

ITALY

Italy is a treasure trove of iconic destinations, each offering its own unique charm and unforgettable experiences. In Rome, the Eternal City, travelers can walk in the footsteps of emperors as they explore the Colosseum, Roman Forum, and Vatican City, all surrounded by vibrant street life and world-class cuisine. Venice, with its enchanting canals, gondolas, and ornate palaces, feels like stepping into a dream, especially as you glide beneath the Bridge of Sighs or explore the artistry of St. Mark's Basilica. The glamorous island of Capri offers stunning sea views, upscale boutiques, and natural wonders like the Blue Grotto, while the nearby Amalfi Coast captivates with colorful cliffside villages like Positano and Ravello. In Florence, the birthplace of the Renaissance, art and history lovers are surrounded by masterpieces from Michelangelo and Botticelli, and in Tuscany, rolling vineyards and medieval towns like Siena and San Gimignano provide a peaceful retreat. For those craving alpine adventure, the Dolomites and Italian Alps offer world-class skiing and breathtaking scenery. From north to south, Italy is a mosaic of culture, beauty, and history that leaves a lasting impression on every traveler.



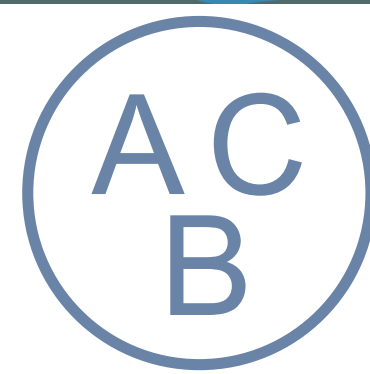
Capital
Rome



Area
116,350 sq mi



Currency
Euro



Language
Italian

ITALIAN FOLK DANCE

Folk dance has been an integral part of Italian culture for centuries, weaving through the nation's history from the time of Dante to the Renaissance and beyond. The lively tarantella of southern Italy is among the most famous, symbolizing passion and tradition, while modern revivals of folk music and dance continue to celebrate Italy's rich cultural heritage today.



THE WEATHER

Italy enjoys a Mediterranean climate, with generally mild conditions in cities like Rome, Florence, and the Tuscan region. Summers can be hot, especially in lowland and coastal areas, while the hills and valleys experience a more continental climate with cooler temperatures and more frequent rainfall.



THE FOOD

Italy's national dish is pasta, served in countless varieties such as ravioli, lasagna, tortellini, and spaghetti with tomato or clam sauce. Another global favorite, pizza, originated in Naples and remains one of Italy's most beloved culinary icons. From fresh cheeses and cured meats to fine wines and olive oil, Italian cuisine is celebrated worldwide for its flavor and tradition.

