

D I V E R S I T Y  
**WHERE TO?**



By Mirko Ruggiu, Chiara Muroi, Flavia Spataru, Laurentiu Sava

# Why is Italy the best country in the world?

By Chiara Muroi

Italy has spawned a number of things the world could really not live without. From pizza to pasta, Fiat to Ferraris, Gorgonzola to gelato, Italy is by far the best country in the world!

Italians lay claim to the invention of the **pizza** and, maybe yes, it is most likely the best tasting pizza in the world but what most people don't know is the offer delicacies it also has to offer. In Italy is wonderful that each region offers up its own dish: the meats, the seafood, the risottos, are all carefully constructed to suit their own regional styles.

Famous for its **sunny weather** and hot humid days, Italy is actually much more than a sweaty, unbearable, heat wave. Holding its status as a four-season country, it actually really is, with moderately cold winters, a mild fall and spring, and a summer you can really count on. However, not only does it have the best weather, it also has the best locations, making it easy to plan your seasons accordingly. In the winter the mountains become a huge hot spot for Italians and tourists alike. Look no further than Europe's finest beaches, with white glorious sands and water so clear you can see your toes dancing with the fish.

Italy is considered one of the friendliest nations in the world. People are always eager to help you and very polite and **hospitable**.

Every single region of this country has a unique, breathtaking beauty that you will definitely going to love. All the towns, the villages and the cities have their own particular history, **culture** and **folkloristic traditions**.

Finally, Italy is the mother of **art**. Here you can find countless masterpieces from world famous artists that are definitely a unique sight.

What are you waiting for? Come to visit Italy!

# TRAVELING KNOW-HOW

By Mirko Ruggiu

**Hello** fellow future-travelers!

I Suppose that if you are reading this, maybe you need some tips about to travel and what to expect when you put your feet into a new country. Well, you are in the right place!

First of all:

## Why?

Why do you want to travel?

There are many reasons of **traveling**. For example feeling exhausted of our routine, or feeling unfulfilled. Some people goes into travel because they want to relax, other people want to challenge themselves.

Look into yourself and try to understand why because it's really important to know in which mindset you are in order to get the best from a travel experience into an unknown place with a different culture, different food, different language, etc.

## How?

If your goal is to travel with little budget, then you should consider low cost flights or low cost busses as an option. Nowadays basically all Europe is connected with economic options and in the very next future, even USA and basically all the world. You must check if you need a VISA or a passport (If you are european traveling inside europe, you will just need an Id card).

For the staying you should consider options like cheap hostels (hostelworld.com for example), couchsurfing (which is perfect if you want to be in touch from the real inside of the country you choose to visit).

You can also volunteering with the Work&Stay option. Most of the hostels offer the possibility to give you free accomodation in exchange of some friendly work. This will cut your losses drastically and will give you the possibility to calmly visit the place with less worries.

## Cultural Shock

For those who are going stay into a new country for a long period of time, you should keep in mind that you will probably go into a cultural shock – a.k.a. - Feeling completely overwhelmed by tons of new informations and anxiety, frustration, confusion are starting to ring at the door of your mind.

It's completely normal but don't worry. You will get over it. It's normal to miss home and it's normal at the beginning to feel that you are not fitting with the people, the culture or the language. Relax, study, go out, take your time and step by step you will create a new social life and a new routine. Keyword is TIME.

## Learn and Respect

You are basically going into someone else's house, eating his food, walking into his room, staring at his babies pics. Be respectful. But respect is also a matter of opinion when it comes to cultural differences so you might think you are being totally polite but actually you are not because of that. Learn about the country you want to visit. Google it! You might find out that something so normal to us, can be strange there...or even illegal!

Remember also that when you are going into another country, you are rappresenting yours. It's like an exchange. Show the best of you and remember to be open minded.

## The diversity of customs and traditions around the world

By Flavia Spataru

Depending on where you are these traditions from around the world may appear a little strange, but to others they are part of their history and heritage.

