The Spanish and Mexican Years: Room One: 1600s - 1848

1687-1711 Padre Eusebio Chino travels in Northern Mexico and lower California, the first person to prove Lower California is a peninsula, not an island.

1823 Giovanni Leandrie is the first Italian to settle in southern California.

1830s Italian fishing boats reach the coast of California, including Matias Sabici who was one of the first commercial fishermen to settle in Monterey. These boats came up the coast from South American ports, especially Peruvian harbors.

1840s Genoese sailors spread word about California to their families in Liguria. This is why California's wine industry is mostly built by Genoese, despite the fact that Liguria is not a major wine region of Italy.