

WORD *of the* WEEK

A weekly word to help improve your Italian vocabulary

PARLI
ITALIANO?



italy
magazine

INTRODUCTION

The process of learning a language often begins with the learning of singular vocabulary: the memorization of individual words strung together to kick-start making oneself understood in another language, and the Italian language is no different. This is why we, at Italy Magazine, have created this roundup of 54 Italian words, one for each week of the year, plus 2, in order to give you a fun, easy window into speaking Italiano.

With this eBook: each week, you'll be able to learn a new Italian word, together with a phrase translated in both English and Italian. One suggestion we recommend is to transfer these words and phrases to handwritten flash-cards for additional memory-inducing exercises.

PAROLE

Words

BENVENUTO

Welcome



IT: Benvenuto in Italia!

EN: Welcome to Italy!

BENVENUTO in Italia! Welcome to Italy – and you will always be welcome to ITALY Magazine.

This is one of those words that need to be adapted according to the gender and number, so:

You will say *Benvenuto* to a man and *Benvenuti* to a group of people.

Benvenuta to a woman and *Benvenute* to a group of women.

ANNO

Year



IT: Ho molti progetti per l'anno nuovo

EN: I have many projects for the new year.

A year has just passed and a new one has just begun, so our Word of the Week is of course ANNO, year. The plural is *anni*, years.

New Year's Eve is *Capodanno* - the new year is *il nuovo anno* or *l'anno nuovo*. You can wish a happy new year by saying *Buon anno* or *Felice Anno Nuovo!*

Are you looking forward to next year - *l'anno prossimo?*

SALDI

Sales



IT: E' tempo di saldi invernali!

EN: Winter sales season is here!

January and July are good times of the year for all shopping aficionados: sales time, or, as we say in Italian, è tempo di SALDI!

I saldi invernali (winter sales) usually begin the day after January 6, la Befana, although it has become common for many stores to start earlier immediately after the 1st of January. *I saldi estivi* (summer sales) usually begin July 1. The *saldi* are on for about two months.

We at ITALY Magazine have already started to take advantage of the bargain rates (*prezzi bassi* or *prezzi scontati*)...how about you?

AMICIZIA

Friendship



IT: La vera amicizia dura per sempre

EN: Friendship lasts forever

A word to celebrate: AMICIZIA - friendship. Thank you to all our ITALY Magazine friends!

The singular noun is *amico* for male friend and *amica* for female friend; the plural is *amici* for male friends or a group of friends (male and female) and *amiche* for female friends.

Friendly is *amichevole*.

FAMIGLIA

Family



IT: La mia famiglia è molto grande.

EN: My family is very big.

In Italy, family or la *FAMIGLIA* is sacred as most Italians are very attached to their home life. It is very common to have generations of the same family under one roof and for them to gather for weekly dinners.

To describe the oldest members, remember the word *maggiore* or *più grande* while *minore* or *più piccolo* describes the youngest. Remember that *i parenti* in Italian means relatives, not parents, which is actually *i genitori*.

INNAMORATO/A

In love



IT: Sono innamorato dell'Italia

EN: I'm in love with Italy

Ah, to be in love in Italy! Doesn't it sound like the most romantic thing? For all our readers who are in love, and for those who will soon be, here's our Word of the Week:

INNAMORATO/A.

Innamorato (masculine singular) used as an adjective means to be in love, as in “*Sono innamorato della mia fidanzata*” – I'm in love with my girlfriend; The feminine is *innamorata*, as in “*Sono innamorata delle mie scarpe italiane*” – I'm in love with my Italian shoes; The masculine plural is *innamorati*, as in, “*noi di ITALY Magazine siamo innamorati dell'Italia*” – we at ITALY

Magazine are in love with Italy; The feminine plural is *innamorate*: “*siamo innamorate di Marcello Mastroianni*”.

If you are crazy in love with someone, you are *innamorato/a perso/a*. To fall in love is *innamorarsi*. *Innamorato/a* can also be used as a noun, meaning sweetheart, boyfriend/girlfriend, as in “*il mio innamorato/la mia innamorata mi porta in Italia come regalo di San Valentino*” (my sweetheart/boyfriend/girlfriend is taking me to Italy as a present for Valentine’s Day).

MUSICA

Music



IT: Questa è musica per le mie orecchie

EN: That's music to my ears

MUSICA (or music in English) is a feminine noun in Italian, so it uses the feminine article *la* - *la musica italiana mi piace molto*, I really like Italian music.

