as well as heart-shaped boxes filled with chocolates. The most romantic chocolates of all are, of course, **baci**, hazelnut kisses, made by the Perugina chocolate company.
- Italian lovers may choose to have a romantic dinner together, at home or at a restaurant.
- A popular trend with young people is to fasten to a bridge, monument, or even a gate or fence, **lucchetti dell'amore**, or locks of love with their names or initials and the date their relationship started engraved on them. Then they throw away the key, symbolizing that they are locked together, and their love will never be broken.

- **Special customs:**

- In the past, it was believed the first man a single woman saw was the man she would marry.

- **Specific foods:**

- Chocolate covered Hazelnuts
- Chocolates with a sweet cherry liquid filling
- Perguina Baci candy with romantic poetry/message on the inside

- **Specific Italian greeting or vocabulary connected with this holiday:**

- **Buon San Valentino** Happy Saint Valentines Day
- **Ti amo.** I love you. (Used to express romantic love.)
- **Ti amo tanto.** I love you very much. (Used to express romantic love.)
- **Sono innamorato di te** (a man speaking) I am in love with you.
- **Sono innamorata di te.** (a woman speaking) I am in love with you.
- **Ti adoro** to tell a person you know well that you love and adore them
- **Oggi è la Festa di San Valentino e non posso più stare zitto. Confesso che ti amo con tutto il cuore!** Today is Valentine's Day and I can't stay silent anymore. I confess that I love you with all my heart!
- **Ti voglio bene.** I love you Used for platonic love, like the love between family members and close friends
- **Ti voglio molto bene.** I love you very much (for family members and friends)
- **(Tu) mi piaci.** I like you/I'm attracted to you - use with someone you know well.
- **Mi piaci moltissimo.** I like you so much/I'm extremely attracted to you.
- **Sto bene con te.** I like being with you.
- **Sto tanto bene con te.** I like being with you very much.
- **Caro, Cara** – Dear **Caro mio, Cara mia** – My dear **Carissimo, Carissima** – Dearest
- **Amore** – Love **Amore mio (a)** – my love **Amore della mia vita** – Love of my life
- **Bello, a** – Beautiful **Bellissimo, a** – Very beautiful
- **Gioia** – Joy **Gioia mia** – My joy
- **Tesoro** – Treasure **Tesoro mio** – My treasure
- **Principessa** – Princess **Principessa mia** – My princess
- **Cuore mio** – My heart
- **Il mio ragazzo** – My boyfriend **La mia ragazza** – My girlfriend
- **Il mio amante** (masculine) – my lover - **la mia amante** (feminine)
- **Il mio fidanzato** – my fiancé **la mia fidanzata** - my fiancée
- **Mio marito** – my husband **mia moglie** – my wife

- **My family** appreciates the sentiment behind the celebration of Valentine especially because my last name, D'Amore means "Of Love". I even have a cousin who is named Valentino so Valentine Day is his **Onomastico**, name day. We do not however celebrate with specific Italian customs.

- List as many ideas as possible on how we can incorporate these holiday celebrations at our lodges to foster interest in Italian culture, heritage, and language.

- Hold events for singles so they can meet each other and encourage younger member participation within the lodge so they can connect to their Italian roots.
- Younger members could also connect via Zoom or on organized trips (to Italy) where they could meet other young members both in the US and Italy.
- Organize a dinner out at an Italian Restaurant.
- Hold a chocolate and wine tasting event.
- Learn some Valentine vocabulary in Italian. Play vocabulary “bingo”.
- Make Italian Valentine cards.
- Surprise members with baci chocolates at the meeting held around Valentines Day.
- Have a cook-off featuring Valentine cakes, cookies, pastries.
- Serve Italian espresso and a Valentine dessert.