

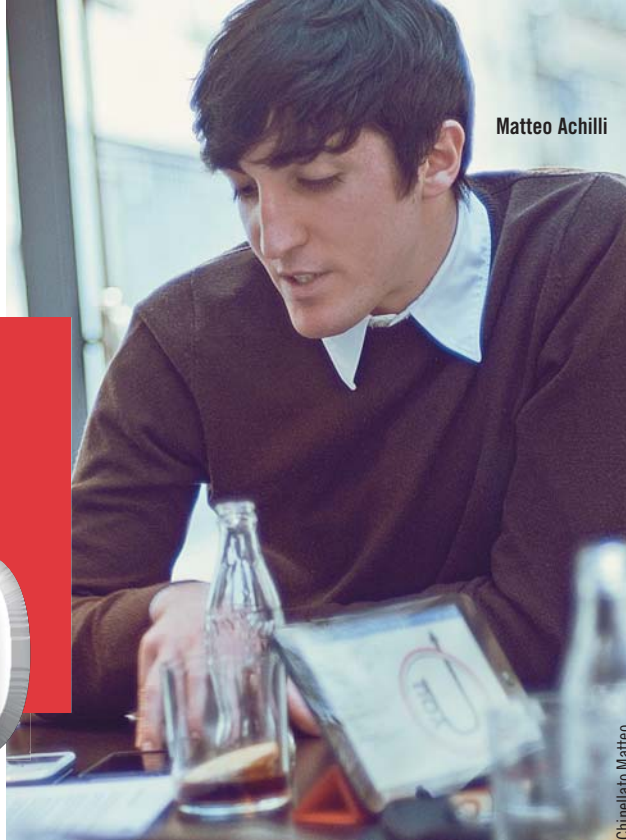
niaf's 40

under 40

Welcome to NIAF's 2015 **40 under 40**, our list of the most fascinating and up-and-coming young people of Italian heritage.

In this celebratory year of our 40th Anniversary, we also wanted to celebrate top young professionals who have emerged in all walks of life – the arts, music, sports, technology, culinary arts, finance, fashion, film, and many other fields. Some are already on the radar; the others will be soon. Some are aggressively and creatively taking traditional routes to success; others are forging alternative paths that will surprise and impress you. Three things they all share: They're young; they've got Italian roots; and they're making a difference. So, here are our 40 game changers under the age of 40.

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Matteo Achilli

Chinellato Matteo



Nicola Benedetti

Simon Fowler

Matteo Achilli | 23

After Panorama Economy weekly dubbed Matteo Achilli "The Italian Zuckerberg" in 2012, people took note of this 23-year-old techie and his networking site Egomnia, which is sort of like the Match.com of careerists and companies. Achilli created Egomnia as a freshman at Bocconi University in Milan. Since then, more than 330,000 users and 700 companies have registered on his site. Last year, the BBC featured Achilli in its show "The Next Billionaires." Working out of Formello, Italy, he's now expanding Egomnia worldwide.



Rus Anson

Nicholas Albrecht | 33

Nicholas Albrecht is an Italian photographer who connects humans and nature. From Naples, Albrecht discovered photography studying fashion in Milan. He adjusted his focus at the Academy of Fine Arts in Naples, then moved to San Francisco. Once, he went to California's Salton Sea desert to shoot a few days and stayed 10 months. His images were chosen for the prestigious 2012 Review Santa Fe 100. In 2014, Albrecht published his first monograph: "One, No One, and One Hundred Thousand."

Chris Algieri | 31

A professional boxer from Huntington, N.Y., Chris Algieri

Francesca Aiello | 20

By 17, Francesca Aiello had launched her own successful swimwear line, with the help of her mother. By 19, the Malibu, Calif., native was presenting her swimsuits at the Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week Swim in Miami Beach, the youngest designer to ever present at the shows. Today, "Frankie's Bikinis" are especially popular on the West Coast and among celebrities. And the Malibu-native has become a hot commodity.

holds a record that'll get you in his corner. Outside the ring, the kid's got pluck, earning degrees from Stony Brook University and the New York Institute of Technology. His record is 20-2, his only losses to Manny Pacquiao and Amir "King" Kahn. In 2014, he was inducted into National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame as the 65th Italian American boxer to hold a world title.

