DO YOU KNOW ITALY?
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**DO YOU KNOW ITALY?**

To know Italy not only means getting acquainted with natural and artistic beauties that deeply moved and still have the power of moving men of great intelligence and refined sensibility, but also and above all, getting into touch with a millenary and imperishable civilization the influence of which endures in equal measure both in the remains of the past and in the renewed fervor of present day life.

The monuments of ancient Rome; architecture, sculpture and painting in the Middle Ages, testifying the survival of a civilization that the downfall of the Empire did not destroy and associated with the great names of Raphael, Michelangelo and Leonardo; the spiritual influence that spreads from Rome all over the world exercised by Christ's Vicar whose headquarters are at Rome; the wonderful fusion of the Fascist doctrine essentially Italian in origin but universal in its application like everything due to genius; such are briefly some of the great attractions that Italy offers.

You should, therefore, visit Italy and by so doing your intellectual enjoyment cannot be equalled elsewhere, your eyes will be gladdened by incomparable beauties and your modern requirements will be satisfied both when traveling and staying in that country as will be briefly explained later on.

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Monument to King Victor Emmanuel II.
It has been repeatedly affirmed that Italian liners are floating hotels where better accommodation is offered than in those on shore. This definition is correct but the comparison would be more to the point if liners were likened to aristocratic private houses where everything is inspired by the good taste and habits of a refined and hospitable owner. Useless and often irritating luxury is therefore banished and replaced by a refined good taste, all the requirements of the guests are intelligently catered to with discreet and unostentatious courtesy according to the best traditions of the real Italian hospitality. This is the reason why on board Italian ships two seemingly opposing elements are combined, namely excellent treatment and low prices. The crossing from New York to Genoa, in fact, approximately costs 140 dollars tourist class, 165 dollars special class, and 260 dollars first class.

It is hardly necessary to point out the other great advantages of Italian steamers as regards safety and accommodation. The «Rex» and the «Conte di Savoia» on the New York-Genoa line, with their 50,000 tons displacement and their unusual speed of 27 knots an hour, with ultra-modern engines and excellent appointments are in fact generally considered as real triumphs of marine engineering.
the Italian people, contributed towards conditions of life that are not to be found in other countries. It can therefore be safely affirmed that foreigners are able to live economically in this country. With 5 dollars they can get full pension rates including board and lodging in any first class hotel, while the inclusive terms in second class hotels, which are excellent without being luxurious, do not exceed 3.50 dollars.

Even the principal health resorts and spas make convenient inclusive terms comprising pension, treatment and sojourn tax. Thus, for instance, a fortnight spent in a first class hotel at Montecatini Terme will cost from about 53 to 66 dollars. Luncheon or dinner in any good restaurant with a la carte service costs slightly over a dollar.

An excellent bottle of wine can be had for 40, 50, or 60 cents. Italian beer, which is very good indeed, costs about 30 cents a bottle. Drinks are also very cheap; a good Italian aperitif costs 7 cents and the best cocktails, even in first class hotels, are not dearer than 40 cents.

Traveling by rail is likewise cheap. Apart from the frequent cuts in fares which are as high as 70%, the «libera circolazione» tickets (circular touring tickets) and the «South of the Alps» tickets, specially issued for tourists should be mentioned. Anyhow one can travel 100 kilometres (60 miles) on an ordinary ticket for 4.50 dollars 1st class and for 3 dollars 2nd class. The ordinary fare for a taxi is 22 cents a mile and one can hire a gondola for an hour at Venice for about 70 cents.

THE COST OF LIVING IN ITALY

In spite of the prevailing economic depression more or less felt in every country, in Italy the cost of living is not high. The Corporative Regime, which averted class warfare by conciliating opposing interests for the supreme welfare of the nation, the stabilization of the lira and the sense of responsibility shown on every occasion by
AMUSEMENTS, SPORT AND PASTIMES

The mistaken idea that Italy does not offer great distractions to its visitors is utterly unfounded. While it is true that Italy is the ideal country for those who seek natural beauties and old-world culture, it is equally true that it is a young country where the people know how to enjoy life with gaiety and merriment. It is the country of song, music and poetry according to the hymn of Garibaldi which although old is still applicable to modern times when gay poetry still brightens and gladdens Italian life.