To play music is *suonare la musica*. If you like your music loud, you like to *mettere la musica a palla* (pump up the music).

Music is also used in some idiomatic expressions, such as: *Cambiare musica* or things have got to change. If you hear *Questa è musica per le mie orecchie* it means that's music to my ears.

NEVE

Snow



IT: Oggi nevica

EN: It's snowing today

When winter arrives in Italy, you can expect a lot of snow in many different areas in Italy.

When it comes to what words to use, the verb is *nevicare* which means to snow.

For example “*Oggi nevica*” means it’s snowing today. For a mix of rain and snow, sleet, in Italian we say *il nevischio*. For example: *È previsto il nevischio domani*. They’re predicting sleet for tomorrow.

MONTAGNA

Mountain



IT: Scalare una montagna

EN: Climb a mountain

Did you know that in Italy, families typically head to the beautiful mountains of Italy for a much beloved *settimana bianca* or white week, which brings us to the word **MONTAGNA**, or mountain.

Montagna is a feminine noun, so the plural takes the -e: *montagne*. To climb a mountain is *scalare una montagna*. The mountain peak is *la cima della montagna*. A hiking trail is *sentiero di montagna*.

PRIMAVERA

Spring



IT: In primavera sbocciano i fiori

EN: Flowers bloom in spring

Awaited, beloved and celebrated. Spring in Italian known as “*primavera*”.

La primavera (female noun), a symbol of birth, fertility and renewal, is a favorite subject of artists, celebrated in painting and music, the most famous of all being “*La Primavera*” by Botticelli. It is also naturally one of the four seasons, officially spring is during the months of March, April and May in Italy.

DONNA

Woman



IT: La festa della donna ricorre l'8 marzo di ogni anno

EN: International Women's Day is celebrated every year on March 8

March is the month of International Women's Day, celebrated on the 8th, so our Word of the Week is *DONNA* – woman. The plural is *donne* – women. If you want to celebrate Women's Day the Italian way, give the women in your life a small bouquet of mimosa flowers.

PAPÀ

Father



IT: La festa del papà si celebra il 19 marzo in Italia

EN: Father's Day is celebrated on March 19 in Italy

Father's Day in Italy is celebrated on March 19, so our Word of the Week is PAPA', Dad. In the U.S. and other countries of Anglo-saxon tradition, Father's Day (*Festa del Papà*) is celebrated the third Sunday in June, but in Italy and other Catholic countries, it is celebrated on March 19 to coincide with St. Joseph Day (Joseph being the putative father of Jesus). Father is *padre*, while another word for papà is *babbo*. *Buona Festa del Papà* to all our Dad readers!

PASSEGGIATA

Stroll



IT: Hai voglia di fare una passeggiata?

EN: Do you feel like going for a stroll?

Italy may very well be the country of the *PASSEGGIATA*! Be it in the historic center of town on a Sunday afternoon, along a seaside promenade on a warm summer night, or high up in the woods amid beautiful mountains, Italians love to go for a walk! To say I'm going for a walk, use the phrase *Vado a fare una passeggiata* or to ask someone if they'd like to go on a stroll, *Hai voglia di fare una passeggiata?*

Una passeggiata is also an idiomatic expression, meaning 'piece of cake'.

FIORE

Flower



IT: Fiore degli anni

EN: Prime of life

Who doesn't love a beautiful *FIORE* - flower. Did you know that the charming coastal town of Sanremo is also known as "*la città dei fiori*", the city of flowers?

Every year, Sanremo hosts "*Sanremo in Fiore*", a parade of floral floats, *una sfilata di carri fioriti*. The plural of *fio*re is *fiori* or flowers. To blossom is *fiorire* or *sbocciare*.

The word '*fio*re' can also be used in some idiomatic expressions, including, *fior fio*re di which means the best of while: *fio*re degli anni means the prime of life.

TURISTA

Tourist



IT: I love being a tourist.

EN: Mi piace essere una turista.

When traveling in Italy you may hear people referring to you as *TURISTA*, tourist, while the plural form is *turisti*. To describe something as touristy you would use the term *turistico*.

