

Stefano Pelinga Inducted Into National Italian American Sports Hall Of Fame!

Stefano Pelinga, a five-time World Champion in Artistic Pool, has been inducted into the National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame. In the presence of approximately 500 VIP guests and many sports stars, including the likes of Tommy Lasorda, Mike Piazza, Tony Esposito and Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini, Stefano was awarded this honor, becoming a member of this group of legendary Italian Americans. Also inducted that evening were former World Boxing Middleweight Champion Vito Antuofermo, World Series Champion John Smoltz, Stanley Cup champion Mark Recchi, Olympic Medalist Alicia Sacramone, New Jersey Devils CEO and GM Lou Lamoriello, GM of the Los Angeles Dodgers Ned Colletti, President of Comcast SportsNet Chicago Jim Corno and the Venturini Family (Venturini Motorsports). All of them, together with Stefano, are extremely proud and humbled to represent the Class of 2012.

Past NIASHF Hall of Famers include Joe DiMaggio, Rocky Marciano, Jake LaMotta, Mario Andretti, Lou Ferrigno, Franco Columbu, Vince Lombardi and Willie Mosconi...to name just a few! This year was a special occasion for NIASHF as it celebrated its 35th anniversary since its founding by George Randazzo in 1977.

Stefano, now residing in Las Vegas, Nevada, hails from Rome, Italy, where he had served since 1985 as a police officer for the Italian government (Polizia di Stato), until his retirement in 2011. He began to play

pool at the age of 12, drawing inspiration from his favorite singer and actor, Dean Martin.

Stefano won several titles in Italy in straight pool and nine-ball throughout the late 1970s and 1980s. In 1990, he devoted himself entirely

but a true idol for fans of this exciting game worldwide, earning the nicknames "Mr. Trick Shots" and "Il Maestro" from his loyal fans.

Stefano has given the sport considerable international exposure by performing

exhibitions, organizing competitions and raising funds for a variety of charitable organizations with his personal appearances. He has been featured for over ten years in prestigious ESPN televised trick shot championships, as well as in articles and on the covers of publications around the globe.

In addition to having won several international titles, Stefano's achievements in other facets of the sport have been remarkable. He produced best-selling instructional videos and he was appointed official instructor of cue sports by FIBIS (Italian Billiards Federation) and CONI (Italian Olympic Committee). He was also awarded the honorary title of Professor of Sport Games by the University of Kharkov (Ukraine). Stefano has a huge repertoire of Trick Shots and is able to execute more than 1,000 unique and "fancy" shots.

Due to his outstanding achievements, Stefano is recognized worldwide as one of the greatest

Trick Shot champions in the history of the sport, and has also earned a spot in ESPN's Trick Shot Magic Hall of Fame.



Stefano Pelinga with former inductees Ray Mancini (above) and Tommy LaSorda (below).



to "Artistic Pool," commonly referred to in its practice as "Trick Shots." In a few years, Stefano became not only the reference point