Sophia Amoruso | 31

The founder of Nasty Gal, the wildly popular online clothing company, Sophia Amoruso started as a college dropout selling vintage clothes on eBay. In 2008, she launched the www.nastygal.com and Forbes labelled her "Fashion's New Phenom." Last year, the L.A.-based Amoruso published her bestseller "#GirlBoss,"

and created the GIRLBOSS Foundation that has given more than \$70,000 to creative female entrepreneurs. Her net worth is \$250 million; she stepped down in January as CEO, but remains executive chairman.



Talia Baiocchi | 30

When Talia Baiocchi abandoned plans for law school and moved to Italy to study wine, something was up. Backpacking to vineyards, the New Yorker learned trade secrets from family-run wineries. Back in America, she became one of the youngest female wine professionals in a male-dominated industry. After working at Italian Wine Merchants, she became Eater New York's first wine editor, wrote a book on sherry, and is currently editor-in-chief of Punch, an online drinks and culture magazine.



Matteo Della Malva CC BY-SA 2.0

Marco Belinelli | 29

Born in San Giovanni in Bologna, Marco Belinelli played professional basketball in Italy in the Lega A Virtus Bologna and for Fortitudo Bologna. In the 2007 National Basketball Association draft, the Golden State Warriors selected him in the first round. When the

San Antonio Spurs won the 2014 NBA championship, the shooting guard and three-point specialist became the first Italian-born player on a championship NBA team. He signed this summer with the Sacramento Kings.

Nicola Benedetti | 27

Nicola Benedetti is a talented violinist who is captivating the world of music. She grew up in Scotland, the daughter of Italian immigrant parents, and at age 8, she joined the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland. At 16, she won BBC's "Young Musician of the Year" competition and was signed by a recording studio. Now 27, Benedetti has produced eight albums and played with musical legends such as Andrea Bocelli and Rod Stewart.



MingleMediaTVNetwork (CC BY-SA 2.0)

Sophia Bush | 32

Italian American actress Sophia Bush uses her celebrity status to make a difference. Born in Pasadena, Calif., she studied journalism at the University of Southern California before being cast as Brooke Davis on the TV drama "One Tree Hill" in 2003—a role she played until the show's 2012 finale. Well-known for her environmental activism, Bush was honored at the 2011 VH1 Do Something Awards. She now stars on NBC's "Chicago P.D."

Pix Tatarco

Anthony Roth Costanzo



Giovanni Colavita | 39

Giovanni Colavita uprooted himself from his home in Italy in 2008 to take over the family-business, Colavita USA, one of the largest U.S. producers of olive oil and Italian products. He became the CEO after his uncle, Colavita USA founder Enrico Colavita, retired. While keeping the company family-focused, he made "Colavita" practically a household word and remade the company into one of the most modern "greener" olive oil producers nationwide, deriving 90 percent of its energy from solar panels.

Anthony Roth Costanzo | 32

Originally from North Carolina, countertenor Anthony Roth Costanzo began performing professionally at age 11 and has since appeared in operas, concerts, recitals, films, and Broadway

shows. A Princeton graduate with a Master's degree from the Manhattan School of Music, Costanzo is a first-rate talent critics say shows focus and refinement while bringing youthful energy to the stage. In August, Opera News labeled him "Opera's Next Wave." When not appearing on screen or stage, he teaches graduate courses at Princeton.



ESA/NASA

Samantha Cristoforetti | 38

The first female Italian astronaut in space, Samantha Cristoforetti never shied away from a challenge. To join the European Space Agency, she studied aerodynamics at France's SUPAERO aerospace engineering school, trained at the Italian Air Force Academy, and, in 2005, earned a degree in aeronautical sciences at the University of Naples. Last year, her five-month quest in ➤



TonyTheTiger (CC BY-SA 4.0)

space and her tweets of breathtaking pictures of Earth gained worldwide notice. Her ascending career is inspiring tomorrow's Italian female astronauts.

Chris D'Elia | 35

Italian American Chris D'Elia is a stand-up comedian, actor, producer and rapper from New Jersey. At age 12, he and his family moved to Los Angeles, where he took an interest in acting. That led him to standup comedy. Eventually, he was packing Hollywood clubs. Recently, he has costarred on NBC's sitcom "Whitney" and is currently starring in NBC's "Undateable." He continues performing stand-up, including on Comedy Central's "Live at Gotham."

