Mini guide to Italy

ITALIA

A beauty to treasure

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CELEBRATING
500
1519 – YEARS – 2019
LEONARDO
DA VINCI

From painter to inventor, the universally recognised Italian genius, Leonardo da Vinci, will be celebrated throughout Italy in 2019, with a rich program of multi-disciplinary events on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of his death.

For further information and to download the entire program:

Visit: italia.it

ITALIA
500 ANNI LEONARDO

Welcome

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ITALIA

You simply cannot make a wrong turn in Italy. Europe's celebrated boot is a veritable trove of striking landscapes, cultural riches and gastronomic delights. And visitors are spoilt for choice with treasures scattered right throughout the star-studded destination.

Each of Italy's cities and towns fiercely guard a distinct character and charm, with citizens taking special pride in local history, art, commerce, food and life. This makes for a population of passionate hosts. You are not a tourist in Italy. You are a friend.

They say all roads lead to Rome and that's a good thing because the Eternal City, named for its significance to the history of mankind, isn't a place you want to miss. Rome, of course, has been the centre of Christianity since Saint Peter first established the Christian Church. And before that, with the establishment of the Roman Empire, it was the capital of the western world. More than 2000 years of history are crowded into its maze of alleys, streets and squares from ancient catacombs to 17th-century palaces, 15th-century churches, and 20th-century monuments.

Notwithstanding Rome's significance, each of Italy's chief cities are important for their history; for the fame and wealth of their monuments and museums; for abundant natural beauties; and for the intensity of their social and economic life.

Sprawling Milan is the financial, banking, fashion and design capital of Italy and an art and culture centre. Turin, at the foot of the Alps, is outstanding for automotive manufacturing and baroque architecture. Genoa, birthplace of Columbus, has been Italy's chief seaport since Roman times. Venice floats dream-like on canals and lagoons. Trieste is a bustling and attractive seaport. Trento is a historic old city that has had many battles fought for it. Bologna, centre of wealth, learning and art, is famous for its university and cuisine. Florence, 'the cradle of the Renaissance', is an art centre to rival any in the world. Ancona, capital of the Adriatic region of the Marche, is a beautifully located seaside resort city. Perugia, hilltop queen of the Tiber plain, is the headquarters of the University for Foreigners, founded in the 13th century. L'Aquila is a mountain centre in the Apennines. Naples, on its justly famous blue bay, is the great city of the south. Bari, where the bones of Saint Nicholas lie, is a modern city surrounding a tiny medieval town. Palermo, capital of Sicily, merges Norman and Arab history and culture. Cagliari, chief city of Sardinia, bears the stamp of a long and varied history under Romans, Carthaginians, Spanish and French.
La dolce vita, indeed.

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Useful information

Form of government
At the end of World War II, Italy became a Republic with a parliamentary form of Government. The President, who is the head of state, serves a seven-year term in office and may be re-elected. Italy is divided into 20 Regions, of which 15 have an ordinary statute (a statute approved by parliament) and the other five – Valle d'Aosta, Trentino-Alto Adige, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Sicily and Sardinia – a special statute approved by a constitutional law.

Visa requirements
Australian and New Zealand visitors travelling on a valid Australian and New Zealand passport are allowed to enter Italy without a visa for tourism for a maximum period of 90 days. For further enquiries on other types of visas, please contact the Visa Office at the Italian Embassy/Consulate in your city.

Time zone
Italy is in the Central European time zone (CET).

Currency
Euro (€)

Vaccination & water
No vaccinations are required. Tap water is safe to drink. Water from drinking fountains is safe unless signage indicates otherwise.

Languages
The official language is Italian. However, there are many different dialects, which vary considerably from region to region. In some areas they are considered separate languages. German is also spoken in the north close to the border with Switerland and Austria. French is spoken close to the border with France.

Health & insurance
The standard of medical facilities in Italy's major cities is high, but may be limited in regional areas. Private doctors, and specialist and diagnostic services require up-front payment. Italy and Australia are signatories to a Reciprocal Health Care Agreement, which covers travellers for up to six months from the date of arrival in Italy.
The Reciprocal Health Care Agreement doesn't replace the need for travel insurance. Visit ***medicare.com.au*** for more information. New Zealand does not have a reciprocal healthcare agreement with Italy.