No matter how much you try not to look like a tourist, locals can usually tell the difference, but you can learn a few Italian words like "*Buongiorno*", good day, or "*Buonasera*", good evening come nightfall, to make an effort to fit into your surroundings. To wish someone a great trip, say *Buon viaggio!*

MUSEO

Museum



IT: Oggi piove ed è una giornata perfetta per andare al museo

EN: It's raining today, so it's a perfect day to go to the museum.

Art and history lovers will find plenty of satisfaction in Italy, which is often defined as a “*museo a cielo aperto*”, open-air museum. *MUSEO*, museum, is our Word of the Week.

Il museo più famoso d'Italia si trova a Firenze, the most famous museum in Italy is in Florence.

The plural is *musei*, museums.

I musei statali italiani sono gratuiti la prima domenica del mese, Italian state museums are free the first Sunday of every month.

TEMPO

Time - Weather



IT: Che bel tempo che c'è oggi!

EN: Today is such a nice day!

TEMPO in Italian can be used both to refer to the **weather** and to **time**. Examples: bad weather is *brutto tempo* (literally, ugly weather).

“The weather is nice” translates as *fa bel tempo* or *il tempo è bello*. The weather forecast is *previsioni del tempo*. But you can also use the word *tempo* to talk about time, as *il tempo passa troppo in fretta*, time flies.

LAVORO

Job



IT: Mi piace il mio lavoro

EN: I love my job

The word *LAVORO* can be used both for the terms work and job, as in: I go to work every day, *vado al lavoro ogni giorno* or I love my job, *amo il mio lavoro*. To work is *lavorare*.

Another tip for those in a business environment, you'll want to use "*Lei*" since it's more formal and, something to keep in mind, a sign of respect. However, if you find yourself among colleagues of a similar age in a more casual situation, it may be more appropriate to use "*tu*".

MAMMA

Mom



IT: Voglio molto bene alla mia mamma

EN: I love my mom

Many countries around the world, including Italy, celebrate Mother's Day on the second Sunday of May.

The word for Mother is *madre* or *MAMMA*. Mama's boys, or in some cases, mamma's boys, are known as *mammoni*. A common expression that uses the word *mamma* is *Mamma mia!*, meaning oh my!/Goodness! If you want to refer to your parents, you would say *i genitori* where as family is *la famiglia*.

ABBRACCIO

Hug



IT: Ti mando un forte abbraccio

EN: I'm sending you a big hug

We can all use a hug, anytime, anywhere! It's a good word to know, and in Italian we say **ABBRACCIO**.

The plural is *abbracci*, as in *baci e abbracci*, kisses and hugs, which sometimes is used to sign off a letter or postcard.

To hug is *abbracciare*.

CASA

Home



IT: Casa dolce casa

EN: Home sweet home

Home sweet home, or, as we would say in Italian, *casa dolce casa* represents home or house, CASA (there is no distinction in Italian). If you want to invite someone over to your house for Italian coffee, you could say, *Vuoi venire a casa mia per un caffè?* Remember that in Italy, a “*casa*” can also mean that of an apartment (*appartamento*), villa, beach house (*casa al mare*) or country house (*casa di campagna*). We adore the phrase *Avere un cuore grande come una casa*, to have a heart as big as a house, or to be extremely generous.

ESTATE

Summer



IT: Non vedo l'ora che arrivi l'estate!

EN: I can't wait for summer!

We celebrate the official arrival of summer – June 21 – by dedicating our Word of the Week to... summer – l'estate! *Dove trascorrerai l'estate?* Where are you going to spend your summer? Really excited? Save the phrase *Non vedo l'ora che arrivi l'estate!* I can't wait for summer!

In addition to summer, below you'll find a list of words related to a beautiful Italian summer, save them, share them before your next trip to Italy!

Caldo = Hot

Spiaggia = beach

Tenda = tent

Mare = sea

Nuotare = to swim

Prendere il sole = to sunbathe

Costume dal bagno = bathing suit

Feeling too hot to think? You might want to use the phrase “*Si crepa dal caldo*” which translates too “It’s sweltering.”

SPOSA

Bride



IT: Com'è bella la sposa!

EN: The bride is so beautiful!

Summer is “wedding season” in Italy, and we have picked *SPOSA* which means “bride” in Italian. Getting married is *sposarsi*. *I miei amici si sono sposati sul lago di Como*, my friends got married on Lake Como. The wedding dress is *l'abito da sposa*. The bridesmaids are called *damigella d'onore*. If you hear “*Evviva gli sposi!*” at a wedding this means “Long live the bride and groom!” and is considered a general congrats to the newlyweds.

