

ITALY



PART n. 1

Italy, a long peninsula in the heart of the Mediterranean Sea, has always been considered strategically important. Its position favored trade and cultural exchanges with other Mediterranean countries (Europe, Asia and Africa). Just think of Venice and her powerful Republic dominating eastern routes!

Italy enjoys a blessed climate and boasts wonderful landscapes and has a long, long history. For centuries Italy was divided into many small states, often under foreign domination. It was only in 1861 that it became a single nation, a Kingdom; in 1946 Italy became a Republic. A complex history, which is reflected in the many different dialects, traditions, usages and customs.

A multifaceted history which favored an unequalled flourishing of art and literature. Italian artists brought their genius all over Europe...

Even if Italy has not raw material and even if it experienced the Industrial Revolution, later than England and France, it was able to faster industrialization especially after World War II, thanks to the ability, skills, generosity, creativity of the Italians, whose innovative and competitive ideas have sometimes been copied.

Like other countries, Italy is now facing a period of deep crisis, which shows its contradictions and conflicts and need, once again inventiveness, creativity, good will, solidarity and sacrifice and, maybe, a better governance...

And the stars look down! !

SALUTATIONS

- Ciao = hello (when you meet a friend)
- Buongiorno = good morning
- Buon pomeriggio = good afternoon
- Buona sera = good evening
- Buona notte = good night
- Come stai? = how are you?
- Come ti chiami? = what's your name?
- Quanti anni hai? = how old are you?
- Arrivederci = goodbye



Geographic aspects



Italy is a peninsula which is located in the south of Europe and in the centre of Mediterranean sea.

The neighbouring countries of Italy are:

- France to the west
- Switzerland and Austria to the north
- Slovenia to the east
- East of Italy, there is, the Adriatic sea; south the Mediterranean and Ionian sea and west the Tyrrhenian sea

Landscapes...

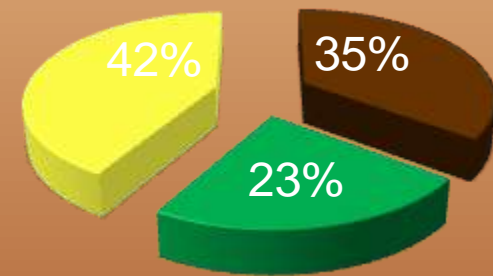
In Italy there are lots of different landscapes. Generally speaking, we divide our country in 3 parts...north, centre and south.

We have two famous mountain chains...Alps (north) and Apennines (centre-south); the highest mountain in Italy and in Europe is Mount Blanc (shown in the picture); most part of the plains are located in the north of Italy, the rest of the territory has mainly hills or mountains.

Tourists visit mainly our coasts because of the beautiful beaches and seas.

Italian environment

■ mountain ■ plain ■ hill





20 regions 20!



This is Lombardy, our region! We live in one of its 11 provinces, Brescia.

It's a very nice town and there are a lot of fun things above all for young people.

Our school is in Verolanuova , a village 30km far from Brescia.

The capital of Lombardy is Milan.