Venice

Best time to travel

Spring (March - May)
Spring comes early in Italy and it's the ideal time for holidays in locations such as Florence, the Gulf of Naples, the Sorrento peninsula, the Aeolian Island, Sicily and Rome.

Summer (June - August)
There are numerous beach resorts all along the Ligurian and Adriatic Rivieras, and magnificent beaches on the Tyrrhenian, Adriatic and Ionian shores and in Sardinia. At this time of year vacations in the mountains are particularly attractive at Alpine resort such as Ortisei, Cervinia, Cortina d'Ampezzo and in the Apennines at Abetone (Tuscany), Roccaraso (Abruzzo), Sila (Calabria) or on Mt. Etna in Sicily.

Autumn (September - November)
Autumn is particularly enjoyable in Merano and Bressanone in the Dolomites, on the lakes of Lombardy, in Rome, Apulia, on Italy's beautiful islands and for visiting Italy's many spas.

Winter (December – February)
Winter is, of course, the winter sports season. Sports centres can be found not only in the Alps but also in many other parts of Italy such as: the central Apennines, on the Aspromonte in Calabria, and in Sicily. Winters are delightfully mild on the Ligurian and Neapolitan coasts and in Sicily. This is also the best time to visit the art Cities and avoid the crowds.

Visit: **italia.it/useful-info**

Milan Cathedral

Frasassi caves, Ancona

Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, Florence

Useful Phrases

Practice using these common Italian expressions:

Buongiorno! (bwohn-johr-noh) / Ciao! (chou)
Good morning / Hello! and Goodbye!

Parla inglese? (pahr-lah een-gleh-zeh)
Do you speak English?

Quanto viene? (kwahn-toh vyeh-neh)
How much does it come to?

Sì. (see) / No. (noh) / Mi scusi. (mee skooh-zee)
Yes / No / Excuse me (formal).

Dov'è la stazione? (doh-veh lah stah-tsyoh-neh)
Where is the station?

Per favore (pehr fah-voh-reh) / Grazie (grah-tsee-eh)
Please / Thank you

EXPLORE

Geographical Profile

Art & culture

The great artistic legacy of Italy, unequalled anywhere in the world, is not only distributed throughout Italy's major cities and their famous museums. In fact, there is no Italian city, however modest, that does not contain and cherish some share of this wealth of art. Tuscany alone possesses more artistic treasures than the whole of Spain, which is the second country in the world for cultural heritage.

There are more than 3600 museums, art galleries and archaeological sites across Italy. Some of the most famous include the Uffizi, the Accademia Gallery and the Pitti Palace, located in Florence; the Accademia delle Belle Arti in Venice; and Palazzo e Pinacoteca Brera and Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan. An Italian streetscape, meanwhile, is a museum in its own right.

Italy also brims with magnificent architectural achievements, which can be found in all corners of the country, from Rome's famous Colosseum and St Mark's Basilica in Venice to the striking Milan Cathedral and the Tower of Pisa.

Land & sea

Dramatic peaks drop towards crystalline seas, sparkling lakes meet enchanting villages, and such vistas are simply par for the course in Italy. From north to south, beautiful and evocative mountains make for spectacular views and a holiday full of adventure, fun or relaxation...or all of the above.

Italy's coastline measures 7600 kilometres along which rocky, wooded cliffs are indented by an infinite variety of beaches and bays. To the west lies the Ponente, which includes famous seaside resorts like San Remo, Alassio and Varazze. The eastern Riviera is famous for the towns of Nervi, Portofino, Santa Margherita, Rapallo and Sestri Levante.

Piazza Navona, Rome

Tuscan landscape

Tower of Pisa

Italy's three largest lakes are Maggiore, Como and Garda. These, along with the smaller lakes of Lugano, Iseo and Idro, make up a second Riviera of resorts with fine hotels and villas providing a busy season of swimming, sailing, golf and tennis from early spring to late autumn. Jewel-like minor lakes scattered among the valleys of the Alps include Caldonazzo, Molveno, Levico, Carezza, Misurina and Santa Croce while boating, swimming and fishing are specialties of the lakes in central and southern Italy.

