



# Italian stereotypes



# What is a stereotype?

A stereotype is an idea or belief many people have about a country, a culture or a group of people based upon how they look from the outside

There's no deny that there's always been stereotypes associated with most countries and cultures.



The most common ones about Italy...and Italians...are on food and kitchen, attitudes and behaviours.

# We eat pasta everyday

## IT DEPENDS

Despite Italy is the country with the highest consumption of pasta worldwide and most Italians eat pasta almost everyday, spaghetti and meatballs isn't a traditional dish at all.



# We love coffee

## TRUE!

- We drink a lot of coffee, probably more than the rest of the world. The average is 2 coffees a day, although many people, especially students, drink much more than that throughout the day.
- Coffee-machines



and/or espresso-makers



can be found almost

everywhere...homes, bars, offices, schools, hospitals, stations...



- There are lots of different types of coffee, among the many options the most popular are: espresso cappuccino macchiato



lungo



moccaccino



caffè latte



- For us it's a ritual: every day starts with a coffee which gives us the energy necessary to be active and efficient.

Naples is the capital of Italy as for coffee!!! Apart from being the best in the country, for its people it is far more than a drink or a ritual, it has a deep social connotation. It is right there that the “sospeso” was invented. Literally *sospeso* means *hanging*...in fact, it is a coffee which has been already paid by someone and it is *waiting* to be drunk by someone else...in general someone who cannot afford one. Actually it is very common among people from Naples to pay for an extra coffee when they have their own in a bar, so when someone asks for a *sospeso*, s/he will be given a coffee without paying. This shows the huge generosity of those people as well as the importance given to such drink which is considered essential...more than bread!!!



# We speak with gestures...and very loudly

## MOSTLY TRUE!

- We do actually use our hands when we talk. Gestures are part of a concept, and although we sometimes try not to move our hands while talking, we fail...we just cannot help it!!!

Nevertheless, most meanings of hand gestures are misunderstood abroad.



- We are generally really loud when we speak, but not because we are angry or deaf, it's just that we don't even notice that, we only realise when we talk to foreigners!!!

- However, **MAMMA MIA** is not such a common expression!!!

# We are all about our families

**TRUE!**

- Italian families were often very big, although nowadays every family unit usually has just one or two children: the Italian birthrate is among the lowest in the world. However, everyday lunches and dinners with the entire family are not at all rare in Italy.
- Most italians are still very devoted to their parents. In fact, it's common for children in their 20s and 30s to live with them, and some people never stop being “mummy’s children”



The old days



Nowadays

# We are all part of the Mafia

**FALSE!**



- Sadly, *Mafia* is real: we are not proud of it but it does exist. This phenomenon started many years ago in Southern Italy, especially in Sicily, but unfortunately lately it has been affecting the whole country .
- Obviously, not every Italian is a “mafioso”... so people should be careful before using that term...Italians may feel offended and insulted even if it is just a joke!!!



# We're all obsessed with fashion

## NOT ALWAYS TRUE!

- Even if it's actually true that most of Italians think that they dress up better than everyone else from everywhere else in the world, we aren't obsessed with fashion...



...if we look good we are not working hard on it!!!

We just can't help being fashionable...after all, many of the most famous fashion brands are Italian...

VERSACE



GUCCI



&

FENDI



# We're the worst drivers in the world

**NOT TOTALLY TRUE!**



- We might be the worst drivers in Western Europe, but surely not in the world since in China and India, for example, they are pretty awful.
- Anyway, it's true that Italians do not look like the best in the world at parking!!! We do not hesitate to double park (or even triple park too!!!)
- It seems that Italian drivers like to yell at others very much, sometimes insulting each other too!!!



# We're always late

**NOT ALWAYS TRUE!**

...it is just that some Italians take life very easy...they do not want to hurry as they enjoy appreciating every single moment of their lives!!!  
At least that's what they say!!!





# We're never angry, gloomy or in a bad mood.

**WE WISH IT COULD BE TRUE!**

- Italians are generally peaceful, quiet and calm people, nevertheless we get angry sometimes...at the end of the day we are humans!!!
- We are friendly and open hearted, generous and hospitable, cheerful and extroverted, anyway it's important not to assume that every single person is always lovely and kind: we all have our bad days!!!





# Italian men are all Casanovas and Womanizers

**SOMETIMES FALSE!**

- It's true that most of Italian men are good looking and charming, but they haven't got superpowers, though!...Italian women have!!!
- Generally speaking, Italian boys and men are good at pursuing girls and women, they are chivalrous, romantic and good lovers...but not as much as in the past!!! Maybe a consequence of globalisation?!
- So if you plan on coming to Italy just to find your charming prince...it might take a bit long!!!



# We have all the same names

**FALSE!**

- It is believed that all the men are called Mario or Luigi, and all women are named Maria or Anna...well, that's not at all true!!! We have thousands of beautiful names such as...

Male names:

Francesco, Luca, Alessandro, Nicola, Andrea,  
Lorenzo, Marco, Enrico, Niccolò, Tommaso,  
Gabriele, Paolo, Filippo, Matteo, Giuseppe,  
Mattia, Fabio, Davide, Carlo, Samuele, Giovanni,  
Edoardo, Stefano, Daniele, Pietro, Emanuele...

Female names:

Sofia, Alessandra, Laura, Paola, Marta,  
Giulia, Martina, Sara, Ilaria, Valentina,  
Rebecca, Lucia, Irena, Aurora, Camilla,  
Chiara, Cristina, Daniela, Federica, Isa,  
Alice, Eleonora, Alessia, Lidia, Gaia...

...and many more...



# The most popular Italian stereotypes



ErasmusPlus Project *Recognize Yourself in He or She, Who are not like You and Me...*

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