

## **Ciao, fellow traveler!**

I'm thrilled to reconnect with you. April in Italy is more than just spring, it's soul-deep beauty, warm sun and warming temperatures. This year, Rome becomes the heart of the Catholic world with Jubilee 2025 and Holy Week celebrations that invite you to walk the sacred path. But just beyond the city walls? Ancient villages bloom with Easter rituals of their own. Whether you're planning your journey or traveling from home, we've got inspiration, tradition, and something brand new for our language lovers.

### **Palm Sunday (April 13, 2025)**

St. Peter's Square fills with olive branches and anticipation as the Pope celebrates Palm Sunday Mass at 9:30 a.m. A majestic procession recalls Christ's entrance into Jerusalem—Rome's Holy Week begins.

### **Holy Thursday (April 17, 2025)**

At 5:30 p.m., the Mass of the Lord's Supper at St. John Lateran Basilica includes the moving Washing of the Feet. Then join the quiet, candlelit tradition of visiting "Altars of Repose" in churches across Rome.

### **Good Friday (April 18, 2025)**

At 5:00 p.m., attend the Liturgy of the Passion at St. Peter's. Then at 9:15 p.m., walk the torchlit path of the Via Crucis at the Colosseum—an unforgettable reenactment of Christ's Passion with reflections for our times.

### **Holy Saturday (April 19, 2025)**

The most solemn night of the year is also the most radiant. The Easter Vigil begins at 8:30 p.m. in St. Peter's Basilica, moving from darkness into the light of Resurrection.

### **Easter Sunday (April 20, 2025)**

Rejoice with tens of thousands in St. Peter's Square during the 10:00 a.m. Mass, followed by Pope Francis' Urbi et Orbi blessing from the balcony. Music, flowers, alleluias—Rome at its most joyful.

### **April Jubilee Highlights**

April 5–6: Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers

April 8 – June 2: The Path of Hope Art Exhibition (San Marcello al Corso)

April 25–27: Jubilee of Teenagers

April 27: Canonization Mass of Blessed Carlo Acutis

April 28–29: Jubilee of People with Disabilities

All events include processions to the Holy Door, Masses, and opportunities for spiritual renewal.

### **Easter Escape: Sacred Hills & Timeless Traditions in the Castelli Romani**

Need a breath of fresh air? Just 45 minutes from the city, the hill towns of the Castelli Romani come alive with Easter processions, picnics, and prayer.

- **Frascati:** Holy Week processions and Easter Monday picnics in Villa Aldobrandini
- **Castel Gandolfo:** Good Friday Via Crucis by Lake Albano + Bernini's Easter Mass
- **Nemi:** Floral decorations and intimate Easter Vigil in San Nicola Church
- **Ariccia:** Dramatic Good Friday procession over Bernini's bridge + porchetta feasts on Pasquetta
- **Grottaferrata:** Byzantine chant and liturgies at the ancient Abbey of San Nilo

Travel Tip: The Rome-Castelli train line connects Termini to Frascati, Albano, and Castel Gandolfo in under an hour.

I'm thrilled to announce that **audiobook versions of all my English-language *Ultimate Festival & Travel Guides*** are now available on **Amazon** and **Audible!**

Whether you're planning your next adventure or just dreaming of Italy from home, you can now explore the rich traditions, unforgettable festivals, and hidden gems of Italy **hands-free**—perfect for road trips, walks, or relaxing at home.



Available titles include:

- Ultimate Festival & Travel Guide Sicily
- Ultimate Festival & Travel Guide Rome
- Rome 2025 Jubilee Year Travel Guide

Audio Book links on my Amazon Author Page:

[https://www.amazon.com/stores/Katerina-Ferrara/author/B0DN79QTD6?ref=sr\\_ntt\\_srch\\_lnk\\_4&qid=1744126467&sr=8-4&isDramIntegrated=true&shoppingPortalEnabled=true&ccs\\_id=3d6b4fb3-e582-4a6d-84f8-fb2f794d2e89](https://www.amazon.com/stores/Katerina-Ferrara/author/B0DN79QTD6?ref=sr_ntt_srch_lnk_4&qid=1744126467&sr=8-4&isDramIntegrated=true&shoppingPortalEnabled=true&ccs_id=3d6b4fb3-e582-4a6d-84f8-fb2f794d2e89)

### **New Book for Language Learners!**

**Sicily in Celebration:** Experience the Magic of Sicily's History, Art & Timeless Cultural Celebrations, English-Italian Dual Language Edition (book launch 4/15)

Explore Sicily through the lens of its most spectacular festivals—all while improving your Italian! This beautifully designed edition includes:

- Side-by-side English and Italian text
- Cultural insights and festival history
- Travel tips, immersive experiences, and more

Perfect for travelers, students, and festival lovers.

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## Dreaming of Your Next Italian Escape? New Podcast Available!

**Brand-new Lago di Garda Podcast Series available now.**

From mountain adventures to vineyard strolls, discover northern Italy's most beloved lake in our 5-episode audio journey.

- Ferry tips, wine tastings, Roman ruins
- Town guides: Riva, Limone, Sirmione & more
- Biking, hiking, and paragliding from Monte Baldo!

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[https://open.spotify.com/episode/4cORPA08Q0gGa5dVDpxREz?si=54LnEhwATymUF\\_YIvIVqJg](https://open.spotify.com/episode/4cORPA08Q0gGa5dVDpxREz?si=54LnEhwATymUF_YIvIVqJg) and let your next getaway begin.

**Arrivederci for now,**

Katerina Ferrara.

**Katerina Ferrara Author**



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