Village life

Dotted among the natural beauty, the village is a symbol of Italian culture with artistic and architectural heritage, filled with tradition, and gastronomic treasures. Commonly known as 'borgo' or hamlet and dating back to the Renaissance or Medieval ages, villages are usually built around a castle or palace and surrounded by walls, making them both historically and visually appealing. There are hundreds of hamlets spread across Italy. They are welcoming places that offer a unique, authentic Italian experience. It's not uncommon to stumble upon festivals, exhibitions, fetes, conferences, and concerts that highlight the cultural, historical, and artistic heritage, involving residents, schools, and local artists. To experience the essence of Italy, a visit to a local village should be not be missed.

Foodie delights

Italian is one of the world's most renowned cuisines. Characterised by its simplicity, Italian food is a celebration of local history and culture, and it is enjoyed with passion and intention. Pizza and pasta are the country's most famous culinary exports, but there's nothing quite like the home-soil version, where the freshest ingredients are prepared to perfection. And if you're still hungry (you won't be), dessert will never disappoint: think creamy gelato and fresh cannoli. And limoncello to finish? Don't mind if I do. You'll find some of the world's best restaurants in Italy, but expect to be just as impressed by the mouth-watering fare at the casual trattoria down the street. Buon appetito!

Visit: **italia.it/travelideas**

Piazza San Marco, Venice

Getting around

Rail passes & tickets

The Silver Card ("*Carta d'Argento*") with Railplus discount is for customers over 60 years and costs €30 (FREE for customers of 75 years and over). You must present a valid ID or passport. For more information, visit: ***trenitalia.com***

Drivers licence holders

Option one: Obtain an International Driving Permit

An IDP is proof that you hold a valid licence from your home country at the date of issue. Prices range from about $20 - $60. Contact your local IDP authority in your state.

Option two: Obtain a valid translation into Italian of your drivers licence from an accredited translator

The translation must be then accompanied by a valid Australian or New Zealand drivers license. To obtain further information on accredited translators, please contact your local Italian Consulate or Embassy.

Italy's 20 Regions

North

It may be the smallest region in Italy, but **Aosta Valley** packs a sizeable punch as home to the highest peaks in the Alps: Cervino, Monte Rosa, Gran Paradiso and the king of them all, Mont Blanc. At 4810 metres high, Mont Blanc is the tallest mountain in Europe and is a world-famous destination for anyone who loves skiing, trekking, snowboarding or ice skating. As well as a wealth of natural attractions, cultural and traditional treasures abound. ***loveda.it/turismo***

As dramatic as it is beautiful, **Piedmont** is a grand and mountainous land. It is surrounded on three sides by the Alps, including the highest peaks and largest glaciers in Italy. Yet, nature is only one of the many attractions. Explore the rich history, remarkable heritage and slow food of the region's many stunning provinces including Novara, Alessandria and Turin, Italy's first capital. ***visitpiemonte.com***

In north-west Italy, bordering France, **Liguria** is a picture-perfect sliver of the country's celebrated coastline. Impressive mountains and lush rolling hills overlook the Ligurian Sea while the characteristic rocky coasts are interrupted by small and colourful coves. Highlights of this multi-faceted region include the intriguing capital Genoa and the UNESCO-listed Cinque Terre, Porto Venere, and the islands of Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto. Those who visit will hardly forget the charm and atmosphere. ***turismoinliguria.it***

Lombardy. The region's mountains, plains and grand lakes form the perfect backdrop for a holiday filled with adventure, discovery or relaxation – or all of the above. In Mantua, discover the charm of Sabbioneta, the defining 'ideal city' of the Italian Renaissance.

For architectural enthusiasts, Milan's Teatro alla Scala (opera house) and the nearby Duomo di Milano (cathedral) are masterpieces while nature lover will enjoy the spoils on offer at stunning Lake Garda. ***in-lombardia.it***

Stretching from the Dolomites to the Adriatic Sea, **Veneto** is a glorious patchwork of scenery. Amid the diversity, its most famous landscape is arguably the Venetian lagoon and on this spot stands perhaps the world's most unique city – Venice. With its characteristic canals peppered with gondolas, the region's capital is visited by millions of tourists each year, but it is just the start of Veneto's offering. From the Dolomites, dipped in the crimson shades of the sunset, to the eastern shore of Lake Garda and surrounding communes Peschiera del Garda and Torri del Benaco, there is no end to Verona's beauty. ***veneto.eu***

