



FIWC CONGRESS

EVENT PROGRAM

June 4th to 6th, 2026 | Bologna - Italy

DAY PROGRAM

THURSDAY, JUNE 4th, 2026

AGENDA

10:00 - 12:30

THE RULING COUNCIL

Not only the delegates of clubs affiliated with the Federation may participate, but any people genuinely interested too.

14:00 - 18:00

THE CONGRESS

Three interesting topics by outstanding speakers.

19:30 - 22:30

THE DINNER PARTY

An opportunity for all breed enthusiasts to come together and enjoy the specialities of the Italian cuisine

WHERE?

PALAZZO DI VARIGNANA

Via Ca' Masino - 611A
Castel San Pietro Terme (BO)



[CLICK HERE TO VISIT PALAZZO VARIGNANA](#)

Located in the hills, **22 km from Bologna Exhibition Centre**. A free shuttle bus will be available - while seats last - for both arrival and return after dinner, departing from and arriving at the square of Sidney Hotel, which is in front of Fiere di Bologna pavilions, at the following times:

- **Bologna > Varignana departure 9:30**
- **Bologna > Varignana departure 13:30**
- **Varignana > Bologna departure 14:00**
- **Varignana > Bologna departure 22:30**



THE TRANSFER MUST BE REQUESTED AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION FOR THE FIWC CONGRESS AND/OR DINNER PARTY.

THE RESORT ALLOWS DOGS, EXCEPT IN DINING AREAS.



P

A large number of covered parking spaces are available, ensuring that dogs remaining in vehicles will be sheltered, even on hot, sunny days.

DAY PROGRAM

THURSDAY, JUNE 4th, 2026

THE CONGRESS SPEAKERS & TOPICS



1

Maria Giuseppina Strillacci & Prof. Stefano Paolo Marelli

Genetic characterization of Irish
Wolfhound dogs: a worldwide study of
genetic variability and inbreeding



2

Chris Amoo

Irish Wolfhounds from 1900 to
these days, interview with Mrs.
Nagle (Sulhamstead) and
developments in the UK



3

Sue Williams

100 years anniversary of IWCA, history and
development of the breed in US

DAY PROGRAM

THURSDAY, JUNE 4th, 2026

THE CONGRESS
SPEAKERS & TOPICS



1

**Maria Giuseppina
Strillacci & Prof.
Stefano Paolo Marelli**

DAY PROGRAM

BIO:

Maria Giuseppina Strillacci is an Associate Professor at the Department of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science (DIVAS) of the University of Milan. With a PhD in Animal Production and degrees in Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine, her expertise focuses on animal genetics applied to livestock improvement, with a particular emphasis on cattle, poultry, and companion animals. She is responsible for the molecular genetics lab and leads the bioinformatic analysis of her research group. Her current research focuses on the analysis of structural variants to identify genomic variation among breeds and their adaptation to changing environments. She has gained solid academic and research experience, including a period as Honorary Associate/Fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has participated in numerous international and national research projects, collaborating with institutions in Mexico, Canada, Iran, and Israel. Her research interests include the evolution and biodiversity of animal breeds, gene expression analysis, the identification of candidate genes for hereditary diseases, and genomic structural variation. She is the author of over 69 publications in peer-review journals. She coordinates and participates in funded research projects, demonstrating leadership and skills in managing work groups. She possesses technical skills in both the laboratory (nucleic acid isolation, PCR, sequencing) and bioinformatic analysis (population genetics, sequence analysis, association analysis).

GENETIC CHARACTERIZATION OF IRISH WOLFHOUND DOGS: A WORLDWIDE STUDY OF GENETIC VARIABILITY AND INBREEDING

Abstract: Unraveling the Genetics of the Irish Wolfhound

The Irish Wolfhound (IW) is a canine breed characterized by phenotypic traits that differ significantly from the normotype of *Canis lupus familiaris*. Its giant size is one of its most distinctive features and, as noted in scientific literature, is associated with a shorter lifespan. This unique breed also carries a history of genetic bottlenecks, which have impacted its health and reduced its genetic diversity.