Stefano Daniele | 25

Stefano Daniele is an Italian-born scientist making great strides to better understand Parkinson's Disease. In 2012, he earned a degree in neurobiology at Georgetown University. When his grandmother was diagnosed with Parkinson's, he dedicated his work to finding a cure. Conducting research at Georgetown University Medical Center, Daniele co-published his current findings on the disease in the May 2015 edition of Science Signaling. Continuing his quest, he has been accepted into the Yale University Medical School.

Elena Delle Donne | 25

Top female basketball player Elena Delle Donne was born in Wilmington, Del., where she grew up on the basketball and volleyball courts. Countless colleges recruited the McDonald's All-American; she chose the University of Delaware. She played for the gold-medal 2011 USA National Team. Now playing for the WNBA Chicago Sky, she is on pace for a record-breaking season. But more important than hoops for Delle Donne is her sister, Lizzie, who is deaf, blind, autistic and has cerebral palsy. Last year, Delle Donne became a Special Olympics Global Ambassador to raise awareness of people with disabilities.



Henry Diltz

A. Dola Baroni | 30

Visual artist A. Dola Baroni is a photographer and videographer based in Los Angeles. As a California native, she strives to capture the truth of the land and the people there. Much of her influence stems from her love of dance. In 2011, she was named to Photobote's "30 under 30" List of Women Photographers. Since then, her highly creative, often challenging work is finding wider audiences, including through her All Visual LA project. She's all over the Internet.

John Elkann | 39

John Elkann comes from a long line of entrepreneurs and royalty. He was born in New York and attended Polytechnic University of Turin before being appointed to



Exor, S.p.A. (CC BY-SA 2.0)

the Fiat Board at age 21. As the chosen heir of Fiat empire patriarch Giovanni Agnelli, Elkann inherited his role as Fiat chairman, chief executive, and chairman of the investment company Exor. He has become one of the world's most powerful and influential businessmen, stabilizing Fiat and overseeing the successful reinvention of Chrysler.



Jorge Figueroa (CC BY 2.0)

Chris Evans | 34

Boston native Chris Evans is an actor and director who studied at the Lee Strasberg Theatre and the Film Institute in New York before starring in numerous minor TV roles. His film breakout came as the Human Torch in the 2005 movie "Fantastic Four." He has starred in many independent films, but is best known for his role as Captain America in the Avengers movies. Evans has been nominated and has won many awards, including a People's Choice Award.



Lisa Falzone | 30

A Stanford University graduate, Lisa Falzone is the co-founder of Revel Systems, a leader in iPad Point of Sale solutions. Since starting the Silicon Valley company in 2010, Falzone has been a technological trailblazer, empowering entrepreneurs worldwide with her own venture to create the new standard in Point of Sale technology. She has been credited with turning the old-school perception of Point of Sale on its head. Her achievements have been recognized through numerous prestigious publications and awards, including Forbes and Business Insider.



Giorgio Montersino (CC BY-SA 2.0)

Chiara Ferragni | 28

Chiara Ferragni is a popular blogger and fashion designer who has been employed by Guess as a model and spokesperson. Writing under the blog name "The Blonde Salad," which is also the title of

Lady Gaga



Andrea Wilson (CC BY-SA 2.0)

her first book, she has delved into the world of fashion through collaborations with leading designers. In January 2015, the success of her blog and shoe line, the Chiara Ferragni Collection, became a subject of study at Harvard Business School.

Lady Gaga | 29

Known worldwide as Lady Gaga, the bestselling singer and songwriter is originally from Manhattan and was born Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta. In 2008, she released her debut studio album "The Fame," which propelled her singing career to the top of the charts. Since then, she has won six Grammy awards; one American Music Award, seven Billboard Music Awards, six Grammys, and too many others to count. Besides her music, Lady Gaga is also known for an eccentric sense of fashion.



Elena Torre (CC BY-SA 2.0)

Paolo Giordano | 32

Paolo Giordano is an Italian novelist whose books have gained literary kudos worldwide. Born in Turin, Italy, he earned a PhD in particle physics from the University of Turin. His first novel, "The Solitude of Prime Numbers," (2008) won the prestigious Premio Strega Award and has been translated into more than 40 languages. Giordano has since published "The Human

Body" (2012) and "Il Nero e L'Argento" (2014). He lives in Italy and writes for the newspaper Il Corriere della Serra.



Davide Starnieri

Francesco Camillo Giorgino "Millo" | 36

Francesco Camillo Giorgino, a.k.a. Millo, is a street artist who has graced countless destinations throughout Europe with his spectacular work. Born in Mesagne, Italy, he was initially drawn to architecture before he began creating remarkable art on the sides of buildings. His art is mostly black and white, with the occasional splash of bold colors. In 2014, he won the B.Art Competition. Millo continues to travel around Europe and paint murals.