RISTORANTE

Restaurant



IT: Il ristorante dietro l'angolo è poco conosciuto ma ottimo

EN: The restaurant around the corner is little-known yet excellent

One of the pleasures of traveling to Italy is eating at the restaurant, *RISTORANTE*. The plural is *ristoranti*.

There are several variations on the word *ristorante* depending on the type of dining establishment; you'll often see words like *osteria* (wine-focused) or *trattoria* (usually family-run, serving hearty, traditional dishes); and let's not forget about *pizzeria*.

Mangio al ristorante tutte le sere, I eat out every night.

TRENO

Train



IT: Ti piace viaggiare in treno?

EN: Do you like traveling by train?

Train travel in Italy is easy and convenient, that's why we picked it as one of our Words of the Week - it's one you need to know when you travel to Italy! *TRENO*, train; the plural is trains, *treni*.

Another common expression you'll see is *treno alta velocità*, high-speed train, which connects many major cities across Italy. *Sarà puntuale il treno oggi?* Will the train run on time today?

I treni tra Roma e Firenze sono frequenti, the trains between Rome and Florence are frequent.

SOLE

Sun



IT: Un sole che spacca le pietre!

EN: Sunshine hot enough to fry eggs!

We usually get a lot of it in the summer, *SOLE*, sun. The sun is shining, *il sole splende*. Sunrise in Italian is *alba*, while sunset is *tramonto*. To say that the sunshine is hot enough to fry eggs you would say *un sole che spacca le pietre!*

SOLDI

Money



IT: I soldi non fanno la felicità

EN: Money can't buy happiness

We know money can't buy happiness, but at least it can buy a trip to Italy, so this week we teach you how to say money in Italian: *SOLDI*.

By the way, the idiomatic phrase above, "money can't buy happiness", is translated in Italian as *i soldi non fanno la felicità*.

Also note that while the word money in English is singular, *soldi* is masculine plural. A slang word for money is *la grana*, similar to the English expression dough.

FOTOGRAFIA

Photo



IT: Che bella fotografia della campagna toscana!

EN: What a beautiful photo of the Tuscan countryside

When you travel to Italy, there's a good chance you'll be taking lots of them: photographs, or fotografie (plural). The singular is *FOTOGRAFIA*.

Ho fatto una splendida fotografia del Colosseo, I took a gorgeous photo of the Colosseum.

Quando torno a casa, dovrò catalogare 250 fotografie del mio viaggio in Italia. When I return home, I'll have to catalog 250 photos of my trip to Italy.

The short word for *fotografia* is *foto*. You could also use synonyms like *immagine* o *istantanea*.

ANDARE

To Go



IT: Ogni anno vado in vacanza in Italia.

EN: I go to Italy every year on holiday.

Since people are always going to go somewhere, the verb *ANDARE*, to go, is a pretty important one to remember.

It is an irregular verb so make sure to go over all of the conjugations. The different definition of *andare* include, to go, to travel, to function, and to fit.

When do you want to go to the movies? *Quando vuoi andare al cinema?*

FERIE

Time off



IT: Ho proprio bisogno di ferie!

EN: I really need some time off!

For many Italians, summer, and especially the month of August, means only one thing: *FERIE* (time off).

This is the time when you'll often see signs on shops and businesses informing you that the establishment is *chiuso per ferie* - closed for holidays.

MARE

Sea



IT: Andiamo al mare!

EN: Let's go to the seaside!

There's hardly a person who doesn't love to visit the Italian seaside, *MARE*. If you would like to express this in Italian, save the phrase *Andiamo al mare*, or Let's go to the seaside!

To go to the beach is *andare al mare* (although the proper word for beach is *spiaggia*).

SPIAGGIA

Beach



IT: Potete aiutarmi a trovare la spiaggia?

EN: Can you help me find the beach?

For the summer holiday season you'll need to know the word *SPIAGGIA*, which means the beach in Italian. There are two main kinds of *spiagge* (plural of *spiaggia*) in Italy, you can either go to a public, unequipped one, *spiaggia libera*, or to a privately managed one where you have to pay an entrance fee, a *stabilimento balneare* or *bagni*. *Potete aiutarmi a trovare la spiaggia?*
Can you help me find the beach?