In our study, we analyzed 96 Irish Wolfhounds from 23 countries using high-density genomic tools to investigate their genetic variability and levels of inbreeding. We examined how similar or different these dogs are at the DNA level, focusing on genomic regions that are identical due to shared ancestry—known as “runs of homozygosity” (ROHs).

Here’s what we found so far/first results?

Genetic diversity is relatively low, with average heterozygosity around 0.3;

there is no clear genetic sub-structuring within the population;

some genomic regions were shared by 100% of the dogs, likely as a result of selection and mating practices over time;

no ROHs longer than 16 Mbp were detected, which may reflect historical, rather than recent, inbreeding;

genomic inbreeding levels (FROH) ranged from 11% to 41%, indicating moderate to high inbreeding. We are now investigating potential links between causes of death and

pedigree/genomic data. By connecting genetic insights with health outcomes, we aim to support better breeding strategies that prioritize genetic diversity and long-term health for this breed.

DAY PROGRAM

THURSDAY, JUNE 4th, 2026

THE CONGRESS
SPEAKERS & TOPICS



1

Maria Giuseppina
Strillacci & **Prof.**
Stefano Paolo Marelli

DAY PROGRAM

BIO:

Stefano Paolo Marelli is an Associate Professor at the Department of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science (DIVAS) of the University of Milan with a PhD in Small Animal Production, including a period as visiting PhD student at the Scottish Agricultural College in Ayr Scotland, and a Master of Science degree in Animal Science. Stefano works on canine biodiversity and genetic since the nineties. His research topics are phenotyping and genotyping of canine and poultry breeds and population both under a morphological and behavioural point of view. His expertise is focused on ethnology, morphometrical analysis, behavioural characterization and welfare relate genes expression in small species. Stefano is author in more than 55 publications in peer reviewed indexed journals, he coordinates and participates in funded research projects. He is one of the founders of the VEtoGene (Veterinary for Ethology and Genetic) spin-off of the University of Milan. He is member of the Scientific Committee of ASPA and EAAP Companion Animals Commissions. He is Technical Consultant of ENCI (Ente Nazionale della Cinofilia Italiana) and member of the ENCI Scientific Committee and of the ENCI Central Technical Commission (ENCI, Academic Delegate, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health). Stefano is FCI judge for Jack Russell Terrier, Dachshunds and some herding breeds in group I, he is judge for CAE1 (good citizen dog) behavioural test.

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DAY PROGRAM

THURSDAY, JUNE 4th, 2026

THE CONGRESS
SPEAKERS & TOPICS

2
Chris Amoo



DAY PROGRAM

BIO:

I became involved in dog showing 46 yrs ago. We had great success with our first breed Afghan Hounds owning two Crufts group winners and breeding Crufts BIS winner 1987 Ch Viscount Grant. We became involved with Irish Wolfhounds in 1987. We started with a male from the Drakesleat kennel. Drakesleat Odyn, who became our first champion. Since then, we have owned/bred 30 champions. 9 Afghans and 21 Irish Wolfhounds. In Wolfhounds we have bred the current overall breed CC record holder Ch Sade Paris and the current bitch CC record holder Ch Sade Prudence. I have been fortunate to judge the breed at CRUFTS/ IWCA/ EIWC/ WORLD SHOW/ and IWC (twice) plus many other lovely shows around the world. It's an honour to be invited to talk about our breed. I look forward to it very much.

IRISH WOLFHOUSES FROM 1900 TO THESE DAYS, INTERVIEW WITH MRS. NAGLE (SULHAMSTEAD) AND DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UK

Abstract:

Our breed has been very fortunate. Mrs Nagle who had been a pillar of the breed since 1912 was still with us into the 80's, so we had someone who was still active and able to give a perfect insight into the breed and changes through to the 80's. Her thoughts and fears for the breed should always be seen as valuable tools to help us in the future. Not many breeds are as fortunate. With this in mind has the breed changed for good or bad? In what way? Have we kept true to the standard? Is our breed still bred to be able to do the job it was meant for? We have been involved with the breed for 38 years. We were fortunate to be friends with people who were very close to Mrs Nagle. One in particular Sheila Kemp entrusted us with a 3hr interview she did with Mrs Nagle. The tapes were a valuable source for the book Mission Accomplished. I feel it would be useful to talk about whether some of her fears for the breed have come to pass.