Trentino Alto Adige is situated in the very north of Italy, bordering Austria and Switzerland, and is best known for the beauty of its peaks. This setting encloses an extraordinary variety of landscapes: magnificent snow-capped mountains towering over beguiling woods, wide valleys, streams and lakes; the enchanting play of light between the spires of the Dolomites; and quaint Italian villages with soaring bell towers. Moreover, this region is the keeper of incredible artistic treasures, monuments and architectural works. ***visittrentino.it/sudetirol.info***

Located in Italy's northeast, bordering Slovenia and Austria and overlooking the Adriatic Sea, **Friuli Venezia Giulia**, like its neighbours, boasts myriad landscapes surrounded by impressive mountain ranges. Trieste, the region's capital, conceals innumerable beauties. Old cafes and neoclassical buildings line the Grand Canal while various monuments reveal the fascinating past of this central European city. Meanwhile, cosmopolitan Gorizia, charming Udine and picturesque Pordenone are also provinces not to be missed. ***turismofvg.it***

Emilia Romagna is a feast for both the eyes and the spirit. The contrast of mountains and sea offers visitors breathtaking views, and the mix of earthy colours, tempting aromas and fresh ocean air punctuate this beauty. The region is also a hotbed for music and art, which is appreciated internationally, while the cuisine is renowned, and not only in the provinces of Bologna, Parma, and Reggio Emilia. ***emiliaromagnaturismo.it***

Central

Heavenly landscapes, artistic heritage and world-renowned cities make **Tuscany** an unquestioned protagonist of international tourism. The most typical sceneries of the region are those that merge the beauty of nature with the millenary work of man. The charm of Florence is evident along the Arno River, on the picturesque Ponte Vecchio, and in the workshops of artisans that liven up the lanes of the old town. Other extraordinary destinations include: Pisa, famous for its leaning tower; San Gimignano, the city of towers; and the walled city of Lucca. ***visittuscany.com***

Ever-changing, untouched landscapes in the green of winding valleys make **Umbria** a region that will never fail to amaze. The charm of Umbria is derived from its fusion of art, nature, peace and calm, and its various villages that present as genuine masterpieces. Medieval towns such as Assisi, Gubbio and Spoleto are a showcase of historical and artistic heritage. ***umbriatourism.it***

Surprising and wonderfully diverse, **The Marches** shows off its beauty through cliffs and caves overlooking unforgettable beaches, hills steeped in history, and rich traditions and cultures, all set against a backdrop of mountains. The Marches protects the natural environment through its national and regional nature reserves while the Monti Sibillini and Monti della Laga National Parks' scenery and trekking offerings are peerless. ***turismo.marche.it***

Lazio is the cradle of occidental civilization and Christian culture, of lakes and legends, of thermal spas and history, of ancient roads and verdant hills. This region has different yet complementary features, unblemished scenery and spectacular horizons. Lazio is home to the Italian capital of Rome, a sprawling and globally influential city. ***visitlazio.com***

South

Mild climate, coastal beauty, rich art and history, and a love of food make **Campania** the fascinating territory that it is. The journey begins with the sea, the region's uncontested queen with its intense colours, coasts and coves. Flourishing Mediterranean vegetation alternates with small, charming towns, which narrate the history and traditions of the region. And who can forget Naples, Pompeii, Sorrento and the picturesque towns of the Amalfi Coast? ***incampania.com***

One does not stumble across **Basilicata** accidentally, but chooses to visit in search of a new experience, plunging into places where silence, colours, scents and flavours remove visitors from the frenzy of modern life. Small and charming villages dot the mountainous region, some at altitudes as high as 1000 metres, where pure air, genuine flavours and the beauty of nature combine with history to satisfy every curiosity. ***basilicataturistica.it***

Abruzzo is located in central Italy and stretches from the heart of the Apennines to the Adriatic Sea, on a mostly mountainous and wild terrain. The route that spans from the Gran Sasso down to the sea crosses territories rich in history, traditions, and never ceases to amaze. Thanks to its varied landscape, Abruzzo offers a number of exciting and surprising holiday options. ***abruzzoturismo.it***

Nature, history, art, age-old traditions and good food are the treasures of the still largely-undiscovered region of **Molise**. The many nature reserves protect the vegetable and animal species representative of this area. The region's two provinces, Campobasso and Isernia, both deliver on history, scenery and culture while sandy beaches surrounded by Mediterranean vegetation will surely delight. ***moliseturismo.eu***

