



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

- 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

Cuisine



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

