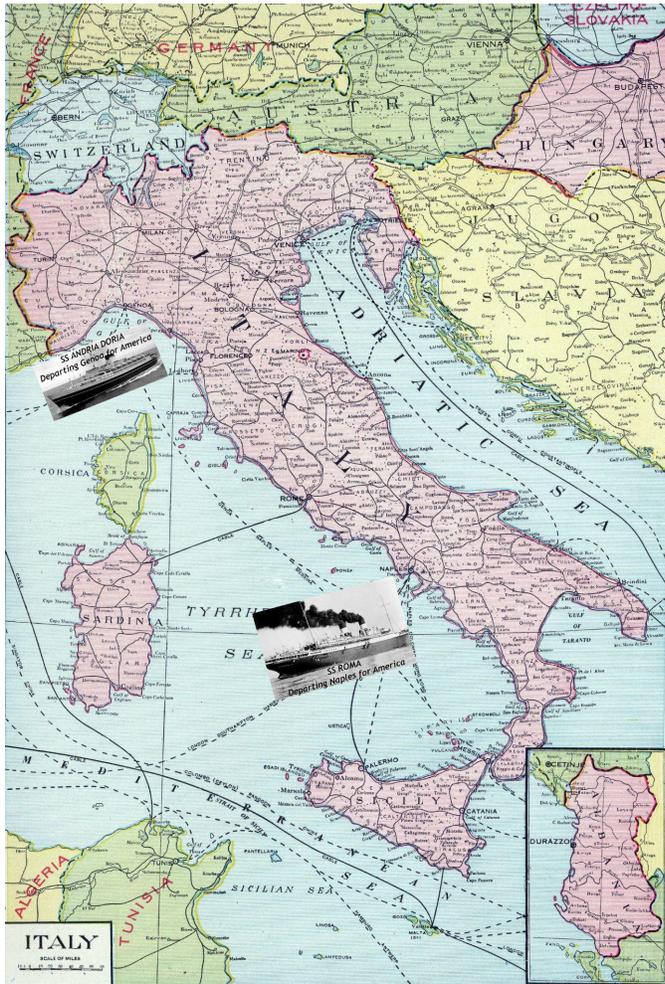


## Primary Points of Departure for Italians Relocating to America



Immigration became a competitive trade among shipping lines, and port cities vied for top ranked spots in immigrant entry. Ports attracted different immigrant populations based on their industries and partnerships with railroads and shipping companies.

For Italians, the journey to America by ship usually began in either Naples or Genoa and took about three months to travel to New York's Ellis Island. After the invention of the steam ship, the trip took nine to twelve days. Ninety-six percent of Italian immigrants traveled to America this way. With the help of family, the immigrants booked the cheapest passage in steerage or 3rd class. The accommodations were uncomfortable at best.

In addition to the *SS Andrea Doria* and the *SS Roma*, local families made the crossing to their new homeland out of Naples on the *SS Madonna*, the *Konig Albert* and the *Prinzess Irene*, among others. Genoa was home port to the *SS Ferruccio*, the *Brig Fortunato* and the *St. Michele*. The port at Palermo, Sicily was also a departure point for some emigres on vessels such as the *Sicilian Prince* and the *SS Letimbro*. For Fresno County Italian Americans, additional memorable ship names might include the

*SS Constitution, the SS Independence, the SS Cristoforo Colombo, the SS Conte Biancamano, the SS Conte di Savoia, the SS Leonardo da Vinci, the SS Michelangelo, the SS Queen Elizabeth, the SS Raffaello and the SS Rex.*

It is now possible to research online many of the ship names and manifests and to trace ancestors back to the actual vessel they boarded for their trip to America.