

# GAZETTE

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

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## OHANAMI

Every year in spring, I go to the park with my family to see the cherry blossoms. We call this activity ohanami. We bring food and alcohol with us. There are so many cherry blossoms everywhere, so we pick a place where the cherry blossoms look the most beautiful.

In Japan, people are allowed to drink alcohol outside, so it's one of the things that helps us enjoy the cherry blossoms more when we see them. However, I think Ohanami culture has been disappearing because people can easily see pictures through social media and young people just want to take pictures with the cherry blossoms. When they finish doing that, they leave. So there are only a few families or groups who stay in the park to see the cherry blossoms.

For me, seeing the cherry blossoms in spring is one of my family's traditions. So I want to keep doing that with my family every year.

*By Ui*

## EASTER IN ITALY

In Italy, we don't have the tradition of "hunting eggs" for Easter like in the U.S.A. Instead, we get (since our childhood) a series of chocolate eggs from our parents, friends, family members, or people who are close to us. These choco-eggs can be very huge, and inside of them you can find a real surprise! You can find any kind of toy or stuffed animal. It always depends on the brand of the choco-egg. This tradition includes not only kids but also adults! Grownups can also find prizes inside the eggs, including jewelry, clocks, technological stuff, etc.

We usually spend Easter Sunday like Christmas Day; we stay at home or go to a restaurant to eat with our family and spend time with them. Italian people usually eat a dessert called "columba" (dove) that tastes like our Christmas dessert "Panetone." It's called that because of its shape (like a dove bird), and its meaning is connected to the Christian religion which sees this bird as a symbol of eternal life because of its meaning of love and peace.



*By Sara*

# WHAT I LIKE AND DON'T LIKE ABOUT THE U.S.

I like many things about the United States. One of these things is the wide spaces. This is because I come from Italy and everything is tiny there. In particular in L.A, I really love the architecture of the city. The streets are wide and all the buildings are low. I think the reason is to prevent disasters caused by earthquakes, but the result is amazing. If it is a sunny day, the sun shines on almost every street until dinner time.

Another thing I love about this country is the level of organization. From efficient appointments at the DMV to the timely grocery delivered to your home. It's not always a rose garden, but I think in general those services work more than well.

*By Mattia*



# SPRING IN CHINA

Normally, people like going to parks and riverbanks. They play badminton, run, ride bicycles, take photos of the greenery, and some people just picnic with family or friends. I play a lot of football (which is called soccer in the United States) in the springtime with friends, because we don't play much during winter since it's too cold. Also, there are always some amateur football tournaments which everyone can join. I play five-a-side league on weekdays and 11-a-side league on weekends. That makes me a bit busy in the springtime.

I also hang out with my friend in a cafe in the HuTong area of Beijing. HuTon has traditional Chinese short buildings built with dry walls of black bricks. I miss the springtime in China.

*By Johnny*





# SPRING IN LOS ANGELES

Spring is coming soon. I'm very excited. This is my favorite season. I got a bike from my friend last month as a birthday gift!! Riding a bike is one of my hobbies. So I can't wait to ride a bike this spring. I am already planning to ride my bike on the beach.



The weather is the best in spring. Not too hot, not too cold. It is a great season for sports and outdoor activities. I'm also looking forward to going on picnics with my friends. In Japan, we can see beautiful cherry blossoms in spring. Japanese people love having picnics under cherry blossom trees. That's why spring makes me want to have a picnic. It's difficult to find cherry blossoms in L.A. However, I love L.A. weather so there's no need for cherry blossoms.

Living in L.A. is very special - every moment is very special for me. I want to spend more time with my beautiful friends and L.A. family. I'm very excited to do something fun. I cannot wait to make more special memories in L.A.!!

*By Mao*





I would say that the best restaurant in LA is Bossa Nova. It is close to MLI Hollywood - around a ten minute walk. I've been there 6 or 7 times. My favorite dish is the al pesto and goat cheese pizza. Al pesto is basil pasta with vegetables and chicken. It's perfect!! If you take care of your health, you should order the Bossa Nova bowl or chicken. These dishes are good for your health. I think these 2 are healthier than the other dishes. Honestly, all of the dishes there are pretty good. I definitely hope you like it!

*by Mei*

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I have a good restaurant to introduce to you all. This restaurant is called the NBC Seafood Restaurant. They call it a seafood restaurant, however, it is actually a dimsum restaurant. It is located in Monterey Park. The food is good and the price is reasonable, around \$100.00 for 2 people. They have lots of parking, so you don't need to worry about finding a good parking spot. The restaurant is very popular with Chinese people in L.A. The food reminds me of Hong Kong. I recommend it to you!

*By Maria*

The food at The Republic restaurant is delicious. The architecture (designed by Charlie Chaplin) is absolutely stunning. Ensoto is a rare restaurant in Los Angeles that serves really good Japanese food. Pasta Sisters is a do-it-yourself style restaurant where you order at the Counter.

*By Masako*

In my opinion, the best restaurant in L.A. is The Castaway. The Castaway is built on the top of a mountain. It has a good view of the city. Everything is clear and the service is nice. If you decide to go to this restaurant in the future, you should go in the evening because at night you can see the city lights. The view is beautiful.

*By Vova*

My favorite restaurant is Superba Food + Bread Hollywood. This restaurant is located on Sunset Blvd. This place is kind of hidden, but it's a big restaurant. It's close to my house. The servers there are always personable and helpful. They give great recommendations. Everything we ordered was really good: bolognese pasta, white fish carpaccio, some kind of soup...Next time I want to go for breakfast.

*By Kanna*

The restaurant I recommend is The Cheesecake Factory! The Cheesecake factory has many dishes. For example: pizza, pasta, salad, and of course...cheesecake! It has a bar at the counter. The atmosphere there is so good! I really like it, but I can't drink alcohol because I'm only 19. I went there with Hiyori and ordered a salad. It was so good! The menu item I recommend is the triple cheese pasta. Please try it. I want it in Japan too.

*By Hana*



# SPRING IN JAPAN

Cherry blossoms are so famous in Japan, especially in springtime. Basically, cherry blossoms bloom from the middle of April to the beginning of May. People usually go to the park, bring food such as sandwiches, rice balls, fruits, snacks, or alcohol, sit on the ground with a mat, and enjoy time with their friends and family. Some people take their pets as well.

Also, there are few cool places to see cherry blossoms in Tokyo. One of the most popular places is the Meguro River, which has about 800 cherry blossom trees along the river. It also lights up at the right time. As a result, it is also popular for dates because it's so beautiful.

*By Fuka*