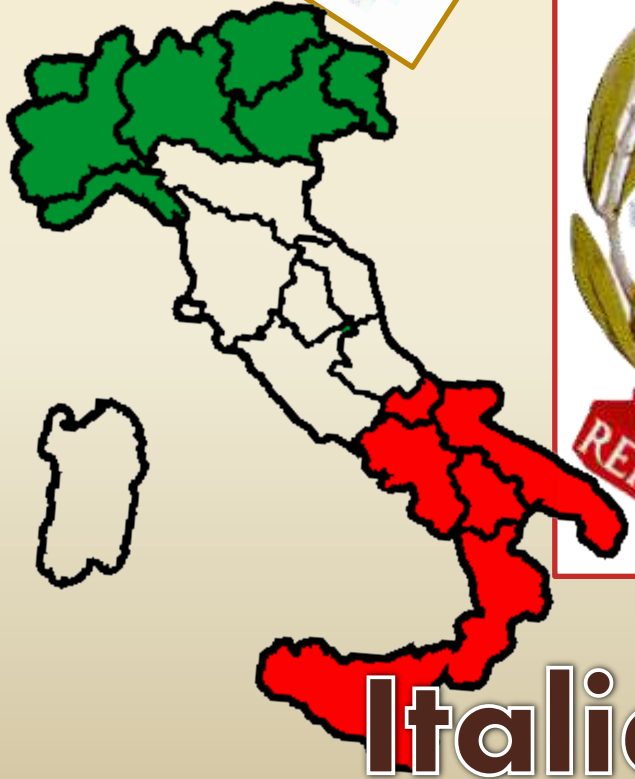


Romulus and **Remus** are the twin founders of Rome in its traditional foundation myth, although the former is sometimes said to be the sole founder. When the twins were born, King Amulius wanted them to die, but they were saved by a series of miraculous interventions. A she-wolf (*lupa*) found them and suckled them. A shepherd and his wife then fostered them and raised them to manhood as shepherds. The twins proved to be natural leaders and acquired many followers.

The Roman She-Wolf



The image of the she-wolf suckling the divinely fathered twins (Romulus and Remus were in fact sons of a god, Mars) became an iconic representation of the city and its founding legend.



Italian symbols

ITALIAN ARMED FORCES

The Italian Army, Navy, Air Force and Carabinieri collectively form the Italian armed forces, under the command of the Supreme Defence Council, presided over by the President of the Italian Republic. In 1999 military service became voluntary.



Famous Corps of the army are the Alpini and the Bersaglieri.



CARABINIERI



An autonomous corps of the military, the Carabinieri are very popular. They are the gendarmerie and military police of Italy, policing the military and civilian population.



The Lion of Venice



Depictions of St. Mark's lion can be found everywhere in Venice. There is a famous lion on the clocktower in the Piazza San Marco, a lion on top the column in the piazzetta outside Palazzo Ducale, and lions everywhere throughout Venice in paintings and carved into marble on almost every building. The top award at the Venice Film Festival is called the *Golden Lion*. Click on the flag at the top of this page for just one more example. The lion of Venice is usually depicted with its paw on an open book that contains the text.



The Maritime Republics

The maritime republics (Italian: Repubbliche marinare) were a number of city-states which flourished in Italy in the Middle Ages. The best known are the Amalfi, Pisa, Genoa and Venice. These states that competed with each other both militarily and commercially. From the 10th to the 13th centuries these cities built fleets of ships both for their own protection and to support extensive trade networks across the Mediterranean, leading to an essential role in the Crusades. As they found themselves in competition, these republics engaged in shifting alliances and warfare.



Jack of the Italian Navy, sporting the coat of arms of the four main maritime republics. Clockwise, starting from the upper left: Venice, Genoa, Pisa, Amalfi.



The **flag of Italy** (*bandiera d'Italia*, often referred to in Italian as *il Tricolore*) features three equally sized vertical pales of green, white, and red, with the green at the hoist side. Its current form has been in use since 19 June 1946 and was formally adopted on 1 January 1948.

Some have attributed particular values to the colours, and a common interpretation is that green represents the country's plains and the hills; white, the snow-capped Alps; and red, blood spilt in the Wars of Italian Independence. A more religious interpretation is that green represents hope, white represents faith, and red represents charity, the three theological virtues.

The Italian Anthem



Goffredo Mameli

The Italian anthem was written in 1847 by Goffredo Mameli, a young poet. The song is often referred to as “L’Inno di Mameli”, which means Mameli's Hymn in Italian.

In 1861, when Italy became a united nation, the Italian anthem was the "March of the House of Savoy“, in 1947 when Italy finally was proclaimed a Republic “L’Inno di Mameli” became the Italian anthem.



