

25 June 2023

Dear evaluators of this UCCN application,

It is my honor to endorse the qualifications of Vico Equense, Italy, for designation as a Creative City of Gastronomy. The cultural and culinary assets of the city are abundant and distinguish the community on a global level. Their proposed initiatives will be valuable contributions to the objectives of the UCCN and provide models of best practices for other cities in the Network.

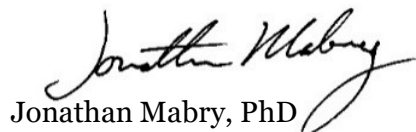
Vico Equense, on the Sorrento Coast in southern Italy, is a popular tourist destination due to the beauty and wealth of the area's natural resources and thriving cultural landscapes. The 13 villages that make up VE, located both close to the coast and on the slopes of Mount Faito, have a rich culinary legacy and food culture influenced by both terrestrial and marine biodiversity. Pizza a Metro and Provolone del Monaco (DOP cheese) are two innovations that have already gained global recognition, and five products among the local wine, oil, cheese, nuts, and lemons are protected by geographical indications.

The city is a significant hub for Italian creative gastronomy, food tourism, and culinary education. It has over 400 gastronomic businesses in just 30 sq km, several Michelin-starred restaurants, the best Italian ice cream artisan, dozens of culinary events throughout the year, and over 500,000 foreign visitors annually. Vico Equense is known as the "City of Chefs" because of its top-notch culinary school, which has produced some of Italy's most acclaimed and Michelin-starred chefs. These chefs are recognized as international ambassadors for the Mediterranean Diet and the local cuisine's healthy and sustainable model because they have merged traditional knowledge with cutting-edge cooking techniques.

With the proposed action plan, the city will contribute to the Network's goals by: 1) exchanging best practices regarding production quality and traditional methods; 2) involving Creative Cities in a professional development training program that leverages a distinctive food production landscape; and 3) developing a showcase of global food excellence and knowledge banks that promotes UCCN values through cooperative exchanges.

For these reasons, Tucson UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy strongly supports Vico Equense's UCCN application and looks forward to developing collaborative partnerships and exchanges with this city with many unique assets and creative ideas in the field of gastronomy.

Kind regards,



Jonathan Mabry, PhD
Focal point, Tucson UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy