

# MLI GAZETTE



## WORLD CUP EDITION



### France Favored to Win

The French national football team, or « Les Bleus », is one of the most famous and successful football teams in the world. Founded in 1904, it represents France in international competitions organized by FIFA (the Fédération Internationale de Football Association). Throughout this history, Les Bleus have played many memorable matches and the team has become a symbol of pride for the French people because of its talented players and strong performances. France is considered one of the greatest football nations in the world.

The FIFA World Cup is the most important football competition in the world. It takes place every 4 years and brings together the best national teams from different countries. France has participated in many World Cups. The team's first World Cup victory came in 1998, when France hosted the tournament. In the final, France defeated Brazil 3–0 due to midfielder Zinedine Zidane, who scored two goals. This victory was a historic moment because it was the first World Cup title in French history. Millions of people celebrated in the streets, especially on the Avenue des Champs-Élysées in Paris. *(Continued on next page)*



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### Three Famous Football Clubs in England

England is famous for football, and many people around the world support English football clubs. Three of the most famous clubs are Liverpool, Arsenal, and Chelsea.

Liverpool FC was founded in 1892 and plays at Anfield. Liverpool is one of the most successful clubs in England and has won many major trophies. Many fans support Liverpool because of its long history, exciting football, and strong connection with its supporters. Before matches, fans sing “You’ll Never Walk Alone,” which creates a special atmosphere. This tradition makes many fans feel like they are part of a family. *(Continued on next page)*

## England's football clubs (continued)

Arsenal FC was founded in 1886 and is based in North London. Arsenal is known for its attractive style of football and talented players. The club became especially famous when it completed the 2003-2004 Premier League season without losing a single game. Many fans admire Arsenal because the team often plays entertaining football and gives young players opportunities to succeed.

Chelsea FC was founded in 1905 and is based in West London. Chelsea has won many trophies, including the UEFA Champions League. The club became very popular because of its success in recent years with its strong teams. Many fans enjoy supporting Chelsea because the club is always competitive and often fights for championships.

These three clubs have millions of fans around the world. Their history, success, traditions, and exciting football are some of the main reasons why they have so many loyal supporters.

—Jian



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## France football (cont.)

France won its second World Cup in 2018 in Russia. Under the leadership of coach Didier Deschamps, the team showed excellent teamwork and determination. Young players such as Kylian Mbappé played a major role in the competition. France defeated Croatia 4-2 in the final and became world champion once again. The team also reached the World Cup final in 2006 and 2022, proving its consistency at the highest level of international football.

Football is extremely important in French culture for several reasons. It is the most popular sport in the country with millions of supporters. French football has a unique ability to bring people together. During major tournaments, such as those run by FIFA, families and friends gather to watch matches on television, while public places often organize screenings. When the French team performs, people across the country celebrate together regardless of age, profession, or origin. Football creates a strong sense of community and national unity.

In France, football reflects the diversity of French society. Many famous French players come from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds. The success of the national team shows how people with different origins can work together to achieve a common goal. For many young people, football players are role models who demonstrate the values of hard work, discipline, and determination.

In conclusion, les Bleus have played a major role in the history of the World Cup and remain a source of pride for France. The team's victories in 1998 and 2018, as well as its many successful performances, have inspired millions of fans. More than just a sport, football is an important part of French culture because it unites people, strengthens national identity and celebrates diversity.

France is the favorite to win the 2026 World Cup, according to FanDuel Sportsbook, as of June 30th.

—Mayssa

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# EL Mundial 2026!!

## Argentina vs. Cabo Verde – World Cup Preview

Argentina is getting ready for its next World Cup match against Cabo Verde (Friday July 3rd at 3pm PT), and I believe we have a great chance to win. In my opinion, Argentina is one of the strongest teams in the tournament and a serious favorite to win the World Cup.

Our path to the quarterfinals looks favorable, but we cannot underestimate any opponent. Every team in the World Cup is fighting for the same dream, so Argentina must stay focused from the first minute.

