



lonely planet

≡ *Fast Talk*

Italian

GUARANTEED TO GET YOU TALKING





≡ Fast Talk

Italian

GUARANTEED TO GET YOU TALKING

Acknowledgments

Associate Publisher Mina Patria

Managing Editor Annelies Mertens

Editors Jodie Martire, Branislava Vladislavljevic

Managing Layout Designer Chris Girdler

Layout Designer Carol Jackson

Product Development Janine Eberle, Laura Jane, Michael Ruff, Laura Stansfeld

Language Writers Pietro Iagnocco, Karina Coates, Susie Walker, Mirna Cicioni, Anna Beltrami

Thanks

Sally Darmody, Larissa Frost, Jennifer Mullins, Kirsten Rawlings, Jacqui Saunders, Juan Winata

Published by Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd

ABN 36 005 607 983

3rd Edition – May 2013

ISBN 978 1 74179 482 3

Text © Lonely Planet 2013

Cover Image Cafe in Milan, Dallas Stribley/Getty Images©

Printed in China 0 987654321

Contact lonelyplanet.com/contact

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, except brief extracts for the purpose of review, without the written permission of the publisher. Lonely Planet and the Lonely Planet logo are trade marks of Lonely Planet and are registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and in other countries. Lonely Planet does not allow its name or logo to be appropriated by commercial establishments, such as retailers, restaurants or hotels. Please let us know of any misuses: www.lonelyplanet.com/ip

Although the authors and Lonely Planet try to make the information as accurate as possible, we accept no responsibility for any loss, injury or inconvenience sustained by anyone using this book.

Paper in this book is certified against the Forest Stewardship Council™ standards. FSC™ promotes environmentally responsible, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world's forests.



Contents

Before You Go 4

*Chatting &
Basics* 9

Sightseeing 52

*Airport &
Transport* 24

Shopping 57

Accommodation 32

Entertainment 63

*Eating &
Drinking* 38

Practicalities 66

English to Italian Dictionary 75

Italian to English Dictionary 83

Index 91

Before You Go

You can get by in Italy's major cities without speaking Italian, but just a few phrases will go a long way in making friends, inviting service with a smile, and ensuring a rich and rewarding travel experience – you could experience a delicious meal at a no-menu trattoria, find a hidden art gallery off the tourist trail, or discover the best cappuccino in Rome.

PRONUNCIATION TIPS

The sounds of Italian can almost all be found in English, and if you read our coloured pronunciation guides as if they were English you'll be understood. The stressed syllables are indicated with italics.

- ★ The only sound that does differ from English is the **r**, which is rolled and stronger than in English.
- ★ Most other consonants can have a more emphatic pronunciation too (in which case they're written as double letters). The actual sounds are basically the same, but the more emphatic pronunciation

can alter the meaning of a word, eg *sono so·no* means 'I am', but *sonno son·no* means 'sleep'.

- ★ Note also that **dz** is pronounced as the 'ds' in 'lids' and **ly** as the 'li' in 'million'.

MUST-KNOW GRAMMAR

The structure of Italian holds no major surprises for English speakers since the two languages are quite closely related.

- ★ Italian has a formal and informal word for 'you' (*Lei* **lay** and *tu* **too** respectively). When talking to someone familiar or younger than you,

use the informal *tu* form. Phrases in this book use the form that is appropriate to the situation. Where both forms can be used, they are indicated by **pol** and **inf** respectively.

★ Italian also distinguishes between masculine and feminine forms of words, eg *bello/bella* *be·lo/be·la* (beautiful), indicated in this book by **m** and **f**.

★ Verbs have a different ending for each person, like the English ‘I do’ vs ‘he/she does’. Travellers don’t need to worry too much about this though – if you use the dictionary form of a verb in all contexts, you’ll still be understood.

SOUNDS FAMILIAR?

Numerous Italian words are already part of the English vocabulary – most of us are familiar with *ciao*, *pasta*, *bella*, *maestro*, *mafia*...

Fast Talk Italian

Don’t worry if you’ve never learnt Italian (*italiano* *ee·ta·lya·no*) before – it’s all about confidence. You don’t need to memorise endless grammatical details or long lists of vocabulary – you just need to start speaking. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain when the locals hear you making an effort. And remember that body language and a sense of humour have a role to play in every culture.

“you just need to start speaking”

Even if you use the very basics, such as greetings and civilities, your travel experience will be the better for it. Once you start, you’ll be amazed how many prompts you’ll get to help you build on those first words. You’ll hear people speaking, pick up sounds and expressions from the locals, catch a word or two that you know from TV already, see something on a billboard – all these things help to build your understanding.

5.

Phrases to Learn Before You Go

1.

What's the local speciality?

Qual'è la specialità di questa regione?

kwa-le la spe-cha-lee-ta dee kwes-ta re-jo-ne

A bit like the rivalry between medieval Italian city-states, these days the country's regions compete in specialty foods and wines.

2.

Which combined tickets do you have?

Quali biglietti cumulativi avete?

kwa-lee bee-lye-tee koo-moo-la-tee-vee a-ve-te

Make the most of your euro by getting combined tickets to various sights. They are available in all major Italian cities.

3.

Where can I buy discount designer items?

C'è un outlet in zona? *che oon owt-let in zo-na*

Discount fashion outlets are big business in major cities – get bargain-priced seconds, samples and cast-offs for *la bella figura*.

4.

I'm here with my husband/boyfriend.

Sono qui con il mio marito/ragazzo.

so-no kwee kon eel mee-o ma-ree-to/ra-ga-tso

Solo women travellers may receive unwanted attention in some parts of Italy. If ignoring fails, have a polite rejection ready.

5.

Let's meet at 6pm for pre-dinner drinks.

Ci vediamo alle 6 per un aperitivo.

chee ve-dya-mo a-le say per oon a-pe-ree-tee-vo

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·ve·ro