ITALY

FACTS & FIGURES

Capital		Rome
Largest City		Rome
Official Languages		Italian
Official Script		Latin
Currency		Euro (EUR)
	Geography	/ (estimates)
Population		59.11 million
Pop. Density		200/km ²
Area		301,340 km ²
Time Zone		GMT + 1
Government		
President		Sergio Mattarella
Legislature	Chamber of Deputies & Senate of the Republic	
Independence or Founding Date		1861

HISTORY OF ITALY

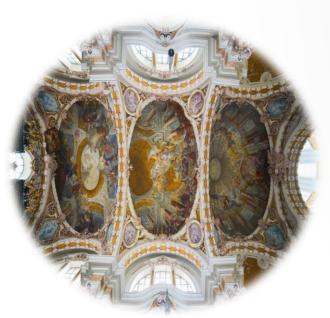
- In 1861, Victor Emmanuel II is proclaimed King and monarchy is established in Italy.
- In 1915 Italy joins WWI victory in the war in 1918 gives Italy a permanent seat in the Council of the League of Nations
- In 1922, after the March on Rome, fascist dictatorship rules Italy - in 1943 this ruling comes to an end and Italy enters a war zone in WWII's Italian Campaign, lasting until 1945.
- In 1946 the monarchy was abolished by popular referendum & Italy became a democratic republic.
- In 1958, Italy joins the European Union
- Italy is home to Europe's only three active volcanoes & has more World Heritage sites than any other country
- Famous Italians: Christopher Columbus, Julius
 Caesar, Leonardo da Vinci, Dante (Poet), Andrea
 Bocelli (Singer)







- Italian cuisine is a Mediterranean cuisine, consisting of the ingredients, recipes and cooking techniques developed in Italy since Roman times
- As a general rule, Italian dishes today can be simple and tend to focus on two to four primary ingredients.
- Italians are well known for their cheeses and olive oils
- Traditional dishes include: Risotto, Margherita Pizza, Pasta & Pesto



Italian Public Holidays in 2024

- New Year's Day (Jan 1)
- Epiphany (Jan 6)
- Easter (March 31)
 Easter Monday (April 1)
 Liberation Day (April 25)
- Labour Day (May 1)
- Republic Day (June 2)
- Assumption Day (Aug 15)
- Ferragosto (Aug 15)
- All Saint's Day (Nov 1)
- Immaculate Conception Day (Dec 8)
- Christmas Day (Dec 25)
- St. Stephen's Day (Dec 26)

Language & Religion

Cuisine

- Italian is the official language in Italy: with 93% of the population speaking it - next popular being English & then French
- Historically, Catholicism is the most practiced religion in Italy



Music & Art

- Opera originated in Italy in the late 16th century & has remained the musical form most closely linked with Italian music and Italian identity.
- Italy is home to some of the most famous structures in the world, including the Colosseum and the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

 Most notable piece of art is the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel of the Vatican, painted by Michelangelo sometime between 1508 and 1512.

Important Dates & Holidays