Italian fashion

Italian fashion is considered one of the most important in the world, along with those of France, the United States, Britain and Japan. Fashion has always been an important part of Italian culture.

The main centres of Italian fashion are Milan and Rome.

In 2009 Milan was considered the fashion capital, surpassing even cities like New York, Paris, Rome and London. Most of the big names of Italian fashion, like Valentino, Gucci, Versace, Prada, Armani and Dolce & Gabbana headquarters in Milan.

Twice a year, the fashion week is held in Milan, as happens in New York, London, Paris, Tokyo and Los Angeles. The fashion district, includes Monte Napoleone, via Manzoni, della Spiga and Corso Venezia. But of course shopping is possible also in all the streets of the centre.

Valentino



Armani



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Dolce and
Gabbana

D&G
DOLCE & GABBANA

**In Italy there are a lot of beautiful cities to visit!
Let 's see them together..**

Have a good vision.



**Rome is the capital of
modern Italy. Rome is full
of history. It has many
ancient monuments,
interesting medieval
churches, beautiful
fountains, museums, and
Renaissance palaces.**

**Modern Rome is a
bustling and lively city
and has some excellent
restaurants and
nightlife.**

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PIAZZA SAN PIETRO: it is one of the most famous squares in the world, real heart of Christianity and of the Roman Catholic Church. It is located at the middle of the city of Rome, more precisely, at the centre of the **Vatican State. The Basilica of Saint Peter** planned during **the 1600 by Lorenzo Bernini** is one of the world masterpieces of **Baroque architecture.**

At the centre of the square there is an **Egyptian obelisk**. At the two sides of the obelisk there are **two fountains** planned by Carlo Maderno and Carlo Fontana respectively in 1613 and 1677. Besides **Bernini** other important artists worked in this magnificent Basilica and the most important among them are **Bramante** and **Michelangelo**. Also **the residence of Popes** represents an example of great **artistic** and **historical value**.



IL COLOSSEO: it is placed in the **Domus Aurea** area, is the biggest **amphitheatre** built by the Romans and the most important **theatre** in Rome. It was built in 72 A.D., by emperor Vespasiano and then it was inaugurated by Tito's son in 80 A.D. The Coliseum was used for the **gladiators shows**.

The **arches** were represented the entrances, twelve of them, in marble, were destined to **Senators**.



IL PARTENONE: it is one of the best preserved **monuments** in **Rome**. It hosts many wedding and sacred celebrations. The construction of this monument began in 27 Before Christ by Marco Agrippa. The name “Pantheon” derives from the Greek and means that the **temple was dedicated to all gods**. Completely burnt in 80 before Christ, restored by Domitian, the Pantheon was carefully re-built by Emperor Adrian. The Pope turned the Pantheon into a **Christian church** giving new life to this monument.

The Pantheon’s **dome** is **43 metres high** and it is the biggest one in the history of architecture. At the middle of the dome there is a **hole** that creates very impressive **light effects** highlighting the **opulence** and the **magnificence** of this monument.



LA CAPPELLA SISTINA: it is wanted by Pope della Rovere, was built by Giovannino de'Dolci between the 1475 and the 1481 A.D. The **XV century decoration** of the **walls**, created by an extraordinary group of painters like **Perugino, Botticelli, Signorelli** and **Ghirlandaio**, includes the false drapery, the “*stories of Mosé and of Christ*” and the *Popes portraits*. **Michelangelo** painted **nine episodes** taken from **Genesis** organized in a **fictitious architecture** in thematic groups of three; **Michelangelo's masterpiece** was ended in 1512. At the end of 1533 Pope Clemente VII De' Medici commissioned **Michelangelo** to further modify the **decoration** of the **Sistina Chapel** by painting on the **altar wall** the famous “giudizio universale”, “**Crack of doom**” that replaced some frescos by Perugino.



FLORENCE

Florence is in Tuscany and it's one of the most important Renaissance architectural and art centres. Its Duomo and Baptistery are magnificent but crowded with tourists as is their large piazza.

