

## Tale of member's quest for Italian citizenship inspires readers

The article on dual citizenship by Michael Votto in Ambassador magazine's Vol. 20 No. 2 was of great interest to me because I recently completed my application for Italian citizenship "jure sanguinis" through my maternal grandfather's bloodline. It was a goal that I always dreamed of attaining and was thrilled to discover that I met the criteria for one of the eligible categories.

The process takes time, requires much research, and can become very expensive (fees for certified copies of records, translation costs, postage, etc). And as stated by the author, each Italian Consulate in the U.S. has their own specific requirements regarding what is acceptable with minor discrepancies and errors in documentation so it is important that these issues are addressed before submitting the paperwork. However, with great patience and persistence the task can be accomplished. The reward for all this is that one day you will proudly be able to say, "Yes, I am an Italian citizen!" I am now waiting anxiously for the day when I can claim this distinction.

Monica Izzo Dalton  
St. Petersburg, Fla.

I wanted to let you know that my husband and I really enjoyed reading your article on jure sanguinis citizenship. My husband, Rick, and I started researching his family heritage last summer. We learned that his grandfather Francesco came from Avellino. We became very engrossed in learning the details — who were the people Francesco left behind, what the journey was like, and what life was like for new Italian immigrants near the turn of the century. We realized that his sacrifices had given us direct benefits — given us our lives, really.

When my husband applied for Italian citizenship at the Los Angeles consulate late last year we thought of it as a way of "undoing" the hard choice his grandfather had to make, of restoring the connection he had to sever in order to build a life here. It's a marvelous gift that Rick's grandfather unknowingly left him, without ever meeting him.

And I look forward to becoming an Italian by marriage when that door opens.

Deborah Testa  
Studio City, California

I recently read the story in NIAF's Ambassador magazine about author Michael Votto obtaining Italian citizenship and very much enjoyed it. It was very succinct and I was happy he mentioned expression of Italian heritage and pride as his primary reason for pursuing dual citizenship. As a third generation Italian-American I too have been collecting genealogical information and saw the citizenship option as a great way to express my cultural pride. Most of the relevant documents have been collected and I am planning to see a consular official in Virginia soon.

Beyond expressing my Italian pride, the only other benefit I am seeking is travel benefits should I travel to Europe. Thank you again for the great article!

Jarret Cassaniti  
Ithaca, New York



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