Puglia, a charming region that can be visited year-round, is suspended among nature, history, tradition, tastes and spirituality. Apulia, the spur of the Italian 'boot', is an enchanting region that spreads lengthwise along the sea and boasts marvellous beaches from the sandy Torre dell'Orso and Porto Cesario, to the rocky Riviera of Otranto and Santa Maria di Leuca. The region is famous for the Trulli houses of Alberobello as well as the splendour of Lecce and baroque Bari. ***viaggiareinpuglia.it***

Located in Italy's extreme south, **Calabria's** warm climate make it a dream destination at any time of year. The beautiful coastline, wild natural surrounds, divine local flavours, and the vestiges of its ancient origins all add to the appeal. The National Parks, which cover most of inland Calabria, are a thrill for nature lovers. ***turiscalabria.it***

Islands

A voyage over an emerald sea, past characteristic coves and beaches of snow-white sand ... this is **Sardinia**, an island that strikes its visitors with natural contrasts. The sea reigns over this region with its colours that migrate into coves, along coasts, and towards the beaches and popular resorts. An example is the Costa Smeralda (Emerald Coast), with Porto Cervo set as its gemstone, which unites the history and culture of ancient traditions with a joyful and colourful nightlife. ***sardegnaturismo.it***

Sicily is one of the pearls of Southern Italy and can be experienced and enjoyed through a lens of nature, history and tradition. Experience the crystal-clear waters of San Vito lo Capo, Mondello, Cefalù, Marina di Ragusa, Taormina, the Aeolian Islands, Pantelleria, Lampedusa, and Ustica – just some of the many places where the sea reigns supreme. ***visitsicily.info***

For more information on the 20 regions of Italy, Visit: **italia.it/discover-italy**

UNESCO World Heritage Sites

55 Wonders of Italy

Cultural
Historic Centre
Natural

47 Prehistoric Pile dwellings around the Alps (2011)
111 small individual sites encompasses the remains of prehistoric pile-dwelling settlements in and around the Alps, which were built from around 5000 to 500 B.C on the edges of lakes, rivers and wetlands.

The Dolomites
To the east, between the valleys of the Adige and the Piave rivers, lie The Dolomites – the most fantastic and spectacular of the entire Alpine mountain range. This dramatic landscape comprises of 18 vertical and pale coloured peaks, rising above 3,000 metres and covering 141,903 hectares in a variety of distinctive sculptural forms. The Dolomites provide an insight into the recovery of marine life at the end of the Permian period, specifically after the greatest extinction event in the history of life on Earth 251 million years ago, where 96 percent of species were lost.

Magnificent in both winter and summer, Cortina d'Ampezzo — the 'Queen of the Dolomites' — has long attracted sport and adventure-seeking travellers. Aside from the numerous hiking and rafting trails, Cortina d'Ampezzo is also home to an enormous ski circuit, known as 'Dolomiti Superski'. The circuit retraces the 1956 Winter Olympics and is scheduled to host the upcoming 2021 Alpine Ski World Championships.

Rhaetian Railway Albula / Bernina Landscapes (2008) 44
This network brings together two historic railway lines that cross the Swiss Alps through two passes.

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23 Su Nuraxi di Barumini (1997)
The complex consists of circular defensive towers in the form of truncated cones built of dressed stone, with corbel-vaulted internal chambers. The complex at Barumini is the finest and most complete example of this remarkable form of prehistoric architecture.

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Aeolian Islands (2000)
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The Cathedral Churches of Cefalù and Monreale (2014)
A series of nine civil and religious structures dating from the era of the Norman kingdom of Sicily (1130-1194): two palaces, three churches, a cathedral, a bridge, as well as the cathedrals of Cefalù and Monreale. Collectively, they are an example of a social-cultural syncretism between Western, Islamic and Byzantine cultures on the island which gave rise to new concepts of space, structure and decoration. They also bear testimony to the fruitful coexistence of people of different origins and religions.

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Since the end of the last Ice Age, European beech spread from a few isolated refuges in the Alps, Carpathians, Mediterranean and Pyrenees over a short period of a few thousand years in a process that is still ongoing. This successful expansion is related to the tree's flexibility and tolerance of different climatic, geographical and physical conditions.