VIAGGIO

Trip



IT: Il mio viaggio dei sogni è in Italia

EN: My dream trip is Italy

Are you planning your *VIAGGIO italiano* (Italian trip) yet? *Quest'anno programmo due viaggi in Italia* - this year I'm planning two trips to Italy. The verb is *viaggiare*: *Amo viaggiare* - I love traveling. If you can't make your *viaggio* to Italy this year, you can still virtually travel to the *Bel Paese* by reading ITALY Magazine!

AVVENTURA

Adventure



IT: Avventura estiva.

EN: Summer fling

Summertime is adventure time? With the nicer weather, we have an increased desire for exploring new places, trying out new things, or new adventures, **AVVENTURA**. And summertime is also usually a good time for another kind of adventure, when we say avventura in Italian, we can also mean fling! Summer fling means *avventura estiva*.

AUTUNNO

Autumn



IT: L'autunno è il mio mese preferito

EN: Autumn is my favorite month

When Summer is over, there's no reason to be sad because autumn, after all, is a great time to visit Italy. In order to express the Fall or Autumn season in Italy, use the word "autunno." The adjective autumnal is autunnale. A fall day is giornata autunnale. Autumn leaf is foglia autunnale. Before autunno comes estate, and after it comes inverno. Autumn is my favorite month "L'autunno è il mio mese preferito."

SCUOLA

School



IT: Ritorno a scuola

EN: Back to School

When it comes to school in Italy you'll need to know the word in Italian which is *SCUOLA*. One thing to keep in mind is that not all Italian regions and towns begin school on the same day. To say back to school, you'll want to say *Si ritorna a scuola*. To say go to school you should remember the phrase *Andare a scuola*.

PANORAMA

View



IT: Che panorama mozzafiato!

EN: What a breathtaking view!

There are so many beautiful views to be seen in Italy - mountains, countryside, sea, rooftops, islands, monuments, cliffs - the list is never-ending! To speak about the view in Italian, we can use any of the following words: il *PANORAMA*, *la vista*, *la veduta*.

If you come across an impressive view, you could use one of these expressions: *Che vista spettacolare!* - What a spectacular view! *Che panorama mozzafiato!* - What a breathtaking view! *Che veduta straordinaria!* - What an incredible view! Don't be confused by the fact that *panorama* ends with an -a; it is actually a masculine word.

BAMBINO

Child



IT: Quel bambino è adorabile

EN: That child is adorable.

The Italian word for male child is *BAMBINO*. *Bambina* is female child, *bambini* is children (either all male or male and female), *bambine* is female children.

Quel bambino è adorabile, That child is adorable. *I bambini giocano in giardino*, the children play in the garden. *La mia bambina si chiama Francesca*, my child's name is Francesca. *Che belle bambine!* What beautiful little girls! *Aspetto un bambino*, I am pregnant.

PACE

Peace



IT: La pace comincia con un sorriso

EN: Peace starts with a smile

Pace means peace in Italian, and something that no doubt everyone should know and understand in this world. Keep in mind that “*Pace*” is a feminine noun, therefore it takes the feminine article *la*: *la pace*. Following are some expressions using the word *pace*:

- *fare la pace*: to make it up, to make peace
- *lasciare in pace*: leave alone, let be
- *mettersi il cuore in pace*: come to terms with something, resign oneself to something
- *pace e tranquillità*: peace and quiet

ZUCCA

Pumpkin



IT: Avere poco sale in zucca

EN: Have no common sense

Traditionally during the autumn season you'll find many different pumpkins or *ZUCCA* on display. Besides referring to the delicious vegetable used in many recipes, including pumpkin *frittelle* and savory pumpkin pie, *zucca* is used in Italian in idiomatic expressions, such as: *Zucca* meaning head: *Avere poco sale in zucca*, have no common sense.

VINO

Wine



IT: Nella botte piccola c'è il vino buono

EN: Good things come in small packages

When it is time for *VINO novello* (new wine) usually this means it's the Fall or Autumn season. Do you prefer *vino bianco* (white wine) or *vino rosso* (red wine)? If you want to order a glass of wine, you'd say *vorrei un bicchiere di vino*; but perhaps a glass isn't enough, so why not order the whole bottle, *una bottiglia di vino*.

And who doesn't like a little wine tasting – *degustazione di vino*? Wine is also used in a few idiomatic expressions, including: *Nella botte piccola c'è il vino buono* – good things come in small packages or *Dire pane al pane e vino al vino* – calling a spade a spade.

BOH

I don't know



IT: Cosa ti va di fare? Boh!