Melissa Rose (CC BY 2.0)

Ariana Grande | 22

World famous singer and actress, Ariana Grande is from Boca Raton, Fla. She's outspoken

about her pride in her Sicilian and Abruzzese heritage. In 2008, she began her acting career in the Broadway musical production of "13." That led to a role on Nickelodeon's "Victorious." When the show ended, Grande's singing career took off. In 2013, she released her first album, "Yours Truly," and later that year, at the 2013 American Music Awards, won the New Artist of the Year Award.



Noah Fecks

Sal Lamboglia | 30

New York City native Sal Lamboglia's Italian roots run deep. His father was a Little Italy chef until the late '80s, and he comes from a family of bakers and butchers. After culinary school, Lamboglia began studying under well-known chef Andrew Carmellini at his A Voce restaurant in New York and has since helped to open several of Carmellini's NoHo Hospitality Group restaurants, including in 2014 the popular East Village restaurant Bar Primi. Lamboglia is now co-chef and partner there where he plates dishes with his father's time-honored sauce.

Francesca Liberatore | 31

Francesca Liberatore is an Italian fashion designer making her way to the top of the fashion industry in Italy. In 2007, she graduated from London's Central Saint Martins, the leading center for art and design education. ➤



In 2009, she won the Next Generation Contest, further promoting her brand. Winning the 2014 DHL Exported Award guaranteed her design line a spot in New York Fashion Week. Liberatore shares her keen eye for fashion with several top-rated design schools around the world.

Tony Madalone | 30

Growing up near Cleveland, raised by a single mom, Tony Madalone thrived on the basketball court, earning a spot on Ashland University's team. But selling vintage items on eBay his junior year jumpstarted his inner entrepreneur. In 2009, he founded Fresh Brewed Tees, where famous athletes design and sell personalized apparel. In 2012, he founded The Social Dudes, a social-media marketing company. He also works with Ohio Homecoming, which fosters the growth of community in Cleveland. What's next, Tony?

Julia Mancuso | 31

Professional alpine ski racer Julia Mancuso is from Reno, Nev., and has skied her whole life. At 15, she began her worldwide skiing career at the 1999 World Cup. From 2001 on, she has skied in each consecutive World Cup,

collecting seven medals – three bronze and four silver. In the 2006 Olympics, she took home a gold medal. Mancuso continues to train and compete as a member of the United States Ski Team.



Ben Grey (CC BY-SA 2.0)

Anthony Rizzo | 25

Anthony Rizzo has overcome serious obstacles on his road to baseball stardom. He grew up in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where he was drafted out of high school in the 2007 MLB draft by the Boston Red Sox. At 18, he was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma, setting back his career until chemotherapy beat the cancer. After three minor league seasons, Rizzo was traded to the San Diego Padres and made his major league debut. A season later, in 2012, he was traded to the Chicago Cubs where he

has become an elite player. The two-time All-Star first baseman honored his Sicilian heritage in the 2013 World Baseball Classic by wearing an Italian jersey.

Giorgio Rapicavoli | 29

Giorgio Rapicavoli learned to cook from his Italian mother, every Sunday in the family kitchen. He studied at the culinary arts at Johnson and Wales University before entering the restaurant business, earning the title Chef de Cuisine at age 21. Rapicavoli has cooked for Bill Clinton, Michael Jordan, and thousands of patrons at Eating House, his popular Miami restaurant where he's chef and co-owner. Rapicavoli won the Food Network's TV show "Chopped" twice. He has been nominated for a James Beard Rising Star Award.

Jaime Ross | 34

From Vermont, neuroscientist Jaime Ross' academic endeavors have taken her around the world. While a pre-med student at New York's St. Lawrence University, she studied abroad in Italy. After graduating at the top of her class, she took a job at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Md. Later, she was accepted to the prestigious

NIH-Karolinska Institute program where her focus has been on understanding aging. She currently lives and continues her research in neuroscience in Stockholm.

Alicia Quinn (Sacramone) | 27

Alicia Quinn, better known in the sports world as Alicia Sacramone, is a former member of the U.S. National Gymnastics Team. Growing up in Winchester, Mass., she started her gymnastics career early at the age of eight. After winning numerous U.S. Championship and World Championship medals, in 2008, at the Beijing Olympics, she won a team silver medal. She remains the most decorated U.S. gymnast in the history of World Championships. Sacramone married NFL quarterback Brady Quinn in 2014.

