



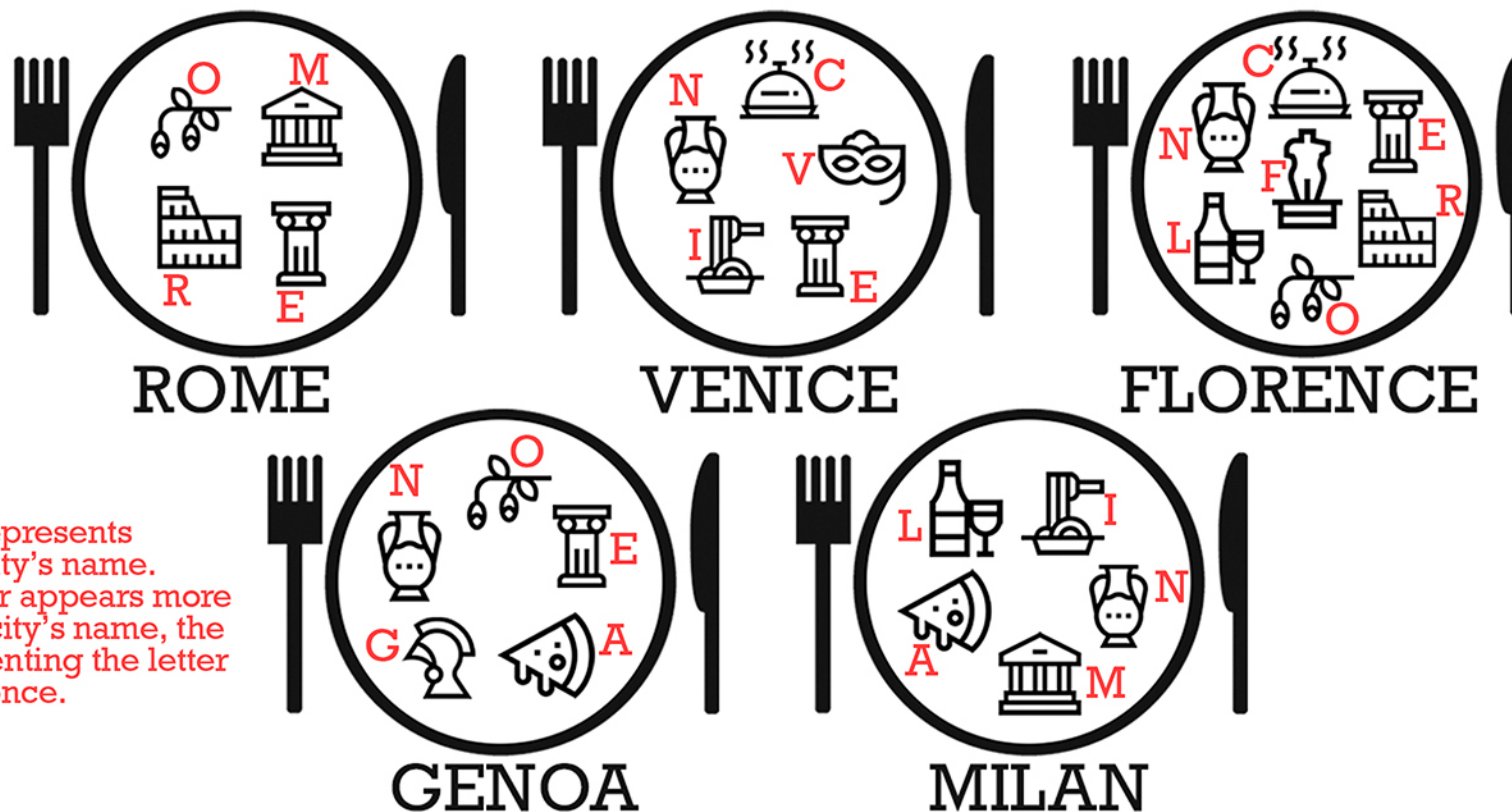
**Puzzled  
Pint** APRIL  
2025

# Puzzled Palate

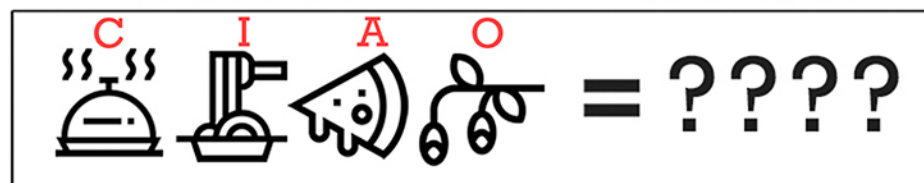


Welcome to The Cruciverba Ristorante! This is the story of a team of four Puzzled Pint-ers who decided to go out for an evening of the finest Italian cuisine in town...along with a little puzzling. There will be wine, salad, pasta and pizza — with puzzling developments along the way, to be sure!

Chef Alfa Betalli makes his gastronomic creations with all the traditions of the old country! Every region of Italy may use many of the same ingredients in their dishes, but Betalli knows they **put them together very differently** to create unique flavors. If you can see the logic in these “ingredients,” you can find the word that will unlock the next location.



Each symbol represents a letter in the city's name.  
NOTE: If a letter appears more than once in a city's name, the symbol representing the letter is only shown once.



**CIAO**



**Puzzled  
Pint** APRIL  
2025

# The Weird Wine List



To start the evening, the waiter pulls out an extensive wine list. The Cruciverba Ristorante acquires its wines exclusively from 13 wineries in the Tuscan region of Italy, marked on the map. Will the map point the way to the answer to an important question?



The letters that must be added,  
based on the clues spell out:  
CONNECT 3-11-10-7-2.

- Chainsaw parts
- Event location
- Fad
- Female relative
- Italy flag color
- King topper
- Southern woman
- Rep
- What waiters do
