

IL LAURO D'ORO

THE HISTORY

The **Lauro d'Oro** (The Golden Laurel) is one of the oldest and most prestigious literary contests dedicated to poetry in the Ligurian language. Founded in 1958 in Genoa by the **Circolo Folcloristico Mario Cappello**, it has played a fundamental role in valuing, preserving, and promoting the local poetic and linguistic heritage, especially during a period when the Italian language was becoming predominant to the detriment of local dialects. Over time, its participants have included poets who later achieved popularity, as well as countless enthusiasts and scholars of local knowledge who nonetheless contributed to spreading such an important part of our culture. The jury has always been composed of eminent figures from the Genoese university, theatrical, cultural, and artistic spheres. The number of participants in the contest grew over the years, and by 1996, its administrative duties required the organizational support of the Genoa-based association **A Compagna**.

The prize continued up to its 39th edition in 2016, consistently under the patronage of the Municipality of Genoa and the Liguria Region. It was then paused due to the excessive administrative workload resulting from a growing number of participants, which by then exceeded 120 individuals.

The current edition, the 40th, is organized on the initiative of the **Consulta Ligure delle Associazioni per la Cultura, le Arti, le Tradizioni e la difesa dell'Ambiente E.T.S.**, to which the two aforementioned associations are also affiliated. This edition represents an international relaunch, with the objective of promoting the Ligurian language across its various dialects as the common thread of the region's culture and its people. This focus extends beyond poetry into prose, and expands from the local Ligurian territory to include Ligurian cultural communities scattered across the globe.

With the author's consent, the best works will be published on a dedicated **Ligurian Wikipedia page (lij.Wikipedia.org)** featuring the audio of the text. In this way, we will achieve an international showcase of authors, texts, and dialects that remains unalterable by third parties thanks to the accompanying audio recordings.

For this reason, from now on, the **Lauro d'Oro** will be known as the “**International Poetry and Prose Prize in Ligurian Dialects**”, aiming to build a global cultural bridge among all Ligurians, making them feel closer to one another and to that narrow strip of land that was once at the center of the world. Alongside the jurors, the award ceremony will host national cultural authorities, regional and municipal representatives, and the presidents of the most prominent Ligurian cultural associations. A live online link with the **Asociación Genovesa Argentina Carboneros Unidos in Buenos Aires**—where a representative office of the **Consulta Ligure** is located—will showcase to participants the ongoing relations with Ligurians in Latin America.