

**SITE PROPOSAL FOR TWENTIETH INTERNATIONAL HEMINGWAY CONFERENCE**  
**June 20-25, 2022**

**Program Directors: Barbara Garassino and Massimo Morasso**  
**Site Director: Massimo Bacigalupo**

**1.) RELEVANCE OF PLACE:**

Genova is a city rich in art and history, characterized by the medieval labyrinth of its narrow alleys, the “caruggi”. The historical center offers 42 historical buildings included in the Unesco heritage; 25 city museums with a large variety of exhibits; the Strada Nuova Museums, a unique cultural institution; the Aquarium, the largest in Europe; the Old Port, redesigned by architect Renzo Piano; the hamlets of Boccadasse and Nervi.

The friendly relationship between Ernest Hemingway and Genova and its Ligurian surroundings lasted more than thirty years: from April 1922, when, as a young correspondent for the *Toronto Star*, he was sent to Genova and Rapallo to report on the International Economic and Financial Conference, to June 1954, when he met for the last time in Nervi, Genova, with Adriana Ivancich, his late Venetian muse. Hemingway’s visits to Liguria are the subject of two early stories, “Che Ti Dice la Patria,” and the climactic “Cat in the Rain,” inspired by his visit with Ezra Pound in Rapallo in 1923. We know that in 1927 Hemingway visited his friend Don Giuseppe Bianchi in Camogli, a picturesque seaside village, to obtain a certificate of his baptism when wounded nine years earlier. After World War II, Hemingway often stopped at restaurants and cafes in Recco, Santa Margherita, and Portofino, and stayed for longer periods in Nervi’s Hotel Savoia Beeler, where he spent New Year’s Eve 1950 with Mary Welsh, and later would meet Adriana.

In a six-day Conference, we will be able to retrace Hemingway’s steps, friendships, and passions in Genova and the Italian Riviera. Relevant themes: Hemingway as correspondent; Hemingway and post-war Italy; Americans on the French and Italian Riviera: Fitzgerald, Hemingway, Pound and others; Hemingway and the tastes of Italy.

The Hemingway Society meeting in Genova is perfectly timed. In 2022 we can commemorate the centennial of Hemingway’s first visit to our wonderful city. Furthermore we can have the opening session of the Conference in the same stunning hall where he sat in 1922 as a young correspondent.

**2.) RECOMMENDED TIME OF YEAR:**

In order to accommodate both American and Italian academics and students, we are suggesting late June 2022 as the best time for the Genova Conference.

The June weather in Liguria will be warm, but not hot (medium temperature is 21°C). As the last decade of the month is at the beginning of the tourist season, we feel confident that

we will secure good rates at hotel and pensions. Moreover, this is a perfect time of year for members who wish to stay on and visit beaches and places near and far, like the Cinque Terre, Shelley's Lerici, Pisa, Florence, and so on.

### 3.) INFORMATION ABOUT TRAVEL:

Genova is a regional travel hub, served both by fast train from Milano (for about \$25) and Roma (for about \$65-70), and by its recently renovated airport, in Sestri Ponente, only 15 minutes by bus or car from the city center. (One can currently book connected flights to Genova from New York, Los Angeles, Miami, Atlanta and Dallas.)

The airport has direct links to the local highway and motorway systems for rapid connections to both Rivas, Piedmont, Lombardy and the tunnels through the Alps.

There is definitely no need to rent a car from the airport to the Porto Antico (Old Port) Area, where the Conference will take place and the hotels suggested for participants are located. For those already in Italy or in Europe who come to Genova via train, the Porto Antico Area is within walking distance from the main Genova Piazza Principe railway station.

Train excursions from Genova can easily be planned for Milan, Padua, San Donà di Piave, Schio, Verona, Treviso, Vicenza, Venezia, Cortina and other north-Italian cities connected with Hemingway and his life and work.

### 4.) ACCOMMODATIONS:

In order to fully please the widest range of participants, we plan to provide a list of options: from luxury hotels to convenient ones, trendy guest houses and even more unexpensive hostels, for those on a tight budget. In Genova, hotels and other accommodations are listed anywhere from slightly below \$60 to far above. If our proposal is accepted, we will bargain for good rates and select some of the best hotels to recommend, and will consider the needs of elderly and disabled guests.

