

Ilene & Gary Modica

ouritalianjourney.com



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 ten grandchildren.

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 wanting to bring his name back home to Italy.

At the very beginning of their year-long adventure in 2019, during their three-month stay in Rome, encouraged by friends, they decided to document their journey. As they traveled through the towns they explored, they shared their trials and tribulations, as well as the laughter, in this lighthearted book, "Our Italian Journey." This book is now also an audiobook, narrated by the authors themselves. Listen to their journey in their very own voices. AWARDS: 2022 Recommended Read and 2025 Top Pick by Author Shout.

Their second book, "When Your Heart Finds Its Home," is a standalone memoir but also the continuation of their journey. Released in October 2022, they invite you to find out how they found their perfect town, and what life is like day to day living in Italy. AWARD: 2024 Recommended Read by Author Shout.

They've temporarily shifted their focus to sharing their deep knowledge of Italy through regional travel guidebooks. Tuscany and Umbria have already been published. These aren't typical guides. Each town is brought to life through personal stories, so you get a real feel for the place, not just a checklist. Along with practical planning help, the books cover local festivals and holidays, how to get there, and what's truly worth seeing. You'll also find chapters on seasonal travel, regional food and wine, and tips that make planning easier and the experience more memorable. AWARDS: Tuscany Treasures, 2025 Top Pick and Umbria Treasures, 2025 Recommended Read by Author Shout.

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.



Living our dream in Italy 