- ~~Precedes "in"~~
- Precedes "out"

When the dots  
are connected  
the letters within  
the borders  
spell the answer.



How does Abercrombie, a dedicated Puzzled  
Pint-er, solve puzzles with so many great  
Italian vintages to distract him?

**HERE ADS BETWEEN THE WINES**





**Puzzled  
Pint** APRIL  
2025

# Word Salad



The leader of the Puzzled Pint team, Abercrombie, talked about the house salad he had enjoyed last time he was at the restaurant. But, when his salad came, although it seemed to contain the same elements, **each ingredient had been changed slightly and then tossed**, resulting in a salad that did not match the one he was served last time. See below the salad from Abercrombie's last meal (left) and the new salad (right). The ingredients are each represented by a picture on the left, but you'll have to figure out how to use the pictures on the right.

The instructions hint that the words being changed and then tossed. This means one letter of each word on the left was changed and then the letters rearranged to create a new word on the right.

Abercrombie's disappointment in his salad boiled over a bit even though the two salads were so similar. What did he and the chef exchange before resolving the situation?

The letters in "WHAT'S THE ANSWER" represent the letters changed in the words on the left.

WHAT'S THE ANSWER?  
A FEW CROSSWORDS

Each letter in the puzzle's final answer is the one that replaced the letter above it to form the new words on the right.