Florence has several interesting museums with many famous paintings and sculptures. There are also Medici palaces and gardens.





PIAZZA DELLA SIGNORIA: the current aspect of this very famous **Florentine square** dates back to 1628. This square has always been the political centre of this city being also full of **magnificent monuments**. Beside this square there is **Palazzo Vecchio** and the famous **Uffizzi Museum**.



Around **Palazzo Vecchio** you can admire: the **Marzocco** by **Donatello**, a copy of the **bronze statue of *Judith and Holofernes*** by **Donatello**, the copy of the ***David*** by **Michelangelo** and the **marble group of the *Hercules' defeat of Cacus*** by **Duccio Bandinelli**.

On the right side of the **Palazzo Vecchio** entry there is an **engraved human head** called the ***"Importuno"*** by **Michelangelo**.





IL PALAZZO DEGLI UFFIZI: it was built by **Vasari** in 1560. Its was originally created to be the seat of the administrative offices of the Florence municipality: today this building is one of the most important museums in the world and is it called the **Uffizi Gallery**. It is really impossible to describe all the masterpieces you can admire in this museum: here you can find **sarcophaguses**, **Roman sculptures** and **XVIth century tapestries**.



These are the three most important paintings in the Uffizi museum. Above: **"The Spring"** and **"The Birth of Venus"** by **Botticelli**, while at right we have **"The Annunciation"** by **Leonardo da Vinci**.



THE BASILICA OF SANTA MARIA DEL FIORE (SAINT MARY OF THE FLOWER): it is the cathedral church of Florence, The *Duomo*, as it is ordinarily called, was begun in 1296 in the **Gothic** style on a design of **Arnolfo di Cambio** and completed structurally in 1436 with the dome engineered by **Filippo Brunelleschi**. The cathedral complex, located in Piazza del Duomo, includes the **Baptistery** and **Giotto's Campanile**. The three buildings are part of the **UNESCO World Heritage Site** covering the historic centre of Florence and are a major attraction to tourists visiting the region of *Tuscany*. The basilica is one of Italy's largest churches, and the dome is the largest in the world.



VENICE



Venice is a unique city built on water in the middle of a lagoon. Venice is one of Italy's most beautiful and romantic cities as well as one of the most popular for visitors to Italy. The heart of Venice is Piazza San Marco with its magnificent church. There are many museums, palaces, and churches to visit, and wandering along Venice's canals is interesting. Venice is in the northeast of Italy and historically was a bridge between East and West.



PALAZZO DUCALE: it was built near the San Marco basilica, it wasn't only the residence of the **Doge** of **Venice** but also the seat of the urban government, of the Court and of prisons. It is considered the **symbol of the city** representing its power and its beauty. This palace was built during the IX century, it assumed its current aspect during the

Renaissance: it is considered the **masterpiece** of the **Venetian Gothic art**. The main rooms to be visited are:



Four doors room, that hedges in a painting by **Vicellio Tiziano**.



The Room of the College where you can admire the paintings by **Jacopo Tintoretto**.

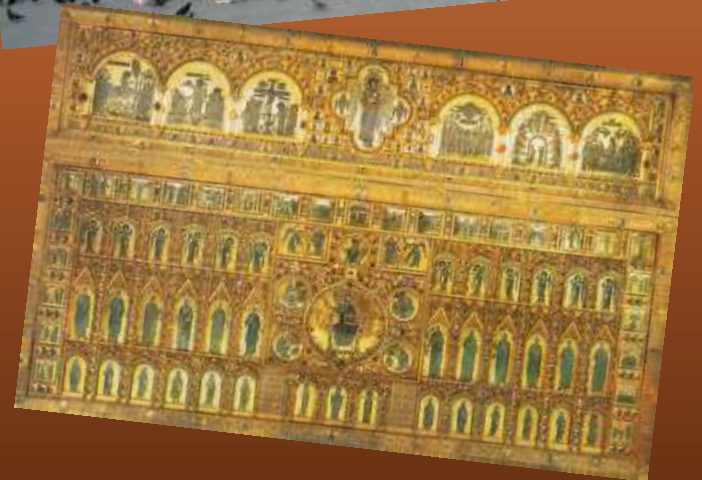


The Rooms of the Ten Ones Council.



