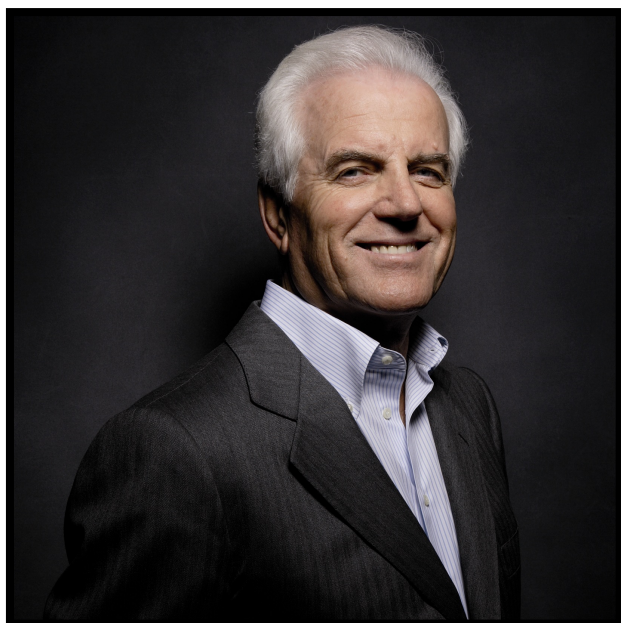


GEI AWARD

October 5, 2017

*Essex House
Grand Ballroom
New York City*

Recipient of the G&T Award 2017



Gilberto Benetton
Chairman of Autogrill

Born in Treviso, Italy, Gilberto Benetton is responsible for staging the diversification of the Benetton family's activities in the retail, infrastructure and real estate sectors during the last 20 years, after setting up the Benetton Group in 1965 as a leader in the fashion industry, together with his sister Giuliana and brothers Luciano and Carlo.

He is Vice-Chairman of Edizione S.r.l., the family holding company, Chairman of Autogrill's Board of Directors (since 1997) and Edizione Property S.p.A., and Board Member of Mediobanca S.p.A. and Atlantia S.p.A.

As part of Edizione, which in 2016 has consolidated revenues of more than 11.5 billion euros and a total population of more than 70,000 people, he oversees all investment activities, both from the financial and real estate point of view.

Edizione Srl is active in the retail sector, mainly with its investments in Benetton and Autogrill, while operating, through its subsidiary Sintonia SpA, in the infrastructure and mobility services sector, with investments in Atlantia (Autostrade for Italy and for airports in Rome). Edizione is also present in the real estate sector through its parent company Edizione Property, an international reality made up of a portfolio of 115 high quality retail properties, of which 55 are in Italy and 57 in the rest of the world. Finally, Edizione is active in the agricultural and hotel sector, as well as holding portfolios, among others, in Mediobanca and Assicurazioni Generali.

As a keen sportsman, Gilberto Benetton has promoted the many sporting initiatives of the companies belonging to the Edizione Group, especially in the youth sector, in social activities and in professional rugby. Through the Benetton Foundation he created La Ghirada, a prominent sports centre in Treviso which opened to all sports enthusiasts in 1982. Since 1988, he has been the Chairman of Verde Sport S.p.A., a company that deals with the management of the multifunctional center of La Ghirada and the organization of its many activities aimed at young people and the area. In addition, he chairs Asolo Golf Club S.r.l., one of the most prestigious golf clubs in Europe.

Program

7:00 p.m.	Reception	Petit Salon
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8:00 p.m.	Gala Dinner	Grand Ballroom
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Welcome Remarks

Lucio Caputo
President of GEI

9:00 p.m.	Presentation of	Grand Ballroom
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2017 GEI AWARD

to

Gilberto Benetton

Chairman of Autogrill

For outstanding achievements in the business sector

10:00 p.m.	Closing Remarks	Grand Ballroom
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Messages
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Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs



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President of Confindustria



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Governor of New York State



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Mayor of New York City



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Ambassador of Italy



*Il Ministro degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale*

173472

Roma, 27 SET. 2017

Gentile Presidente Caputo,

desidero ringraziarLa per l'invito al prestigioso GEI Gala Dinner 2017. Mi piace molto non potervi partecipare e condividere con tutti voi un gioioso momento in cui si celebra e si riconosce lo straordinario contributo dell'imprenditoria italiana e statunitense alle relazioni italo-americane.