**Puzzled  
Pint** APRIL  
2025

# Pasta Point of No Return



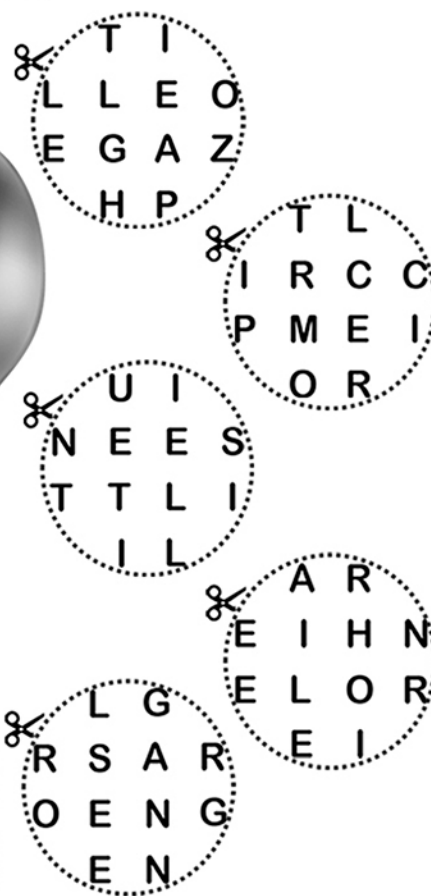
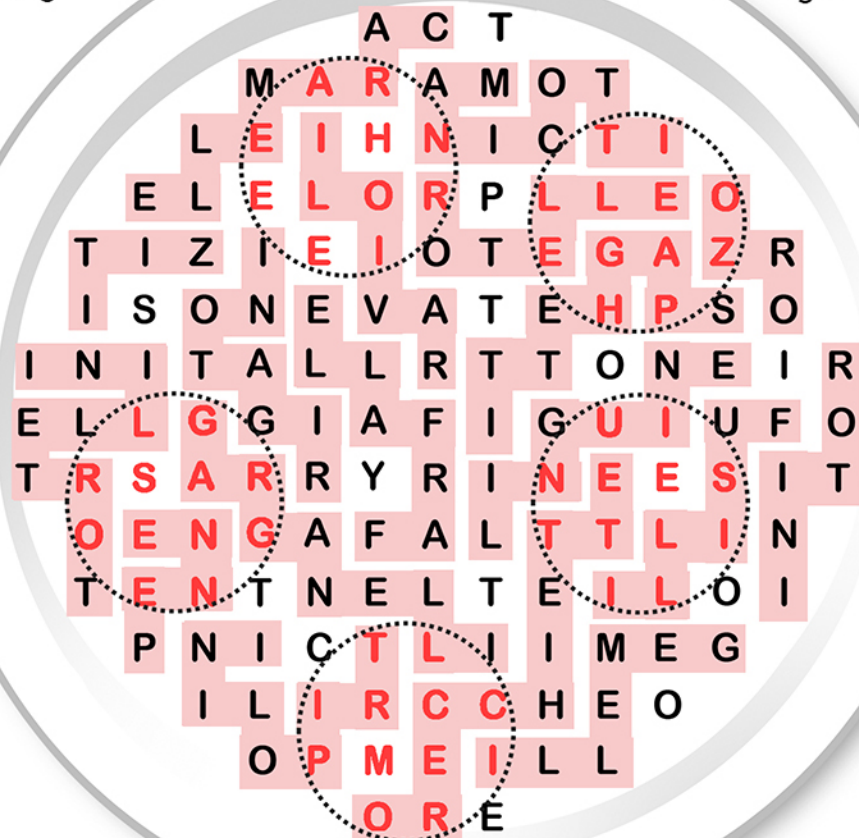
When it came time for the pasta course, Chef Betalli had something unique for his Puzzled Pint guests. It was “puzzlitini,” a concoction of pastas all wound together in a plate, curling and meandering up, down or sideways (never diagonally.) But, **none shared the same “ingredients.”** The pasta was served with a choice of sauces — marinara, cream sauce and one other. What will happen **after** these diners **have their fill**?

## Pastas in puzzlitini:

CARAMELLE  
FARFALLE  
FUSILLI  
GARGANELLI  
GEMELLI  
LINGUINE  
MANICOTTI  
ORECCHIETTE  
ORZO  
PENNE  
RAVIOLI  
RIGATONI  
ROTELLE  
ROTINI  
SPAGHETTI  
TORTELLINI  
TRIPOLINI  
ZITI

The five meatballs must be positioned in the correct locations.