One of our biggest strengths is Lionel Messi. He is not only our best player but also the natural leader of the team. His experience, calm attitude, and talent give confidence to everyone on the field.

I also think Argentina's greatest quality is its teamwork. Maybe we do not have the best player in every position, but we have a united group that fights for each other. The team stays calm in difficult moments, shows great character, and never gives up.

Another important advantage is our fans. The stadium will be full, just like in every Argentina match. Our supporters are incredible because they keep cheering no matter what happens. Their passion gives the players extra motivation.

I expect Argentina to control the game, create many scoring chances, and win comfortably. If we play with the same confidence and determination we have shown so far, I believe we can beat Cabo Verde and continue our journey toward another World Cup title.

—*Diego*



Argentinian football legend Diego Maradona

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Lionel Messi has won eight Ballon d'Or awards, which is the most in football history

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# Greek Mythology: The Narcissus Myth

What is a Narcissist? What if I tell you that there is more behind the meaning of this word than you might think? Nowadays we can find many examples about someone who fits this description, but what if there's a price for being self-centered?

The Price of Beauty:

Everything started with an old prophecy from Tiresias that said a boy named Narcissus would have a long life and greatness, but under one condition: he was prohibited from seeing his own reflection.

As Narcissus grew up into a stunning young man, he scorned the advances of everyone who fell in love with him. As told by Tiresias, he had an unmatched beauty. One of his admirers was a nymph named Eco. Because she previously covered up the affairs of the god Zeus, Hera cursed Eco so she could only repeat the last words spoken to her.

When Eco approached Narcissus to express her love, he cruelly rejected her. Devastated, Eco retreated into the woods, pining away until nothing remained of her but her disembodied voice.

Angered by his cruelty—particularly towards Eco—the goddess of revenge, Nemesis, cursed Narcissus to fall in love with something he could never have. While hunting, Narcissus bent down over a pristine pool of water to drink and saw his own reflection. Not realizing it was his own image, he fell hopelessly in love. He became so obsessed that he refused to leave the water's edge, eventually wasting away from starvation and heartbreak. Upon his death, the gods transformed the spot where he died into a flower bearing his name (the narcissus flower, commonly known as the daffodil).

In conclusion, this myth serves as a warning against excessive pride and a comment on the price of beauty.

—*Niki*

# BONNAROO

music and arts

# FESTIVAL

In June, one of the biggest music events in the United States is the Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival. Bonnaroo is a four-day festival held every year in Manchester, Tennessee. Many famous artists perform there. People come from different places to enjoy the music.

There are many kinds of music, such as pop, rock, hip-hop, and electronic. Artists such as The Strokes, Skrillex, Noah Kahan, and Kesha performed there this June. But Bonnaroo is not only about music. People also enjoy art, food, and camping with their friends and family.

Bonnaroo focuses more on music and community than many other famous festivals. It is known for its friendly atmosphere. People spend several days together enjoying live music, and making new friends. This is why Bonnaroo is more interesting to me than other music festivals.

Overall, Bonnaroo seems like a very exciting event. I have never been to a music festival like this, but I would like to go someday. I think it would be fun to listen to live music, meet new people, and make wonderful memories.

This festival shows how music can bring people together and make them happy.

—*Rin*

In Mexican culture, a Quinceañera is more than just a 15th birthday party; it's a beautiful rite of passage marking a girl's transition from childhood to adulthood. The tradition blends ancient Aztec and Mayan coming-of-age rituals with the elegance of European courts introduced during the 19th-century Mexican Empire by Emperor Maximilian and Empress Carlota. Over time, these historical influences fused to shape the modern Quinceañera, making it a powerful symbol of identity, family, and cultural pride.

