

# GAZETTE

H o l l y w o o d & W e s t w o o d

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## OHANAMI

Around the middle of March, cherry blossoms begin to bloom in Japan.

In Japan, there is a culture of gathering with friends under the cherry trees to drink and eat together, which is called Ohanami. The meaning of Ohanami is “cherry blossom viewing.”

The beautiful cherry blossoms and warm temperatures are perfect, and the alcohol tastes better than usual. Some people play cards or mahjong. Sometimes there are strange people who drink too much, so be careful.

If you ever come to Japan during the cherry blossom season, give it a try!

*By Sarasa*

## A SPECIAL DAY

I would like to talk about a special day in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It is considered an important day for us because it expresses the foundation of the Kingdom in 1727. People celebrate the 22nd of February every year. However, on this day it is an official holiday for all employees. The celebrations do not stop, and you hear national anthems everywhere you go such as in restaurants, public places and theaters. In addition, you see fireworks and citizens flying flags in the streets. It is a wonderful and special day for me because it coincides with my birthday. In the end, citizens and residents feel glad and proud to live in the Kingdom.



*By Abdulrhman*







## HAVE YOU EVER SEEN AN ITALIAN SPRING?



Springtime in Italy is very suggestive - the air begins to heat up, the cities are filled with flowers and ice cream trucks, bars start putting tables outside, and it is as if nature wants to repossess the cities after the cold of winter.

Honestly, it's my favorite time of the year.. and how could it not be? In Italy we don't have a lucky day like St Patrick's day; it's strange because Italians are quite superstitious.

In any case, if you are in Italy, the most beautiful thing to do in spring is to immerse yourself in nature. Even if you are in the city and you don't have time to visit natural areas, there is always a park closeby. One example among many could be the Iris Garden in Florence. I recommend it! It's wonderful and the really fantastic thing is that while you are surrounded by plants and flowers you also have an enchanting view of Florence.

I'm sure Los Angeles and California also have a lot to offer in terms of nature. I have been to Runyon Canyon Park and it's gorgeous. Similar in some aspects to Iris Park, the view over Los Angeles is breathtaking! I'll also be curious to see Big Sur State Park. I think it will be great! Sooner or later I'll go there.

In the end, I think it doesn't matter whether you are in Italy or in California, the most important thing is that if it is springtime, you must try to be in nature as much as possible!

*By Mattia*

## FUN AND INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT ST. PATRICK'S DAY



St. Patrick's Day is one of the most widely celebrated holidays around the world. It is a day that celebrates the patron saint of Ireland, St. Patrick. It falls on the 17th of March every year, and is a time for fun, drinking, and silliness. Despite the jovial atmosphere, St. Patrick's Day holds a rich, if not complex history that has been celebrated for many centuries. Here are a few fun and interesting facts about St. Patrick's Day that everyone should know.

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated in many countries around the world, making it one of the most popular and global holidays. The first St. Patrick's Day parade was held in New York City in 1762. It was organized by Irish soldiers who served in the British army.

One of the most popular facts about St. Patrick's Day is the tradition of wearing green. The Emerald Isle's national color comes from the shamrock, which is usually worn or carried on the day. However, St. Patrick's color was actually blue! The shift to wearing green came about much later, around the 17th century, during the Irish Rebellion. Since then the two colors have become tied together, and green remains the color of choice for most people on the day.

It is believed that Saint Patrick was born in Wales, but spent much of his life in Ireland. During his life, he converted many Irish people to Catholicism and served as a Bishop in Ireland. So the original St. Patrick's Day celebration was a religious feast day held in Ireland in the fifth century. But over the years, the holiday has become more about celebrating Irish culture. However, the holiday is not just reserved for Catholics these days. This is in part due to the fact that St. Patrick has become an important figure to the Irish people and their culture - no matter their religious background.

St. Patrick's Day is certainly a unique and fun holiday, with lots of interesting customs and beliefs attached. From wearing shamrocks and drinking green beer, to participating in vibrant parades and watching Irish-inspired theatrical performances - St. Patrick's Day is an entertainer's holiday that is celebrated around the world with good food, music, and laughter. Whether you're celebrating with family, friends, or even just in your own way, the opportunities for fun, luck, and silliness are endless.

## HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

*By Oliver*

## AN ITALIAN IN LOS ANGELES



The first week I came to L.A., I was so excited and curious to discover the culture of this new country. I ended up noticing many differences between L.A. and my country - and instead of making me feel nostalgic or sad, they made me feel lucky for the opportunity to meet new people and have new experiences.

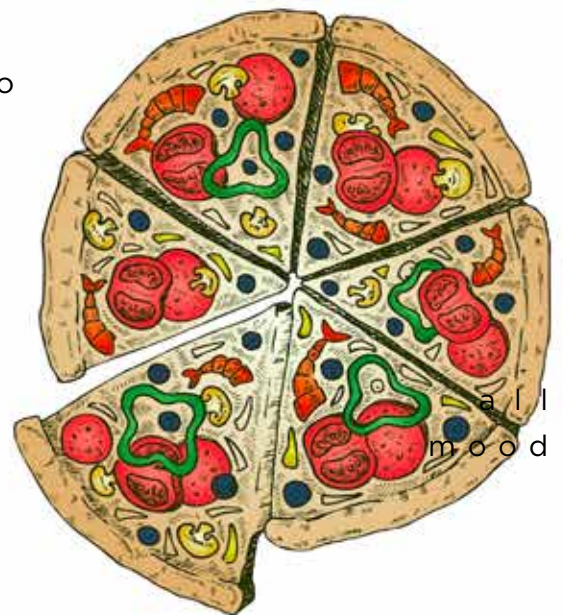
As an Italian, I soon began to miss the food. Here the quality of the food is lower and the prices are higher. It makes me feel a little upset to pay \$15 for a slice of bad quality and badly cooked pizza while in Italy I could eat the same quantity and better quality pizza for \$3.

Also, I'm concerned about the quantity of preservatives inside American food. I know they are dangerous for my health because I'm not used to them- thanks to the better regulation and food quality checks that we have in Europe.

After one month here, I also started missing my friends and the lifestyle that I had in Italy. I miss walking around the city and talking to people that I already know. I just miss walking instead of using the car all the time.

I miss the size of my city, Florence. It's small compared to L.A. But because of that, it's easier to reach places without a car. I also miss the air of my country. It's fresher and clearer.

Despite all the things I miss from my country, I feel lucky to live in a city such as L.A. because it's full of opportunities, interesting and different people from over the world, and positive vibes that empower my and my creativity.



*By Marco*