The Major Council Room: here you can admire many **paintings** of the Venetian Dogi by **Tintoretto**.

PIAZZA SAN MARCO: at the middle of the square there is the most famous **bell tower** of the city. The **San Marco bell tower** was built during the Middle Ages but was totally completed during the XVI century. Surely, the most important monument in this square is the **Basilica of San Marco**: this is a real masterpiece of the **Romanesque-Byzantine architecture** and it has always played a fundamental role in the religious and public life of Venice. The **basilica** dominates the square with its **five imposing domes** and its **gold mosaics**. This church base has the shape of a Greek cross with a central dome. Once inside the **basilica** you will be surprised by the **magnificence** and the **harmony** of its **structure**. The **main marble altar** hedges in the **San Marco memorabilia**. Beside this altar there is the **Byzantine gold art masterpiece**: the “**Pala d’oro**”.



VERONA

Verona is known for the story of **Romeo and Juliet** and for its Roman Arena, the third largest in Italy and the venue for a top opera festival. Verona has a good medieval centre, Roman remains, and an interesting castle complex. It's the fourth most visited city in Italy and well worth a stop on a northern Italy travel itinerary.



L'ARENA: it is the main **Roman monument** in **Verona**: this is an **amphitheatre** built during the **I century A.D.** in the **historical centre** of this beautiful city. Its **structure is perfectly preserved** with its different series of **tiers** and with its **squared marble blocks**. Under its **stalls** there are many **galleries** and **passages**. It has always been used for **spectacular events**: in the **Roman period**, it was used for the **fights** among **gladiators**. From the **Middle Age** to the first part of the **XVIII century** it was used for **jousting** and **tournaments**.



In 1913 the **Arena** became the most important **open-air opera theatre** in the world. During **summertime** there is here a very famous **opera festival** which involves many famous **international singers**.



Juliet's House: this medieval tower-house dates back to the **XII century**. In its **courtyard** there is the **bronze statue** of **Juliet**: every year many **tourists** and **lovers** arrive here to take a photo beside this famous sculpture. The two sides of the entrance to the house are covered by **love chits**, **signatures** and **romantic phrases** left by the **couples** of **lovers** who visit this place. On the **façade** of this construction there is **Juliet's famous balcony** described by **Shakespeare** in his **tragedy**.

ROMEO'S HOUSE: the Montecchi family house is not so far from the one belonging to **Juliet.**

Among the most typical **medieval residences** this is the most **magnificent** and the best **preserved one.**



This home can't be visited. On the **façade** there is this **inscription** that recalls the **love story** between **Romeo** and **Juliet**: *"Tut, I have lost myself; I am not here; This is not Romeo, he's some other where."*

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Milan is one of Italy's most fashionable cities and one of the richest cities in Europe but it also holds several historic and artistic attractions, including the largest **Gothic cathedral** in the world, the **Last Supper painting**, and the famous **La Scala Opera House**.