Before serving, Chef Alfa Betalli adds his final touch, five generously-portioned meatballs. Where each meatball goes is up to you, but their contents are needed to solve the tangled pasta puzzle.



When the diners pointed out that they had been promised a choice between three different sauces but only two were served, what did the waiter say excitedly to reassure them?

“THEPESTOISYETTOCOME”



# The Pizza Round Table



It was finally time for the pizza course! The team realized they may have been overly enthusiastic in ordering 13 pizzas, but they looked so good they couldn't resist. That may seem like a waste, but you must understand the situation **from their point of view**. After all 13 pizzas had been sampled, the diners were full and it was rather late, so they **signaled the waiter** to bring the bill.

**"Signaled" is a hint that the semaphore code will be used. "From their point of view" hints you must rotate the puzzle to see the signals from each character's position.**

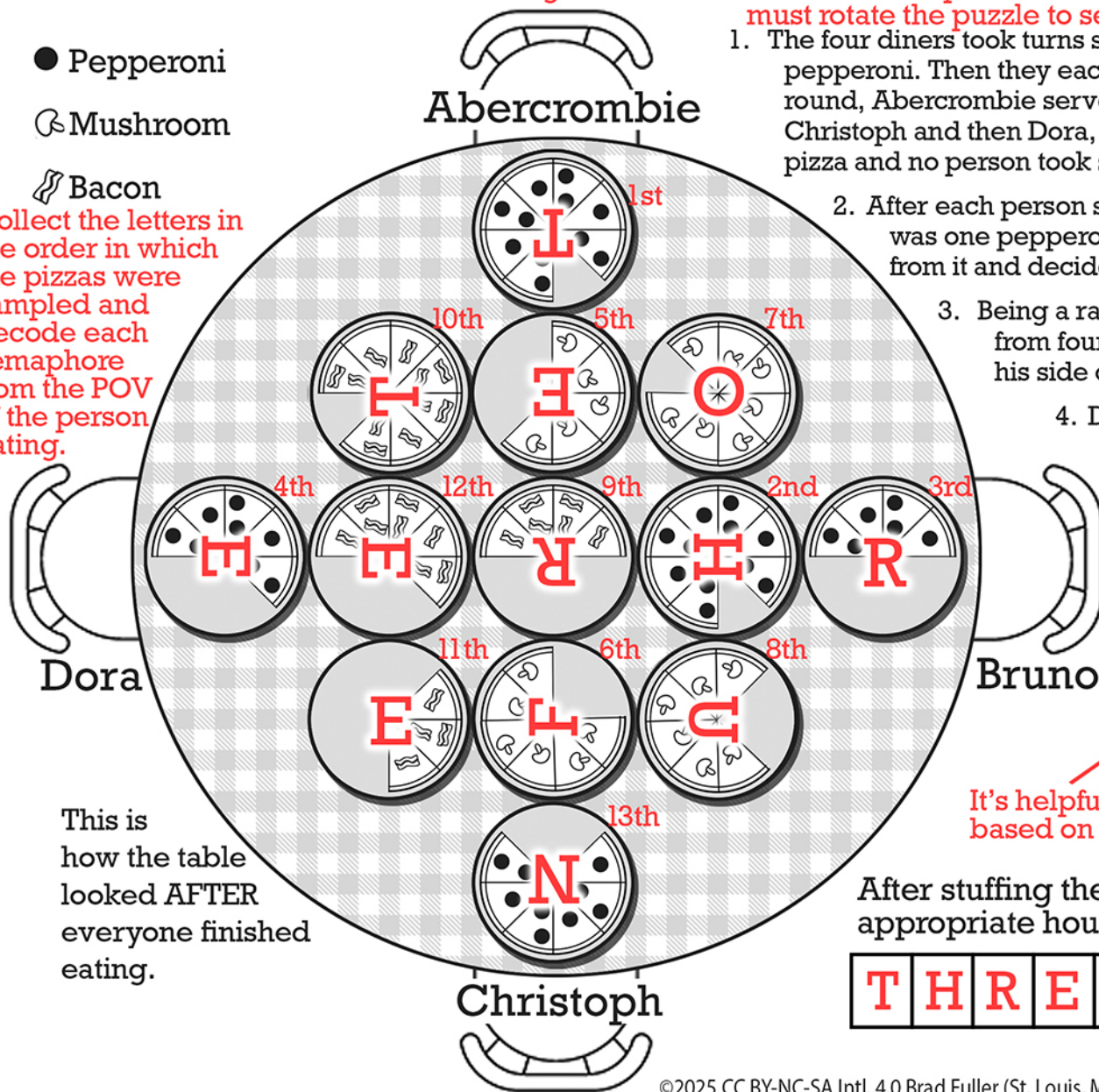
● Pepperoni

☞ Mushroom

☞ Bacon

Collect the letters in the order in which the pizzas were sampled and decode each semaphore from the POV of the person eating.

Abercrombie



1. The four diners took turns serving themselves one or more slices of a pepperoni. Then they each took mushroom and then bacon. During each round, Abercrombie served himself first, always followed by Bruno, Christoph and then Dora, in rotation. Everyone took their slices from a single pizza and no person took slices from a pizza that already had slices missing.

2. After each person sampled all three types of pizza, they found there was one pepperoni pizza untouched. Abercrombie took two slices from it and decided he was full.

3. Being a rather linear person, Abercrombie ate exclusively from four of the five pizzas in a straight line reaching from his side of the table to the other.

