

# Italy National Day Special

## Steady determination necessary in facing demanding challenges

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AMBASSADOR OF ITALY



On June 2, Italy celebrates its 74th anniversary as a republic. It is our national day and a steadfast symbol of democracy and freedom acquired once again by the Italian people in the aftermath of

World War II.

Remembering those decisive pages of our history helps us to remain determined in the face of current challenges.

Today, Italy, Japan and the international community stand united to face a threat of which we knew truly little before, a pandemic that still claims so many victims all around the world.

After May 4, Italy entered the so-called phase two, thus successfully progressing in the fight of the coronavirus. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to the discipline, self-sacrifice, altruism and sense of responsibility of our fellow citizens. On this special day, we recall these values and results with pride

and determination.

Essential factories and creative minds are now back to work, contributing to building a new shared future and rekindling the makings of the "Made in Italy" dream that is loved and deeply understood by the Japanese. I am confident it will continue to be a cornerstone of our future relations.

I take this opportunity to reassure all our Japanese business partners that Italian supplies of products and materials are back in full force. More than a year has passed since the entry into force of the EU-Japan economic partnership agreement, and Italy has thus far been a key player in Japanese companies enjoying the EPA's benefits to

their full potential.

In conclusion, allow me as well, dear readers, to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of the Italian community to the cultural, scientific and economic life of Japan. Such commitments are a true token of our everlasting friendship.

*Buona Festa della Repubblica!* (Happy Republic Day!)

*This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.*



Parma was named the Italian Capital of Culture for 2020 and 2021.



The Italian Altar of the Fatherland in Rome



Andrea Bocelli's "Music for Hope" concert in the Milan Cathedral LUCA ROSSETTI, COURTESY OF SUGAR SRL, DECCA RECORDS