DAY PROGRAM

THURSDAY, JUNE 4th, 2026

THE CONGRESS
SPEAKERS & TOPICS



3

Sue Williams

DAY PROGRAM

BIO:

Dogs have been a part of my life since birth and specifically showing and breeding purebred dogs has been a part of my life since I received a Collie pup when I was 12 years old. After successfully breeding and showing rough and smooth Collies for almost 40 years, life changes required me to take a break. During that “break” I met my husband-to-be, who showed Irish Wolfhounds. I was again “hooked” (not just on my new husband, but the Irish Wolfhound breed), and I joined him in this adventure under the name, Glenn Eyrie. Since the first litter in 2011, and with a small breeding program of one litter about every 2-3 years, we have bred and owned twenty champions with six more youngsters on their way towards championship.

As a person who believes in giving back, and has trouble saying no, I have been the secretary, webmaster, and subsequently the President of the Northern California Irish Wolfhound Club for multiple years. I have been on the Board of Directors of the Irish Wolfhound Club of America for four years, and I am currently the President. I am also the lead editor of a team that produces the quarterly IWCA publication, Harp & Hound.

On a personal level, in addition to being married to Jim, I have two grown daughters and one grandson. I retired 10 years ago from a career in education as a vice president of academics at a college in the Napa Valley, California. I am deeply honored to be asked to speak at the Congress representing the Irish Wolfhound Club of America.

100 YEARS ANNIVERSARY OF IWCA, HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE BREED IN US

Abstract:

The Irish Wolfhound Club of America (IWCA) celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2026. Who brought the first wolfhounds over to the “colonies”? When and who were the first wolfhounds registered with the American Kennel Club? Who established the IWCA and how has it impacted the breed? What about the AKC Standard? Who were some of the American National Best of Breed winners, where did they come from and what impact did they have on the breed? And finally, what do American breeders see as positive and negative for the future of the breed? These and other insights will be explored in this interesting glance at the Irish Wolfhound in America.

DAY PROGRAM

THURSDAY, JUNE 4th, 2026

THE DINNER PARTY

The menu will consist of three courses, featuring gourmet dishes inspired by **traditional Italian cuisine**. A vegetarian menu is available upon request, as well as dishes that accommodate any food intolerances of the guests.


The price is fixed and includes beverages served with the meal.

Musical accompaniment is planned for select moments throughout the evening.



REGISTRATION & FEES

FOR CONGRESS AND/OR DINNER PARTY

Registration for participation can be made through the dedicated page on the Club del Levriero website:  [CLICK HERE TO ENTER](#)

DEAD LINE: 30.04.2026



THE SAME PAGE WILL ALSO BE USED TO BOOK THE SHUTTLE BUS.

FIWC Congress registration fee
(including coffee break)

€ 25,00 per person

FIWC Dinner Party fee
(three-course dinner, including beverages)

€ 60,00 per person

Discounted package:
Congress + Dinner Party

€ 75,00 per person
(instead of € 85,00)

DAY PROGRAM

FRIDAY, JUNE 5th, 2026

WHERE?

CENTRO FIERE BOLOGNA

Gate East
Via Michelino - 40127
Bologna (BO)



[CLICK HERE TO VISIT BOLOGNA FIERE](#)

A dedicated pavilion will be reserved, providing some isolation from the typically chaotic WDS atmosphere. The rings will be fully carpeted. Chairs will be arranged around the rings for greater viewing comfort. A podium area will be set up for proper winner portraits.