4. Dora's slices of pepperoni came from the pizza right in front of her. She also ate two slices of mushroom from a pizza that was closer to Bruno's side of the table than hers.

5. Christoph ate from one of the two mushroom pizzas farthest from his reach.

6. When finished, Abercrombie and Christoph realized they had eaten the exact same amount, more than Dora or Bruno. And, Dora saw she had consumed twice as many slices as Bruno.

**It's helpful to figure out how many slices each person ate based on how many are missing and this clue.**

This is how the table looked AFTER everyone finished eating.

After stuffing themselves, at what late but highly appropriate hour did the four finally leave the restaurant?

**T H R E E - F O U R T E E N**

(The value of pi)



**Puzzled  
Pint** APRIL  
2025



# After Dinner...Now What?



The four diners found they had taken something special from each course of the meal, **fragments** of a wonderful evening. But, all good things come to an end. Dinner was done, so what next? The four Puzzled Pint-ers took advice from the waiter and **spoke up** to order one more indulgence that would make the evening complete.

WHEAT BREAD SOMETIMES SITS IN THEM IN RESTAURANTS  
IN HIS THEORIES, DARWIN ESTABLISHED A LINK BETWEEN THESE  
ARCTIC QUADRIPEDS AND THEIR FOREST-DWELLING ANCESTORS

BASKETS<sup>13</sup>

POLAR<sup>2</sup> BEARS<sup>6</sup>

A SAFE WILL OPEN UP IF YOU HAVE ONE  
KNIGHTS MAY CROSS SWORDS DURING THESE

COMBINATION<sup>10</sup>

DUELS<sup>7</sup>

GRAPE STOMPING IS STILL SOMETIMES USED TO MAKE THEM  
EYETEETH COME IN FRONT OF THEM

WINE<sup>14</sup>S<sup>2</sup>

MOLARS<sup>15</sup>AR<sup>4</sup>S

YOU MAY SEE BUMPS AND SPIKES ON THIS TYPE OF COURT  
THE GREAT SEA REEF IS SEEN NEAR THIS ISLAND NATION

VOLLEY<sup>6</sup>Y<sup>9</sup>BALL

F<sup>16</sup>IJI

Fill in all the words (or fragments of words) from the answers to the four previous puzzles to complete these clues. The numbered letters in your answers on the right can be transferred to the bottom to complete the Meta Puzzle solution.

