



## Food

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- *The main difference you will encounter in our food when visiting Italy is probably in the breakfast: we are not used to continental breakfast, and our first meal of the day is usually sweet, with a croissant or biscuits, coffee, milk or juice.*
  - *We share the meal at the kitchen table, and normally eat one or two courses maximum*
- *We have simple standards about food and water (for example, we barely have aromatized water)*
  - *In our supermarkets you will not find prepared and packed food-to-go, but they are sometimes open on Sunday, at least in the morning.*

*"Life is a combination of magic and pasta"*

## Going out



- *Bring something when invited to somebody's place for dinner or lunch*
- *In the south of Italy, when we go out with friends, we split the bill in equal parts. Also, it is a good practice to offer at turn, especially coffee.*
- *Restaurants are usually open until late (11 pm - midnight), but they do not have the service continu.*
- *The tip is usually included in the bill, under the voices "coperto" and "servizio"*
- *You can drink alcohol on the street, sometimes served in a plastic cup or bottle.*
- *In some bars and cafés you need to pay the bill before consuming.*



*"Living with full heart"*

*Olga from Latvia about Italy and Italian people.*

## Relationships

- *On a date, Italian women do not expect flowers or dinner offered, but we do appreciate.*
- *We greet people with kisses on the cheeks (even when meeting somebody for the first time or between men)*
- *Some people, especially elder people, have a poor privacy awareness: if you are at the desk in the post office or at the pharmacy, it is very likely that they will get close to you to ask some information.*
- *Some people have little consideration for other people around them (for example, talk on the phone very loudly) or poor space awareness (walking in the middle of the street, do not have the habit to stay on the right hand side of the staircase).*



## Transports and viability

- *Viability is a bit confusing: when going somewhere, take into account traffic, delays, road closed and road works.*
- *Tickets for trains and bus CAN NOT be bought onboard: use chiosques or vending machines, and remember to always have coins with you!*
- *Driving can be tricky*
- *While other peoples have the habit to queue at the bus stop and go in from the front door ONLY, in Italy people rush to get in a bus in a random order and using every door.*



## Practicalities

- *We rarely use credit or bank cards: only cash for small amounts and cheques for big!*
- *Punctuality is sometimes an optional, especially in public offices*
- *Emergency numbers: you can use the 112 (International number for emergencies), or the 112, or the 113 to call the police, 118 to call for an ambulance.*
- *Working times for shops: Monday to Saturday, 10-20; Sunday (closed or half day). In small centres, shops tend to close for an afternoon break (14-16.30).*

*“Although pizza has less toppings than I expected, it was really great!” Miruna from Romania.*



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# VACANZE ROMANE

