

**Address by the Ambassador Gianluigi Benedetti  
on the occasion of the Gala opening the Week of the Italian Cuisine  
Residence of the Ambassador - 18 November, 2019**

Buona sera a tutti! Erev Tov!

There are only very few things that are more frightening to guests who are invited for a dinner with an extraordinary Italian Chef, than to see the host approaching the microphone holding ten pages of his speech in his hand.

So, I promise to be very brief.

All I wish to say, on behalf of my wife Sabina and myself, is benvenuti. Welcome to the Residence of the Ambassador of Italy to Israel, Welcome to the Israeli edition of the Fourth World Week of Italian Cuisine,

But above all, welcome to the dining table of Chef Arcangelo Dandini, who embodies the history and tradition of the Roman food. He is a truly roman, “un romano doc” always devoted to genuineness, tradition and creativity of Italian cuisine.

Tonight he is here, with Chef Marco Morelli, Michele Bozzetto and Emanuela Panke for a celebration of food you are surely not going to forget.

Our warm greetings also to the Italian and Israeli researchers who participated this morning in the seminar “Food & Foodways. Cooking as a Laboratory for Citizenship” and to the Italian scientists and industrialists that will participate in the Italian-Israeli workshop "Artificial Intelligence for Mobility and Health", in the framework of the AI week at the Tel Aviv University.

The Week of Italian Cuisine takes place in more than 110 countries all over the world and it offers a “taste” of Italian excellence, showcasing creativity and innovation in the food sector. The combination of those elements generates extraordinary recipes even from the simplest ingredients that better evoke our regional culinary tradition and the Mediterranean diet: extra virgin olive oil, pasta, cheese, fish, vegetables and, of course, wines.

This week, we are offering to the Israel public more than 40 occasions to enjoy the Italian cuisine: you can have the real Italian espresso at a promotional price, aperitifs and cocktails prepared by Italian mixologists, wine tastings, regional dishes prepared in various restaurants in Israel by our team of eight Italian chefs and a pastry chef. In

addition, you can participate in cooking classes, conferences, and a movie screenings about Prosecco.

These activities are fruit of the relentless work and collaboration of several Italian bodies, coordinated by the Italian Embassy, that deserve our gratitude: the Italian Cultural Institute, the Italian Trade Agency, the Israeli Italian Chamber of Commerce & Industry, the Accademia della Cucina and the Italian Government Tourist Board (ENIT), that one year ago opened its office here in Tel Aviv.

Let me, take a moment to mention a matter that is close to my heart: Venice suffered the worst flood in more than 50 years. Images of the flooded St. Mark's Basilica in Venice have shocked many across the world and parts of the city were damaged by the exceptionally high tide. The municipality of Venice needs help to recover from devastating floods. If you wish, our Embassy website and our twitter account provide all information to make a donation. Venice is the pride of all of Italy, but is everyone's heritage, unique in the world. Thanks to the help of many, it will shine again.

In closing, let me thank Aperol Spritz, Caputo, Ferrarelle, Ferrero, Illy, Monini, Rummo, Vini Fantini, Wine Meridian, all magic words for those who understand Italian quality.

Last but not least, thanks to my wonderful Embassy staff that worked hard to make this evening a reality, to our outstanding producers and to my wife Sabina for conducting the Orchestra with wisdom, elegance and creativity.

I am now delighted to invite you to the table of Chef Arcangelo Dandini, our special guest of the Week of Italian Cuisine. Federico Fellini used to say that "Life is a combination of Magic and Pasta". After the dinner, we will all be thankful to Chef Arcangelo for allowing us to experience some Italian magic today.

Thank you