Vorrei inviare le mie più vive felicitazioni a Gilberto Benetton, che quest'anno sarà insignito del GEI Award 2017. Il marchio Benetton è sinonimo di innovazione, creatività, genio ed eccellenza dell'industria italiana e del *made in Italy* nel mondo.

La famiglia Benetton ci ha insegnato che non si deve mai rinunciare alla qualità e alla bellezza, anche a costo di sacrifici, perché solo in questo modo si ottengono i grandi successi. Nel tempo, abbiamo tutti preso coscienza del fatto che le nostre imprese non sono soltanto le locomotive della nostra crescita, ma anche un tassello cruciale dell'immagine dell'Italia all'estero.

Rivolgo a Lei un sentito ringraziamento per la costante ed instancabile opera di valorizzazione delle storie di successo degli imprenditori italiani e di origine italiana. Non dimentichiamoci che tantissimi di loro hanno raggiunto importanti traguardi e hanno contribuito ad un salto di qualità dei nostri rapporti bilaterali, anche grazie all'eccezionale impegno della nostra Comunità italo-americana, all'origine della grande amicizia fra l'Italia e gli Stati Uniti e ponte ideale tra i due Paesi.

Con i miei migliori auguri di ogni successo e un cordiale saluto a tutti i partecipanti a questa magnifica serata.

Angelino Alfano

Dottor Lucio Caputo
Presidente
Gruppo Esponenti Italiani
NEW YORK

(English Translation on Page 9)



CONFINDUSTRIA

Il Presidente

Roma, 15 settembre 2017

Caro Lucio,

Ti ringrazio per l'invito a partecipare al Gei Gala Award e mi rincresce di non poter essere con Voi a New York in occasione di questa bella iniziativa. A te in particolare desidero rivolgere le mie congratulazioni per l'impegno e la costanza nel valorizzare i valori e le eccellenze italiane in America.

Ci tengo inoltre a far pervenire le mie congratulazioni a Gilberto Benetton per il prestigioso riconoscimento che gli viene conferito in questa edizione del premio.

I Benetton – la famiglia, l'impresa – sono la più autentica espressione di quel Made in Italy che vince nel mondo e del quale andiamo tanto fieri anche per il contributo che offre alla reputazione dell'industria italiana. Estro, innovazione, organizzazione sono gli ingredienti di un meritato successo.

Come presidente di Confindustria non posso che esprimere una grande soddisfazione per questa giornata speciale che vi auguro di trascorrere con la gioia che iniziative come queste meritano. E colgo l'occasione per salutare tutti i partecipanti, italiani e amici dell'Italia, con l'auspicio di poterlo fare presto di persona.

Vincenzo Boccia


(English Translation on Page 9)



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

October 5, 2017

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to send greetings to everyone gathered for this special event hosted by GEI – Gruppo Esponenti Italiani – at which you pay tribute to Gilberto Benetton.

As a center of international trade and finance, New York State recognizes the importance of fostering and developing positive relationships with countries around the world. Initiatives that promote business, industry, and educational and technological exchange between the United States and Italy are beneficial to our futures and to the lives of our people.

Gruppo Esponenti Italiani is a valuable resource for establishing links for commercial, scientific, and high tech growth and development of various Italian entities here in America, and your membership reflects those entities with a significant and valued presence. Among those distinguished leaders is tonight's special honoree, Gilberto Benetton, recipient of the prestigious GEI Award. I join in congratulating Mr. Benetton on being recognized for his accomplishments that are the hallmark of his various successful business ventures and contributions to forging ties between Italy and America.

As you celebrate this occasion, I likewise commend GEI for its ongoing efforts to promote goods, services, and cultural resources that add to the positive, friendly relations that exist between Italy and the United States, and particularly its strong bonds with New York State.

Warmest regards and best wishes for an enjoyable evening.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Andrew M. Cuomo".