# SWEET FIFTEEN

## The Mexican Quinceañera

Traditionally, the celebration begins with a meaningful church mass where the young girl, accompanied by her family and godparents (padrinos), gives thanks for her childhood and asks for guidance for her future. Then, the real party starts! The quinceañera shines in a stunning, vibrant, or pastel gown, wearing a tiara and stepping into her first pair of high heels, usually presented by her father. She is accompanied by her "court of honor" made up of 15 chambelanes (male escorts) and damas (maids of honor) who are her closest friends and schoolmates.

The night is filled with music, food, and deeply symbolic acts. These include the emotional changing of the shoes, where the father removes her flat slippers and places the high heels on her feet, and the crowning ceremony where her mother places the tiara on her head to symbolize her new role as a young woman. She also gives away her last doll to show she is leaving her childhood behind, followed by a traditional family toast to honor her future.

The highlight of the night begins with a beautifully choreographed waltz that everyone practices for months. After the formal waltz, the energy shifts completely as the quinceañera and her court change the mood. They often perform an energetic modern dance mix, showcase a beautiful traditional folk dance, or even put on a small theatrical dramatization or skit to entertain the guests.

Today, quinceañeras keep evolving; while many girls still dream of the traditional dress and mass, others now opt for modern themed parties, unique experiences, or even a trip abroad. No matter how it's celebrated, the heart of the traditions remains the same.

—Paloma



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In Italy, food is not only something we eat. It is an important part of Italian culture. It is passion, tradition and a way to show love to other people.

# Italian Food: more than just a recipe

For Italians, lunch and dinner are not just meals. They are special moments when families spend time together. Every day, people sit around the table, talk, relax and enjoy good food together.

To understand real Italian food, many people go to an osteria or a trattoria. An osteria is a small traditional restaurant. It is simple, friendly and open to everyone. The atmosphere is warm and welcoming.

When Italians think about authentic food, they often think about the dishes prepared by their grandmothers. A grandmother's cooking represents tradition, simplicity and love. The recipes pass from one generation to another and are prepared with patience, just like in the past. This is why many people say that the food in a good osteria is like the food made by their grandmother. When you enter an osteria, you feel like you are entering the story of an Italian family. The smell of food makes the place special. You can smell tomato sauce cooking slowly for many hours and fresh bread coming from the kitchen.

This is the true spirit of Italian food. The recipes are simple and connected to local traditions. They do not need complicated techniques. The secret is to use fresh, local and seasonal ingredients. Many recipes are family recipes that pass from one generation to another.

When you eat homemade pasta, every bite tells a story of love and care. In these places, you do not feel like you are in a restaurant. You feel something even better: you feel at home.

—*Jessica*

# Chinese cuisine



## The Mysterious Power from the Orient

It is well known that China is home to 56 ethnic groups. Each ethnic group has its own food and culinary traditions. The great variety of Chinese food reflects the cultural diversity and unique characteristics of different regions and people.

In recent years, China has opened its doors to the world more and more, and the traditional Chinese food is one of the most effective factors in attracting people from all over the world. So, at the beginning I used a metaphor: "Chinese food is like a mysterious force."

If I were to recommend one type of food to the foreign visitors, my answer would definitely be Sichuan cuisine. I am especially proud of it because Sichuan is also my hometown, which is famous for its spicy and rich flavors, and has won the hearts of many people. Many dishes have become popular by word of mouth, such as hotpot, malatang, mapo tofu, twice-cooked pork, and Kung Pao chicken. You will never feel disappointed when trying Sichuan food. It can bring you satisfaction and excitement. Of course, there are also many other delicious foods from different regions of China that are worth tasting.

I believe traditional Chinese food is like a powerful force. For foreigners, it is a way to experience the flavor of China's brilliant history and culture. It is not only about delicious taste, but also about the wisdom and creativity of Chinese people. For Chinese people living abroad, it is like an antidote to homesickness. It is a spiritual link between them and their homeland. It gives them strength, encourages them to keep going, and reminds them of the endurance, resilience, and happiness rooted in their culture.

Therefore, I invite you and people from all over the world to come to China and taste its delicious food. I believe it can make everyone happier and make life better.

—Tianbin