ITALIA

For more information about Italy's UNESCO World Heritage sites
Visit: **italia.it**

Travel ideas

Close to nature

Immerse yourself in Italy's rough and wild environment and you'll uncover innumerable treasures, and maybe a few well-kept secrets, too. Italy's lush and diversified environment is best illustrated in its wildlife parks, an ideal setting for those keen to get amongst nature, discover Italy's flora and fauna, visit its sunny islands and be surrounded by the typical Mediterranean landscape. There are many national parks well worth exploring: the Gran Paradiso, Circeo, Stelvio, Dolomiti Bellunesi, Gran Sasso and Monti della Laga, Cilento and Vallo di Diano, and Gargano National Parks; the parks of Calabria and Aspromonte; not to mention the Maddalena and Tuscan Archipelagos, the Vesuvius, the Cinque Terre National Parks, and many other protected areas, nature reserves, and marine parks.

Sports & adventure

Italy offers endless opportunities for those seeking a holiday dedicated to physical activity – the breathtaking backdrop is an added bonus. Italy's countless marinas and ports, and various tourist organisations offer opportunities to indulge in water sports, while mountain lovers are well and truly catered for with peaks piercing the skyline right across the Italian landscape. During the winter, those mountains become a powder-lover's paradise. Visitors are invited to experience a wide array of cultural and outdoor activities each season: skiing, alpine skiing, snowboarding, trekking and Nordic walking, mountain biking, ice skating, swimming, tennis, horseback riding... the list goes on. Whatever the season, whatever the passion, Italy is the place for a sports-related adventure beyond compare!

For further information, please visit:

FEDERVELA - The Italian Sailing Association	*federvela.it*
The Italian Federation for Fishing and Underwater Sports	*fipsas.it*
Italian Federation for Sport and Orienteering	*fiso.it*
Italian National Olympic Committee	*coni.it*
National Italian Paralympic Committee	*comitatoparalimpico.it*
Italian Equestrian Federation	*fise.it*

Health & wellness

Feeling good in Italy is easy. The restorative powers of mineral waters and mud baths that bubble up from Italian springs have been around since Roman times. Italy boasts the largest number of thermal spa centres in the world and many have become fashionable resort centres, with excellent hotels, casinos, golf courses and theatres.

Positano

Saturnia

Vernazza

Throughout the country, visitors can experience a unique holiday centred on general wellbeing. There are ancient baths that have remained intact for centuries and take visitors back in time, offering a primitive appeal, with their natural saunas, hidden caves surrounded by vegetation, and hot steam with a pleasantly ferrous scent – excellent for reinvigorating the body and treating the skin. Italy has various world-famous thermal spas: Saturnia, Montecatini, San Gimignano, Abano, Salsomaggiore and Ischia, to name just a few. Special consideration should be given to the wellness centres in Trentino Alto Adige, Umbria and Tuscany, where innovative treatments provide guests with a holiday dedicated to physical wellbeing and relaxation.

Business & study

Italy is the ideal destination for business tourism with excellent infrastructure set among inspiring landscapes. Surrounded by rich layers of culture and history, delegates will be challenged and motivated by their Italian locale while high-quality infrastructure, from airports and hotels to event facilities, help deliver a seamless experience. Cities both small and large are equipped to host international fairs, congresses, meetings and conventions, while students are equally supported. Every year, Italian Universities welcome thousands of students from all over the world, organising courses at various levels and encouraging participants to learn the language or explore the vast, fascinating world of Italian art and culture.

Visit: **italia.it/travelideas**

Santa Maddalena village, Val di Funes

Tourist cards and Apps

Thanks to independent online ticket booking and purchasing services for visiting the major and most popular Italian culture locations, you can access the entire national artistic system, and choose products best suited to your needs directly from your smartphone or Ipad.

From the Colosseum to the Uffizi Gallery, from Pompeii to Leonardo's Last Supper, from the Savoy Residences to the Galleria dell' Accademia in Venice, enjoying the Italian cultural heritage has never been easier.