AGENDA

08:00 - 13:30

FIWC SPECIALTY

Titles and achievements:
J. CAC, CAC in each adult class, Vet. CAC, FIWC Winner, BOB, BOS

14:30 - 18:00

ENCI WINNER CACIB SHOW


Titles and achievements:
J. CAC, CAC in each adult class, Vet. CAC, J. CACIB, CACIB, Vet. CACIB, ENCI Winner, BOB, BOS



DAY PROGRAM

FRIDAY, JUNE 5th, 2026

REGISTRATION & FEES FOR FIWC SPECIALTY

Registrations for FIWC Specialty must be made exclusively through the portal:  [CLICK HERE TO ENTER](#)

The registration fee for the FIWC Specialty is outlined in the table below:

FIWC SPECIALY/ ENTRY	UNTIL	01.02.26	01.03.26	01.04.26	01.05.26
1ST DOG	member	60,00€	72,00€	86,00€	120,00€
	non member	70,00€	88,00€	105,00€	142,00€
FURTHER DOGS (SAME OWNER)	member	54,00€	65,00€	77,00€	108,00€
	non member	66,00€	79,00€	94,00€	132,00€
VETERAN, MINOR PUPPY, PUPPY	member	45,00€	45,00€	45,00€	45,00€
	non member	55,00€	55,00€	55,00€	55,00€
BRACE	member	30,00€	30,00€	30,00€	30,00€
	non member	36,00€	36,00€	36,00€	36,00€
BREEDER GOUP	member	30,00€	30,00€	30,00€	30,00€
	non member	36,00€	36,00€	36,00€	36,00€

The same portal will be used for registrations for the ENCI WINNER CACIB SHOW and the WORLD DOG SHOW.



Important: there is a significant difference in fees between those reserved for ENCI Members and those for non-members. Those who wish to become ENCI Members can do so by joining the Club del Levriero via the following link:



[CLICK HERE TO ENTER](#)

After a short registration processing time, new members will be allowed for the discounted fee when registering their dogs for exhibitions.
Membership fee 30€.

DAY PROGRAM

SATURDAY, JUNE 6th, 2026

WHERE?

CENTRO FIERE BOLOGNA

Gate East
Via Michelino - 40127
Bologna (BO)



[CLICK HERE TO VISIT BOLOGNA FIERE](#)

A dedicated pavilion will be reserved, providing some isolation from the typically chaotic WDS atmosphere. The rings will be fully carpeted. Chairs will be arranged around the rings for greater viewing comfort. A podium area will be set up for proper winner portraits.

AGENDA

09:00 - 13:30

WORLD DOG SHOW

Titles and achievements:
J. CAC, CAC in each adult class,
Vet. CAC, J. CACIB, CACIB, Vet.
CACIB, World Winner, BOB, BOS



Important:

Dogs winning J.CAC, CAC, or Vet. CAC at the FIWC Specialty, as well as J. CAC, CAC, or Vet. CAC at either the ENCI WINNER CACIB SHOW or WORLD DOG SHOW, will be awarded the title of Italian Junior Champion / Italian Champion / Italian Veteran Champion of Beauty. According to Italian rules, to validate the Italian Champion title, a biological sample of the dog must be deposited at an accredited laboratory. Veterinarians will be available on-site to assist with this process.



PROGRAM

JUDGES ASSIGNMENTS



1

Jocelyne Gagne

Starkeeper Irish Wolfhounds

ASSIGNMENTS:

FIWC Specialty: females, best of breed

World Dog Show: males, best
baby/puppy/junior/veteran

2

Ludovica Salomon

della Bassa Pavese Irish Wolfhounds

ASSIGNMENTS:

FIWC Specialty: males, best
baby/puppy/junior/veteran

World Dog Show: females, best of breed



3

Chris Amoo

Sade Irish Wolfhounds

ASSIGNMENT:

ENCI WINNER CACIB SHOW: males & females



PROGRAM

JUDGES PROFILES



1

Jocelyne Gagne

Starkeeper Irish Wolfhounds

BIO:

