

virmagazine.it

A right-leaning site that has published false and misleading content on the 2020 coronavirus outbreak and other topics and that does not reveal its ownership or editorial leadership.



Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic standards of credibility and transparency.

Score: 7.5/100

Ownership and Financing

The site does not disclose its ownership. The domain was registered in May 2019 by Salvatore Mantice, who is identified as the “data protection officer” on the site’s Privacy Policy page. The site appears to be headquartered in Bali, Indonesia.

The site derives revenues from advertising.

Content

ViralMagazine.it describes itself as “a viral news portal that leaves you breathless” (“un portale di notizie virali che ti faranno rimanere senza fiato”). Content is organized in sections including News, Health and Wellbeing (Salute e benessere), Curiosity (Curiosità), Food (Cucina), and (Viral News) Notizie Virali.

Typical articles published on the site have run under headlines including “The best cure in the world is for free: it's called ‘Sea’” (“La miglior cura al mondo è gratis: si chiama ‘MARE’”); “Fat women are smarter than skinny women” (“Le donne in carne sono più intelligenti di quelle magre”); and “Coronavirus, doctor from Bergamo: ‘In hospitals we are like in war’” (“Corona virus, medico di Bergamo ‘Negli ospedali stiamo come in guerra’”).

- ✗ 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)

Credibility

Articles on ViralMagazine.it are generally unsourced and often contain false and unproven claims, including about the COVID-19 pandemic.

For example, a February 2020 article headlined “Chinese researcher from the Faculty of Medical Sciences reveals the sad truth about Coronavirus” (“Ricerca cinese della Facoltà di Scienze mediche rivela la triste verità sul Coronavirus”) falsely claimed that hot lemon can cure the coronavirus. According to

Criteria are listed in order of importance.

[More information.](#)

the article, "Hot lemon can kill the proliferation of this virus in our body" ("Il limone caldo può uccidere la proliferazione di questo virus nel nostro organismo").

There is no evidence that lemon can cure the 2020 coronavirus. Both the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization have stated that there is currently no known cure for the strain of coronavirus responsible for the 2020 outbreak.

Another February 2020, headlined "Coronavirus, doctor confesses: the government forbids us to test migrants on ships of NGOs" ("Coronavirus, medico confessa: il Governo ci impedisce di fare i tamponi ai migranti sulle ONG"), claimed that "the [Italian] Government is preventing tests from being made on migrants" ("il Governo sta impedendo che vengano effettuati dei tamponi sui migranti"). The article attributed the claim to Angelo Aliquò, the director of the provincial health authority of Ragusa.

There is no record of Aliquò saying that the government was preventing tests on migrants. The day before ViralMagazine.it published the article, Aliquò spoke about health prevention measures adopted by the Italian government in relation to migrants, but he did not say that migrants were not being tested.

Another February 2020 story stated that Coronavirus "has been created in a laboratory" ("un'influenza un pò più forte creata in laboratorio").

There is no evidence that the Wuhan coronavirus 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 told The Washington Post that "based on the virus genome and properties there is no indication whatsoever that it was an engineered virus."

An unsourced July 2019 article, headlined “Walnuts: fruits full of quality” (“Noci: frutti pieni di qualità”), claimed that walnuts help fight cancer. According to the article, “There are powerful bioactive compounds. Like omega 3, phytosterols, and antioxidants. According to research, they have been shown to cure and prevent any cancer cells” (“Sono presenti, potenti composti bioattivi. Come gli omega 3, fitosteroli, ed antiossidanti. Che grazie a delle ricerche, hanno dimostrato di combattere e prevenire eventuali cellule antitumorali”).

Although there is some evidence from animal studies that nuts have an impact on cancer risk, there is no scientific evidence that walnuts can cure cancer in humans. The American Institute for Cancer Research has said that it “found evidence too limited to draw any conclusions about walnuts – or any nuts – and cancer risk”.

Because ViralMagazine.it regularly publishes inaccurate or unsubstantiated health claims, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false content, does not gather and present information responsibly, and does not avoid deceptive headlines.

ViralMagazine.it does not disclose its right-leaning perspective and does not have an opinion section. Nevertheless, the site regularly inserts opinion into its coverage, generally supporting the League’s leader Matteo Salvini’s anti-immigration agenda.

For example, a March 2020 article labeled as News criticized Italian senator Emma Bonino, leader of the social-liberal political party +Europa, stating, “You should be caring about Italians, who provided you a salary even though you have never worked in your entire life. Think about Italian people, not about asylum seekers.” (“Pensa all’Italia che ti ha mantenuta una vita senza che tu abbia mai lavorato. Pensa ai tuoi connazionali non ai richiedenti asilo”).

In another March 2020 article labeled as Viral News, the author stated, “Unfortunately, more and more migrants arrive in our country to live off us.”

("Purtroppo sempre più migranti arrivano nel nostro Paese per farsi mantenere").

Because ViralMagazine.it regularly inserts opinions in articles presented as news, without disclosing its right-leaning agenda, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

ViralMagazine.it does not articulate a corrections policy, and NewsGuard did not find corrections on the site.

NewsGuard sent two emails to the email addresses provided on the site inquiring about the site's editorial practices, the distinction between news and opinion, and its approach to corrections. However, both emails bounced back with messages that they were undeliverable. Three phone calls also drew no response.

Transparency

The site does not provide information on its ownership or editorial leadership.

Articles generally do not provide the name of the writer, and the site does not provide information about its content creators.

In the Contact Us page the site provides a general email address, a telephone number, and a postal address for the site's headquarters in Bali, Indonesia.

Advertisements are distinguished from editorial content.

NewsGuard sent two emails to the site inquiring about its transparency practices, but both emails bounced back. Three phone calls drew no response.

History

The domain was first registered in May 2019.

Written by: [Virginia Padovese](#)

Edited by: [Jim Warren](#), [Eric Effron](#), [Angelo Paura](#), [Giampiero Gramaglia](#)

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

Sources

Ownership and
Financing

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Content

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Credibility

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Transparency

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History

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