Here are some of the hotels we will contact.

#### Luxury Level:

The **NH Collection Genova Marina** hotel is part of Genova's Old Port area, developed by architect Renzo Piano. It sits on specially-designed 'stilts', near the impressive Aquarium and Maritime Museum (it's also the closest hotel to this amazing attraction) and only a 10-minute walk from the historic city center. Nearly all 140 rooms have harbor views. The Hotel has a charming restaurant.

See <https://www.nh-hotels.com/hotel/nh-collection-genova-marina>

The **Melià Genova** is a **boutique hotel** in the most elegant residential area of Genova, within walking distance of the historical centre (a few steps from the **Palazzo Ducale**, Carlo Felice Opera House, San Lorenzo Cathedral, Genova Expò, Convention Center and Aquarium). Decorated in contemporary style, this hotel offers **spacious rooms**, some with a private terrace with views of the historical city centre. It has a Blue Lounge & Restaurant, a

Wellness center with indoor swimming pool, Jacuzzi, Turkish bath, and a fitness area, including a fully equipped 24-hour gym.

See <https://www.melia.com/en/hotels/italy/genoa/melia-genova/>

#### Midrange:

Many fine two and three star hotels close to the Porto Antico Area. For instance

**Best Western Hotel Porto Antico:** located within **walking distance** from the Old Port and the Aquarium. is non-smoking, soundproof and equipped with air-conditioning, 42 inch LED LCD television, **free high speed Wi-Fi connection** and a safe for laptops.

See: <https://www.hotelportoantico.it/en/home-page.aspx>

#### Guest Houses:

B&B and Guest Houses abound, with very different levels of comfort and cost. Two of them are

**Bluripa Guest House:** located right in the historic center of Genova, in the **Expo Area**. The rooms have been exquisitely decorated and come with a flat-screen TV, safe, mini-bar, free WiFi and air conditioning. The bedrooms are fitted out with all mod cons, including one with a kitchenette.

See: <https://www.bluripa.it/en/homepage/>

**Affittacamere La Città Vecchia:** apartment set in the Genova Historical Centre district features a lift and a luggage storage. The venue has tile floors. Guests will find Genova aquarium within 400 meters of the property. Aquarium is also a short walk away. Pay television, a coffeemaker and a trouser press as well as a private bathroom with a shower are also included. View of the city welcomes to rooms with rustic décor. There are beds with pillow-top mattresses and feather pillows provided.

See: <https://lacittavecchia.net/bandb/en/la-citta-vecchia-bed-and-breakfast/>

#### Hostels:

Cheap hotels and hostels are also available. We will indicate the most pleasant after having taken a look of them in person. An example could be

**Abbey Hostel:** originally a convent dedicated to welcoming travelers and the needy, today a welcoming hostel hosts and cuddles backpackers and tourists seeking a family atmosphere. Abbey is located in the historic center of Genova, not far from Genova Principe railway station and from the Aquarium, two minutes (on foot) from via Garibaldi.

See: <http://www.thehostel.it/en/abbey/>

Although this Conference will not have a central hotel, we will provide an online link where Conference Members can go and find the list of accommodations that we recommend. Even if the housing solutions will be on the basis of a free choice of participants, it is important to know that booking a hotel far from the Porto Antico Area could cause some discomfort. This is due to Genova's urban layout, full of ups and downs, and local transport logistics.

In our opinion, it makes little sense to estimate now the possible costs of accommodations (as well of flights to/from USA). In the next months, the impact of the Covid-19 effect on global aviation, transport and hotels might affect prices and costs in an unpredictable way. We'll pay attention to developments, monitoring the trend of the rates, and exchange information with the Board in due time.