In 1978 I acquired my first Irish Wolfhound that started me on my journey of learning about wolfhounds, sighthounds, and the dog world. The first Starkeeper litter was born in 1980. Since then, I have produced over 150 Irish Wolfhound show champions, obedience & rally titlists, lure coursing and racing champions in Canada, the USA, Italy, Russia and Australia. I am committed to breeding Irish Wolfhounds that are both typical examples of the breed and can perform in the field. As a judge I strive to recognize dogs that are functional. Given the amount of time I spent on the field, in my home and the show ring with sighthounds, I consider myself a sighthound specialist. In 2017 I became an all breed judge. My judging assignments since 2000 have literally taken me around the world. I have had the pleasure of going over some outstanding dogs in the course of my travels across Canada, the USA, Mexico, South America, United Kingdom, many countries in Europe, Russia, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. In 2015 I judged at the Westminster Kennel Club Show. The dog world has provided me with ample opportunities and positive experiences in my areas of interest: dogs, travel and meeting interesting people. In giving back to the sport that has so enriched my life, I have developed a form and function educational presentation on the Irish Wolfhound. I was a contributor to the current Illustrated Standards for Irish Wolfhounds sponsored by the Irish Wolfhound Club of America and the Federation of Irish Wolfhound Clubs in Europe. I was the co-creator and co-presenter of the AKC Webinar on the Irish Wolfhound delivered to judges in 2021.

After over 45 years I am still active in breeding and exhibiting Irish Wolfhounds and have had many successes in performance events, all breed and specialty rings with my hounds. So I know what it's like to be judged, as well as doing the judging.

It's exciting for me to find quality dogs in my ring. I am very much looking forward to my assignment at the World Dog Show in Italy in 2026 and feel honoured to be invited.

PROGRAM

JUDGES PROFILES



2

Ludovica Salomon

della Bassa Pavese Irish Wolfhounds

BIO:

Ludovica got her very first dog at the age of 6, a Whippet, and she has owned West Highland White Terriers, English Setters, and bred Irish Wolfhounds, Giant and Miniature Schnauzers, Gordon Setters and Italian Spinoni. She has been breeding Irish Wolfhounds together with her mother under the DELLA BASSA PAVESE affix since when she was 10 years old. More than 50 Della Bassa Pavese Wolfhounds have earned the title of show champion. Passed to judge Irish Wolfhounds since 1999, she is now a judge for all the FCI Group 10 (sighthounds), Group 7 (pointing dogs), Group 4 (dachshund) and to date she has judged Irish Wolfhounds many times at Championship Shows and Specialty Shows in Italy, UK, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Canada and USA. She judged the breed at Crufts 2025. She is a veterinarian specialized in canine reproduction.

PROGRAM

JUDGES PROFILES



3

Chris Amoo

Sade Irish Wolfhounds

BIO:

