



For Immediate Release

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The Italian Cultural Institute of San Francisco and Librai in corso

Present

La Piazza 2026 – Italian Literary Festival San Francisco – First Edition

April 10-13, 2026

San Francisco, CA —Presented by the Italian Cultural Institute of San Francisco, and by the Italian cultural association [Librai in Corso](#), **La Piazza – Italian Literary Festival San Francisco, First Edition, April 10-13, 2026** is the first Italian literary festival in San Francisco dedicated to bringing renown Italian writers to Bay Area audiences and celebrating the country's rich literary tradition, sharing the voices and faces that define our contemporary literary culture.

From **Dante, Petrarch, and Boccaccio** to **Manzoni, Sciascia, and Calvino**, and most recently **Elena Ferrante**, Italy boasts a rich and influential literary tradition. In line with the **guidelines of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs promoting Italian publishing and education abroad**, the festival presents seven authors who offer the **San Francisco Bay Area** a glimpse into today's Italian literary landscape. The **University of California, Davis** is partnering with the **Italian Cultural Institute of San Francisco**, sponsoring and hosting a program on campus and directly involving its faculty, students, and docents in the festival.

La Piazza opens on **Friday, April 10th** at the **Italian Cultural Institute**, 710 Sansome Street, San Francisco, and then continues in **University of California, Davis**, and at **Libreria Pino**. It will close on **Monday, April 13th** at the legendary **Club Fugazi in North Beach**, 378 Green Street. On March 16th, the festival will be preceded by a festival launch featuring the 2025 Strega Prize Winner Andrea Bajani in conversation with author and docent Sara Marinelli.

La Piazza Kids, a dedicated children's section of the festival, will host authors **Silvia D'Achille** and **Benedetta Faedi** for school visits at **La Scuola International School**, **Saints Peter and Paul School**, and **Lowell High School** in San Francisco, as well as **St. Catherine of Siena School** in Burlingame.

All presentations are in English or Italian, with English translation.

Events are free and open to the public. Registration required.

Learn more: [La Piazza San Francisco](#)

LA PIAZZA SPECIAL EVENTS

Monday, March 16 | 6 PM – FESTIVAL LAUNCH

THE BOOK OF HOMES (Deep Vellum Publishing) / **Il libro delle case** (Feltrinelli)

Author ANDREA BAJANI in conversation with Sara Marinelli (USF)

A hybrid event moderated by Sara Marinelli, hosted at the Italian Cultural Institute of San Francisco, featuring Premio Strega 2025 Winner Andrea Bajani in live conversation via Zoom.
Italian Cultural Institute of San Francisco, 710 Sansome St, San Francisco

[Learn more](#)

Saturday, April 11 | 8:30 PM

DINNER RECEPTION with Authors and Sponsors

By invitation only

Closing Night Event, Monday, April 13, 6:30pm at the Club Fugazi

THE DARKEST WINTER (Open Borders Press) / **L'inverno più nero** (Einaudi)

Author CARLO LUCARELLI in conversation with Mauro Aprile Zanetti

Carlo Lucarelli will present the English translation of his novel *L'inverno più nero*
Club Fugazi, 378 Green Street, San Francisco

[Learn more & register](#)

FESTIVAL PROGRAM

Friday, April 10 | 6:30 PM

THE LAKE'S WATER IS NEVER SWEET (Spiegel & Grau) / **L'acqua del lago non è mai dolce**

Author GIULIA CAMINITO in conversation with Cristina Farronato, UC Berkeley

Italian Cultural Institute, 710 Sansome St, San Francisco

[Learn more & register](#)

Saturday, April 11 | 4:40 PM

PANE E CANNONI (Mondadori)

Author FEDERICO RAMPINI in conversation with Mauro Aprile Zanetti

Italian Cultural Institute, 710 Sansome St, San Francisco

[Learn more & register](#)

Saturday, April 11 | 6:30 PM

TRANSLATING FERRANTE

Ann Goldstein in conversation with Michael Subialka, UC Davis

Italian Cultural Institute, 710 Sansome St, San Francisco

[Learn more & register](#)

Sunday, April 12 | 11 – 12 AM

MEET THE AUTHORS

Book signing event

Libreria Pino, 1501 Grant Ave, San Francisco

[Learn more](#)

Sunday, April 12 | 4:30 PM

TANGERINN (Europa Editions / Edizioni E/O)

Author EMANUELA ANECHOUM in conversation with Enrico Rotelli

Italian Cultural Institute, 710 Sansome St, San Francisco

[Learn more & register](#)

Sunday, April 12 | 6:30 PM

THE LIFE OF THOSE LEFT BEHIND (Other Press) / **La vita di chi resta** (Mondadori)

Author MATTEO B. BIANCHI in conversation with Sara Marinelli, USF

Italian Cultural Institute, 710 Sansome St, San Francisco

[Learn more & register](#)

Monday, April 13 | 10:30 AM

THE DARKEST WINTER (Open Borders Press) / **L'inverno più nero** (Einaudi)

Author CARLO LUCARELLI in conversation with Eric Russell and Michael Subialka, UC Davis

UC Davis Social Sciences & Humanities (SSH) Building, 250 N Quad, Room 1245, Davis

[Learn more](#)

Monday, April 13 | 6:30 PM

THE DARKEST WINTER (Open Borders Press) / **L'inverno più nero** (Einaudi)

Author CARLO LUCARELLI in conversation with Mauro Aprile Zanetti

Club Fugazi, 378 Green Street, San Francisco

[Learn more & register](#)

LA PIAZZA KIDS – *Events reserved for schools*

SILVIA D'ACHILLE

La Scuola International School, San Francisco

Sts. Peter and Paul School, San Francisco

St. Catherine of Siena, Burlingame

ABOUT

The Italian Cultural Institute

Founded in 1978, the Italian Cultural Institute (Istituto Italiano di Cultura, or IIC) in San Francisco is an official branch of the Italian government, dedicated to the promotion of the Italian language and culture in the United States.

[Italian Cultural Institute San Francisco](#)

Librai in corso

Librai in corso is an Italian cultural association headquartered in Rome and with several offices throughout the country. It has been operating since 2015. It offers intensive training courses for booksellers and organizes festivals and cultural events to promote reading in Italy and around the world. Among these is LA FONTE, the Italian Literature Festival in Vienna. It manages publishers' presence at major national trade fairs, and promotes reading in schools.

[Librai in corso](#)