Italian
PHRASEBOOK & DICTIONARY
Look out for the following icons throughout the book:

- **‘Shortcut’ Phrase**
  Easy-to-remember alternative to the full phrase

- **Q&A Pair**
  ‘Question-and-answer’ pair – we suggest a response to the question asked

- **Look For**
  Phrases you may see on signs, menus etc

- **Listen For**
  Phrases you may hear from officials, locals etc

- **Language Tip**
  An insight into the foreign language

- **Culture Tip**
  An insight into the local culture

**How to read the phrases:**
- Coloured words and phrases throughout the book are phonetic guides to help you pronounce the foreign language.
- Lists of phrases with tinted background are options you can choose to complete the phrase above them.

**These abbreviations will help you choose the right words and phrases in this book:**
- **f** feminine
- **inf** informal
- **lit** literal
- **m** masculine
- **pl** plural
- **pol** polite
- **sg** singular
Menu Decoder
Dishes and ingredients explained – order with confidence and try new foods.

Two-Way Dictionary
Quick reference vocabulary guide – 3500 words to help you communicate.

Page 184
Menu Decoder

Page 204
Two-Way Dictionary

Index 267
Why Bother

When even a simple sentence sounds like an aria, it’s difficult to resist striking up a conversation. Besides, all you need for *la dolce vita* is to be able to tell your Moschino from your *macchiato* and your Fellini from your *fettuccine*!

Distinctive Sounds

The rolled *r*, stronger than in English; most other consonants can have a more emphatic pronunciation too (in which case they’re written as double letters).
Italian in the World
Thanks to widespread migration and the enormous popularity of Italian culture and cuisine – from ‘spaghetti Western’ to opera – Italian is often a language of choice in schools all over the world, despite the fact that Italy never established itself as a colonial power.

Italian in Italy
Italians are very proud of their language’s rich history and influence – rightly so, since it claims the closest relationship with the language spoken by the Romans. For example, Italy is one of the few countries in Europe where dubbing of foreign-language movies is preferred to subtitling.

False Friends
Warning: many Italian words look like English words but have a different meaning altogether, eg camera ka·me·ra is a room, not a camera (which is macchina fotografica ma·kee·na fo·to·gra·fee·ka in Italian).

Language Family
Romance (developed from Latin, the language of the Roman Empire). Close relatives include Spanish, Portuguese, French and Romanian.

Must-Know Grammar
Italian has a formal and informal word for ‘you’ (Lei lay and tu too respectively); the verbs have a different ending for each person, like the English ‘I do’ vs ‘he/she does’.

Donations to English
Numerous – most of us are familiar with ciao, pasta, bella, maestro, mafia...
What’s the local speciality?
Qual’è la specialità di questa regione?
A bit like the rivalry between medieval Italian city-states, these days the country’s regions compete in specialty foods and wines.

Which combined tickets do you have?
Quali biglietti cumulativi avete?
Make the most of your euro by getting combined tickets to various sights; they are available in all major Italian cities.

Where can I buy discount designer items?
C’è un outlet in zona?
Discount fashion outlets are big business in major cities – get bargain-priced seconds, samples and cast-offs for la bella figura.

I’m here with my husband/boyfriend.
Sono qui con il mio marito/ragazzo.
Solo women travellers may receive unwanted attention in some parts of Italy; if ignoring fails have a polite rejection ready.

Let’s meet at 6pm for pre-dinner drinks.
Ci vediamo alle sei per un aperitivo.
At dusk, watch the main piazza get crowded with people sipping colourful cocktails and snacking the evening away: join your new friends for this authentic Italian ritual!
10 Phrases to Sound Like a Local

- **What’s up?** | **Cosa c’è?** | *ko-Za che*
- **All OK?** | **Tutto a posto?** | *too-Ta pos-to*
- **It’s OK.** | **Va bene.** | *va be-ne*
- **Great!** | **Fantastico!** | *fan-tas-tee-ko*
- **That’s true.** | **È vero.** | *e ve-ro*
- **Sure.** | **Certo.** | *cher-to*
- **No way!** | **Per niente!** | *per nyen-te*
- **You’re kidding!** | **Scherzi!** | *sker-tsee*
- **If only!** | **Magari!** | *ma-ga-ree*
- **Really?** | **Davvero?** | *da-vi-ro*
Understanding

### KEY PHRASES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Response</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you speak English?</td>
<td>Parla/Parli inglese?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does anyone speak English?</td>
<td>C’è qualcuno che parla inglese?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don’t understand.</td>
<td>(Non) Capisco.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What does ... mean?</td>
<td>Che cosa vuol dire ...?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1a Q Do you speak English?  Parla/Parli inglese?  
1b Q Does anyone speak English?  C’è qualcuno che parla inglese?  
1c A I understand.  Capisco.  
1d A I don’t understand.  Non capisco.  

I (don’t) speak Italian.  
I speak a little.  

I speak a little.  Parlo un po’.  

Understanding BASICS

What does ... mean?  Che cosa vuol dire ...?  

I speak English.  Parlo inglese.  
I need an interpreter who speaks English.  Ho bisogno di un interprete che parla l’inglese.  
I don’t speak Italian.  (Non) Parlo italiano.  
I speak a little.  Parlo un po’.
# Numbers & Amounts

## Key Phrases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How much?</th>
<th>Quanto/a? m/f</th>
<th>kwan·to/a</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>some</td>
<td>alcuni/e m/f</td>
<td>al·koo·nee/al·koo·ne</td>
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<tr>
<td>less/more</td>
<td>di meno/più</td>
<td>dee me·no/pyoo</td>
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## Cardinal Numbers

<p>| | | | |</p>
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<td>0</td>
<td>zero</td>
<td>dze·ro</td>
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<td>3b</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>uno</td>
<td>oo·no</td>
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<tr>
<td>3c</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>due</td>
<td>doo·e</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>tre</td>
<td>tre</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>quattro</td>
<td>kwa·tro</td>
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<td>3f</td>
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<td>cheen·kwe</td>
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<td>diciassette</td>
<td>dee·cha·se·te</td>
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