



Centro Studi Storici Verrazzano

Castello di Verrazzano

Greve in Chianti Firenze

www.verrazzano.org

Events and initiatives and a special cancellation stamp of Poste Italiane. The day's programme

Seventeen, a magic number for great events

April 1524, Giovanni da Verrazano discovers the New York Bay

April 1967, at New York Nino Benvenuti is middleweight world champion

**Two dates celebrated on Verrazzano Day held on April, 17th
at Greve in Chianti (Fi)**

Seventeen, a magic number. At least for Giovanni da Verrazzano and Nino Benvenuti. On April 17th 1524 the Navigator from Greve in Chianti discovers the current Hudson Bay. The same day several years later, in 1967, the boxer from Isola D'Istria wins the middleweight world title vs Emile Griffith. Events linked by a communality that finds its celebration on April 17th on Verrazzano Day, an event that Cappellini family, owner of Castello di Verrazzano in Greve in Chianti (Fi) and Verrazzano Historical Studies Centre, in collaboration with the Municipality of Greve in Chianti, organize every year to commemorate the discovery of the New York Bay.

A double bond between Chianti and the Big Apple, according to Giovanni da Verrazzano's letter, *«notammo molte viti selvatiche che crescendo si abbarbicano agli alberi come fanno nell'Italia settentrionale. Se queste viti fossero coltivate come si deve certamente produrrebbero ottimi vini perché più volte ne ho assaggiato il frutto e l'ho trovato soave e dolce»* (we noticed many wild vines that grew clinging to trees as they do in northern Italy. If these vines were planted as they should, they would certainly produce excellent wines because I've tasted the grapes many times and found them fine and sweet).

Although nowadays Manhattan skyline is not the same as almost 500 years ago, *«ci trovammo di fronte a una terra che non era mai stata vista da uomo antico o moderno. Quando ci avvicinammo a un quarto di lega ci accorgemmo che era abitato per i grandissimi fuochi accesi sulla spiaggia»* (we faced with a land that had never been seen by anyone, neither ancient nor modern. When we approached the coast at a distance of about 1,5 km we realized it was inhabited from the large fires on the beach), this thread still remains between the two territories.

Rehoboth Beach - Verrazzano Monument. The monument dedicated to Giovanni da Verrazzano in the U.S. state of Delaware was sponsored by the Delaware Commission on Italian Heritage and Culture. Luigi Cappellini, owner of Castello di Verrazzano, gave three stones taken from the oldest part of the castle that are now part of the foundations of the monument. The inauguration was held on October 18th, 2008 in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. A delegation of Delaware will take part in the celebrations of Verrazzano Day 2010 and on that occasion a twinning between Rehoboth Beach and the town of Greve will be set up to seal the ancient bond that the historical figure of the Navigator has created through his explorations in the New World.

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