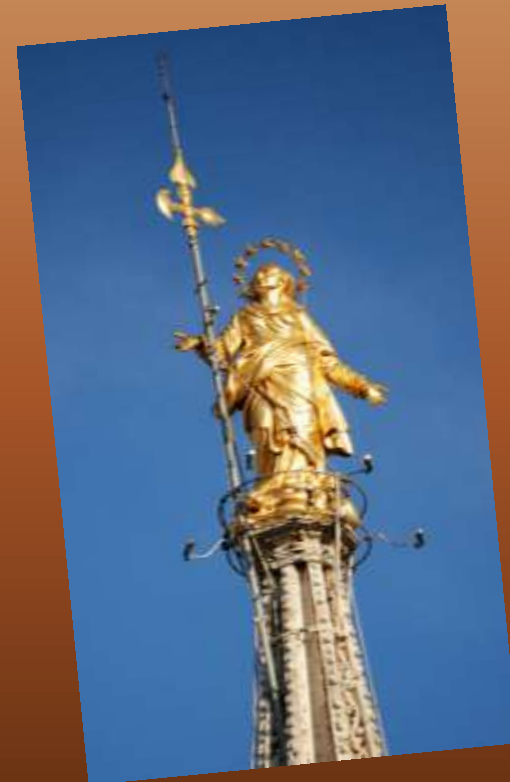
Travellers to Milan will find a fast-paced, glamorous city with a thriving cultural scene and a top city for shopping. Although the city was heavily bombed during World War II, much of it was rebuilt.



LA CATTEDRALE DI MILANO: this church, called “*Duomo*”, is dedicated to **Santa Maria Nascente** and placed in the **namesake square** in the **Milan** urban centre. This **gothic cathedral** is the very symbol of this Italian city dating back to the **XIV century**: it is characterized by a **Latin cross structure** and by the presence of **five aisles**. In this imposing religious construction you can find more than **3500 statues** distributed on a surface of **120000 square meters**.



Its **highest pinnacle**, surmounted by the famous **Holy Mary's statue** called “*Madonnina*”, is **108 meters high**. The **statue** placed on its top is covered by **3900 golden leaves**.





CASTELLO SFORZESCO: the **original nucleus** of this construction was built during the **XV century** for Duke Francesco Sforza. During the centuries it underwent many transformations that heavily damaged its structure. However, during the **IX century** all this building was completely **restored**.

The **castle** has **gothic-renaissance courtyards** and **wonderful rooms** planned by **Leonardo** and is ornamented with **frescos** made by **Bramante**.



Here you can find several **museums** like: the **Egyptian Museum**, the **Musical Instruments Collection**, the **Decorative Arts Collection**, the **Pinacoteca (Art Gallery)** and the **Ancient Arts Museum** where you can admire some **masterpieces** like the “*Pietà Rondanini*” by **Michelangelo**.



IL TEATRO DELLA SCALA: this is the veritable **temple** of the **Grand Opera** being also the **most famous theatre** in the **world**. It was built at the end of the **XVIII century** on the ruins of the Santa Maria della Scala church. All the most important **Grand Opera artists** debuted inside this prestigious construction: **Rossini, Donizetti, Bellini, Puccini** and **Giuseppe Verdi**.



The **Scala Theatre** is placed in the **namesake square** where you can also admire the **central monument** dedicated to **Leonardo da Vinci** and the wonderful **Marini Palace**.





SANTA MARIA DELLE GRAZIE: at the end of the **XV century Leonardo da Vinci** entirely **painted** the **wall** of the **refectory** belonging to the **Santa Maria delle Grazie Dominican monastery**.

Here you can admire one of the **most famous** and **copied masterpieces** in the **world**: the “*Last Supper*” that is now completely restored.



TURIN



Turin, host of the 2006 Winter Olympics, is a major cultural hub with excellent museums, elegant shops, and good restaurants. There are also some very nice examples of baroque architecture and historic palaces. Turin has many historic cafes, artisan workshops, and arcades. Turin is in the northwest of Italy, between the Po River and the foothills of the Alps.



**IL PALAZZO REALE
E LA PIAZZA DEL
CASTELLO:** the
construction of the
Royal Palace was
ordered by the
Regent Maria
Cristina, in 1645.



Works for the construction, originally designed in the shape of a horseshoe, were quite long, and terminated in 1800 with the gate. *Piazza Castello* and *Palazzo Reale* are at the centre of Turin. The square is a pedestrian area with benches and small fountains, ringed by beautiful, grand buildings.