In order to access the many online booking facilities, visit: *italia.it/useful-info*

Download the OMNIA Vatican and Rome Card
This sightseeing package allows card holders FREE entry to top atractions and Fast Track Entry - saving up to four hours! *romeandvaticanpass.com*

Useful info

Embassies

Embassy of Italy - Australia
12 Grey St, Deakin, ACT 2600
P: *(+61) 2 6273 3333* E: *ambasciata.canberra@esteri.it*
W: *ambcanberra.esteri.it*

Embassy of Italy - New Zealand
24-38 Grant Rd, Thordon, Wellington 6011
P: *(+64) 4 4735 399* E: *ambasciata.wellington@esteri.it*
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Consulates

General Consulate of Italy - Sydney
19/44 Market Street, Sydney NSW 2000
P: *(+61) 2 9392 7900*
E: *info.sydney@esteri.it*
W: *conssydney.esteri.it*

General Consulate of Italy - Melbourne
1/509 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne VIC 3004
P: *(+61) 3 9867 5744*
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8/199 George Street, Brisbane 4000
P: (+61) 7 3229 8944 E: consolato.brisbane@esteri.it
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General Consulate of Italy - Adelaide
215 Port Road, Hindmarsh, South Australia 5007
P: *(+61) 8 8337 0777* E: *consolato.adelaide@esteri.it*
W: *consadelaide.esteri.it*

General Consulate of Italy - Perth
Level 2/192 Hay Street, West Perth 6005
P: *(+61) 8 9322 4500* E: *consolato.perth@esteri.it*
W: *consperth.esteri.it*

Trade Agency

Italian Trade Agency - Sydney
19/44 Market Street, Sydney NSW 2000
P: *(+61) 2 9392 7900*
E: *info.sydney@esteri.it*
W: *conssydney.esteri.it*

Airports

Algehro (AHO)	*aeroportodialghero.it*
Ancona (AOI Falconara)	*aeroportomarche.it/en*
Bari (BRI Palese) **/ Brindisi** (BDS Casale)	*seap-puglia-it*
Bergamo (BGY Orio)	*sacbo.it*
Bologna (BLQ G. Marconi)	*bologna-airport.it*
Brescia (VBS G. Dannunzio)	*aeroportobrescia.it*
Cagliari (CAG)	*sogaer.it*
Catania (CTA Fontana Rossa)	*aeroporto.catania.it*
Florence (FLR A. Vespucci)	*aeroporto.firenze.it*
Forli' (GVA C. Colombo)	*aeroportodiforli.com*
Lamezia Terme	*lameziaairport.it*
Milan (LIN Linate/MXP Malpenza)	*sea-aerportomilano.it*
Naples (NAP Capodichino)	*www.aeroportodinapoli.it*
Palermo (PMO Falcone Borsellino)	*gesap.it*
Parma (PMF Verdi)	*aeroportoparma.it*
Perugia (PEG Sant'Egido)	*airport.umbria.it*
Pescara (PSR Liberi)	*abruzzo-airport.it*
Pisa (PSA International Airport)	*pisa-airport.it*
Reggio Calabria (SUF Lamezia Terme)	*sacal.it*
Reggio Calabria (REG Dello Stretto)	*sogas.it*
Rome (CIA Ciampino/ FCO Fiumicino)	*adr.it*
Treviso (TSF Ancillotto)	*trevisoairport.it*
Trieste (TRS Ronchi dei Legionari)	*aeroporto.fvg.it*
Turin (TRN Caselle)	*turin-airport.com*
Venice (VCE Marco Polo)	*veniceairport.it*
Verona (VRN Catullo)	*aeroportoverona.it*

Useful numbers

Emergency aid service	113
Carabinieri (police force)	112
Fire Brigade	115
Guardia di Finanza	117
Ambulance	118
Australian Embassy in Rome	06 852 721
New Zealand Embassy in Rome	06 8537501

International codes

From Australia to Italy	001139
From New Zealand to Italy	0039
From Italy to Australia	0061
From Italy to New Zealand	0064

Save the date

January

New Years Day JAN 1
Public Holiday

Celebration of the Epiphany
January 6th | Public holiday
The Pope will lead a Mass in St Peter's Basilica as the country celebrates the 'Feast of the Epiphany'.

February/March

Almond Blossom Festival
First half of February | Agrigento | Sicily
First half of February, folk festival of song, dance, costumes and fireworks.

Venice Carnival
February/March | Venice | Venento
A masquerade celebration with music, mimes and fireworks in the streets and squares.

Carnival in Viareggio
February/March | Viareggio | Tuscany
Highlight of the carnival festival is the procession of spectacular and colourful floats.

