

laverita.info

The website of La Verità (The Truth), a far-right daily newspaper that has published false and misleading content, including about COVID-19.



Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic journalistic standards.

Score: 25/100

Ownership and Financing

La Verità is owned and published by La Verità Srl, a private company based in Milan and controlled by five business partners, according to the Italian Chamber of Commerce company registry.

Maurizio Belpietro, La Verità's editor-in-chief and founder, is the company's majority shareholder. He is the former editor-in-chief of the right-wing newspaper *Libero Quotidiano*, as well as of the center-right newspaper *Il Giornale*. The other stakeholders in La Verità Srl include Mediaset anchor Mario Giordano; financial consultant Enrico Scio; businessman Ferruccio Invernizzi; and Basilicata Regional Councilor Nicola Benedetto.

La Verità generates revenue from advertising and subscriptions.

-  Does not repeatedly publish false content (22points)
-  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)

Content

La Verità primarily covers national and international politics from a far-right perspective.

Stories are sorted into sections such as Investigations (Inchieste), Chronicles of the Invasion (Cronache dell'Invasione), Europe in Pieces (Europa a pezzi), Strong Thought (Pensiero forte), Our Money (I nostri soldi), and Fashion, Beauty, and Design (Moda, bellezza e design).

Stories frequently advance an anti-immigration, eurosceptic perspective. Typical headlines include "Psychology has annihilated ethics and law" ("La psicologia ha annientato etica e diritto"); "But the terrorists continue to land" ("Ma i terroristi continuano a sbarcare"); and "The ECB blackmails us on Mes and recovery fund" ("La Bce ci ricatta su Mes e recovery fund").

Video and audio content, including a daily podcast, is featured in a section called Look at Us & Listen to Us (Guardaci & Ascoltaci).

Criteria are listed in order of importance.

[More information.](#)

Credibility

La Verità articles are generally produced by staff and sometimes cite firsthand interviews and accounts from Italian news agencies.

However, the site has published false information and promoted unfounded conspiracy theories, including about the COVID-19 pandemic.

For example, in an October 2020 article headlined “Li-meng Yan: ‘The truth about the virus: manipulated in China to hit the world’” (“Li-meng Yan: ‘La verità sul virus: manipolato in Cina per colpire il mondo’”) the website wrote that the COVID-19 virus “is an artificial virus, developed and released by the Wuhan Institute of Virology, a maximum security laboratory that is placed under the control of the Chinese Communist Party.”

An August 2020 article, titled “Coronavirus originated in laboratory and all the evidence leads to Wuhan” (“Il coronavirus è nato in laboratorio e tutte le prove portano a Wuhan”) claims that the virus “may have accidentally left the lab at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.”

The claim that the coronavirus was engineered and leaked from a lab in Wuhan, China, has been debunked by biologists, fact-checkers, and major health organizations. A March 2020 study published in the journal *Nature Medicine* concluded that the virus “is not a laboratory construct or a purposefully manipulated virus.” An earlier study, published in February 2020 in the journal *Nature*, found that the COVID-19 virus is “96 percent identical at the whole-genome level to a bat coronavirus.” And in April 2020, the U.S. intelligence community said it “concur[s] with the wide scientific consensus that the COVID-19 virus was not manmade or genetically modified.”

La Verità has also published false health claims, including the claim in several articles that abortions cause breast cancer.

A May 2019 article about the Italian release of “Hush,” a documentary about abortion, stated that abortions are linked to an “increased risk of breast cancer” (“maggiore possibilità di tumori al seno”). An undated article, titled “Change of leaders in the abortion multinational: LeanaWen arrives” (“Cambio di vertici nella multinazionale dell’aborto: arriva LeanaWen”) claimed that having an abortion results in “a 150%

increase in the chances of developing breast cancer” (“un aumento del 150% delle possibilità di sviluppare un cancro al seno”).

A July 2019 article titled “Do you want success? Make your girlfriend abort” (“Vuoi il successo? Fai abortire la tua fidanzatina”) claims that “scientific evidence” show that “voluntary abortion leads to greater risk of postpartum hysterectomy, placenta previa, future miscarriages, depression, substance abuse, breast cancer, maternal mortality and suicide” (“l’aborto volontario faccia rima con maggiori rischi di isterectomia post partum, placenta previa, futuri aborti spontanei, depressione, abuso di sostanze, tumori al seno, mortalità materna e suicidi”).

The National Cancer Institute and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) have repeatedly concluded that there is no causal link between abortion and breast cancer. One ACOG analysis of multiple studies found that some earlier research suggesting that a link existed was “methodologically flawed.” The American Cancer Society has stated that “scientific research studies have not found a cause-and-effect relationship between abortion and breast cancer.”

The site has published several articles that support the “Great Replacement,” a conspiracy theory popularized by right-wing French philosopher Renaud Camus, which claims that as the white birth rate declines, global elites are carrying out a plot to substitute the white population of Europe with non-whites from Africa.

