



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

KATHY HOCHUL
GOVERNOR

October 2021

Dear Friends:

It's a pleasure to send greetings to the Italian American community of New York City and State as you mark the 45th anniversary of "Italian Heritage and Culture Month."

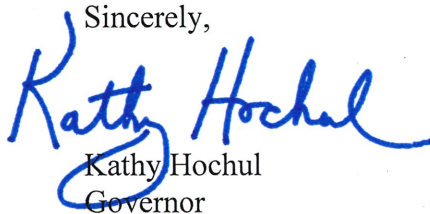
Each October we celebrate Italy's contributions to humankind and the world. For the past 45 years, this occasion has brought New York State's Italian community together to honor various aspects of their ancestry, culture, and heritage. As we continue to manage the COVID-19 health crisis, the strength and resilience of our people is found in meaningful traditions like this celebration, and it is good to see the return of this annual event.

This year's theme, *DANTE 700!*, commemorates the anniversary of the death of this preeminent Italian writer, philosopher, and political thinker. Dante redefined contemporary Italian literature by exploring complex themes, notably in his epic masterpiece, *The Divine Comedy*. Seven centuries after his passing, the legacy of Dante remains his literary genius and the eternal place his works have among the great classics.

New Yorkers appreciate the vibrant spirit of our Italian communities that contribute to all our lives. The Italian Heritage & Culture Committee of New York members generously share their ancestral richness and we thank them and the volunteers, community leaders, and others who make this event a success.

Best wishes for a wonderful celebration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathy Hochul". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being significantly larger and more stylized.

Kathy Hochul
Governor