

# Italy: quick facts



## Population

59 million

## Size

More than 300,000sq km,  
including 7,000 sq km water



## Climate

Mediterranean – Warm dry summers/cool wet winters. Colder in the North; Hotter and drier in the South

## Regions and Provinces

Italy is divided into 20 regions and 109 provinces

## Large Cities

Rome (Capital), Milan, Turin, Palermo, Naples, Genoa, Bologna, Florence, Bari, Catania, Venice.

## Vatican City



An independent Territory with its own system of government. The Bishop of Rome, currently Pope Benedict XVI, is elected to govern the Catholic Church. He lives in the Apostolic Palace

## Government

Democratic Republic

## Head of Government

President of the Republic ; Prime Minister (Premier)

## Year of Unification

1861

## Religion

Roman Catholic (90%)

## Language

Italian

## Currency

Euro since 2002. Previously *lire*

## Geography

A mountainous peninsula, shaped like a thigh-high boot. The Northern border is defined by the Alps. Italy has two large islands (Sicily; Sardegna) and 70 smaller Islands. There are 3 active volcanoes: Etna (Sicily); Vesuvius (Naples); Stromboli (north of Sicily)

## Sport

Football (i.e. soccer) is the most popular sport. The Italian National team has won the World Cup 4 times, most recently in 2006. Basketball is the second national team sport



## Fashion

Milan is one of the fashion capitals of the world. Famous Italian designers include: Armani; Dolce&Gabbana; Versaci; Benetton; Prada

## Food



Each region has its signature dish. Some make a special point of celebrating seasonal produce. Italians enjoy eating pasta, pizza, *dolci* (sweets), *biscotti* (biscuits) and *gelato* and drinking wine and coffee

