



What others are saying about *The Poet, The Count, and The Peddler*

“As a college professor and a book reviewer, I always have 3 or 4 books going at the same time. I was reading a non-fiction book, a political thriller, and the new Harry Potter book. I had to set them all aside because I started reading Tony Bottagaro's "The Poet, the Count, and the Peddler" and I could not put it down. Even after I finished my journey through the wondrous world Tony creates here, I still could not put it down.”

Dr. Robert J. Pugel
Associate Professor Emeritus-English
University of Colorado

“I strongly recommend this book to everyone interested in justice—and especially every American of Italian heritage should—no, must read this book.”

Joe Martori
Chairman and CEO
ILX Resorts, Inc.

“For those of us in the Italian and Italian-American communities, the kick-off event for Tony Bottagaro's *The Poet, the Count, and the Peddler* was a tremendous success on multiple levels. Tony is a captivating speaker, and his gathering brought together Italian organizations as well as business and political leaders from throughout the community. His story is told in enlightening historical context—through the experiences of an immigrant—and his quest for simple pleasures, truth, and liberty strikes a chord with anyone who has ever faced a moral dilemma or given thought to the ultimate destination of the road less traveled.”

Anthony Bonacci
Honorary Vice Consul of Italy for Arizona

“Our organization is committed to exploring the unity and interconnection between culture, the environment, and the human spirit. To this end we have hosted dozens of speakers and authors, and I can say unequivocally that Anthony Bottagaro's reading from *The Poet, the Count, and the Peddler* stands out as a remarkably moving and magical event. Anthony conveys a wisdom and compassion that is rare in this world. His stories transport the audience through time and space; through a world of moral dilemmas, of simple joys, of fear, and of reckoning. Anthony is on a mission to use the power of words to transform the world as we know it, and humanity and this planet will be all the better for his efforts.”

Jonathan Duncan
Executive Director, Institute of EcoTourism; Sedona, Arizona

“Tony Bottagaro captures a beautiful slice of the American immigrant experience, the grit, courage, tragedy and triumphs, and spins a compelling tale of Mario's life-journey from his childhood home in Sicily to the streets of Little Italy. *The Poet, The Count, and The Peddler* is a

modern day allegory with an important message for our time.”

Carol Colombo

Founder, Axon Capital, LLC

“...a provocative and unforgettable story of a courageous man who dared to act on his convictions!”

Captain Lawrence Green (USN, Ret.)

“Anthony Bottagaro's novel *The Poet, the Count, and the Peddler* truly reflects the cultural history of the Italians, especially of Sicilians in New York's Little Italy. The actions of his hero, Mario, virtually echo the author's own actions in that they demonstrate one man's devotion to divine love, compassion, truth, liberty, freedom, human rights, and peace among all peoples and nations of the world.

“Mario courageously challenges moral and material corruption in the government and the moral and spiritual corruption in the Church. He revels in fulfilling his purpose in life—in his crusade against corruption and injustice.

“Norwegian dramatist Henrik Ibsen ended his play “An Enemy of the People” with the profound words: “The strongest man in the world is he who stands most alone.” Bottagaro gives us in Mario a strong character who courageously stands “most alone” in his battle against injustice, greed, and corruption.”

Mark A. Roy, Ph.D.

former Advocate for Administrative Justice in the United Nations

Human Rights Advocate

“This is a novel that epitomizes the finest elements of real liberalism that values the oppressed and reveals the oppressors.”

Donald J. Humphrey

Retired trial lawyer