Starting with theaters and concerts there is no other country where music provokes such a deep feeling of appreciation and such lively enthusiasm. Melodrama originated in Italy where its most important shrines are erected. In fact an opera, a composer or a singer once they have appeared at the Scala Theater of Milan will find every door open leading to fame throughout the world.

The Opera Theater at Rome, the San Carlo of Naples, the Regio of Turin, the Communal of Bologna, to mention only a few, stage performances worthy of their great traditions and the new operas they give arouse the interest of all the world owing to their originality and production.

Symphonic and chamber music is likewise cultivated in Italy and music lovers have a chance of attending most interesting concerts at the Augusteo of Rome, the Scala at Milan, the Florentine Politeama, the San Carlo at Naples as well as at the conservatories of the principal cities and the concert halls of the minor ones.

Especially at the Augusteo of Rome and the Florence Politeama the musical season, which opens about November and lasts until May, attracts the best known conductors in Europe and concert artists of great fame, while at every season, some of the most remarkable musical compositions are executed which is only possible owing to the imposing orchestras and choirs available.

A special feature consists in the execution of sacred music both by classic and modern composers.
The open-air performances have a long-lasting tradition in Italy and are particularly interesting owing to the association of the places where they are given. In spring, when all the flowers bloom in Sicily, Greek tragedy is revived in the Greek theaters of Agrigento and Syracuse.

Similar performances are occasionally given in the Roman Theater at Ostia, on the Palatine at Rome or in front of the imposing ancient temples at Paestum.

Grand opera performances are held in the Roman Amphitheater or Arena of Verona and in that at Pola. The most important symphonic concerts are those held in the Basilica of Maxentius at Rome and exceptionally important performances were those organized during the last Musical Festival at Florence known as the "Florentine May", namely, "A Midsummer's Night Dream" in the Boboli Gardens and the "Mystery Play of Santa Uliva" in the Cloisters of Santa Croce.

Finally, mention must be made of the initiative of the Fascist Regime known as the "Chariot of Thespis" and consisting of a strolling opera company, excellently organized and with admirable staging, that gives open-air performances throughout the country.
THE SPORTS

The Fascist Regime has the great merit of promoting every branch of sport as energetically as possible. Italy to-day is the youngest country in Europe. Young men under 20 years of age from 43% of its population which totals 43,000,000 in contrast to the 23,000,000 inhabitants in 1870. Italian youth admirably organized indulges in sport with praiseworthy keenness and ardor.

Imposing stadiums have been built within a short time. National and international events are held very often and embrace every branch of sport including aeronautics, motoring, riding and racing, while the mountains are crowded by ski-ers and over the three seas surrounding the country and on its lakes speed-racing and rowing are indulged in.

There is no tourist resort without one or more golf courses and all health resorts and spas as well as the principal hotels are equipped with excellent tennis courts. Shooting and fishing are very popular as well.
RACE COURSES

Racing in Italy deserves a special mention. Even before the present development of sport, horse racing was very popular in Italy and the periodical race meetings of Milan, Rome, Florence and other cities had already acquired an international reputation which was likewise enjoyed by Italian riders.

To-day, with the renewed sporting spirit that prevails, racing acquired increased importance and affords a great attraction both to Italians and to foreigners of the sporting as well as of the fashionable set because race meetings are frequented by the smartest set of Italian and cosmopolitan society.

San Siro at Milan, the Cascine at Florence, Mirafiori at Turin, the Capanelle, Villa Glori and Tor di Quinto at Rome and the Trieste Hippodrome are well-known to the European aristocracy and the international Horse Shows of Rome, Stresa and Naples enjoy likewise an European fame.

The number and importance of the entries and the high stakes awarded, some of which are mentioned below, contribute to render Italian race courses patronized by Italians and foreigners.

The following are the principal race meetings: Spring at Florence: with races for the Florence Stakes (for 3 years old) and the Amo Stakes (for 4 years old and over).

