



Convivio is a celebration of all things Italian, a feast for the spirit, a plea for the resurgence of social capital; embracing arts, culture, heritage, and community; and exemplifying the best the Italian way has to offer.

MISSION STATEMENT

Convivio cultivates community and fellowship while celebrating all things Italian, advancing Italian cultural identity through education, community engagement, and innovative programming.

WHAT IS CONVIVIO?

Convivio is a literary work by Dante in which he commented on the philosophy and culture of the day. Convivio is also a state of mind. Whenever you might see a group of people breaking bread together as the Italians so famously do—enjoying the moment, the company, and the conversation—that is the essence of Convivio. When you think of Convivio, think of love of life and culture.

OVERVIEW

CELEBRATING ITALIAN CULTURE AND HERITAGE...

BACKGROUND

Convivio, a nonprofit organization founded in 2003, strives to be San Diego's premier Italian cultural organization—promoting Italian culture through education and research—and embracing innovative approaches to cultural advancement. With an innovative model and philosophy, and an emphasis on community development and social consciousness, Convivio strives to accomplish the following:

- Promote the study of Italian language, arts, and culture
- Engage the community in innovative programs and advocacy issues
- Cultivate partnerships with academia
- Foster Italian community emerging leadership
- Provide scholarships and grants for Italian studies and cultural pursuits
- Preserve Italian heritage and identity and relate the Italian immigrant experience
- Encourage closer cultural ties to Italy

Convivio sponsors myriad events such as literary workshops, film screenings, educational lectures, interactive presentations, artistic exhibitions, artisan showcases, and musical festivals. Our auxiliary Web sites include ItalianSanDiego.com, a virtual piazza for local Italian-community resources; and ItalianArchives.org, the digital repository of Italian-community historical photographs, documents, and oral histories. Our newsletter, From the Italo-Files, highlights the local Italian community news.

OUR VISION

By fostering leadership in the Italian community, Convivio aims to expand the scope and influence of San Diego's rich and vibrant Italian culture and heritage and strive toward increased social consciousness. Our vision is to establish the Convivio Institute for Italian Culture, a community resource to be founded in conjunction with academia and other partners with the following objectives: advance Italian arts and culture, promote Italian Studies, preserve the Italian historical narrative of San Diego, and increase multicultural awareness and understanding—creating a multifaceted academic and social environment.

The Convivio Institute will represent a unifying element for the Italian community: By serving as a catalyst for an effective partnership of the numerous Italian groups all working independently for a similar cause, the institute will help these organizations to share vital resources and increase their collective impact. It will also serve as a venue in which to showcase San Diego's rich Italian contributions of the past along with new elements emerging from the culture.

Convivio has established the Convivio Center within the Little Italy neighborhood of San Diego as a component of this grand vision. The Convivio Center serves as a community hub and social hall that includes cultural events, educational programs, art showcases, heritage exhibitions, and private functions with the objective of providing common ground for San Diego Italian-community organizations.

Convivio will achieve its goals as a tribute to the Italians who helped to shape San Diego, as a legacy for the Italians of a new generation who want to preserve their background and advance their culture and heritage, and as a cultural asset and benefit for the general public interested in Italian culture. Ultimately, Convivio envisions increased social capital arising from the establishment of the institute, thus adding an element of renewal to the whole of San Diego's cultural landscape.

OUR VALUES

Convivio holds as its core values—

- Integrity
- Community
- Innovation
- Compassion
- Respect

Our Ethos: Convivio's aim is to cultivate a sense of *communitas* and *caritas* through its approaches, combining education, community engagement, and innovative programming to provide the community with a new model of Italian cultural advancement and preservation.