

A group of approximately 15 people, including men and women in formal attire, are standing on a green lawn. Behind them is a large tent with a Union Jack pattern. To the left and right of the tent are white banners. The left banner lists 'MAIN SPONSORS' and includes logos for 'GREAT BRITAIN' and 'YOUNG LEADERS'. The right banner lists 'PARTNERS' and includes logos for 'THE BALVENIE', 'dunbia', and 'di'. The background consists of lush green trees and a building partially visible on the right.

Young Leaders 2025 – Achievements and Results

The Young Leaders 2025 cohort has successfully completed a series of high-impact activities designed to foster leadership, international collaboration, and diplomatic engagement.



Participation in the King's Speech at the Italian Parliament

In April, the Young Leaders and the YL Alumni attended the *King's Speech* at the Italian Parliament.

This unique opportunity allowed them to witness a historic moment first-hand, gaining valuable insight into the diplomatic ties between the United Kingdom and Italy.

The event not only highlighted the importance of international cooperation but also offered an inspiring example of leadership and statesmanship.





Celebration of Italy's National Day

In June, the cohort joined the *Festa della Repubblica* celebrations at the Italian Embassy in London, hosted by **HE Ambassador Inigo Lambertini**.

The event marked Italy's National Day and provided a platform for the Young Leaders to engage with the Italian diplomatic community and international guests.





King's Birthday Party

In June, the Young Leaders were invited to attend the prestigious *King's Birthday Party*, hosted by the British Embassy in Rome.

This annual celebration honours the birthday of His Majesty The King and brings together key figures from diplomacy, business, academia and civil society.

During the event, participants had the opportunity to meet His Majesty's Ambassador to Italy HE Ed Llewellyn, engaging in meaningful dialogue about UK-Italy relations and youth leadership.



XXXIII Pontignano Conference

In October, the cohort also took part in the Pontignano Conference, one of the most significant forums for UK-Italy bilateral relations.

Held annually, the conference gathers senior policymakers, academics, and thought leaders to discuss shared challenges and opportunities.

A dedicated moment was organised for the Young Leaders, allowing them to network with high-level guests and contribute to discussions on the future of European cooperation and youth engagement.





Diplomatic Visits: UK Visit – London Programme

Organised by the British Embassy in Italy, the three-day visit to London offered an immersive experience into British institutions and leadership. Highlights included:

- A welcome dinner at the Guildhall in the City of London, themed “*Innovation with Integrity – Building Transnational Trust in a Technological Age*”, with keynote remarks by **Professor Michael Mainelli**, former Lord Mayor of London.
- Visits to the **Palace of Westminster**, **No. 10 Downing Street**, and a private meeting with members of the UK–Italy All-Party Parliamentary Group.
- A cultural visit to the **Victoria & Albert Museum**, with a reception hosted by **Tristram Hunt**, Director of the V&A.
- A behind-the-scenes tour of **Pinewood Studios**, followed by a farewell lunch hosted by **HE Ambassador Inigo Lambertini** at the **Italian Embassy in London**.





Diplomatic visits: Italy Visit – Rome, Caserta and Naples Programme

Organised by the Italian Embassy in London, the visit began in Rome and moved to Caserta. Highlights included:

- A lunch hosted by **David Burton**, Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassy, and a tour of **Villa Wolkonsky**, the Ambassador's residence.
- The visit of **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Farnesina)**, with presentations by the **Directorate General for Europe**, a tour of the **Collezione Farnesina** art collection, and a meeting with the **Crisis Unit**.
- In **Caserta**, participants engaged in leadership training sessions led by **Lapo Mola**, **Manoela Lussi**, and **Mario Pireddu**, covering topics such as leadership in uncertainty, sensemaking, change management, and the strategic implications of generative AI. Cultural highlights included tours of the **Reggia di Caserta** and the **ancient silk farms of San Leucio**.
- In **Naples**, a guided tour of the city's historic landmarks, including **Spaccanapoli**, **San Gregorio Armeno**, and the **Duomo di Napoli**.

"Most of all a gathering that, by bringing together the experiences and visions of an extraordinary group of people, pushed me to reflect upon the most urgent challenges that we are facing today and how we should be aiming at addressing them, individually and collectively"

"It's hard to summarise the sheer range of experiences and conversations we packed in [...]. Above all though, it was a real pleasure to meet and spend time with the rest of this vibrant, diverse cohort, finding both common ground and inspiring differences and leaving with plenty of thoughts and ideas to build on"

"[...] last week offered a rare window into the future of diplomacy, innovation and cross-border leadership. I'm especially grateful for the candid, thoughtful conversations with such a dynamic and values-driven cohort."