Spring at Rome: Races for the Rome’s Birthday Stakes; Queen Helen’s Stakes; the Parioli Stakes, the Royal Derby (300,000 lire) and the Littorio Stakes (100,000 lire).

Spring at Milan: Races for the Victory Stakes (150,000 lire), the Italian Oaks (100,000 lire), the Grand Prize of Italy (150,000 lire), the Grand Prize of Milan (400,000 lire) and the Ambrosiano Stakes (100,000 lire).

Fall Races at Milan for the Jockey Club stakes (100,000 lire), the Simplon Stakes (100,000 lire).

And at Turin with races for the Principe Amedeo Stakes and the Industry Stakes.
OLD POPULAR FESTIVALS

To visit a country without taking an interest in its people means losing half the pleasure afforded by traveling and it is like admiring the frame and neglecting the picture.

There is no better occasion to get to know the people than that offered by its traditional festivals. History, poetry and art are blended in reviving the past during similar festivals and yet they never appear incongruous or anachronistic.

Some of the Italian festivals are directly linked with the mystery plays of the Middle Ages and every year the Passion of Our Lord is revived in certain Italian regions, while others originated from the athletic games of the Renaissance and still others commemorate by A medieval football game at Florence.

means of particularly picturesque ceremonies past naval exploits. There are some, instead, that revive the carefree gaiety of Carnival that was patronized and encouraged by the old rulers.

The Palio of Siena dominates all other festivals. With the unique setting of the wonderful Piazza del Campo under the shadow of the Municipal Palace which is the most magnificent Gothic monument in Tuscany and Italy, a display of medieval arms and gay coloring enhance this interesting horse race. The Football Game at Florence played twice yearly in medieval costumes and according to old rules, the Feast of the Redeemer on the wonderful Grand Canal at Venice, the Feast of the Candles at Gubbio in Umbria and finally the Feast of Piedigrotta typical of the traditional gaiety of the Neapolitan people, are some among the many remarkable Italian festivals.
NEW FESTIVALS

It has already been pointed out that the Italians are a young people and therefore it is interesting to observe them not only participating in old traditional festivals but also in those that derive their origin from the present.

By watching the crowds in the streets, at the pictures, theaters, stadiums and race courses, one can read more clearly than in any book the sentiments now animating the people. Confirmation in thus afforded of the virtues belonging to a hard-working, intelligent and disciplined people proud of its past greatness and prouder still of the power it acquired under the guidance of a great leader. And this people, actively working in fields, factories and offices and with a hard daily struggle in steadily increasing the prosperity of the country, should be seen on the solemn occasions when a historical date or a new event is celebrated. It is on similar occasions that the people are seen to the best advantage and foreigners then realize the great unity of Italy both as regards its new life and spirit.

Similar solemnities, which are also interesting owing to their picturesque character, are represented in the accompanying two illustrations, that on the left showing a grand military parade and that on the right showing Mussolini in the act of reviewing the legions of disabled men from the Great War in the new Way of the Empire he planned across the Imperial Fora from Piazza Venezia, where the Tomb of Italy's Unknown Warrior is situated, to the Colosseum.
An invitation to a meal implies sharing the family life of one's host, ascertaining his tastes and preferences and being received and treated as an intimate friend. If the host is Italian the meal is bound to be an excellent one as Italian cookery has been raised to the dignity of an art and it is most tasty and varied.

Take macaroni for instance. They are without doubt one of the most famous Italian specialities and served with a great variety of sauces. It would be a great mistake however to assume that Italian cookery is limited to this succulent dish.

Each region in Italy is noted for some speciality and as a result the variety of Italian cookery is practically unlimited. It includes the wonderful "agnolotti" of Liguria and Piedmont, the famous rice as cooked at Milan, the different fish soups made in every seaport, the different kinds of macaroni such as the "tagliatelle" of Bologna, the "spaghetti" as cooked at Rome, Naples, in Sicily and Sardinia, special fish dishes like the "scampi" (a sort of shrimps) of Venice and the lobsters of Sardinia, tasty meat dishes like "ossobuco" (marrow bone) and the cutlets of Milan, the cutlets of Bologna, the Florentine beef-steak, the lamb of Rome and variety of cheese famous all over the world including Gorgonzola, Parmesan, Bel Paese and the Roman "pecorino".

