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**FESTIVAL ITALIANO AT BELMAR
ACTIVITIES
Saturday, September 19 and Sunday, September 20**

Italian Wines Seminars and Tastings

Learn about wine and the wine regions of Italy from local wine experts. A \$7 per person fee includes the lecture and a taste of three regional wines. The seminars are held every hour and a half beginning at noon on West Alaska Drive near The Elephant Bar.

Chef Demonstrations

Join leading local chefs, who will share their Italian recipes and their cooking secrets, every hour and a half beginning at 11 a.m. on Alaska Drive and Saulsbury Street. Spectators will be able to taste the dish and take home the recipe. New this year is a Goodwill tablescape decorating contest. Guests will be delighted to see incredible Italian table decorations featuring pieces found at Goodwill stores and can vote on their favorites.

Italian Phrase Lessons

Learn basic Italian phrases each hour starting at 11 a.m. on South Upham Street and West Alaska Drive.

Bocce Tournament

Watch members of Italian-American organizations compete in a bocce competition on September 19 and the members of the general public compete on September 20 for the chance to square off in the tournament final on September 20.

The Italia...Much More Exhibit

A 90-foot mobile display that showcases the beauty, culture and breathtaking destinations of Italy. Guests will be guided inside the display filled with over-sized murals, postcard photo-ops, a video presentation, touch-screen monitors that showcase 20 regions of Italy and fun demos from Italian products. Held both days of the festival from 10 am – 7 pm.

Gli Sbandieratori

Traditional flag throwers from Florence, march along Alaska Drive and perform at Upham & Saulsbury Streets every hour and a half beginning at 10 am each day of the festival.

World Champion Pizza Dough Tossing, Justin Wadstein

Watch one of the world's most talented pizza acrobats every two hours beginning at noon each day of the festival.

Live Music and Dancing

Enjoy live music from two stages at the Festival. J. Gerardi and friends are on the Plaza Stage every two hours beginning at noon and on this same stage, traditional and modern Italian dancing by children from Dance Boulevard every two hours beginning at 11 am. New this year is the "Sinatra Stage" at the intersection of Alaska and Teller Streets where smaller acts such as a Frank Sinatra impersonator, opera singer and duets will perform each day.

Sidewalk Chalk Artists

Guests will be amazed as talented local artists recreate famous works of art or new creations all in Italian themes. Six artists spread throughout the festival each day.

Free Children's Activities

Balistreri Vineyard's Children's Grape Stomp

Children can stomp Merlot grapes every two hours beginning at noon on West Alaska Drive and Vance Street. The juice from the grapes will be used to make "Little Feet Merlot". Limited edition bottles of the wine are available for pre-sale with part of the proceeds benefitting charity.

Project Angel Heart Craft Tent

Children's craft activities will be provided by Project Angel Heart from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day. Participation in crafts is free but Project Angel Heart will accept donations to support its mission of promoting the health, dignity and self-sufficiency of people with life-threatening illnesses by providing home delivered meals to them.

Children's Story Time

Storytellers will read classic Italian stories to children every hour beginning at 10:30 a.m. on the west end of Alaska Drive.

Other Children's Activities

Children can take photos in a Pinocchio and Princess cut-out, have their face painted or watch artists draw on the pavement with chalk.

About Belmar

Belmar, located at Wadsworth Boulevard and West Alameda Avenue in Lakewood, includes 77 shops and restaurants, entertainment, cultural activities, homes, offices and lots of free parking. For more information, visit www.belmarcolorado.com or call 303-742-1520.