

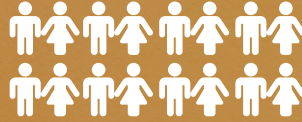
Italy

Country profile



AREA 301,340 km²

POPULATION



60+ mln

GDP per capita
\$34,784



CURRENCY €

1 & 2 cent coins are not used

Languages ITALIAN

Minority Languages

GERMAN, FRENCH, SLOVENE,
ALBANIAN, GREEK, CATALAN

FACTS ABOUT ITALY

Republic of Italy

Italy was unified in 1861 and became a Republic in 1946. By 2017 the population is about 60 million, its surface is 301,338 km², and it is divided in 20 regions.



Italy as a host

Italy hosts 2 foreign countries, the Republic of S. Marino and Vatican City. Italy is also the 5th most visited country in the world, with about 5 million visitors annually.



Religion

About 85% of Italians are Roman Catholic.

Food

The average Italian eats about 30 kg of pasta per year and drinks 98 liters of wine.

Art

Italy is said to have more masterpieces per square mile than any other country in the world. The author of "Pinocchio" ("pine nut"), Carlo Collodi (1826-1890), was Italian

FACTS ABOUT ITALY

The capital and largest city is Rome



With nearly 3,000 years of rich history, Rome is often called the Eternal City. It was founded on the 21st of April 753 B.C. by Romulus, after killing his brother Remus. According to the legend Romulus and Remus were raised by a female wolf. This image is the symbol of the city. For almost five hundred years, Rome was the largest, wealthiest, and most politically important city in Europe.

It has a surface of 1.285 km² and about 3 million people. It once was the capital of the powerful Roman Empire and then of the Papal State.

In 1871 it became the capital of Italy and Vatican City became an independent state within the city borders.

Geography

More than 75% of Italy is hilly or mountainous, and the climate is Mediterranean with hot, dry summers and mild, rainy winters. Italians suffer more earthquakes than any other Europeans. In 1693, an estimated 100,000 people died in an earthquake in Sicily, and no other country in Europe has as many volcanoes as Italy. This is because the Italian peninsula stands on a fault line.

Three major volcanoes (Etna, Stromboli, and Vesuvius) have erupted in the last hundred years



GEOGRAPHY



The North

Northern Italy, with the Alps mountains, connects our country to the rest of Europe. Turin is the home of FIAT motors.

Milan is famous for fashion and design. Venice is built on 117 islands and has its gondola boats. 5 Terre has beautiful little villages on the sea. Bologna has the oldest University of the western world. Lake Garda is a famous destination for VIPs.

The Center

Central Italy is mostly made of smaller mountains and beautiful countryside. Florence is a wonderful artistic city. Pisa has its unique leaning tower. Tuscan wine is exported all over the world. The Marsican Bear is the symbol of Abruzzo's National park in the Appennini Mountains. And Rome is right in the middle with all its history. Many coastal villages are great holiday destinations.



The South

Naples was the capital of Southern Kingdom and is the birthplace of Pizza and Spaghetti. Pompeii was a Roman city destroyed by the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 DC. Amalfi and Sorrento Coast are famous all over the world. Etna in Sicily is the biggest European volcano and one of the most active of the world. Sardinia has one of the most beautiful seashores of Italy.

PAITING



Raffaello

In Rome he was known as the “Prince of Painters”. He spent the last 12 years of his life in Rome creating many of his most famous works.

Leonardo Da Vinci

Painter, scientist, mathematician, engineer, inventor, anatomist, sculptor, architect, botanist, musician and writer. Leonardo is the biggest genius of humanity.

Botticelli

Lorenzo de’ Medici was quick to discover him and employ his wonderful talent. He was a pioneer of Renaissance

Caravaggio

He painted things how they actually looked, using very dark shadows and bright lights (chiaroscuro).

Tiziano

One of the most famous painters of Venice. His special use of color influenced many other artists.

Michelangelo

Some of his works are among the most famous that have ever been made by mankind. His masterpiece is the Sistine Chapel for Pope Julius II.



SCULPTURE



Donatello

One of the best sculptors of his times. He used a special technique, which made his work look very real.

Michelangelo

He lived an extremely busy life, creating a great number of different artworks. Sculpting was his favourite art.

Gian Lorenzo Bernini

One of the greatest artists of the Baroque period. He was a famous sculptor and architect. He sculpted many classical myths.

Antonio Canova

Neoclassical master. He became famous for his marble sculptures that perfectly rendered nude bodies.



ARCHITECTURE



Filippo Brunelleschi

Great architect and engineer of the Italian Renaissance in Florence. His masterpiece is the dome of Florence Cathedral.

