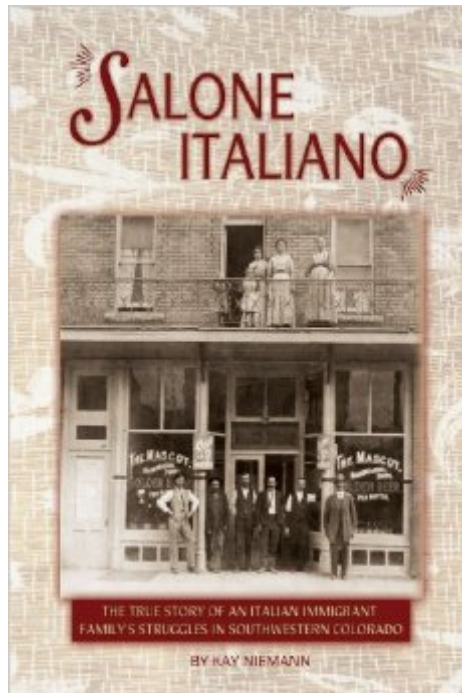


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# Salone Italiano: The True Story Of An Italian Immigrant Family's Struggles In Southwestern Colorado



## Synopsis

As much a historical account as it is a novel, *Salone Italiano* is the fascinating tale of the lives and loves of the Sartore family, who exchanged their peaceful European existence for a life of both hope and hardship as immigrants living in the legendary mining town of Silverton, Colorado. Old world customs and traditions collide with the family's newfound American lifestyle. Racial tensions reach such a fever pitch that, when romance begins to flourish, even murder is considered to keep lovers from crossing the line into segregated territory. The saga of the Sartore family is steeped in historical detail and rich in drama. *Salone Italiano* is based almost entirely on actual letters written by members of the family at the beginning of the twentieth century to relatives in Italy. Many of the family's historic photographs also illustrate the book. Experience this little-known chapter of American history first-hand by vicariously witnessing the lives of true Colorado pioneers that are often forgotten in the annals of history.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 1 - 17 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 12

## Customer Reviews

A historical novel with impeccable attention to background detail, Kay Niemann's *Salone Italiano* is based upon the true story of an immigrant family's efforts to survive and make a life for themselves in the southwestern Colorado mining towns of Silverton and Durango. Based almost entirely on actual letters written by members of the family, *Salone Italiano* reads with the fluidity of a fine masterpiece as it chronicles Angelina Sartore's struggle to keep the family together, Katie Sartore's

forbidden romance with a member of a rival immigrant colony, to Phil Sartore's love affair with a well-known local prostitute, the threat of danger and gunfire, and more. A fascinating glimpse into daily life, triumphs, and travails of the distant past.

In the midst of the steaming immigration issues moving across our nation, I was happy to receive *Salone Italiano* by Kay Niemann, a timely read with old fashioned ideas about what it is to become an American. The book chronicles an Italian immigrant family during the late 1800's, as they settle in the area of Silverton, Colorado. Back then, immigrants came to the USA to become Americans. This group worked hard (without the support of social programs) to learn English and move their label from Italian-Americans to American citizens. The whole concept of assimilation may be out of date and considered anti-diversity, but even Martha Stewart could probably find social blending to be "a good thing."

This book is absolutely excellent!! I read it in two days, I could not put it down. Every page was extraordinary it grabbed my attention and would not let it go. The characters just leaped off the page they were so real I could not believe it. Even though I am not from the old I could relate to these characters. It is an American story that any family could relate to. If you are an American and have struggled in this country to make a life for yourself you can relate to this story. Great read especially the love story.

I was born in Colorado but have not been anywhere near my home state in far too many years. Perhaps as a result, my interest in the history of Colorado in particular, and the West in general, has been increasing for quite some time now, and *SALONE ITALIANO* provides another small and fascinating piece of the puzzle. History is not so much an epic image as it is more like a photomontage, a whole made up of a mosaic of innumerable smaller images, and Ms. Niemann's tale is a thoughtful exploration of a time and place not really that distant and not that long ago. *SALONE ITALIANO* is a novelized history of the counterpoised Italian communities who shared Durango and Silverton in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It is a structure well and truly imagined on a foundation of memoir and recorded fact, and its people and events bring the West of our grandparents' time back to new and colorful life.

Incredible story about a real family surviving and building a life in the high altitude little mining town of Silverton, CO. Exciting, well researched and written.

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