Battle of the Oranges
February/March | Ivrea | Piedmont
Involves thousands of townspeople, divided into nine teams, who throw oranges at each other.

April

Unification of Italy MAR 17
Public Holiday

Procession of the Mysteries
Good Friday | Trapani | Sicily
20 sculptures representing Christ are carried along the main streets.

Explosion of the Cart
Easter Sunday | Florence | Tuscany
A pyramid of fireworks set off by a mechanical dove from the altar in the cathedral square during mass .

Celebration of the Holy Week
Easter Week | Assisi | Umbria
Calendimaggio, celebration of spring with flamboyant costumed parades, jousting and other medieval fun.

May

Liberation Day APR 25
Public Holiday

Festival of St. Efiso
May 1st - 4th | Cagliari | Sardinia
One of the most colourful processions as pilgrims follow a statue of the saint on foot and horseback.

Palio-San Secondo
May 2nd | Asti | Piedmont
A 700-year-old ceremony of medieval origin that culminates with a bareback horse race.

Sagra Di San Nicola
May 7th | Bari | Apulia
When the Saint is returned to his Basilica the bells will ring out and the celebrations start.

Race of the Candles
May 15th | Gubbio | Umbria
A procession of tall shrines are raced by teams to the church on top of Mount Igino.

Sardinian Ride
Last Sunday in May | Sassari | Sardinia
A traditional procession of more than 3,000 people in Sardinian costumes.

Palio of the Archers
Last Sunday in May | Gubbio | Umbria
An archery competition in which the cities of Gubbio and San Sepolcro compete in the main square.

June

Anniversary of the Republic JUN 2
Public holiday

The Battle of the Bridge
First Sunday in June | Pisa | Tuscany
An iron cart is set up in the centre of the bridge with the aim to conquer the enemy's side.

The Lily Festival
The Sunday following June 22nd | Nola | Campania
This week-long festival honours San Paolino, the town's patron saint, in the towns streets.

Historic Soccer Match
June 24 - 28th | Florence | Tuscany
Revival of a historic 16th-century football and rugby match in medieval costume.

July

Festa De'Noantri
July 19 - 26th | Rome | Lazio
Folklore festival of Old Rome in Trastevere, including a colourful procession for the Vergine del Carmine.

August

Ferragasto AUG 15
Public holiday

Joust of the Quintana
First Sunday in August | Ascoli Piceno | The Marches
A jouster competes to skewer nine rings against one rider from each of the ten districts of the city.

The Palio di Siena
August 6th | Siena | Tuscany
The infamous horseback race where jockeys make three treacherous laps in the piazza amongst the crowd.

Feast of the Redeemer
August 27 - 30th | Nuoro | Sardinia
Locals congregate at Nuoro's Cathedral to follow a bronze, seven-metre-tall statue of Christ the Redeemer.

September

Historical Regatta
First Sunday in September | Venice | Veneto
A parade of colourful ceremonial boats followed by a traditional gondola race up the Grand Canal.

Living Chess Game
Second Weekend in September | Marostica | Veneto
A game of chess using live pieces renacts a fictional story of two rival lovers in the main square.

Festival of San Genarro
September 19th | Napoli | Campania
A religious ceremony honouring the patron saint of the city with a procession from the cathedral.

Salone del Gusto
Last Week of September | Turin | Piedmont
An international gastronomy exhibition that strives to preserve traditional and regional cuisines.

October

All Saints' Day NOV 1
Public Holiday

Eurochocolate
Nine days in October | Perugia | Umbria
A must for all chocolate lovers! With imaginative laboratories and produce stands lining the streets.

December

Immaculate Conception DEC 8
Public Holiday

Oh Bej! Oh Bej!
December 7 - 9th | Milan | Lombardy
Milan's patron saint is celebrated with a beautiful Christmas market at the Church of St. Ambrogio.

THE VALLEY OF AOSTA
(ITALY)
l'estate nell' ALTO ADIGE
TRENTO
VENEZIA
TRIESTE
BOLOGNA
MILANO
Genova
e la Riviera Italiana
FIRENZE
PESARO
PERVGIA
Torino
ROMA
ABRVZZO
NAPOLI
SARDEGNA
sicilia
(italia)
eterna primavera
CATTOLICA
RIVIERA ADRIATICA ITALIA
PUGLIE
CAPRI

ITALIA