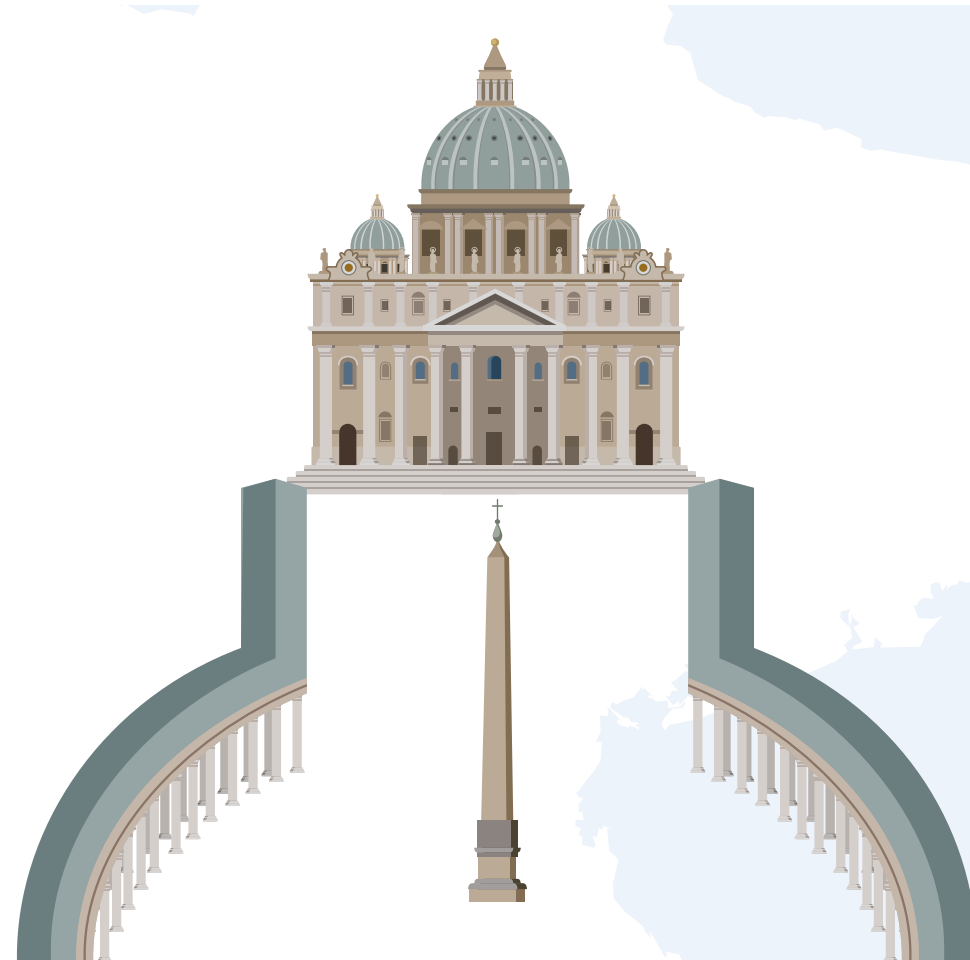
ITALIAN DRINKS

Italy is the world's largest wine producer, and wine is a cherished part of daily life, often served with meals. Equally iconic is espresso, the strong and aromatic coffee enjoyed in cafés and bars across the country as a beloved ritual of Italian culture. Traditional liqueurs like limoncello and grappa also hold a special place in Italy's drink heritage.



VENICE

Venice is a unique city built on more than 100 small islands in a lagoon of the Adriatic Sea. With no roads, it is famed for its picturesque canals, including the iconic Grand Canal, lined with stunning Renaissance and Gothic palaces. At its heart lies Piazza San Marco, home to the magnificent St. Mark's Basilica adorned with Byzantine mosaics, and the towering Campanile, which offers breathtaking views over the city's red rooftops and shimmering waterways.



VATICAN CITY

Vatican City, an independent city-state within Rome, is the spiritual center of the Roman Catholic Church and the residence of the Pope. It holds some of the world's most treasured art and architecture, from the Vatican Museums, which showcase masterpieces like Laocoön and His Sons, to the Raphael Rooms and the awe-inspiring Sistine Chapel, renowned for Michelangelo's legendary ceiling.