PALAZZO MADAMA: is a historical and architectural complex located in the central Piazza Castello in Turin. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was built by the Romans as a city gate, for the side exposed to the river Po. The building became the first defensive system, the symbol of the power to the XVI century.

LA MOLE ANTONELLIANA: is a major landmark of Turin. It is named for the architect who built it, Alessandro Antonelli.

In Italian "Mole" indicates a building of monumental proportions. Construction began in 1863, and was completed 26 years later, after the architect's death.



The building was conceived and constructed as a synagogue.



Today it houses the National Museum of Cinema, and it is believed to be the tallest museum in the world.



IL MUSEO EGIZIO: is the third most important Egyptian museum in the world. It is housed in a huge baroque palace



Items of interest include:

- **Kings Assembly** a term originally indicating a collection of statues representing all the kings of the New Kingdom.
- **Temple of Tuthmosi III**
- **Sarcophagi, mummies and books of the dead** originally belonging to the Drovetti collection.
- **Papyrus collection room**, originally collected by Drovetti and later used by Champollion during his studies for the decoding of the hieroglyphics.
- **The Table of Isis**
- **The Turin King List**

Pisa is a city in Tuscany, on the right bank of the mouth of the River Arno on the Tyrrhenian Sea.

It is the capital city of the Province of Pisa. Pisa is known worldwide for its leaning tower.



PISA



IL DUOMO DI PISA: It is a Romanesque church built between the XI and the XII century A.D. Its internal **Latin cross structure** is divided into **five aisles** through imposing **granite columns**. Inside this church you can also admire its **polychrome marble's geometric decorations** and its **XVII century ceiling**.

In front of the **Cathedral's façade** there is the **Baptistery** with its rich **floor** made up by **red** and **black stones** while beside this church there is the famous **leaning tower of Pisa**.





TORRE PENDENTE:
this is one of the most famous **Italian symbols** in the world. This construction was built in **1174** to be the **Cathedral's bell tower**. It has by a **circular structure** made up by a **basis** full of **arches** surmounted by a **series** of **loggias** that end with the **elegant bell-ringer**.

The first **subsidence** occurred in **1185** and in **1990** this **tower** was **closed** for **restoration** because its **inclination** reached the **alarming level** of **4,5 meters**. In **2001** it became **visitable** again after 11 years of continuous **security measures** that aimed at **reducing** the **inclination** in order to make it completely **safe**.





Assisi is famous as the home town of **Saint Francis**, the patron saint of Italy. The Saint Francis Basilica in Assisi holds the tomb of Saint Francis and is a popular tourist and pilgrimage destination. Assisi has several interesting churches, Roman ruins, medieval sites, museums, and shops. The countryside around Assisi is good for walks.

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Upper Church



Lower Church



Crypt

LA BASILICA DI SAN FRANCESCO: it is the mother church of the Roman Catholic Franciscan Order, begun in 1228. It is built on the side of a hill and comprises two churches known as the **Upper Church** and the **Lower Church**, and a **Crypt** where the remains of the saint are interred. The interior of the Upper Church is an important early example of Gothic style. The Upper and Lower Churches are decorated with frescoes by numerous late medieval painters.

Naples is one of Italy's most vibrant cities. It lies on the coast south of Rome and is the most important city in southern Italy.

NAPLES



Naples has recently undergone some renovation but still retains much of its old character. It holds many historical and artistic treasures.

IL PALAZZO REALE: it is a wonderful **Renaissance construction** built during the **XVII century** by the **Spanish conquerors** and then used as a royal palace by the **Borbone family**.

Its external appearance is monumental while its internal rooms are elegant and opulent full of beautiful **XVIII century decorations**.

An interesting place of this monument is the “**Vittorio Emanuele**” **National Library** where you can find very ancient texts. In the **Royal Gardens** there are long boulevards line with trees of magnolias and of holm oaks and ornamented with rare grasses, with statues and with “**secret gardens**”.