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ABOUT BOLOGNA

USEFUL INFORMATIONS

CONNECTIONS

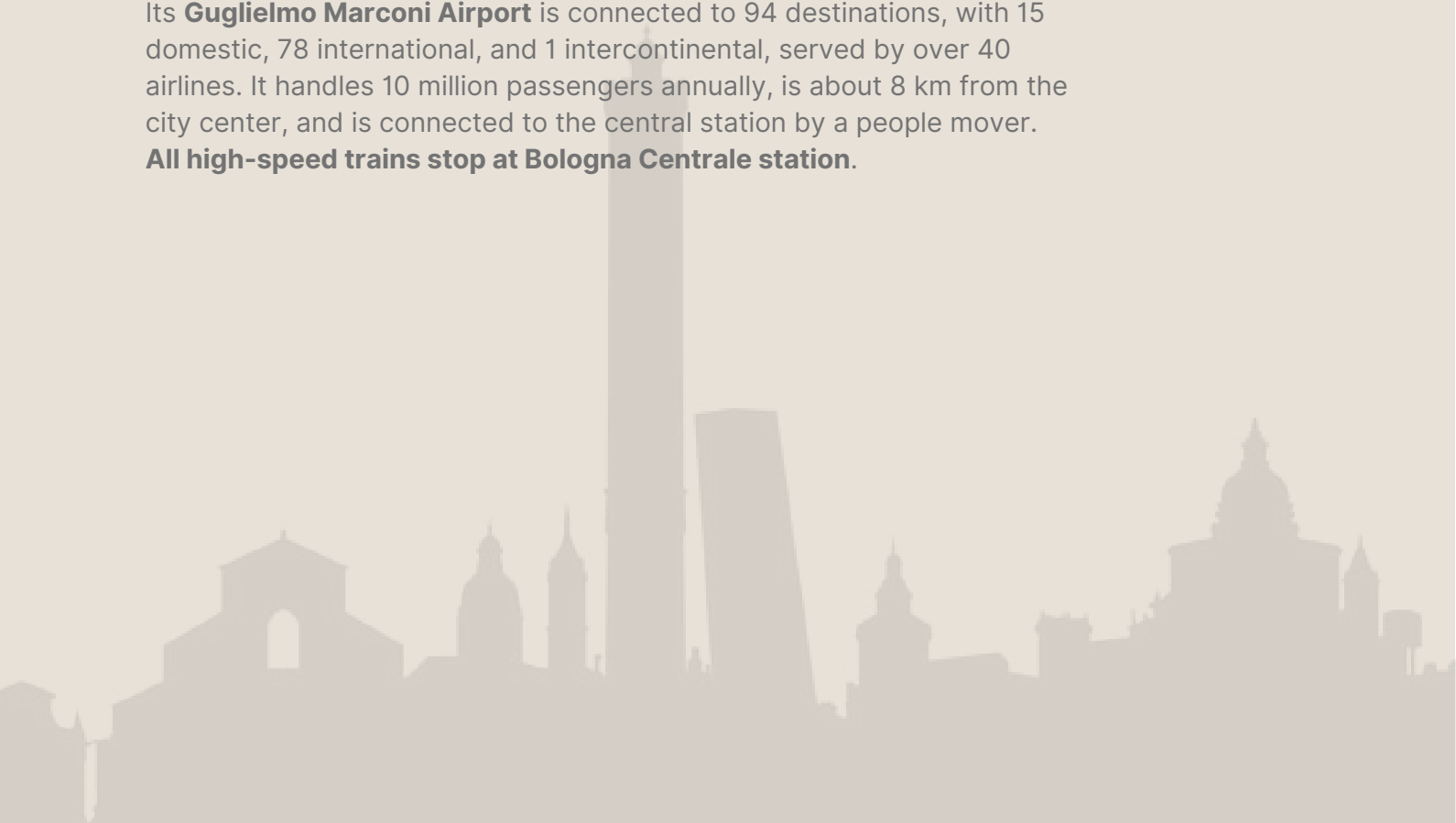


Bologna is strategically located in Northern Italy, a motorway hub for traffic from the Northwest via the border passes of Ventimiglia, Frejus, Mont Blanc, Chiasso (from France, Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands, etc.) from the North via Brenner pass (from Austria, Germany, Scandinavia, etc.) from the Northeast via the Tarvisio and Gorizia passes (from Austria, Hungary, Czechia, Slovakia, Slovenia, etc.)



Its **Guglielmo Marconi Airport** is connected to 94 destinations, with 15 domestic, 78 international, and 1 intercontinental, served by over 40 airlines. It handles 10 million passengers annually, is about 8 km from the city center, and is connected to the central station by a people mover.

All high-speed trains stop at Bologna Centrale station.



ABOUT BOLOGNA

USEFUL INFORMATIONS

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Both the city of Bologna and its surrounding area offer a wide range of hotel accommodations at various price levels, from B&Bs to agritourisms to premium hotels. The WDS organization provides an initial list of hotels that have availability for the event period and accept dogs.

The most common hotel booking platforms, such as www.booking.com, offer a wide selection.

Palazzo di Varignana itself, which will host the Congress sessions on Friday, is a high-quality ** resort that accepts dogs.**