Alex Saper | 27

Alex Saper spent his childhood summers in Italy where he fell in love with Italian culture and cuisine. After graduating from Columbia University, he worked on Wall Street but, unfulfilled, quit his job to work at Eataly's flagship store in Torino, Italy. Involved in developing Eataly's Asian locations, Saper eventually returned to New York City to open the first Eataly store in the Unit-

ed States with his brother Adam, Saper, and chefs Mario Batali, Joe Bastianich and Lidia Bastianich. Now managing partner and chief operating officer of the popular Eataly NYC, he is expanding the Eataly brand to other U.S. cities.



John Tartaglia | 37

From Maple Shade Township, N.J., John Tartaglia is a puppeteer, singer and actor who, at 16, joined the cast of “Sesame Street” performing multiple characters. After working on “Sesame Street,” he moved on to Broadway, where his performances as Princeton and Rod captivated audiences in “Avenue Q,” which earned him a 2004 Tony Award nomination for Best Leading Actor in a Musical. He continues to act and currently hosts the “Sunday Funday with John Tartaglia” channel on Sirius XM Radio.

Christina Tosi | 33

Christina is the founder and owner of Momofuku Milk Bar, a bakery with five New York City locations, one in Toronto, and another planned for Washington, D.C. Tosi detoured from studying engineering at the University of Virginia to go to Florence, Italy. She returned to graduate from James Madison University and the French Culinary Institute, then started her career as a pastry chef. In 2008, she founded Momofuku Milk Bar in New



Christina Tosi

York City. In 2015, she received the James Beard Outstanding Pastry Chef Award. She lives in Brooklyn, N.Y.



Kartellpeople (CC BY-NC-SA 2.0)

Francesca Versace | 29

The niece of the late Versace founder Gianni, Francesca Versace inherited not just the family name but also the family talent. After attending Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, she produced her first collection for a Singapore-based label All Dressed Up. Although the family name would have contributed to the Francesca V label’s success, the heiress proved herself on her own terms and outside the Versace empire by launching a collection that was different from the traditional Versace designs.

Bryan Voltaggio | 39

Bryan Voltaggio, the older of the Voltaggio chef brothers, still resides in his native Frederick, Md., where he began his career and owns his popular Volt restaurant. Trained at the Culinary Institute of America, studied under Chef Charlie Palmer, Voltaggio captured foodie imaginations competing against younger brother, Michael, on Bravo’s popular TV show “Top Chef,” and later “Top Chef Masters.” Focusing on innovative, farm-to-table cuisine, Voltaggio is the co-owner and chef of five restaurants and has been nominated for two James Beard Foundation Awards.

Michael Voltaggio | 36

Michael Voltaggio, originally from Frederick, Md., has worked in the food industry since age 15. He attended the Greenbrier Hotel Culinary Apprenticeship Program and studied under notable chefs. Cooking at prestigious U.S. restaurants, he developed a distinctive modern approach to European cuisine. He competed against his brother, Bryan Voltaggio, on Bravo’s TV series “Top Chef” and won the title. He has since been a finalist for the James Beard “Best New

Restaurant” award, and was named “Best New Chef” of Los Angeles, where he owns the restaurant ink.

Francesco Zampogna | 31

Originally from Naples, Fla., Francesco Zampogna is the director of Business Development for RSP Nutrition, a company that develops top-quality nutritional supplements designed to maximize bodybuilding and fitness results from athletic training. RSP has endorsements from athletes such as Jon Beason of the New York Giants and Colin McCarthy of Tennessee Titans. Prior to his involvement with RSP, Zampogna played football at the University of Miami. He currently lives in Miami.



Serena Zanello | 38

Although from Ivrea, Italy, Serena Zanello is building her career in American architecture. After graduating from Politecnico di Torino with a degree in architecture in 2003, she worked with Pininfarina Extra and Ctrl-Arch, where projects often brought her to the United States. As a design manager, she helped develop the design strategy for Starbucks. She currently is managing partner at her company, Dopamine Design, in San Francisco, and is a professor of interior and industrial design at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. ▲

Contributing to the 2015 “40 Under 40” List were Danielle DeSimone, Alex Benedetto and Bella Vagnoni.