

2021

ill. Mirella Moretti



2021 THE ITALIAN WOLF: BEST WISHES TO EVERYONE

*A success story is always the result
of teamwork*

Each country in the world is symbolized by an animal: many have eagles, bulls and lions, others have oystercatchers, "unicorns", red admirals, carp, and even ladybugs. The Italian national symbolic animal is the Italian wolf (*Canis lupus italicus*), which is also the oldest wolf species from a genetic point of view. In fact, studies of molecular biology and genetic analyses of wolves from various epochs have demonstrated that the Apennine Wolf (*Canis lupus italicus*) possesses a unique mitochondrial haplotype that is not shared by dogs or other species of wolf, but which is found in prehistoric wolves from the Upper Pleistocene. Contrary to the popular conception of the "big, bad wolf", these animals live together in highly organized groups that mirror the most efficient forms of business and social structures, where the common good is the single most important factor. Discipline and team spirit, flexibility, the capacity to adapt and the ability to act rapidly combine to form a single quality: the great resilience of the wolf.

In the wake of 2020, a hard year for everyone due to the pandemic, which was particularly difficult for Italy, but during which the fight against Covid 19 highlighted the human, cultural and scientific attributes of the Italian people, it seems only right that we should dedicate our calendar for the year 2021 to our beloved Italy and its "old" wolf, a social animal capable of living and working together in groups, overcoming hardships and adversity through determination and consolidating its place, like us, both in the environment and in history.

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