### Greece



Instead of saving their **teeth** and placing them under a pillow for the tooth fairy to collect, Greek children's teeth are thrown on to the roof of their homes. This unusual tradition is thought to bring good luck for the family, as well as a healthy replacement tooth for the child!

### Nicaragua



While gestures of the hand are often subject to customary variation across cultures, few can claim this phenomenon extends to contortions of the mouth. **In Nicaragua**, it is common to point with the lips instead of the thumb or index finger like the majority of the world. Wondering just how exactly a person points with their lips? It all starts by puckering up. Once a Nica has their duck face on, they can direct their lips forward or side-to-side to indicate what it is they'd like to point out. The lip point is typically used in conversation to indicate something that is happening nearby.

### Hanging out in cemeteries in Denmark

While cemeteries are the sites of spooky lore in many countries, this is not so much the case in the ever so secular Denmark. Many people might prefer to hang out in parks, but the Danes find it

becoming to convert their cemeteries into areas for socializing, a rather pragmatic use of space we might add. These cemeteries are well manicured and teeming with locals when the weather finally begins to warm up. Assistens Kirkegård in the country's capital, Copenhagen, provides a perfect example. Plus, you'll be hanging out in great company as many famed Danes are buried here, including Hans Christian Andersen.



### **Russia**

Back home flowers are a great way to show someone you care, and work perfectly as a thank you gift, but in Russia it's a little more complicated than that. Yellow flowers are a no-go, as they symbolise infidelity and the ending of a relationship. We also recommend avoiding red Gilly flowers, as they're often used in cemeteries.

### **Brazil**

The Satore-Mawe tribe in Brazil are more famously known for their painfully daring ways to prove their strength and bravery. For 11 hours young boys showcase their courage by placing their hands into a woven basket full of angry bullet ants that nip and bite their hands. One bite is said to feel like you're being shot – ouch!

### **Thailand**

The Monkey Buffet Festival in Thailand: Some people might be surprised to be looking at some monkeys atop a buffet table, feasting on sumptuous dishes. In this annual festivity, over 3000 kgs of fruits and vegetables are fed to several monkeys that dwell in Lopburi, Bangkok.

### **Czech Republic**

Witches' Night in the Czech Republic: Prague has more than its fair share of rituals and traditions, one of which sees young lovers jump over the dying embers of bonfires. Single men are also encouraged, on this day, to leave tokens of freshly cut branches on the doorstep of the women of the affections. It was once believed that the evil powers on this evening, which falls in between the ancient feast days of St. Jacob and St. Phillip, were far stronger than normal and that for this evening only they ruled over the good. Flocks of witches riding broomsticks were said to soar the skies, and the Czechs believed that the bonfires would bring them down in flames. Nowadays the celebration is far more light-hearted, and the biggest bonfire in the country takes place in the center of the Czech capital.

## Collaboration, a new level of competition?

By Laurentius Sava

I think that one of the most challenging aspect nowadays happening in the whole world is the problem between collaboration and competition because as the system is made and as a large amount of economical players are dealing with the economical aspects.

Personally I think that is encouraged on a national and extranational level the competition between individuals and competitions. This can have good effect and also bad effects. One of the good effects is that it encourages people to be better and much more professional in what they are doing and companies in doing much better products - ones that are better build with **better** quality and **cheaper** price. But in this whole race of competition to make much better products or to sell much more than the others we tend to be **Machiavellic** and put our interest or our wining before the others. This can cause lots of side effects like unfair competition, trading comercial secrets, consuming to much resources, not equally distrube the working force and exploitation.

For example some multinational factories in Vietnam or China use lots of workforce which are cheap and exploiting them in order to obtain more products and money. This situation is created by the side effects of the competition between individuals and companies

Collaboration can be the new form of competition. In this manner if the companies or people collaborate each other for the good of others or for the general **well-being** of the society there won't be anymore Machiavellic temperament or characters that can do harm.

In my opinion we should fuel this competitions between individuals / companies by collaboration and not agresive or Machiavellic traits.

