

## 2023: 15<sup>th</sup> ASITAF Birthday

The year started with another sad event. On January 3rd, just back from Novi Ligure for the sad farewell to Luigi Bussolino, the unexpected news arrived that also had just passed away Walter Cunningham, honorary member of ASITAF since 2011.



Besides being a dear old friend, Walt was one of the heroes who in 1967 had space-tested the first Apollo spacecraft, **Apollo 7**, paving the way .to the conquest of the Moon.

We celebrated the 15<sup>th</sup> ASITAF birthday in the frame of BergamoFil 2023 where we also set up our booth, and we held the ordinary annual ASITAF meeting participated by many Founder Members.



*from left: Franco Maffioli, Massimo Massetti, Franco Mauri, Massimo Trenta, Umberto Cavallaro, Pietro Della Maddalena, Luigi Festa, Andrea Poli, Francesco Brusca,*



The commemorative card was designed by our Member the artist Alec Bartos, and was signed by all the Asitaf Member who participated in the meeting in Bergamo..





## The first cover flown in space with Virgin Galactic

During the Galactic 01 suborbital mission – the mission that saw Italy as the protagonist on June 29, 2023 and inaugurated the launch of Virgin Galactic's commercial flight programme – the first cover to reach space with Virgin Galactic officially flew on the SS2 spacecraft, with the approval of the Italian Air Force General Staff (This will predictably also be the only one for a long time).

## SPACELAB turns 40 - ITALY's quality leap INTO SPACE

On November 28 was solemnly celebrated at the Turin headquarters of Thales Alenia Space Italia the 40th anniversary of SPACELAB, the space laboratory that catapulted Italy into space. The first mission in 1983 was a complete success; the Pressurized Module, built in Turin by AERITALIA Gruppo Sistemi Spaziali, performed as expected, and the experiments, mostly European, including five Italian, yielded excellent results. The Spacelab modules flew on the Shuttle 22 times between 1981 and 1998.



*November 28 2023 - Walter Cugno delivers the Certificate to Prof. Ernesto Vallerani*

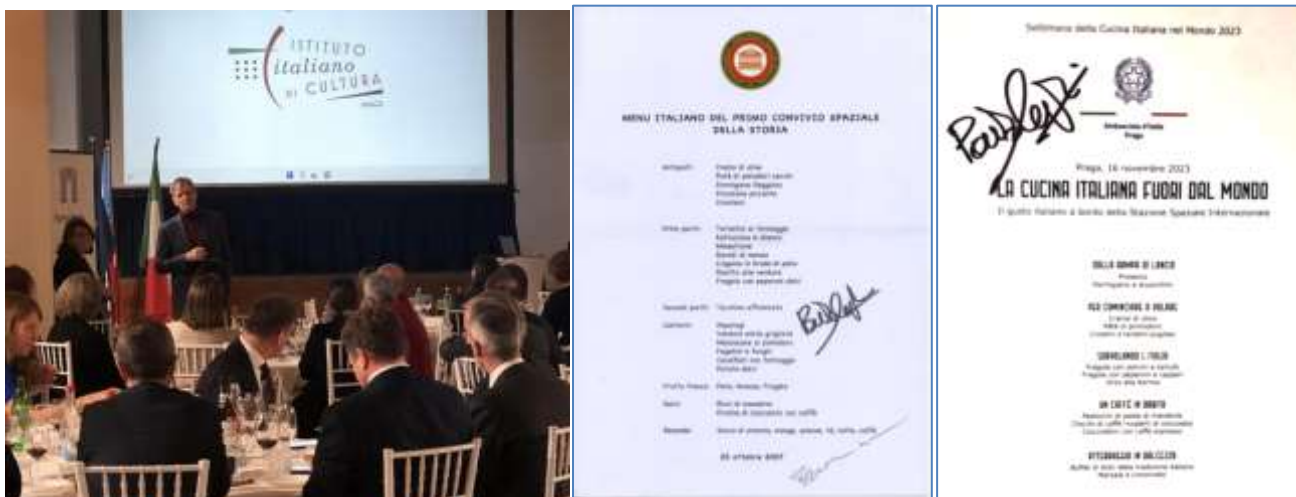
After being in Adeje (Tenerife) and Turin (ALTEC), the ASITAF spacefood exhibit moved to Athens, with the travelling exhibition NASA LIFE IN SPACE.





## Italian Cuisine out of this World

On November 16, ASITAF participated in the event "Italian Cuisine out of this World," organized by the Italian Embassy in Prague as part of the 8th edition of the Week of Italian Cuisine in the World, an initiative promoted annually by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, in collaboration with numerous partners, with the aim of promoting abroad Italian food and wine excellence.



During the dinner/conference, dishes from Italian companies specifically prepared for the International Space Station were served. The evening's guest of honor was Paolo Nespoli, who shared stories, anecdotes, and curiosities about food in space.

AS.IT.AF. donated the exhibition panels on "spacefood" which were displayed during the event and later donated to the Ustavni Italian-Czech High School in Prague.



*Paolo Nespoli meets with Mauro Ruggiero (Italian Institute of Culture), Claudio Pucci (Italian Academy of Cuisine in Prague) and Umberto Cavallaro*

## NSE newspace economy in ROME

At the end of the year, we participated by invitation, with our stand, at the NSE event (New Space Economy) held at Fiera di Roma from 5 to 7 December, where we also commemorated the 40th anniversary of Spacelab.