Anyway, the site that provides the overall offer and cost of accommodation in Genova is <https://www.booking.com/city/it/genoa.it>

As for dining options, we have plenty of choices, for all budgets and tastes. Genova and Liguria are home to some of Italy's finest cooking. Our cuisine is famous for fish, fresh produce and veggies. In the historical center, we can offer hundreds of solutions, suggest restaurants, pubs and other trendy dining-places, and, if needed, make agreements with a number of them for dedicated menus. Moreover, we won't forget to suggest hotels and accommodations with a good kitchen service at good value. Anyway, to have a first idea of the culinary context, see :

<https://theculturetrip.com/europe/italy/articles/the-10-best-restaurants-in-genoa/>

## **5.) AVAILABILITY OF AN ADEQUATE CONFERENCE CENTER:**

We are planning to organize the Conference in three impressive locations in the Porto Antico (Old Port) Area.

They are Palazzo San Giorgio (<http://www.visitgenoa.it/en/palazzo-san-giorgio>), the Aquarium (<https://www.acquariodigenova.it/en/>), and Galata Museo del Mare (<https://www.galatamuseodelmare.it/explore/?lang=en>).

This prestigious, extraordinary threefold location includes Sala delle Compere and Sala dei Capitani, two superb frescoed rooms (250 and 90 seats) in Palazzo San Giorgio, which seem perfect to gather scholars for check-in and an the opening reception meeting and the closing banquet; a large auditorium (the Auditorium of the Aquarium, 275 seats), and a number of rooms for presentations and keynote addresses in the Galata Museo del Mare; from large rooms (more than 100), to smaller ones (60-70) and even smaller (40), thus giving the opportunity to accommodate various simultaneous panels.

The three sites are close to each other, just a few minutes on foot, and have rooms and conference halls accessible for the disabled. We will, however, need to provide a shuttle service for Members with mobility problems.

**Palazzo San Giorgio** is one of the most important and well-known historic buildings in Genova. Nowadays it hosts the headquarters of the Autorità di Sistema Portuale del Mar Ligure Occidentale. The palace is located in the dock area and is formed by two different parts: the ancient one, a typical example of medieval architecture, front pointed towards the Sottoripa porticos, and the Renaissance one, oriented south. According to a legend, during the second half of the 13th century, in this palace Marco Polo was held prisoner. In 1407 the Palace became home to the “Casa delle Compere e dei Banchi di San Giorgio”, one of the world's first banks, and the first in Italy.

The “Sala delle Compere” is a majestic room built in the 16th century by Banco di San Giorgio to host its Great Council with 400 members. It was the seat of the Genoa Economic and Financial Conference (a formal conclave of 34 nations planned by British prime minister David Lloyd George to resolve the major economic and political issues facing Europe) held here from 10 April to 19 May 1922. In that historical occasion, the young Hemingway represented the *Toronto Star* as a foreign correspondent.

The **Acquario** di Genova offers a fascinating journey through the largest exhibition of biodiversity and ecosystems in Europe. It contains 12,000 specimens belonging to 600 animal species and 200 vegetal species, but above all gives the opportunity to live a unique, unforgettable experience above and below the sea surface.

**Galata Maritime Museum** was opened in 2004, when Genova was European Capital of Culture. Today, this innovative and technological establishment is the largest maritime museum in the Mediterranean area, an extraordinary adventure to discover 600 years of life at sea. A glass and steel structure designed by the Spanish architect Guillermo Vazquez Consuegra gives a new life to the oldest building in the Darsena area, the former arsenal of the Republic of Genova, where galleys were built, armed and launched.

## 6.) SUGGESTED SPECIAL EVENTS AND SIDE TRIPS:

### Included in the Program (as well as costs)

- Opening Reception at Sala delle Compere in Palazzo San Giorgio: registration of participants, welcome drinks, opening ceremony with local authorities and music.
- Trip to Rapallo (30 km from Genova), where participants will visit some Hemingway's sites, such as the Hotel Riviera, the Caffè Rapallo, the Trattoria Ö Bansin, the top of Montallegro, Rapallo's mountain, with a wonderful view of the town and the Bay of Tigullio beyond.

In principle, it could be scheduled on Thursday 23 June, as an intriguing interval after two full days of Conference. We will arrange the transportation Genova-Rapallo renting coaches on purpose and organizing a reinforced packed lunch, and/or an informal brunch in Hotel Ristorante Montallegro.

- Free visit of the Galata Maritime Museum, one of the three locations of the Conference.
- Closing Banquet at Sala delle Compere in Palazzo San Giorgio: food, drinks, music and dance.