ANDREW M. CUOMO

WE WORK FOR THE PEOPLE
PERFORMANCE ★ INTEGRITY ★ PRIDE



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

October 5, 2017

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to join the Directors of Gruppo Esponenti Italiani in welcoming everyone to its Gala Dinner and Award Ceremony.

New York has long history of welcoming millions of people from around the world, and this tradition of inclusion is exemplified by the thriving population of Italian Americans that has enhanced every facet of life in the five boroughs. Established in 1974, GEI strives to foster cultural and economic exchange between Italy and the United States by hosting events where leaders from a variety of sectors can network and share knowledge, and through its awards program which recognizes Italian and American individuals who have helped to strengthen the bonds between these two great nations. This wonderful organization also gives back to the five boroughs through its support of an Italian school in New York City. As a proud Italian American, I commend GEI's members and supporters for their efforts to unite and uplift Italian New Yorkers and foster economic development in the five boroughs, in Italy, and beyond. Together, we will ensure our global city remains a hub of innovation and opportunity for all.

On behalf of the City of New York, congratulations to this year's honoree, Gilberto Benetton. Please accept my best wishes for a festive evening and continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill de Blasio', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bill de Blasio
Mayor



*Embassy of Italy
Washington*

The Ambassador

September 20, 2017

Thank you for your kind invitation to the GEI Award 2017 to be held in New York in October: I am delighted to accept, and indeed look forward to it.

Let me also take this opportunity to express my warmest congratulations to Gilberto Benetton for this prestigious acknowledgement. The GEI Award testifies his decades-long commitment to the growth, diversification and expansion on a global scale of the group activities. Under his leadership, companies such as *Autogrill* have developed into world leaders in the area of food & beverage service for travelers.

He joins the legacy of a select group of pioneering Italians such as Gianni Agnelli, Sergio Pininfarina and his brother Luciano, all of whom have greatly contributed to the image of Italy worldwide. I am therefore all the more convinced that GEI's choice of Gilberto Benetton as the recipient of the 2017 award is particularly fitting, and indicative of the company's outlook and forward-looking vision. I remain,

Armando Varricchio

Mr. Lucio Caputo
Presidente
Gruppo Esponenti Italiani
New York City, NY

Translation of Message from Angelino Alfano, Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs

I wish to thank you for inviting me to the prestigious GEI Gala Dinner 2017. I am very sorry I could not participate and share with you all a joyous moment in which the extraordinary contribution of the Italian and American entrepreneurs to the Italo-American relations is celebrated and recognized. I wish to send my warmest congratulations to Gilberto Benetton, who this year will be bestowed the GEI Award 2017. The Benetton brand is synonymous with innovation, creativity, genius, and excellence of the Italian industry and of the the made in Italy in the world.

The Benetton family has taught us that one should never renounce quality and beauty, even if this implies sacrifices, because only in this way can great success be obtained. Over time, we have all realized that our enterprises are not only the locomotives of our growth, but also a crucial part of the Italian image abroad.

I extend to you a heartfelt thanks for the constant and tireless work of emphasizing the success story of entrepreneurs who are Italian or of Italian origin. Let us not forget that many of them have reached important goals and have contributed to the improvement of our bilateral relations, thanks also to the exceptional commitment of our Italo-American Community, which is the source of the great friendship between Italy and United States as well as the ideal bridge between the two countries. With my best wishes for every success and a cordial greeting to all the participants at this magnificent evening.

Translation of Message from Vincenzo Boccia, President of Confindustria

I wish to thank you for inviting me to participate in the Gei Gala Award and I am very sorry not to be able to be with you all in New York on the occasion of this beautiful event. To you in particular, I wish to direct my congratulations for the constant commitment in emphasizing Italian values and excellence in America.

I wish also to send my congratulations to Gilberto Benetton for the prestigious recognition that will be bestowed on him in this edition of the award.

The Benetton - the family, the enterprise - are the most authentic expressions of Made in Italy that wins the world over and of which we are so proud, also for the contribution that offers to the reputation of Italian industry. Inspiration, innovation, organization are the ingredients of a well-deserved success.

As president of Confindustria (General Confederation of Italian Industry) I can only express a great satisfaction for this special day which I hope you spend with the joy that initiatives like these deserve. I take this occasion to salute all the participants, Italians and friends of Italy, with the hope of being able to do it soon in person.