Connected with cookery there are the aromatic liqueurs of Italy such as the Aurum of Pescara, the Strega and the Corfiorio of Benevento and aperitifs like the Vermouth of Turin.

The resources of Italian cookery are really unlimited and it is appreciated by people of discrimination who justly consider it the best for ministering to the satisfaction of the appetite and the delight of the palate.
IVE hundred years B. C. Sopho-
cles said that Italy had been
specially favored by Bacchus and
after so many years this statement
still holds good.

One sees vines everywhere bask-
ing in Italian sunshine from the Do-
lomites down to Sicily and from
Piedmont down to Apulia and Sar-
dinia and the juice of grapes is still
considered as the best gift of Bac-
chus. The number of Italian wines is
indeed legion. There are those from
the South, strong, full-bodied and
brightly colored, in which the sun
seems to be imprisoned, such as
those of Apulia, Calabria, Sardini-a,
Sicily and the Bay of Naples. There
are the tastey wines from the Alban
Hills near Rome and from the Tuscan
and Umbrian hills, delicate in color
and ingratiating in taste. Then there
are the Northern wines, light and
with a perfumed bouquet, such as
those from the Veneto, Northern
Lombardy, the Upper Adige Valley
and Piedmont, where however the
strong red wines drunk with the
roast are also to be found made
from the wonderful Nebiolo grapes.
There are white, light and delicate
wines to go with soup and fish,
strong wines to send down heavy
meat dishes and perfumed wines
that go well with fruit and sweets.
Last but by no means least, there are
the sparkling wines that bubble out
of old bottles and drive care away.
Such are the Italian wines famous
throughout the world for their ex-
cellence.

It is needless to sing the praises
of Italian fruit which already enjoy
a long-dating reputation. In a coun-
try drenched in sunshine like Italy
it is natural that all kinds of fruit
should be found in every season.

Always insist on having Italian
fruit and on drinking Italian wines
as they are the best to have on your

table.
ITALY is the country of everlasting spring. Situated in the midst of the Mediterranean, surrounded by the Alpine range sheltering it from the North winds, with three seas lapping its extensively long seashore, it has a privileged climate all the year round.

This fact explains why health resorts are more important and numerous in Italy than elsewhere.

They are to be found on the Riviera between Ventimiglia and Leghorn, resembling a flowered balcony facing the Ligurian Sea, with fashionable San Remo and its Casino vying with Monte Carlo, and the minor resorts of Bordighera, Ospedaletti, Alassio, Nervi, Rapallo, Santa Margherita Ligure and others. One finds them also in the South, at Naples facing the wonderful Bay with the outline of Capri seen in the hazy blue distance, in Sicily, the island of sunshine and legend, where the health resort of Taormina enjoys an international fame.

There are also excellently organized health resorts in the Gulf of Quarnero such as the Brioni Islands, Abbazia and Laurana.

But health resorts are not lacking even in the interior of the country including the North where often one finds oasis of almost subtropical vegetation with an essentially southern climate. These include Pallanza and Baveno on Lake Maggiore, Bellagio, Menaggio, Cadenabbia and Tremezzo on Lake Como and Gardone, Sirmione, Torbole and Riva on Lake Garda and quite near there is Arco and further north in the Upper Adige region in Val Venosta there is Merano with its wonderful walks, gardens, villas and hotels bathed in sunshine.

In all these resorts a mild climate, bright skies and the refinement of the people who frequent them contribute towards rendering them ideal for those who seek natural beauties combined with comfort.
FOR THOSE IN FAILING HEALTH

No other country is so rich in healing mineral waters as Italy. They gush from thousands of springs scattered throughout the country and offer the greatest possible variety in their composition and in their therapeutic properties. Some Italian spas have rapidly acquired international fame, others are more modest and less known but offer the best accommodation and excellent medical installations. All of them are situated in beautiful parts of the country, sometimes extremely picturesque, and the treatment is therefore combined with an excellent climate, beautiful scenery, interesting walks and still more interesting excursions. On the Alps below the glaciers there are spas at Bormio, at Santa Caterina Valfurva, in the Dolomite region, there are Roncegno and Levico, near the Apennines, Salsomaggiore and Fiume, on the Tuscan hills covered with olive trees, vineyards and cypresses, there are Montecatini Terme and Chianciano, on the hills of Monferrato there is Acqui, in Northern Lombardy, San Pellegrino, on the wonderful Bay of Naples there are Agnano, Castellamare and the Island of Ischia and facing the sea in Sicily, Acireale. The above list is by no means complete as it includes only the principal spas.