### Optional, not included in the Program (Attendees should bear the costs)

- in Genova

- A visit of the Aquarium of Genova, which includes 70 tanks housing more than 600 different species of sea creatures, including dolphins, seals, sharks, and tropical fish. In the old harbor area of the city, the aquarium covers more than 3,100 sq m (33,000 sq ft) and welcomes more than one million visitors each

year. Opened in 1992, the venue was built to celebrate the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' discovery of the New World. Designed by Genoese architect Renzo Piano, the structure resembles a ship ready to head out to sea.

- A visit of the *Strade Nuove* ("New Streets"), that are a group of streets built by the Genoese aristocracy in 16th and 17th century, at a time when Genova was at the height of its financial and seafaring power. Now they are a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and contain many palaces open to the public, and two Museums.
- A Visit of Palazzo Reale, a noble residence, Royal Savoy mansion, and wonderful National Museum in the heart of the monumental Via Balbi (17th century), which boasts beautiful terraces and an impressive garden replete with vegetation and exotic plants.

These three are optional visits (with their own ticket). In case a good number of participants would like to have a special guided tour, this can be arranged. Of course, we will try to get special prices for our Hemingwayan guests.

- The experience of a "Ghost Tour" around the *caruggi* (alleys) of the historical town. This, through our organization, on reservation only, with a ticket price to be defined with the Fondazione Amon, the Association which has been organizing this kind of juicy adventure-entertainment for more than 20 years.
- The experience of the celebrations in honor of San Giovanni Battista, Genova's patron saint, on June 24th. You can find many events around the city center on this night (among the which a solemn and spectacular procession of the ancient Confraternity with many great and artistic crucifixes) and, at midnight, the lighting of the great bonfire in piazza Matteotti. This, free of cost.
- Genova offers a quite remarkable selection of Churches full of masterpieces. Among them, the Cathedral of San Lorenzo (1188), where you can find the hexagonal emerald-colored glass bowl believed, for more than a thousand of years, to be the Holy Grail, the cup used during the Last Supper.  
For these and other possible cultural landmarks (e.g., the Museo Chiossone, home to Japanese works from various epochs, one of the best museums of Asian Art in Europe, second only to the Musée Guimet in Paris), we could enlist local professors, scholars and professional guides to lead the interested participants (this could be arranged as an additional fee).
- The experience of the pleasant walking route that runs through Nervi's extensive historic public parks, featuring Mediterranean and exotic plants and linked to the prestigious, recently restored rose garden of Villa Grimaldi Fassio, from which visitors can take in the magical presence of the sea. The parks offer shelter from the summer heat, as well as the chance to take a stroll with the family or simply relax on a bench with a good book.  
Nearby, the Hotel Savoia-Beeler, where Hemingway lived during his stays in Genova, where you can find a little exhibition of Hemingway in the area.

- outside Genova

- A trip to the Caffè Roma in Alassio (100 km from Genova), where Hemingway in 1953 played a key role in the conception and creation of Liguria's own version of the Hollywood Walk.
- A trip to the wondrous Cinque Terre (93 km) and Spezia (106 km), described in "Che Ti Dice la Patria?" ("We came into Spezia looking for a place to eat. The street was wide and the houses high and yellow...").
- A trip to la Piazzetta of Portofino (39 km), where Hemingway used to sit and drink, and enjoy the dazzling beauty of the place and its surroundings.

These optional trips are just suggestions for free individual planning (for those who have still time to spend in Liguria after the Conference, from Sunday, June 26). We will be glad to offer information and facilitation as needed.

## 7.) THE ORGANIZING TEAM & AVAILABILITY OF FINANCIAL OR IN-KIND SUPPORT:

**Massimo Bacigalupo**, our site director, lives in Rapallo (GE) and is Professor Emeritus of American Literature in the University of Genoa. From 2001 to 2004 he was President of AISNA Italian Association for American Studies). Prof. Bacigalupo is a leading scholar in American Studies, author and editor of books and translations on/by Ezra Pound, Emily Dickinson, W. B. Yeats, Herman Melville, H.D., F. S. Fitzgerald, Wallace Stevens, and others. In 2001 he received the Italian National Translation Prize. In his recent book *Angoliguria: da Byron a Hemingway* (2017), he places Hemingway in a long line of visitors to Liguria, from Shelley, Cooper, Mark Twain and Dickens to Allen Ginsberg and Mary McCarthy. The Ligurian background in American literature is also one of the subjects of his last book, *Ezra Pound, Italy, and The Cantos* (Clemson University Press, 2020).