HOTELS	PHONE	E-MAIL
Flyon Hotel	+39 51400055	info@flyonhotel.it
Hotel Astor	+39 51356663	info@astor-hotel.it
Hotel Bologna Airport	+39 51409211	info@airporthotelbologna.it
Hotel San Donato	+39 51235395	prenotazioni@hotelsandonato.it
Royal Hotel Carlton	+39 51249361	carlton@monrifhotels.com
B&B Hotel Bologna	+39 51704050	bologna@hotelbb.com
Hotel Maggiore Bologna	+39 51381634	whatsapp+39 39454725
Living Palace Hotel	+39 5160091	info@livingpalace.it
Palace Hotel Bologna	+39 51237442	info@hotelpalacebologna.com
Hotel Fiera	+39 51377735	info@hotel-fiera.com
Una Hotels Bologna Fiera	+39 5141666	Hotel.BolognaFiera@unahotels.it
Una Hotels San Vitale Bologna	+39 514594001	Hotel.SanVitale@unahotels.it
Savoia Hotel Country House Bologna	+39 516332366	countryhouse@savoia.eu
Hotel Maxim Bologna	+39 51323235	info@hotelmaksimbologna.com
Holiday Inn Bologna Fiera by IHG	+39 516334588	info@hibolognafiera.it
Savhotel Bologna Fiera Bologna	+39 51361361	fiera@savhotel.com
Mitico Hotel I& Natural Spa Bologna	+39 514161311	reservation@miticohotel.it
Best Western Plus Tower Hotel Bologna	+39 516010621	info@towerhotelbologna.com
Millenn Hotel Bologna	+39 516087888	info@millennhotelbologna.it
Savoia Hotel Regency Bologna	+39 513767777	regency@savoia.eu
Ac Hotel Bologna By Marriott	+39 051377 246	reception.bologna@achmhotels.com
Savhotel Aemilia Bologna	+39 513940311	aemilia@savhotel.com
Hotel il Guercino Bologna	+39 51369893	whatsapp +39 051369893
Almarossa - Montagnola - Bologna	+39 510190015	reception@almarossa.com

BED & BREAKFAST	PHONE	E-MAIL
4Roomz	+39 3200660448	info@bolognalovehotel.it
Orchidea	+39 3891820459	no mail
Il Cantuccio	+39 3336352535	no mail
Dimora il Parco	+39 3513611655	hello@bbbolognametropolitana.it
Villa Savioli Room & Breakfast	+39 3464980261	villasavioli@gmail.com
La Magnolia	+39 338707019	info@lamagnolia-bologna.com
B&B Design	+39 3483608365	monica.bbdesign@gmail.com
B&B Villa Rivabella	+39 3393696429	no mail
Liluna	+39 3296283162	liluna@liluna.it
Marconi 28 Suites	+39 3391334594	info@marconi28suites.it
B&B Il Picchio	+39 348801342	no mail
Pozzo di Mezzo B&B - Savena	+39 3737029133	info@pozzodimezzo.it
Ca' Palazzo Malvasia - Sasso Marconi	+39 3515354357	checkin@bolognarooms.com
Bed & Breakfast Case Osti	+39 3911700998	caseosti@gmail.com
Al Podere Santa Cristina	+39 3473328571	info@alpoderesantacristina.it
7 Olmi B&B - Carteria	+39 3338042043	no mail
La Quercia - Sasso Marconi	+39 3515354357	checkin@bolognarooms.com
Il Leccio - S. Lazzaro Savena	+39 3285853484	illeccio.stefania@gmail.com
B&B Selvarossa - Savena	+39 519528358	no mail
Agriturismo Rio Verde - Sasso Marconi	+39 3661097435	agriturismorioverde@gmail.com

ABOUT BOLOGNA

USEFUL INFORMATIONS

BOLOGNA

Bologna is a city of art, culture, and commerce, known for nearly 40 km of porticoes, the longest in the world and recently named a UNESCO heritage site. Bologna is the capital of the Emilia-Romagna region, which has strong traditions of hospitality, particularly due to the tourist destinations on the Adriatic coast, such as Rimini, Riccione, etc.



TYPICAL FOOD

It is also known for its traditional agricultural productions, such as Parmigiano Reggiano, Parma Ham, Balsamic Vinegar, and for the quality of its gastronomic specialties, such as **Tortellini, Lasagne, Cotechino and Piadina**.





A special thank you to the Italian Kennel Club – E.N.C.I. – and its president, Mr. Dino Muto, without whose contribution, support, and collaboration this event would not have been possible.

**LOOKING
FORWARD TO
MEETING YOU
IN ITALY!**