EN: What would you like to do? I don't know!

The perfect Italian word expressing doubt: *BOH*, meaning I don't know, I'm not sure. Cute, short, to the point, it is a favorite of native speakers and learners of Italians alike. Boh is very informal, so only use it with friends. In more formal contexts, you would say, “*Non lo so*”, I don't know.

PER FAVORE

Please



IT: Mi passi l'acqua per favore?

EN: Can you pass me the water please?

We are probably all familiar with the Italian for 'please': *PER FAVORE*, but here are some other ways to say please in Italian: *per piacere*, *per cortesia*. But remember 'yes please' in English is *sì grazie* in Italian!

GRAZIE

Thanks



IT: Grazie di cuore

EN: Thanks from the bottom of my heart

Thanking someone in Italian is extremely important in all facets of life and daily conversation. The universal word is *GRAZIE* though we recommend saving a few additional phrases such as *grazie di cuore* or thanks from the bottom of my heart, expressing a heartfelt thanks. To say thanks for everything, you can say *Grazie di tutto*.

RICETTA

Recipe



IT: Potete mandarmi quella deliziosa ricetta?

EN: Can you send me that delicious recipe?

Who doesn't love a good Italian recipe? In Italian recipe is *RICETTA*. The plural is *ricette*. If you hear *Puoi darmi quella deliziosa ricetta?* This means, Can you give me that delicious recipe? *Ricetta* in Italian has another meaning that has nothing to do with food: it can also mean 'prescription'. Or, it can also be used in a figurative sense, meaning solution, remedy, fix, as in "*la ricetta anti-crisi*", the anti-crisis solution.

AIUTO

Help



IT: Mi puoi aiutare?

EN: Can you help me?

Nervous to ask for help in Italian? Not to worry! The word help or *AIUTO* is one of the first Italian words we recommend you learn. If you would like to ask for help from someone, save the phrase *Puoi aiutarmi?* Can you help me?

Alternatively, you can offer your help by saying *Come posso aiutarti?* How can I help you? This is informal, while the formal version of the word help in this case is *aiutarla*.

To express an emergency, say *Per favore, è un'emergenza!* Please, it's an emergency!

SORRISO

Smile



IT: Un sorriso è la cosa più bella che si può indossare.

EN: A smile is the prettiest thing you can wear.

Does thinking of Italy make you smile? Yes, it makes us smile too, and how could it not: the food, the art, the lifestyle, the incredible travel opportunities... which is why we want to give you a **SORRISO** - smile. The verb is *sorridere*. To say someone has a bright smile, you would say *sorriso smagliante*.

BASTA

Enough



IT: Basta! Mi stai facendo impazzire.

EN: Enough! You're making me crazy.

Without a doubt on any trip you are bound to encounter frustration. To express this in Italian the slang word *BASTA* is an important word to know.

It is the shortened, more popular version of the word *abbastanza*, meaning enough, whereas *basta* itself represents more of meaning “Stop it, I’ve had enough.” You can also say *basta perdere tempo*, to say Stop wasting time.

INVERNO

Winter



IT: L'inverno è la stagione più fredda dell'anno

EN: Winter is the coldest season of the year

As we hit December, temperatures are probably dropping everywhere in Italy, with the cold season on its way. So to welcome the new season, we teach you how to say winter in Italian: **INVERNO**.

If you want to talk about the many winters you'd rather be spending somewhere warm and sunny, you would use the plurals, *inverni*.

The winter season is *la stagione invernale*.

REGALO

Present



IT: Che regalo ti piacerebbe per Natale?

EN: What present would you like for Christmas?

December is synonymous with the holiday shopping season, so our Word of the Week teaches you the term you'll be using most often during this time of the year: REGALO – gift.

The plural is *regali*, gifts.

To add a touch of Italian to your holiday shopping, make sure to check our online shop listing Italian gift ideas - *regali italiani*. www.italymagazine.com/shop

ALBERO

Tree



IT: Hai già fatto l'albero di Natale?

EN: Have you decorated your Christmas tree yet?

In Italy, families who follow the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree - *ALBERO di Natale* - usually do so on December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, and the 'unofficial' start of the holiday season.

If you like to decorate two, three, ten or more trees, then you would use the plural: *alberi* (trees).

STELLA

Star



IT: Ho visto una stella cadente!

