

The Italian Cultural Society to Host Gala Awards Dinner at the Embassy of Italy in Washington, DC

“Beyond the Runway” highlights the excellence of Italian culture and includes Italian honorary guests of international acclaim in fashion, culture, and cuisine. The annual ICS Gala is the main fundraising event that is essential in developing ICS’S didactic-cultural and scholarship plans.

Press Release: April 6, 2022

WASHINGTON DC, APRIL 6, 2022 – The Italian Cultural Society (ICS) will honor Domenico De Sole, Chairman of Tom Ford International and former President & CEO of Gucci Group. Also, to be recognized and will interview Mr. De Sole is Sara Gay Forden, author of the book House of Gucci at the ICS Gala on June 10, 2022, at 6:00 pm at the Italian Embassy in Washington, DC.

Domenico De Sole , is an Italian businessman, chairman of Tom Ford International, current director of Acamar Partners, former chairman of Sotheby's, and former president and CEO of Gucci Group. De Sole worked for leading U.S. law firms before becoming a partner at the Washington DC firm Patton, Boggs & Blow, specializing in tax law. One of his clients in the early 1980s was Gucci, where he helped with corporate restructuring, and Rodolfo Gucci, a son of the founder Guccio Gucci, enticed De Sole to join in 1984 as CEO of Gucci America.

De Sole was president and CEO of Gucci Group from 1994 to 2004. During his tenure, De Sole guided the brand from near bankruptcy to a luxury conglomerate that included Yves St. Laurent, Bottega Veneta, Balenciaga, Alexander McQueen, Stella McCartney, and Sergio Rossi. De Sole has been chairman of Tom Ford International since the company was founded in 2005. In March 2015, De Sole became chairman of the international auction house Sotheby's, working alongside president and CEO, Tad Smith, whose appointment was announced on the same day. De Sole stepped down November 2019 following the sale of the company. De Sole serves on the Boards of Pirelli and Ermenegildo Zegna. He has previously served as a director of Gap Inc., Telecom Italia, Bausch & Lomb, Delta Airlines, Newell Brands and Procter & Gamble.

In honor of National Tailors Day , which also takes place in the month of June, The Italian Cultural Society is also pleased to confirm the participation of internationally renowned Neapolitan tailor, Mr. Emilio De Luca. The award-winning leader of hand-made Italian clothing will demonstrate the important role of artisans in the fashion industry, donating one of his man suits and with a trunk show at Cafè Milano after the event.

The ICS Gala 2022 will be emceed by Amy Riolo, Award-Winning, Best-Selling Author, Chef, Television Personality. The evening will begin with a cocktail reception with Live music (Jazz Trio Guitar, Sax and Bass), followed by dinner and a speaking program.

To purchase tickets to the ICS Gala 2022, please visit <https://italianculturalsociety.org/special-events/gala2022/> or contact the Gala Office by phone: 301.215.7885 or via email: RSVP@italianculturalsociety.org

The mission of *The Italian Cultural Society of Washington, DC* is to enhance the appreciation and knowledge of Italian language and culture. We create opportunities to explore the many facets of Italian culture, and to strengthen bonds between the Italian and American people. We do this primarily through the Italian Language Program, founded in 1974, thanks to contributions from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We are an *ENTE GESTORE e PROMOTORE della lingua e cultura Italiana*, recognized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the Italian Embassy. The main mission as *Ente Gestore* is to include the Italian language in the curricula of American private and public schools, and promote our language and culture among families, through courses (our school counts over 2,000 enrollments per year), scholarship awards, and events that promote Italian culture and traditions. We work in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute, with the Italian Embassy, universities and other institutions and organizations around the US.

Visit www.italianculturalsociety.org

Media Contacts for ICS:

Francesca Casazza, CEO & Executive Director
301.215.7885
language@italianculturalsociety.org