After a dinner like this, you really need to...

ESPRESSO YOURSELF

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16





Puzzled  
Pint APRIL  
2025



## Just Desserts



Alfa Betalli is preparing a final surprise for this four Puzzled Pint diners, a dessert selection featuring cannoli and amaretti cookies that he wants placed on the serving platter in a very specific way. His staff has learned that he is **very black and white** about how things must be served. **It is either right or it is wrong** and he needs a team **he can count on** to get it right!

Only one arrangement follows the chef's direction without using more than the total number of cannoli (13) and cookies (17) specified.

CHEF ALFA BETALLI'S PRECISE, DETAILED DIRECTIONS:

I placed 2 amaretti cookies and 1 cannoli on this serving platter. Your job is to place the rest... 12 more cannoli ...15 more cookies.

After you place all the desserts, I will artfully add 3 mint leaf garnishes in the first COLUMN and 3 in the last COLUMN. Of course, none of them will be in adjacent spaces and each ROW should contain only 1.

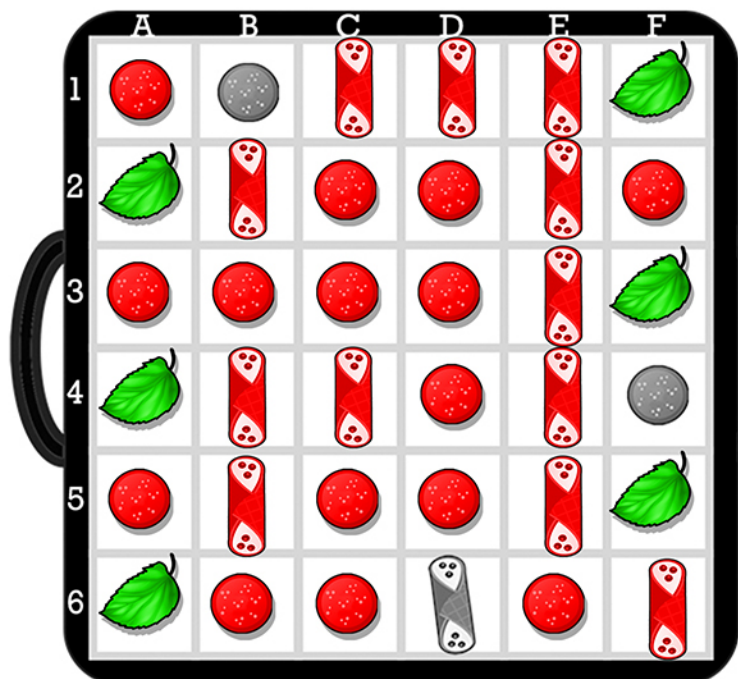
Our guests love cannoli, so I want exactly 3 cannoli in adjacent spots in ROW 1. And 5 cannoli in adjacent spots in COLUMN E. Holy cannoli!

But, ROW 2 should contain only 2 cannoli and they should not be in adjacent spaces. This is also true for ROWS 5 and 6...and COLUMNS C and D.

ROW 3 should contain 4 amaretti cookies...no more, no less.

Do not, I repeat, do not put any cannoli in COLUMN A!

Exactly half of the spaces in COLUMN B should contain cannoli, but only 2 of the cannoli will be in adjacent spaces.



Numbers (rows) and letters (columns) have been added to help you understand the Chef's directions.

Thinking of each cannoli as a numeral one and each cookie as a zero, each row of sweets becomes a letter in binary code that makes up the answer: GRAZIE.

Can you help the poor pastry chef put the right dessert items in the right places on the platter?  
And what is the real meaning of the chef's final course for these diners? (It can be summed up in one word.)