

## NIAF SPOTLIGHTS FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA

The National Italian American Foundation has designated Friuli Venezia Giulia as its Region of Honor for 2024. This picturesque area in northeastern Italy borders Austria, Slovenia and the Adriatic Sea and is renowned for its stunning Alpine landscape, picturesque seaports and medieval villages; prosciutto di San Daniele and Montasio cheese; and industrial and winemaking prowess. "NIAF is excited to celebrate the vibrant Friuli Venezia Giulia region this year through our programming," NIAF President Robert Allegrini says. "From its proud history and cuisine to natural beauty and booming economic sectors, there are so many things that make this region exemplify Italian excellence."



## NEW YORK OSTERIA HONORS ST. PIO

In Italy, it's hard to miss the many businesses that display a picture of St. Pio or some other item related to the beloved saint. Since his canonization in 2002, he has steadily risen in popularity, surpassing St. Anthony of Padua and even giving Italy's patron, St. Francis of Assisi, some competition. It was only a matter of time before an American business owner followed suit, with chef Andrea Ingenito opening Osteria Padre Pio in Mamaroneck, N.Y. in 2020. "Naming a restaurant after a saintly miracle worker is a bold move but there's a reason why locals keep coming back," according to the Michelin Guide. "Chef Andrea Ingenito is onto something, and is supremely dedicated to offering a true Campanian experience to guests." (osteriapadrepio.com)

## ITALIAN TO HELM PRINCESS CRUISE LINER

Princess Cruises announced that Gennaro Arma will serve as captain of the line's second Sphere Class cruise ship, Star Princess. The announcement came at the ship's official keel-laying ceremony in Monfalcone, Italy. Arma is overseeing the construction of both the Sun Princess and Star Princess and will helm the 17th Princess ship when it debuts in the summer of 2025. Arma began his career with Princess Cruises in 1998 as a cadet, moving up the ranks to achieve his first command as captain of Sea Princess in 2015. After navigating the ship on two world cruises, he took the helm of Diamond Princess in 2018. He was honored as a commander of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Italy in 2020 and hailed as one of Italy's most influential individuals by Vanity Fair that same year.





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