



AVERAGE TEMPERATURES °C		High / Low			
Location	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter	
Brindisi	18 / 11	29 / 21	22 / 15	12 / 6	
Cagliari	19 / 11	30 / 21	23 / 15	14 / 7	
Milan	18 / 10	29 / 20	17 / 11	5 / 0	
Naples	18 / 9	29 / 18	22 / 12	12 / 4	
Palermo	20 / 11	30 / 21	25 / 16	16 / 8	
Rome	19 / 10	30 / 20	22 / 13	11 / 5	
Venice	17 / 10	27 / 19	19 / 11	6 / 1	

AT A GLANCE

Currency

Euro (formerly lira). Current rate of exchange: 1 euro = £0.69 sterling

Cost of living

Loaf of bread: £0.69
Bottle of wine: £2.50 – £3.50

Time

An hour ahead of GMT
(two hours from the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October)

Business hours

Post offices:
8:30 am to 1:45 pm (4:00 pm in some large towns), Monday to Friday, and 8:30 am to 12:45 pm on Saturday

Banks:

8:30 am to 1:30 pm and 2:30/3:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Monday to Friday

Shops:

8:30 am to 12:30 pm and 4:00 pm to 7:30 pm, Monday to Saturday

Shopping centres:

Similar to shops, but may stay open all day and sometimes close later in the evening

Population

Approximately 57,600,000

Languages

Italian is the predominant language, but German is spoken in the South Tyrol region (Trentino-Alto Adige), French is used in the Valle d'Aosta on the Swiss/French border, and Slovene is common in the far west

Religions

Roman Catholic: 83 per cent
Other (mainly Protestant, Jewish and Muslim): 17 per cent

Driving

Driving is on the right. Citizens of EU countries (including Britain) are permitted to drive on the licence issued by their country of origin. Residents of Italy must obtain an Italian licence

Two-bedroom house

Average cost £123,000

Two-bedroom apartment

Average cost £170,500 (usually city based, hence the higher price)