A May 2018 article titled, “Gentiloni had a brilliant idea: ‘Immigrants are indispensable’” (“Gentiloni ha avuto un’idea geniale: ‘Gli immigrati sono indispensabili’”), claimed that former Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni sought to replace Italians with Africans. “The great replacement comes to us, explaining that we need foreigners to compensate for the decline in population,” the story stated. (“Viene a riproporci la grande sostituzione, spiegando che abbiamo bisogno degli stranieri per compensare il calo della popolazione”).

The article misquoted a January 2018 speech by Gentiloni, who said that a “regulated” increase in migration would be helpful “in a Europe that is aging.”

Gentiloni never said that Europe needs Africans and never endorsed a policy of ethnic substitution, as the article stated he did.

A November 2018 article titled “France dies of immigration. And even on the left they notice it” (“La Francia muore d’immigrazione. E pure a sinistra se ne accorgono”), claimed that “the substitution of the people is therefore not a theory, but a mandatory goal” (“la sostituzione di popolo non è quindi una teoria, ma una meta obbligata”). The article describes a “biblical invasion” into Europe and massive increases in African immigration.

According to the Warsaw-based European Border and Coast Guard Agency, also known as Frontex, illegal immigration in 2018 was 92 percent lower than it was in 2015. Data from Eurostat, which compiles statistics throughout the European Union, shows that 825,400 people immigrated to a European Union member state in 2017, a 17 percent decrease from the year before.

A December 2018 article promoted a false claim of ongoing attacks against white South African farmers by blacks. The article, which described some recent attacks on farmers and farm workers in the country, said that South Africa is a nation where “you can attack an entire community with impunity” (“si può attaccare impunemente un intero popolo”), and where “the assault on white farms is considered a national sport with bursting murders and rapes” (“l’assalto alle fattori[e] dei bianchi è considerato uno sport nazionale con omicidi a raffica e stupri”).

According to AgriSA, a federation of South African agricultural organizations, murder of farmers is actually at a 20-year low. In 2017, 47 farmers were killed, compared with 153 farmers killed in 1998. The 2017 Land Audit Report, an annual document compiled by the South African government, notes that 72 percent of agricultural land is owned by white farmers.

Because La Verità has repeatedly published false claims to advance nationalist and other far-right views, NewsGuard has determined that the website repeatedly publishes false content, fails to gather and present information responsibly, and fails to avoid deceptive headlines.

La Verità does not disclose a political orientation. Its About Us (Chi Siamo) page presents itself as an “independent newspaper”. The website publishes labeled opinion articles written by its editor-in-chief in an Editorial (Editoriale) section.

However, the site also inserts unlabeled, far-right opinion into its news coverage, which does not meet NewsGuard’s standard for handling the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

For example, an October 2020 article, published on the homepage alongside other news stories, titled “The teacher with the Rolex knew, but he kept silent” (“Il maestro con il Rolex sapeva, ma ha taciuto”) says this about the Italian journalist Gad Lerner: “He who now comes to give lessons was silent as a coward he is” (“Lui che ora viene a impartire lezioncine taceva da vile qual è”).

A November 2020, article, which was also published on the homepage and was not labeled as opinion, was headlined “Calabrian mess between the suspect and the communist guru” (“Pasticcio calabro tra l’indagato e il guru rosso”). The article said of Italian senator and former prime minister Matteo Renzi: “He represents little more than himself in the country but keeps the premier in check and governs the newspapers” (“nel Paese rappresenta poco più che se stesso ma tiene in scacco il premier e governa i giornali”).

An August 2019 article published in the news section says that the editor-in-chief of the magazine L’Espresso, Marco Damilano, uses “his media power like a truncheon: not to inform readers, but to damage a political adversary with fakes, manipulated news, or simple nonsense” (“il suo potere mediatico come un manganello: non per informare i lettori, ma per colpire un avversario politico con falsi, notizie manipolate, o semplici sciocchezze”).

La Verità does not articulate a corrections policy and NewsGuard could not find corrections on its website.

NewsGuard sent two emails to a general email address listed on La Verità’s Contact (Contatti) page, and left a voicemail at a phone number for the publication’s newsroom, seeking comment about its false content, editorial practices, and lack of corrections, but did not receive a response.

Transparency The site identifies its owners and editorial leaders on its About Us page.

Most La Verità articles name authors and link to an archive of the writer's work. The writer's biographical information is generally provided.

A Contact (Contatti) page lists two general email addresses, a general telephone number, and the publication's physical address.

Advertising is clearly distinguished from editorial content.

History La Verità was founded in 2016 by Belpietro, the publication's editor-in-chief and majority stakeholder.

Corrections: An earlier version of this Nutrition Label stated that a land audit report produced by the South African government covered 2018. The report was titled the 2017 Land Audit Report. NewsGuard apologizes for the error.

Editor's Note: This Nutrition Label updated on Nov. 19, 2020, with a review of new content.

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

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