



Italian American Heritage Month October 2025



The Italians. They came to America carrying suitcases, trunk - hopes and dreams and, yes, sometimes garlic. They thought life in America would be easy. Simple. The land of milk and honey. But reality proved more complex. Italian immigrants faced hardships -- language barriers, difficulty finding a work and housing, separation from loved ones and prejudice.

Yet through resilience and determination, the Italian immigrants and their descendants not only survived, they thrived. Today, we celebrate their legacy and lasting contributions to arts, science and culture. This October, join GRIAA in honoring their journey and achievements.

October 4, 2025

GRIAA's Italian American Hall of Fame: Join us as we recognize outstanding members of our community: Hall of Fame Inductee - Michael Maffioli and Special Recognition for Volunteerism- The LaSala Family. Reservations required.

Location: Venetian Club, 2180 Elmwood Rd, Rockford, IL 61103

October 5, 2025

GRIAA's Annual Columbus Day Mass: 10:30 at St. Anthony of Padua Church, 1010 Ferguson St., Rockford IL 61102

October 10, 2025

Artale & Company Italian Wine Tasting: Sample 24 Italian wines. Experience the rich flavors of Italian wines – taste the warmth of the Italian sun in every sip.

Date/Time: 5:30 – 8:00 pm. Friday, October 10, 2025

Location: Artale's 6876 Spring Creek Rd, Rockford IL 61114

Cost: \$20.00 per person

October, 24, 2025

Prisoners in Paradise Screening. This award-winning documentary tells the powerful story of over 51,000 Italian prisoners of war held in the United States during World War II

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Nordlof Theater. 118 N. Main St. Rockford IL 61101

Presented in collaboration with the Rockford Public Library. Also, supported by Midway Village's Camp Grant Exhibit highlighting the over 400,000 POWs held at Camp Grant.

Throughout the month of October

Rockford Public Library – 118 N. Main St. Rockford, IL 61101. Explore the Italian displays featured throughout the library including a St. Joseph's Day Altar.

Library hours are: Mon. – Thurs. 9:00 – 8:00 / Fri. – Sat. 9:00 – 5:00 / Closed Sunday

Italian Cocktails at Sam's Ristorante, 6075 E. Riverside Blvd, Rockford, IL 61114. Enjoy authentic Italian cocktails while sitting in the beautiful, new bar at Sam's. Choose from these drinks: The Italian Paloma, The Aperol Spritz or the Pirlò. Or, try all three!

Rockford Roasting Company – 416 S. Main St. Rockford, IL 61101. Take a coffee break at Rockford Roasting Company for an Italian coffee drink. This café has one the longest list of Italian coffees. And, don't forget to get a caffè affogato (vanilla gelato with hot espresso poured on it.)

After October

November 2, 2025

Taste of Italy Fundraiser at the Venetian Club – 2180 Elmwood Rd., Rockford IL 61103. 12-2 pm. This event features samples from local restaurants and clubs. Entertainment and door prizes. Cost: \$30 per person. Contact riscaa2006@gmail.com for tickets.

June, 2026

Didier Greenhouses informational class on growing herbs and vegetables. If you haven't been able to grow your garden as well as Nonno did, this is the class for you. Details to come.

Questions? Call 815/520-1010 after 5:00 pm