Donato Bramante

One of the greatest artists of the Baroque period. Famous sculptor and architect. He was worked for many Popes Michelangelo. In 1547 he took on the job of completing St Peter's Basilica.

Francesco Borromini

One of the most important architects of the Roman Baroque period. He was Bernini's lifelong rival.

Gian Lorenzo Bernini

The square he built for St. Peter's Basilica is the greatest entrance to the greatest Christian church in the whole world.

Andrea Palladio

He was deeply influenced by Greek and Roman architecture. His works inspired architects for centuries all over the world



LITERATURE AND SCIENCES



Dante Alighieri

Is considered the father of the Italian language. His “Divine Comedy” is widely considered the greatest literary Italian work and a masterpiece of world literature

Galileo Galilei

Thanks to his discoveries he can be considered the Father of modern observational astronomy, modern physics and of modern science.

Enrico Fermi

Worked on the first Nuclear reactor and contributed to the development of Quantum theory, nuclear and particle physics and statistical mechanics.
He won Nobel Prize in Physics in 1938.

Guglielmo Marconi

Known for his work on radio transmission and for the radio telegraph system. Nobel Prize in Physics in 1909.

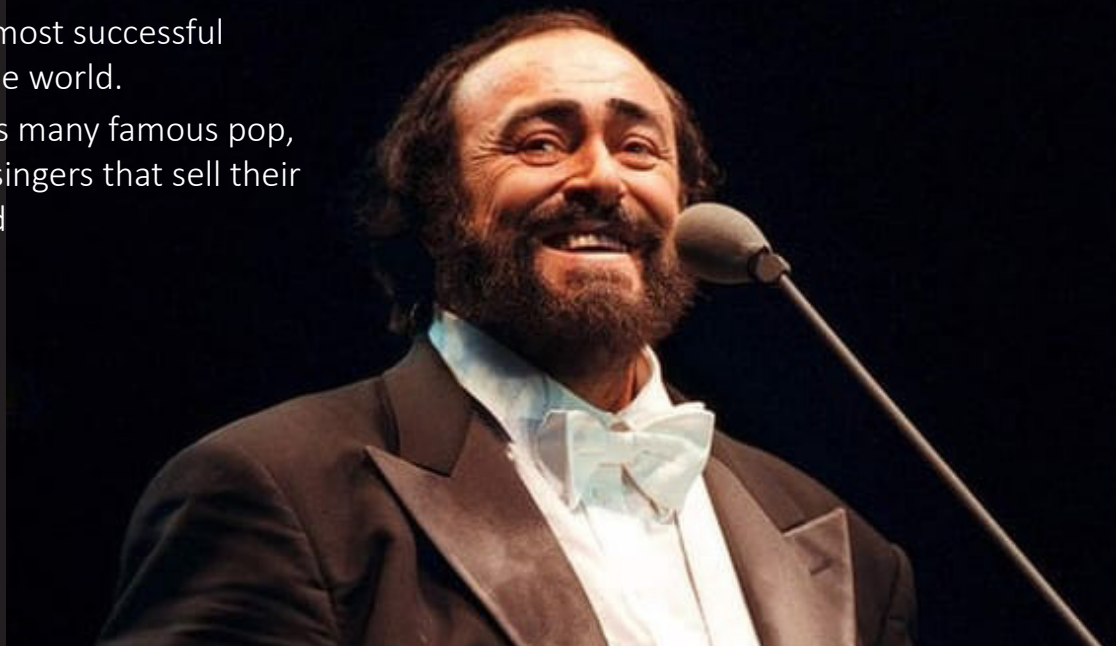


MUSIC



Italian innovation in scales, harmony, notation, and theatre enabled the development of opera in the late 16th century, and much of modern European classical music.

- Antonio Vivaldi and his “Four Season” was the greatest Baroque composer.
- Puccini and Verdi wrote the best and most famous Operas of the world, like the “Tosca” and the “Aida”.
- Pavarotti was the most successful Tenors singer of the world.
- Nowadays Italy has many famous pop, rock and melodic singers that sell their music even abroad



CINEMA



Italian Cinema experienced many international success, and have influenced film movements throughout the world. Italian films have won 13 Academy Awards for Best Foreign Language Film, the most of any country.

From comedies with the funny Totò, to “Spaghetti Westerns” made by Sergio Leone, from dramatic (Neo-realism) or romantic films starring De Sica, Mastroianni or Sophia Loren, to the absolute triumphs of world famous director Fellini and actor Benigni.



