

INFO SHEET – Italian



Why you should study Italian

Throughout history, Italy has been at the heart of the action: epicentre of the Roman Empire, intellectual hub of the Renaissance, and destination for trade goods from the Silk Road.

“Rome was mud and smoky skies; the rank smell of the Tiber and the exotically spiced cooking fires of a hundred different nationalities. Rome was white marble and gilding and heady perfumes; the blare of trumpets and the shrieking of market-women and the eternal, sub-aural hum of more people, speaking more languages than Gaius had ever imagined existed, crammed together on seven hills whose contours had long ago disappeared beneath this encrustation of humanity. Rome was the pulsing heart of the world.”

– **Marion Zimmer Bradley. The Forest House. Viking Press, 1994.**

The country’s name too has become synonymous with amazing food, great wine, and an appreciation of the finer things in life. Even the language itself has been praised for its melodic qualities and gives voice to countless operas.

Here at Carleton, our Italian language classes acknowledge the role of Italy and its people in history, but also focus on the Italy of today; connecting students with the Italy of the 21st century and all its challenges and opportunities.¹

Taught by passionate and diverse instructors, our Italian classes provide comprehensive coverage of the language targeting frequently-used vocabulary, necessary grammatical structures, and pronunciation challenges while also making strong connections to Italy’s rich history and culture.

Classroom activities vary by instructor but generally involve an engaging blend of focused individual work, interactive activities, and exposure to a range of authentic language materials.

Other fun facts about the Italy, Italian, and Italians include:

- Some people call Italy “Lo Stivale” (“The Boot”) because of its distinctive shape.
- Italy is home to more than 50 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- Canadian-born singer Michael Bublé became a naturalized Italian citizen in 2005.²
- Italian astronaut, Samantha Cristoforetti, spent 6-7 months on the International Space Station where, in addition to conducting life science research, the polyglot astronaut who is fluent in Italian, English, German, French & Russian, brewed coffee with a new zero gravity espresso machine.³

carleton.ca/slals/languages/

1 [youtube.com/watch?v=OFvqC6P3Qjg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFvqC6P3Qjg)

2 en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Bubl%C3%A9

3 [dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3036005/Caffeine-High-Space-station-getting-Italian-espresso-maker.html](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3036005/Caffeine-High-Space-station-getting-Italian-espresso-maker.html)