EN: I've seen a shooting star

According to Christian tradition, the Star of Bethlehem, also called the Christmas Star, revealed the birth of Jesus to the Biblical Magi and later led them to Bethlehem.

The Magi arrived on the day of the Epiphany; for this reason, *STELLA* is a good word to learn around this time of the year!

The plural is *stelle*, stars. Note that *Stella* is also an Italian female name.

MERCATO

Market



IT: Comprare a buon mercato

EN: To buy something at a low price

If you love everyday markets, Christmas markets or antique markets, remember that it's **MERCATO** in Italian. *Mercato* can also be used in the diminutive form, *mercato*; this is especially used to refer to Christmas markets - *i mercatini di Natale*. Italians love to shop at open-air markets, *mercato all'aperto*, where they can pick fresh fruit and vegetables and other gourmet Italian food.

On the other hand, when they need to go grocery shopping at the supermarket, they go to *il supermercato*.

ARRIVEDERCI

Goodbye



IT: Arrivederci a presto!

EN: Goodbye for now! See you soon!

ARRIVEDERCI (goodbye in English) literally means "until we see each other again". Even though most people may already know this word, we picked it because October is Italian Heritage Month in the U.S., and we would like to remember all the Italians who left their homeland in search of better fortune abroad with the last word they most likely said before leaving: *arrivederci*, in the hope, perhaps, to see their relatives again.

Arrivederci is in fact different from *addio*, which is 'to bid farewell'. Also, *arrivederci* is a more formal greeting than *ciao*, used when leaving.

SCUOLE DI LINGUA

Language Schools



CLUB ITALIANO DANTE ALIGHIERI



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The Club Italiano Dante Rome group was formed in 1994 and specializes in teaching Italian language and culture (Literature, Art History, Opera & Society) to foreign students. This multi-national environment fosters confident communication and cultural understanding.

Club DA offers flexible and easy enrollment: General Italian courses start every Monday with experienced, highly qualified, and friendly teachers. Our support staff is available to students 24/7.

Why our boutique school? Because we deliver our client the most and the best! Uniqueness, personal attention, Unique staff, Surprise benefits.

We can offer several programs for groups and individual students, according to their particular needs and time available for learning Italian: Intensive group & “one to one” courses (A1-C2 of the European Framework). Group courses may be combined with 1 or 2 individual hours a day (afternoon) for those who need an intensive and personalized course. Internship program & Opera program; Study Abroad programs.

The centre is housed in a stylish turn of the century building, at 1 Piazza Bologna. It is within easy reach of the city centre and all other areas, amply served by Underground Line B and many bus routes. The classrooms are airy and bright, providing an excellent space for students to engage in learning. Free wifi in each classroom; housing service available; full program of extra activities.



BABILONIA ITALIAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL



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Phone: (+39) 094223441

Facebook: [Babilonia.Taormina](https://www.facebook.com/Babilonia.Taormina)

Address: Via Timoleone 10,
Taormina (Sicily)

Study Italian, discover Sicily! BABILONIA offers Italian language courses and Italian culture programs in the beautiful and historical town of Taormina in Sicily. Our school is the oldest school in all South of Italy and our aim is to give the opportunity to lovers of Italian language and Italian culture to be fully immersed in our language and to enjoy an unforgettable learning, cultural and human experience.



LEARN ITALIAN IN ITALY

LUCIA DE ZUANI



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Facebook: [Learn Italian in Italy](#)

I offer homestay and personalized Italian lessons to students of any age, in the wonderful lake area in the North-west of Italy. My guests would live as members of the family for a week or longer. I am a friendly person who loves teaching her own language and taking foreign visitors sightseeing. I teach the language sitting at a table doing exercises, as well as going sightseeing, reading a newspaper or watching and discussing a film, all this according to the student's preferences and level.

I can host a single student or a couple. The students would be welcome to get involved in the family's activities in order to have a full and pleasant immersion in the language and life style. I always try to meet my guests' interests: from museums to wonderful natural spots, from the lakes to the mountains, from wineries to outlets and meeting friends, all year round. From the moment I pick you up at the airport you will only think about studying and enjoying your holiday, which I promise will be unforgettable!



