Allora: literally meaning "then," allora is yet another word that takes on more meaning to Italians. It is often used as a "bridge" word, like "um" or "so" in English.

The Basilica Cafaggio Chianti Classico is a chianti (a mild red wine made in Tuscany) that you can find for $10 at Costco! It will also pair well with cacio e pepe.

Italy is actually a younger country than the United States! Italy, as we know it today, was not united under a single national government until 1861, after a long period of social upheaval known as Risorgimento, or "resurgence"
CACIO E PEPE

Cacio e pepe is a delicious and cheesy recipe made with simple ingredients. You'll need:
- 2 cups of Pecorino Romano cheese, grated
- 1 1/2 tablespoons of freshly ground black pepper (or more, up to you!)
- One box of spaghetti or bucatini pasta
- Salt for the pasta water
- 1-1/2 cups of pasta water

Generously salt a pot of water for the pasta. Once you’ve cooked the pasta (al dente), save the pasta water. Roast the pepper in a pan for thirty seconds or until fragrant, then add one cup of pasta water and bring it to a simmer.

Add the pasta to the pan and let sit for thirty seconds. Add a ladle of pasta water to the grated cheese before adding it to the pasta so it becomes paste-like. Turn off the heat and add the cheese paste to the pasta and stir until fully incorporated (be patient!), adding more pasta water when needed.
Fitting of its presence on the Adriatic sea, Venezia has a long history of frequent *acqua alta*, the term that they use to describe the periodic flooding, which literally means "high water."

*L'acqua alta* is not a result of aggressive storms, like hurricanes, but in fact are a periodic aspect of Adriatic tides, and occur usually in Spring and Autumn.

**1966**

The most infamous of the *acque alte* occurred in 1966, when tidal forces, excess rain, and Mediterranean winds caused the tides to rise 6 and a half feet, leaving thousands homeless and causing millions in damage.

**DI RECENTE**

In November of 2019, the city again suffered historic *acque alte*. Many city officials devised new ways to protect against future floods which will only be exacerbated by climate change, including a massive, billion euro dam project.