**Massimo Morasso** is an essayist and poet. In the last twenty years he has worked as a cultural event organizer, involving in his projects eminent authors, including many Nobel and Pulitzer Prizes recipients. Since 2017 he is co-director of the Hemingway Days Festival in Genova.

**Barbara Garassino** is in charge of events held in the Stanza della Poesia of Palazzo Ducale, the "home" of poetry in Genova. A writer of short-stories, she co-directs, with Massimo Morasso, the Genoa Hemingway Days.

**Claudio Pozzani**, director of "Parole Spalancate", Genova, the oldest and most important Poetry Festival in Italy, has also agreed to assist with local planning.

The organizing team will be supported also by Teresa Kinton-Mousley, who has collaborated with Pozzani, Garassino and other cultural organizers for years, working as a guide and translator, and by student assistants suggested by the local University and/or U.S. consulate, to help with conference-related clerical work.

## 8.) INTEREST IN ORGANIZING AN EDITED COLLECTION OF CONFERENCE PAPERS:

Barbara Garassino and Massimo Morasso are willing to publish a selection of Conference papers through their small non-profit publishing house Contatti. Since 2017 they have edited annual instant booklets on Hemingway, each with a number of authoritative texts, to

accompany the “Hemingway Days Festival”. Massimo Bacigalupo is available to co-edit the volume with other interested scholars.

## **9.) PRELIMINARY BUDGET:**

We are proposing a \$300 Conference fee. The assumption is to have in Genova 250 Full-Paying Members and 100 Guests. If we had fewer participants, the intake would diminish, but we would reduce expenses as well (the costs relevant to the Opening Reception, Coffee Breaks, Rapallo Lunch and closing Banquet depend greatly on numbers of the participants).

To reduce the costs, we feel confident in finding some technical sponsors or supporters.

### **Budgetary Expenses:**

#### Preliminary Note:

Budget estimates are obviously subject to currency fluctuations.

\$/euro conversion prices used in the following budget is 1\$ = 0.88 euros (exchange rate for June 11, 2020)

#### Non-Budgetary Expenses:

See sections above devoted to TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATIONS and SUGGESTED SPECIAL EVENTS AND SIDE TRIPS (Optional: not included in the Program)

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Opening Reception  | \$8,000  |
| Includes hostesses, aperitivo, wine and beverages,<br>sound system and music   |          |
| Coaches and transport  | \$8,000  |
| Includes transfer from Genova to Rapallo and back<br>and rental of shuttles within the Porto Antico Area   |          |
| Conference Facilities  | \$8,000  |
| Includes the use of Sala delle Compere and Sala dei Capitani<br>in Palazzo San Giorgio; of the Aquarium Auditorium and of<br>the rooms and Conference halls needed in Galata Museo del Mare<br>as well as the fee for the visit of the Galata Museum |          |
| Coffee Breaks  | \$14,000 |
| Lunch in Rapallo   | \$8,000  |
| Staff (room helpers, hostesses...)   | \$3,400  |
| Closing Banquet  | \$12,000 |
| Includes two courses, dessert and wine   |          |



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| Programs and printed materials                        | \$2,000 |
| Includes programs, badges, folders, posters, banners. |         |

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| Organization and Management  | \$10,200 |
| Includes the work of the Directors and their staff<br>as well as the overheads and clerical allowances |          |

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| <b><u>Total Expenses</u></b> | <b>\$74,600</b> |
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**Income:**

Registration Fees:

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| Full-paying Members (\$300 per person x 250) | \$75,000 |
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| Guests (\$200 per person x 100) | \$20,000 |
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| <b><u>Total Income</u></b> | <b>\$95,000</b> |
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