SCUOLA DANTE ALIGHIERI CAMPUS L'INFINITO



Website: www.scuoladantealighieri.org

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Facebook: [Scuola Dante Alighieri](https://www.facebook.com/ScuolaDanteAlighieri)

Address: Via Passero Solitario, 28 – 62019
Recanati (MC) Italia

The Dante Alighieri Campus L'Infinito School has a long tradition teaching Italian language and culture to foreign students. The School is located in the historical centre of Recanati, a beautiful hill-top town in the central Italy, rich on history, art and culture. We offer a wide range of courses and programs and we are the official partner of the Perugia's University for Foreign Students CELI exams. We aim to create an enjoyable fun environment, leaving you with a love of the Italian language and culture. Our success in this is very much due to the high quality of our teaching staff, our collaborations with expert outside institutions and our school itself which has a friendly international environment in which you'll really feel at home.

Come to Scuola Dante Alighieri Campus L'Infinito to experience total immersion in Italian language and culture! We are an Italian language school specialising in intensive Italian courses. Far from the tourist routes, but near the sea, surrounded by hills and close to the mountains, you can forget your troubles, concentrate on your studies and really get to know the local people. Scuola Dante Alighieri Campus L'Infinito is the perfect place to study Italian in Italy!



IL SASSO ITALIAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL



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Address: Via di Gracciano nel Corso 2,
Montepulciano

For a great many reasons Montepulciano, half way between Florence and Rome, is the ideal place for an Italian language school.

It is located on the top of a hill, surrounded by vineyards and olive groves with one of those views which has made Tuscany famous the world over.

The peace and quiet are ideal for a study holiday of the Italian language far from bustling town centres. Montepulciano, although a small historic town, is different from many others in that it is very active and lively, a place where the locals still stop to chat in bars or markets and have a great interest in foreign visitors. This makes it the ideal place for learning Italian "on the street", an essential part of any language learning experience.

The main purpose of our Italian language courses is to get our students, even those in the beginner and elementary levels, to the point where they're able to communicate in Italian. We believe that the knowledge of grammar and vocabulary is important, yet we know that they aren't enough in themselves. The aim of our classes is to develop proficiency in communication through activities such as games, role-plays, problem solving, dramatizations, listening and reading comprehension using real recordings and texts. What renders the approach we use in class particularly effective is the fact that the activities have an immediate, functional impact on our students' communication beyond the classroom.



L'ITALIANO PORTICANDO



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Phone: +39 011 518 70 79

Facebook: [Italiano Porticando Torino](https://www.facebook.com/italianoporticando torino)

Address: Via Mercanti, 2 - 10122 Torino

L'Italiano Porticando, the Italian language school in Turin, was founded in 2005 and is situated in the historic city center, the “Quadrilatero Romano”, in midst of the pedestrian area, surrounded by many small shops, boutiques and beautiful historic buildings. Most important sightseeing destinations and cultural attractions, as well as both train stations, are within walking distance.

The school is located in a beautiful 18th century building. It is a small, but not too small, and friendly school, managed by three women belonging to the same family. The school management's aim is to make their students feel at home from their arrival at school to the end of the course and afterwards. Everybody is welcome to stay at school after classes, to study, to watch a film, to read or just to have a coffee with the school's team.

The teachers are selected with great care according to their education and their experience as teachers for Italian language and culture to foreigners. All teachers are native speakers, have a university degree, and are highly motivated and experienced in supporting foreign students in their experience with Italy and the Italian language.

A great plus of our school are the afternoon activities organized twice per week to get to know the city, its history and culture. During these activities students will learn to see the city through the eyes of a local!



CIAOITALY

LINGUA E CULTURA ITALIANA



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Situated in one of Turin's most elegant areas just a short walk from the Polytechnic, CiaoItaly specialises in teaching the Italian language and culture to students from all over the world.

CiaoItaly is affiliated to ASILS, Eduitalia, AIL and recognised by the German Bildungsurlaub and CSN Lund-Sweden. The school also offers a Masters in Italian Language Pedagogy for newly qualified teachers and is an authorised examination centre of the University for Foreigners of Siena for CILS official certifications and for the AIL certification.

Lessons are entrusted to highly qualified teachers who, through the use of a wide range of materials and techniques, enable students to enhance their linguistic skills in a cheerful and friendly environment. Moreover, the school proposes numerous recreational activities which allow students to get to know the Torinese people, the city and its surroundings.

We've reached the end of our 54 words of the week and we hope that you've enjoyed this weekly Italian vocabulary lesson from our staff at ITALY.

For additional Italian language learning skills, visit our dedicated language section on ItalyMagazine.com for free articles and tools.

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