

## ITALY

Italy, officially the Italian Republic is a unitary parliamentary republic in Southern Europe. To the north, Italy borders France, Switzerland, Austria, and Slovenia, and is approximately delimited by the Alpine watershed, enclosing the Po Valley and the Venetian Plain. To the south, it consists of the entirety of the Italian Peninsula and the two biggest Mediterranean islands of Sicily and Sardinia.



## HISTORY

Between the 17th and the 11th centuries BC Mycenaean Greeks established contacts with Italy and in the 8th and 7th centuries BC Greek colonies were established all along the coast of Sicily and the southern part of the Italian Peninsula became known as Magna Graecia. Also the Phoenicians established colonies on the coasts of Sardinia and Sicily. Rome, a modest agricultural community conventionally founded in 753 BC, grew over the course of centuries into a massive empire, stretching from Britain to the borders of Persia, and engulfing the whole Mediterranean basin, in which Greek and Roman cultures merged into a unique civilization. The Roman Imperial legacy has deeply influenced Western civilization for the following millennia. Ancient Rome shaped most of the Modern World. In a slow decline since the late 2nd century AD, the Empire broke into two parts in 395 AD. The Western Roman Empire, under the pressure of the Barbarian invasions, eventually dissolved in 476 AD, when the last western Emperor was deposed by the Germanic chief Odoacer, while the Eastern half of the Empire survived for another thousand years.



# Italy

Customized By  
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VISIT THE BOOT

## CUISINE

Italian cuisine has developed through centuries of social and political changes, with roots as far back as the 4th century BCE. Italian cuisine has its origins in Etruscan, ancient Greek, and ancient Roman cuisines. Significant changes occurred with the discovery of the New World and the introduction of potatoes, tomatoes, bell peppers and maize, now central to the cuisine but not introduced in quantity until the 18th century. Italian cuisine is noted for its regional diversity, abundance of difference in taste, and is known to be one of the most popular in the world, with influences abroad. Italian cuisine is characterized by its simplicity, with many dishes having only four to eight ingredients. Italian cooks rely chiefly on the quality of the ingredients rather than on elaborate preparation. Ingredients and dishes vary by region. Many dishes that were once regional, however, have proliferated with variations throughout the country. In 2013 Italian cuisine was ranked by CNN as the best cuisine in the world. Cheese and wine are a major part of the cuisine. Coffee, specifically espresso, has become important in Italian cuisine.



## CULTURAL EVENTS

Italians are very keen on festivals and celebrations of all sorts. Festivals range from local religious processions to avant-garde musical events. Carnevale the pre-Lenten carnival, is popular all over Italy, although nowadays it is mostly a children's event; you'll see small children in fancy costumes being taken around town over streets daubed with party-string and confetti. The most famous celebration is Venice Carnival, which has a decadent history, although the current event is a reborn tourist attraction. Venice is full of visitors in elaborate fancy dress, with public catwalk parades and private masked balls. Another large Carnival event takes place in Viareggio, Tuscany, with a procession of elaborate floats. Summer in Italy is hot, and many towns put on outdoor festival seasons of music, dance and shows for both visitors and locals. Often these take place in the local ruins, castle or park, in some cases the entertainment is free and is well worth investigating. Throughout the year, but particularly in autumn, there are many opportunities in small towns to sample a sagra. These are sometimes modern, sometimes traditional parties to celebrate a local product or harvest. Italians in historic towns are fond of re-enacting their past and medieval parades, jousts and flag throwing displays are all popular.



## TOP 5 ATTRACTIONS

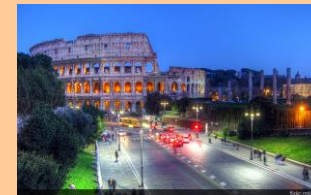
Castel del Monte



St Peter's Basilica



The Colosseum



Pompeii



Paestum



# Travel Brochure Rubric

	4	3	2	1
<b>Organization</b>	The brochure has excellent formatting and very well organized information.	The brochure has appropriate formatting and well-organized information.	The brochure has some organized information with random formatting.	The brochure's format and organization of material are confusing to the reader.
<b>Ideas</b>	The brochure communicates relevant information appropriately and effectively to the intended audience.	The brochure communicates relevant information appropriately to the intended audience.	The brochure communicates irrelevant information, or communicates inappropriately to the intended audience.	The brochure communicates irrelevant information, and communicates inappropriately to the intended audience.
<b>Conventions</b>	All of the writing is done in complete sentences.  Capitalization and punctuation are correct throughout the brochure.	Most of the writing is done in complete sentences.  Most of the capitalization and punctuation are correct throughout the brochure.	Some of the writing is done in complete sentences.  Some of the capitalization and punctuation are correct throughout the brochure.	Most of the writing is not done in complete sentences.  Most of the capitalization and punctuation are not correct throughout the brochure.
<b>Graphics</b>	The graphics go well with the text, and there is a good mix of text and graphics.	The graphics go well with the text, but there are so many that they distract from the text.	The graphics go well with the text, but there are too few.	The graphics do not go with the accompanying text or appear to be randomly chosen.