

affaritaliani.it

A news site that primarily covers Italian politics and international news.

Ownership and Financing

Affaritaliani.it is owned by Uomini e Affari srl, a private company based in Milan, whose founder and editor-in-chief, Angelo Maria Perrino, is the majority shareholder with 90 percent. Luca Greco is the CEO and he owns 10 percent of the site.

The site generates revenue through advertising and sponsored content.

Content

Affaritaliani.it primarily publishes news on Italian politics, along with coverage of economics, foreign affairs, entertainment and sports. The site also covers local news in Rome, Milan, and the Apulia region.

Typical headlines include "Migrants, agreement in Malta: 5 points. Lamorgese [Italian Minister of the Interior]: voluntary rotation of ports" ("Migranti, accordo a Malta: 5 punti. Lamorgese: rotazione volontaria dei porti"); "Germany, European rules and Lagarde. Draghi's testament to growth" ("Germania, regole europee e Lagarde. Il testamento di Draghi per la crescita"); and "Communism is not Nazism. But the real criminal project is the EU" ("Il comunismo non è come il nazismo. Ma il vero progetto criminale è l'Ue").

The website publishes more than 80 blogs, including Lampi del pensiero, written by nationalist philosopher Diego Fusaro; Cose Nostre, written by Perrino; and The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly (Il Buono, il brutto e il cattivo) by the architect Maurizio de Caro. Blogs are generally dedicated to a specific topic (such as law, art, health), while others primarily host authors' opinions.

Credibility

Affaritaliani.it's content includes originally reported articles and stories that often reference reliable sources such as academic research, credible wire



This website generally maintains basic standards of credibility and transparency—with significant exceptions.

Score: 70/100

- ✓ Does not repeatedly publish false content (22 points)
- ✓ Gathers and presents information responsibly (18)
- ✗ Regularly corrects or clarifies errors (12.5)
- ✗ Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly (12.5)
- ✓ Avoids deceptive headlines (10)
- ✓ Website discloses ownership and financing (7.5)
- ✓ Clearly labels advertising (7.5)
- ✓ Reveals who's in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest (5)
- ✗ The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information (5)

Criteria are listed in order of importance.

[More information.](#)

services and reliable news organizations such as Adnkronos. Headlines generally reflect articles' content.

However, the site has published inaccurate or unsubstantiated claims. In early 2020, Affaritaliani.it published two articles advancing false information about the Wuhan coronavirus outbreak. A January 2020 story, titled "Coronavirus: 'Engineered by the military, already 9 thousand dead'. Viral audio on WhatsApp". ("Coronavirus: 'Creato da militari, già 9mila i morti'. L'audio virale su wap [WhatsApp]"), stated that the virus was "engineered by a military laboratory in China," using as a source an "anonymous WhatsApp audio message."

There is no evidence that the virus originated in a lab. A February 2020 report by the World Health Organization said, "increasing evidence demonstrates the link between the 2019-nCoV [Wuhan coronavirus] and other similar known coronaviruses (CoV) circulating in bats." A study published the same month in Nature found that the virus is "96% identical at the whole-genome level to a bat coronavirus." Rutgers University chemical biology professor Richard Ebright also told the Washington Post that "based on the virus genome and properties there is no indication whatsoever that it was an engineered virus."

A February 2020 story titled "Coronavirus has always existed. It is treated with the drug AntiCD13" ("Coronavirus, esiste da sempre. Si cura con il farmaco AntiCD13") stated that the coronavirus can be "cured with the AntiCD13".

The site provided no evidence that the AntiCD13 antibody can treat the Wuhan coronavirus. As of March 2020, both the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization have said there is no known cure for the strain of coronavirus in the 2020 outbreak.

NewsGuard also found that the site has published unsubstantiated conspiracy theories in the past, such as a 2015 article that claimed trails left by airplanes are

not condensation, but dangerous chemicals, known as the "chemtrails" conspiracy theory.

Had NewsGuard found stories that advance false theories more frequently on Affaritaliani.it, it would have determined that the website does not gather and present information responsibly. However, because these articles represent an exception to the majority of the website's content, NewsGuard has determined that the website does not fall short of meeting its standard.

The site does not articulate a corrections policy and NewsGuard was not able to find any example of corrections.

Opinion articles appear next to news articles on the homepage, although they are generally labeled "opinion" ("editoriale") at the top of the article. However, other articles that are packaged as news also contain opinions.

For example, a September 2019 article published in the Politics section and titled "Renzi begins to cash in. Florence Airport, Mibact appeals to TAR" ("Renzi comincia a battere cassa. Aeroporto di Firenze, Mibact fa ricorso al Tar"), says, "the landscape and the historical and artistic heritage of the country will mostly pay the price of the blackmailing power of Matteo Renzi" ("le spese del potere ricattatorio di Matteo Renzi le faranno soprattutto il paesaggio e il patrimonio storico e artistico del Paese").

An April 2019 news article titled "Notre Dame burns in the 'secular realm' of Macron" ("Notre Dame brucia nel 'regno laico' di Macron"), the author wrote, "This France that causes wars in Libya and burns its symbols is disturbing [...] a symbol of the impending end of the West in the hands of mock-democratic political rulers" ("Questa Francia che provoca guerre in Libia e che brucia i suoi simboli è inquietante, [...] un simbolo dell'incombente fine dell'Occidente in mano a regnanti politici fintamente democratici").

Because Affaritaliani.it mixes opinion into news stories, NewsGuard has determined that the website does not handle the difference between news and opinion

responsibly.

NewsGuard did not receive a response to seven emails sent to the site's general email address and Perrino, the editor in chief, seeking comment on the site's editorial practices, including its use of news and opinion and its corrections procedures. Six telephone calls to the newsroom were also not returned.

Transparency

Affaritaliani.it discloses its ownership on the website's contact (Contatti) page. The page also identifies the site's editor-in-chief, and provides the editor's email address. Additional email addresses are provided for the website's CEO and the newsrooms in Rome and Milan.

Advertisements and sponsored content are clearly labeled. Although some advertisers' articles are formatted to appear like news content, they are marked "Sponsor."

Most stories are not attributed to authors, and when they are named, the website does not provide their biographical or contact information, which does not meet NewsGuard's standards for providing information about content creators.

NewsGuard did not receive a response to seven emails sent to the site's general email address and Perrino, the editor in chief, as well as six telephone calls to the newsroom, seeking comment on the site's lack of information about content creators.

History

Affaritaliani.it was founded in Milan in 1996 by Perrino, a journalist who worked for the weekly magazine Panorama, the daily newspaper Il Giorno, and at the Italian business publication Milano Finanza. Perrino is also a Knight of the Italian Republic, according to a biography published by Italy's House of Representatives.

The homepage says Affaritaliani.it was the first online newspaper in Italy. The site says "the first digital daily since 1996" under its logo. That claim has been

disputed by historians. Italian historian Andrea Bettini says that the websites unionesarda.it, and punto-informatico.it are each two years older.

Editor's Note: This Nutrition Label was updated on March 4, 2020.

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Send feedback to NewsGuard: [Click Here](#)

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