ARTISANAL HANDICRAFT

Every region of Italy has its traditions and its peculiar artisanal products. The artisans take great pride in their works and there are many fairs and festivals all over Italy that display their products. Some of these works can be really expensive because the artists spends many hours or days to complete the final piece. Some cities even have museums dedicated to their most famous handicrafts products, like the Violin Museum of Cremona or the Murano one in Venice



FASHION DESIGN

Italians believe it's better to look good and feel great every day than only on special occasions. That's why in Italy there are so many top fashion design brands known all over the world. Every Italian city has its shopping streets: Via Condotti in Rome and Via Montenapoleone or Via della Spiga in Milan are the top destination for fashion lovers.

Every year in Milan there's a special event called Fashion Week where stylists can show their best works.



CARS AND MOTORS

Italy is well renowned all over the world for its cars and bikes. Vespa, Alfa Romeo and FIAT are probably the most common and popular brands. Top Luxury Cars like Ferrari Lamborghini and Maserati are great for speed lovers. For bikes Aprilia and Ducati are great for their performances and design.



FOOD



Everybody knows spaghetti and pizza, but there are a million more tasty dishes in Italy. Every region and every city has its typical foods and every Italian is proud of them all. We are all good food lovers and love to eat with our family and friends!

Coffee and Wines

- Italians love their coffee short and strong and drink many coffees during the day. Cappuccino is for Breakfast.
- Chinotto is the Italian answer to CocaCola.
- Limoncello and Grappa and Amaro are tasty digestive licors, good after a big lunch or dinner.
- Spumante is usually drunk for special occasions.
- Italian wines are among the best and most famous wines of the world



SPORTS



Italians love football, and their team is one with the best tradition! They won 4 world cups, the last one in 2006. But there's also the great Ferrari and many other sports that Italians love (cycling and motorcycling are two of them)!

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Every city in Italy has its festivals and traditions, it was very hard to just pick up some!

- Venice Carnival is probably the most famous, together with the historical horse race of the "Palio" that is held in Siena twice a year.
- In Rome there's the Befana, a good witch that brings sweets to well behaved kids on the 6th of January.
- Other famous historical events are the Saracin Joust in Arezzo and the historical football matches in Florence.



RELIGIOUS FESTIVITIES

In Italy there are many National religious events, Easter and Christmas are the most important, but every city and village has its own celebrations and festivals for its Saints Patrons (holy figures that protect the city).

Houses are decorated with a tree and a Presepe (model of the Nativity). They celebrate with families having a big dinner, then we go to church to thank God for the birth of the Jesus.



2nd Nov.

Commemoration of the Deceased

On this celebration there are special Masses to pray for the souls of our beloved dead relatives and friends. We visit cemeteries to decorate the tombs with flowers and candles.

Easter is preceded by Lent, a period of fasting, prayer and penitence. The typical Easter breakfast is Eggs, Salame and a Cheese bread. Easter is the culmination of the Passion of Christ. On this holy day the Pope does big blessing in Rome to cherish for the rebirth of Jesus.

CALENDAR



1 January: New Year's Day
Capodanno

6 January: Epiphany
Loppiainen, Trettondedagen

**Moveable Sunday in spring:
Easter Sunday**
Pasqua

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is celebrated on Easter Day.

Moveable Monday in spring: Easter Monday
Lunedì dell'Angelo or more commonly Pasquetta
Easter Monday is the day following Easter Day.

25 April: Liberation Day
Festa della Liberazione

Liberation from Nazi in 1945

1 May: May Day
Festa del Lavoro (or Festa dei Lavoratori)
May Day is a versatile festival: it is a celebration of spring, youth and work.

**2 June:
Republic Day**
Festa della Repubblica
Birth of the Italian Republic, 1946

15 August: Assumption Day
Ferragosto or Assunzione

**1 November -
All Saints' Day**
Tutti i santi (or Ognissanti)
All Saint' Day is a day to hon-

or the saints and deceased loved ones.

**8 December:
Immaculate Conception**
Immacolata Concezione (or just Immacolata)

25 December: Christmas Day
Natale
Christmas is a family holiday spent together with family and loved ones.

26 December: Saint Stephen's Day
Santo Stefano

IMPORTANT TIPS

Business

- Italy is among the 10th most industrialised nations in the world, with a highly developed production industry.
- Its economy is among the broadest in the world encompassing almost every type of industry, with a particular focus on cars, electronics, fashion products and machinery. Raw materials, meanwhile, are usually imported.
- Italy's agricultural sector is also prime component of its economy. In fact, it's the world's seventh most dominant exporter of agricultural products, the principle products being wine, olive oil, wheat, milk, fruit and vegetables.
- Aside from engineering and fashion, its other prevalent economic sector is tourism
- Italy's economy is dominated by only a handful of large businesses (some of which are state-owned), while much of the economy prospers thanks to the 3 million+ small to medium-sized enterprises, most of which are owned by a family or partnership.



