

Italy–Australia links...

Large waves of Italian migration into Australia began in the late 1940s. There are now nearly one million people living in Australia who claim Italian heritage. They play an important role in Australian society by contributing and sharing their customs, skills and culture.

A highly industrialised nation, Italy is a leader in technology and design. Australia imports a range of sophisticated industrial machinery from Italy as well as manufactured goods such as textile yarns, fabrics, footwear, food and clothing. In return, Australia exports wool, leather, coal, cotton and iron ore to Italy.

Some Italian companies established in Australia are – CIT, Pirelli Tyres, Pirelli Cables, Prada, Barilla, Banca Nazionale del Lavoro, Luxoticca, Divella, Fila, Ermenegildo Zegna, Iveco, Saeco and Sanpellegrino, to name just a few.

Teaching of Italian in Victoria

Many Victorian primary and secondary government and non-government schools provide dynamic Italian programs, with more than 95,000 students in government schools studying Italian. Italian is also a popular study at Year 12 level with nearly 800 students studying the language annually.

Italian is taught by the Victorian School of Languages (VSL) at four centres and by distance education. Details are available at <http://www.vsl.vic.edu.au/>

Resources are available on loan from the Languages and Multicultural Education Resource Centre (LMERC), at <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/programs.htm>. Students can also access free interactive Italian resources through Languages Online. This site consists of multimedia activities, print resources and teacher support materials, and is available from <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/languagesonline/>

COASIT, the Italian education and welfare organisation, provides teachers and students of Italian with extensive support including a library and media centre, professional development activities, resources and scholarships.

The Italian Institute of Culture, Melbourne promotes Italian language and culture through the organisation of cultural events and language courses.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For assistance in establishing and developing an Italian language program, contact:

Department of Education

Telephone: 9637 2041 Fax 9637 2040

Website: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/teaching/resources/lote/default.htm>



Why learn Italian?

Italy

Italy is a country of unique scenic beauty and a rich cultural history spanning many centuries. Italy's population of 58 million is made up of numerous regional and dialect groups, each with its unique customs and traditions.

Through the centuries, Italian inventors such as Marconi and Galileo, composers like Vivaldi and Verdi, poets such as Dante Alighieri, film directors such as Fellini and Rossellini, artists like Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci, as well as other great artists, philosophers, musicians and designers have had a profound influence on the world.

Today, Italy continues to set trends and is synonymous with fashion and style. Designers such as Valentino and Armani are well known in Australia, as are sporting personalities such as Valentino Rossi and Francesco Totti. Musician/song writers like Eros Ramazzotti, Laura Pausini and Andrea Bocelli, as well as actors Roberto Begnini and Monica Bellucci have captured the hearts of young and old in Australia.



Italian — A language for all

Italian is a relatively easy language to learn because of its similarity to English. Both English and Italian are derived from Latin so they share a similar sentence structure. Italian is written in Roman script as is English, but the Italian alphabet only has a twenty-one letters.

Studying Italian also provides the background for further studies of other Romance languages, such as French, Spanish and Portuguese.

YOU KNOW MORE ITALIAN THAN YOU THINK

Many Italian words have been adopted by the English language. How many of these words do you know?

pasta	risotto
presto	pizza
minestrone	soprano
gelato	focaccia
opera	antipasto
chiaroscuro	vendetta
bruschetta	tempo
ciao	mozzarella
adagio	gondola
lasagne	allegro
festa	caffè latte
prima donna	circa
caffé espresso	forte
concerto	cappuccino
maestro	chianti
al fresco	piano
balcone	biennale
bronzo	graffiti

Why learn Italian?

Italy has a rich cultural history. Its lifestyle, art, food, wine, fashion, sporting events, architecture and scenic beauty attract some 40 million tourists each year.

The influence of Italy is seen everywhere in Australia today as nearly one million Australians are of Italian descent. Victoria has a large Italian speaking community and there are plenty of restaurants, shops and industries offering authentic Italian products.

Australia and Italy have bilateral agreements covering everything from culture to commerce to health care and two Italian born Australians have even been elected to the Italian Parliament.

Italian news, current affairs and entertainment are offered through programs such as Rete Italia, RAI International and SBS, and publications such as Il Globo and La Fiamma provide excellent local Italian resources for learners of Italian.

Students of Italian have many opportunities to use the language in everyday life. There is an abundance of Italian restaurants, businesses and social groups where Italian is spoken.

Knowledge of the Italian language can open doors to a wide range of employment opportunities in the commercial, educational, scientific, chemical, automotive and hospitality fields. It also provides access to a rich culture known throughout the world for its contribution to art, architecture, music, ballet, literature, film, fashion and of course, food!

culture

knowledge