



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**SEPTEMBER 23, 2022**

**POPULAR FALL FESTIVAL BRINGS THE FOOD, MUSIC AND  
CULTURE OF ITALY TO THE KINGSTON WATERFRONT**

For the 15<sup>th</sup> year, Ulster County can experience the delicious taste of Italian culture at the Ulster Italian Festival on Sunday of Columbus Day weekend! Presented by the City of Kingston and the Ulster County Italian American Foundation, this beloved annual festival brings food vendors, street performers, live music, and Italian culture to the Rondout Waterfront Sunday, October 9th from 11 AM to 8 PM.

Festival Chair Anthony Tampone said, "Italian foods and culture are a favorite with people all over the region and every year people look forward to the Italian Festival in Kingston to eat, drink and dance like an Italian!"

By far, the delicious food is the biggest draw each year with a plethora of food vendors providing an authentic array of cuisines to enjoy. There will also be Italian wines, street performers, singers, craft vendors, a spaghetti eating contest at 2:00, and the presentation of the 2022 Signor and Signora of the year! In addition, there will be photo opportunities with a Leaning Tower of Pisa, Mona Lisa, and David among others. Also, the popular children's craft tent and a new Cultural Center located in the Maritime Barn featuring items and stories of historical interest, Italian language expert and author Gabrielle Euvino, and a video depicting the vast beauty of Italy.

Once you make your way through the vendors and food trucks lining the Rondout streets, patrons can enjoy live music performances on two stages. The main stage in T.R. Gallo Park will feature The Jenna Esposito Band, opera singing with Vince and Emily Ricciardi, Vito & 4 Guys featuring Michael Dell, world-renowned accordionist Cory Pesaturo, and headliner jazz great Louis Prima Jr. and the Witnesses. A new second stage on East Strand, managed by the O+ Festival, will feature the Pete Santora Beatles Tribute, pop and rock tunes by Chaz Kiss, Italian and Spanish performances by Magic Sandwich, Flamenco music by Mario Rincon, and Morgan O'Kane with Appalachian folk music.

The Italian Festival is made possible by many local sponsors. Admission is free, and free shuttle buses will be available to the event from Kingston Point, the Kingston Plaza, and the Cornell Street municipal parking lot in Kingston. More details are available online at UCIAF.org. Watch for updates on their website [www.iciaf.org](http://www.iciaf.org) and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/uciafinc/>. For more information contact: Anthony Tampone, [atampone@gmail.com](mailto:atampone@gmail.com)

**About The Ulster County Italian American Foundation**

*The Ulster County Italian American Foundation was founded as a New York State Not-For-Profit organization, 501(c)3. Based upon the premise that the 35,000 Italian Americans living in Ulster County were looking for an organization to express their ethnic pride and gather to help others in our community. With a rich history of working and living in Ulster County, many Italian American families immigrated through Ellis Island to Kingston, New York and surrounding towns in search of greater opportunities. This migration lasted for 50 years and during that time, economic fortunes improved and families settled into a wonderful life in Ulster County. However, Italian traditions were fading as each generation passed and the creation of the Ulster County Italian American Foundation was the answer to "Sustaining Traditions", as spoken by the Vice Consul of Italy, Stefano Acunto, at the October 11, 2015 Italian Festival on the Strand in Kingston. In short, Italian Americans have pride in their ethnic background and look to continue the beautiful, loving and rich Italian culture for generations to come!*

IMAGE ATTACHED



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