The GEI Award



GEI stands for “Gruppo Esponenti Italiani,” the Group of Italian Representatives. Founded in 1974, the GEI is an association of representatives from the main Italian entities operating in the United States. GEI’s Honorary Members are the Ambassador of Italy to the United States, the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations, and the Consul General of Italy in New York.

The Group’s most high-profile event is the presentation of the “GEI Award” to Italians and Americans for their outstanding contributions to furthering relations between the two countries. A selection of highly qualified guests from the worlds of economics, business, finance and media attend the award ceremony. The speeches of the honorees and the audience’s response receive extensive media coverage in the United States and Italy, thereby making the event an important venue for promoting the image of Italy.

Past recipients are: Gianni **Agnelli**, Biagio **Agnes**, Robert E. **Allen**, Luciano **Benetton**, Guido **Carli**, Carlo Azeglio **Ciampi**, Emilio **Colombo**, Mario **Cuomo**, Claudio **Del Vecchio**, Amalia Ercoli **Finzi**, Pier Francesco **Guarguaglini**, John O. **Grettenberger**, Edward M. **Kennedy**, Emma **Marcegaglia**, Vittorio **Merloni**, Leonardo **Mondadori**, Mario **Monti**, Gian Marco **Moratti**, Giorgio **Napolitano**, Umberto **Nordio**, Corrado **Passera**, Luciano **Pavarotti**, Sandro **Pertini**, Sergio **Pininfarina**, Leontyne **Price**, Alessandro **Profumo**, Marco **Tronchetti Provera**, David **Rockefeller**, Renato **Ruggero**, Massimo **Sarmi**, Paolo **Scaroni**, Marvin S. **Traub**, Bruno **Vespa**, Roberto **Vittori**, and Ellen **Wolff**.

GEI would like to thank all the members and friends who contributed to the success of the GEI Award 2017, and in particular Ambassador Daniele Bodini of ACP Group, Mr. Luca Balestra of UniCredit, Mr. Biagio Calabrese of Banca Intesa Sanpaolo, Mr. Riccardo Legnaro of Palm Bay International, Mr. Paul Chibe of Ferrero USA and Mr. Noel Lateef of the Foreign Policy Association.

The members of GEI – a forum dedicated to the advancement of Italian business, science and culture in the United States – are the following leading executives:

Honorary Members:

Armando Varricchio
Ambassador of Italy

Sebastiano Cardi
Permanent Representative to the UN

Francesco Genuardi
Consul General of Italy

Lucio Caputo
Italian Wine & Food Institute

Paul Chibe
Ferrero USA

Vincenzo Ciancio
Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena

Luca Ciarrocca
Wall Street Investments

Giampaolo Pioli
Quotidiano Nazionale

Elena Pirondini
UN Population Fund

Diego Rodino' di Miglione
Cushman & Wakefield

Stefano Schiavello
Deloitte

Members:

Stefano Acunto
CINN

Marco Ausenda
Rizzoli International Publications

Luca Balestra
UniCredit

Daniele Bodini
ACP Group

Diana Bracco
Bracco

Giuseppe Brusa
GC Consultants

Biagio Calabrese
Banca Intesa Sanpaolo

Mario Calvo-Platero
Il Sole 24 Ore

Claudio Del Vecchio
Brooks Brothers

Frank Desiderio
GDLSK

Nicholas Gravante
Boies, Schiller & Flexner

Gisella Levi Caroti
Herzfeld & Rubin

Giovanni Majnoni
Banca d'Italia

Benedetto Mencaroni Poiani
Alitalia

Luciano Moresco
Luciano Moresco & Co.

George Pavia
Pavia & Harcourt

Giovanni Spinelli
Pavia & Harcourt

Giorgio Van Straten
Italian Cultural Institute of NY

Francesca Verga
La Scuola d'Italia

Enzo Viscusi
ENI

Alberto Zamperla
Zamperla USA

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Carlo A. Bertozzi

Carlo Badioli

Carlo Romairone

Gianni Sellers

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Treasurer: Luca Balestra

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