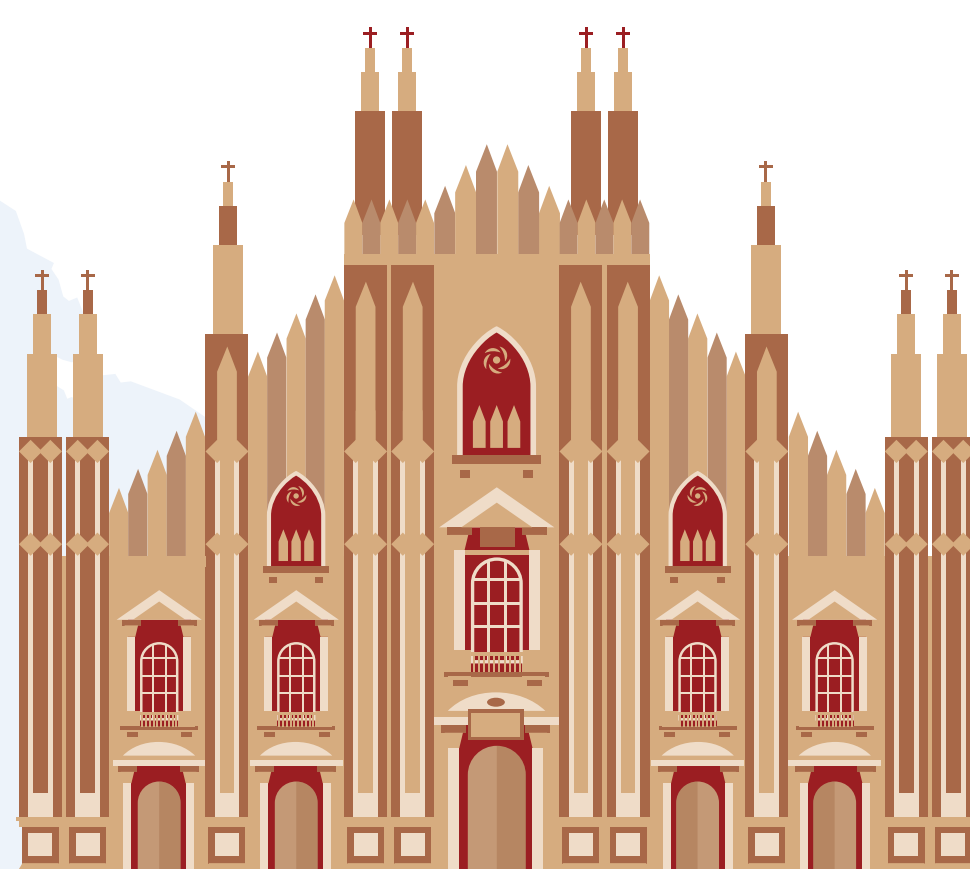
ROME

The capital city and most populated comune of Italy. It is also the administrative centre of the Lazio region and of the Metropolitan City of Rome. It is often referred to as the City of Seven Hills due to its geography, and also as the "Eternal City". Rome is generally considered to be one of the cradles of Western civilization and Western Christian culture.



FLORENCE

Florence is the cradle of the Renaissance, home to countless masterpieces of art and architecture. Its most iconic landmark is the Duomo, with Brunelleschi's magnificent terracotta-tiled dome and Giotto's elegant bell tower. The Galleria dell'Accademia houses Michelangelo's world-famous David, while the Uffizi Gallery showcases treasures such as Botticelli's The Birth of Venus and da Vinci's Annunciation.



MILAN

Milan, the vibrant metropolis of northern Italy's Lombardy region, is a global capital of fashion and design. As home to the national stock exchange, it also stands as a major financial hub, celebrated for its elegant boutiques, high-end restaurants, and cosmopolitan lifestyle. Landmarks such as the stunning Gothic Duomo di Milano and the Santa Maria delle Grazie convent, which houses Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece The Last Supper, showcase the city's rich artistic and cultural legacy.



PISA

Pisa, located in Italy's Tuscany region, is world-famous for its iconic Leaning Tower, a striking white-marble bell tower beside the Romanesque cathedral in the Piazza dei Miracoli. This historic square also features the impressive Baptistry, celebrated for its remarkable acoustics, and the Camposanto Monumentale cemetery, completing one of Italy's most extraordinary architectural ensembles.



THE AMALFI COAST

Located in Italy's Campania region, the Amalfi Coast is a world-renowned holiday destination, famed for its dramatic cliffs, hidden beaches, and pastel-colored fishing villages. The scenic coastal road from Salerno to Sorrento winds past elegant villas, terraced vineyards, and fragrant cliffside lemon groves, offering breathtaking views at every turn.



POMPEII

Pompeii, near the Bay of Naples, is one of the world's most remarkable archaeological sites. Once a thriving Roman city, it was buried under ash and pumice after the catastrophic eruption of Mount Vesuvius nearly 2,000 years ago, preserving homes, streets, and artifacts that offer a vivid glimpse into ancient life.



TUSCANY

Tuscany, a region in central Italy, is celebrated for its stunning and varied landscapes. From the rugged Apennine Mountains to the sandy beaches of Elba Island, and the rolling hills of Chianti dotted with olive groves and vineyards, Tuscany perfectly blends natural beauty with timeless charm.