Business Mentality

- Building close relationships is very important in Italian business culture. It would be good to find a well-connected person who can establish the right introductions on your behalf.
- **Ensure that your Italian counterparts like and trust you.** During business meetings in Italy it is common to express open disagreement and constructive conflict. Initial meetings are often informal opportunities for evaluating colleagues and establishing relationships, not making business decisions.
- For Italians, the eyes do eat, so ensure all hand-outs are aesthetically pleasing. **Appearance** is frequently considered more important than what is inside.
- A belief in status and hierarchy is essential in all aspects of Italian society. There is also tremendous respect for power and age.
- Occasionally, the decision-making process might be slow, in which case using pressure is not welcome.
- Large businesses usually work from 8.30 /9.00am until 6.00/6.30pm Monday to Friday with an hour or two for lunch.
- Try not to organise any meetings in August, on Catholic festivities and on other national days off.



IMPORTANT TIPS

Greetings

- In introductions and departures, shake hands individually with everyone in a group. The ‘group wave’ will not be sufficient. Also, always shake hands using your right hand and always from standing position.
- You will always be introduced to older people and women first and it’s a good idea to do the same when introducing yourself.
- It is polite to say “Buongiorno” (good morning) and “Buonasera” (good afternoon/evening).
- Italians won’t hesitate to greet people they know with a warm embrace.
- While expansive gestures are common among Italians, they won’t expect a foreigner to do the same.
- You are expected to say “Signor(e)” (Mr.) or “Signora” (Mrs.), plus the surname, when introduced to Italian executives. Use last names and appropriate titles until specifically invited by your Italian host or colleagues to use their first names.



The Art of Conversation

- Do not be surprised if during business meetings your Italian colleagues speak simultaneously or interrupt one another. It is a common trait of the Italian communication style.
- Italian culture is a popular theme of conversation. Italians are open, curious and tolerant of others’ uniqueness and manners. They will tolerate lateness and sincere mistakes, but dislike arrogance and rudeness.

DO'S AND DON'TS



In Italy, there are many things you need to remember in order to thoroughly enjoy your stay, and here is a quick list of some of these things:

DO

Do make an effort to learn the language and to speak it. Italians love it when you exert effort in trying to adjust to their country. They may answer you in English since they also love to practice what they've learned.

DON'T

Don't forget to learn the language as well as you can. The pronunciation of some words can be somewhat confusing, like words with the letter c in them. To avoid mistakes, just keep in mind that if the letter "c" is followed by an "e" or an "i", it is pronounced as "ch", like in "ciao", which you pronounce as "chow". For words with "ch" that are followed by an "e" or an "i", you pronounce this as "k", like in "che" (which means "what" in Italian), which you pronounce as "kay".

DO

Do use Signora and Signore together with a person's last name when being introduced to people. Also, shake their hand when greeting them and acknowledging the introduction.

DON'T

Don't address a person you just met by their first name. First names are reserved only for people you are close to or when the person in question tells you to address them by their first name.

DO

Do try to look as stylish as possible. Dress to impress if you want to fit in with the locals. Italians take great pride in their fashion sense, so getting dressed to go out is normal here.

DON'T

Don't wear shorts and other skimpy outfits, particularly if you are planning on visiting a few churches on your tours. For women, off-shoulder outfits, clothing that expose the knees, and bare midriffs are unacceptable when going to religious buildings in Italy. For men, shorts and sleeveless shirts are also frowned upon when entering churches.

DO

Do keep your voice low and your cellphones turned off when visiting churches and museums in Italy. Speaking in whispers is encouraged in these places and keeping quiet is even better.

DO'S AND DON'TS



DO

Do carry enough cash for your day in a wallet that is safely placed in a front pocket (for men) or sling bag in front (for women). Leave your extra cash in your hotel room safe to ensure that pickpockets do not target you lest you become distracted by the amazing sights around you.

DON'T

Don't assume that all establishments in Italy accept credit cards, although a lot of restaurants and stores actually do. Having enough cash in your pocket will avoid any embarrassing situations where you've already eaten and you cannot pay for what you ate because the restaurant does not accept credit cards.

DO

Plan your days to accommodate only a few tourist attractions at a time. Italy is a country that you have to savor in order to truly enjoy it. Rushing through a dozen or more notable sites in a single day will not only leave you frazzled but also unable to appreciate the grandeur and beauty around you.

DO

Don't forget to wear comfortable footwear when going around Italy. It is a country that is best explored on foot and wearing very stylish but uncomfortable footwear will leave you with aches and pains at the end of the day. This does not mean however that you should wear sneakers when seeing the sights. Fashionable yet comfortable shoes, like strappy low-heeled sandals for women and loafers for men, should be considered.



Language
voices
in Europe

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