

Ilene & Gary Modica

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Both born and raised in New York, Gary was born in Maspeth, Queens, while Ilene was born and raised on Long Island. They were married in 1980, and enjoy doing almost everything together. Their blended family lives in Arizona, Nevada, and Colorado. Along with their four children, they enjoy nine grandchildren ranging in age from four years to nineteen.

It took them three years to become Italian citizens through the Jurs Sanguinis and Jurs Matrimonii application process. They would describe this process like a rollercoaster ride and currently help others with their applications and questions. Obtaining Italian citizenship became personal for Gary in wanting to bring his name back home to Italy.

At the very beginning of their year adventure in 2019, during their three-month stay in Rome, encouraged by friends, they decided to document their journey. Writing as they traveled through various towns they explored, they share their trials and tribulations, as well as the laughter in this lighthearted book.

Ilene and Gary enjoy cooking together. They share this along with their passion for Italian wine. They also enjoy helping others with travel and dual citizenship. Personal engagement, through email and/or phone calls with people who need their help and guidance, is rewarding for them.

Currently, they are living full-time in Lucca, Italy which they have chosen as their "perfect Italian town." They are enjoying the Italian lifestyle and return to the States when they can to visit family and friends.

They are currently working on their second book, answering many of the questions that due to the pandemic, were left unanswered. This book is scheduled to be published by the end of 2022.



Living our dream in Italy for one year