It can safely be affirmed, therefore, that Italy besides being an ideal country for educational and pleasure travel is also ideal for rest and mineral water cures.
ITALY’S
PAST HISTORY

Italy’s civilization is millennial and evidence of it is afforded everywhere, in the surviving monuments dating from the most remote antiquity and in wonderful works and artistic masterpieces of different periods.

With the passing of centuries each of the successive generations that followed contributed towards the civilization of the country. Some of the monuments they raised disappeared, others were brought to light after having been long buried underground and time always left its mark on stone and marble enhancing their beauty, but the greatest and most expressive achievements were immortal and Italian genius still survives intact and is still universal.

Solemn monuments of Grecian art survived in Sicily, the prehistoric mysterious Nuraghi are found in Sardinia, while the remains of Etruria are scattered throughout Tuscany. Roman art is represented in the Fora of Rome, in the dead cities of Pompeii and Herculanenum, in the triumphal arches at Ancona, Benevento, Pola, Rimini, Aosta and Susa and in the amphitheaters of Verona and Pola.

After the downfall of the Roman Empire thousands of Christian monuments were erected throughout Italy, such as the Roman Basilicas, the Byzantine churches of Ravenna, the Romanesque cathedrals in Lombardy, Emilia and Apulia and the Gothic cathedrals of Milan, Genoa, Siena and Orvieto, until the revival of classical studies brought about the Renaissance linked with the immortal names of Raphael, Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci.

The arts flourished during the centuries that followed this period and they still hold a pre-eminent position. There are hundreds of Baroque monuments scattered through the country and numerous Rococo and Neo-classic buildings are likewise to be found,
while in the numerous museums enriching this country, masterpieces in sculpture and painting representing every period and every school are preserved and many are the works of artists whose names are household words not only in Italy but in the whole world.

The interest in the priceless treasures attesting Italy's past history is by no means limited to students of art and history. There is, in fact, no spectacle more imposing than the temples of Sicily and of Paestum casting their enormous shadows over vast stretches of sunlit country while the dead cities of Pompeii, Herculanum and Ostia have a strong appeal to everyone. Even in many cities and towns animated with modern life, there remain of the past that arrest the attention of the visitor, such as cathedrals, palaces and the ruins of ancient buildings, and to anyone interested in artistic beauty it is a real pleasure to visit the so-called art cities of Tuscany and Umbria such as Pisa, Siena, Perugia and Orvieto. Past generations live again as it were within the old walls of these towns to remind us of the hard work we must accomplish in order to prove worthy of the great traditions we inherited.
TEN years of Fascist re-
gime under the guidance of Benito Mussolini have completely transformed Italy. This change affected the appearance of the country and was not only limited to the renewed spirit of concord and solidarity of every Italian activity on behalf of the Nation.

Anyone visiting Rome after an absence of ten years can hardly believe that so many and such important works could have been accomplished during such a short period of time. The Way of the Empire has really changed the aspect of the city’s center.

A hill has been levelled and the mean buildings and narrow winding lanes covering it have disappeared to make for the new thoroughfare flanked by such ancient
monuments as the Capitol, the Forum, the Palatine, the Basilica of Maxentius, the Imperial Fora, and the Markets of Trajan. Equally imposing are the two other roads, the Way of Triumphs and the Way to the Sea.

Around the city new quarters have been built and an imposing building dedicated to Sport has been erected, namely, the Mussolini Forum.

Italy's dusty roads have been replaced by tarmacked highways and autostrade or motor roads boldly planned. Imposing hydroelectric plants harness water power, marshlands, where malaria raged, have been transformed into fertile fields yielding golden harvests and an undertaking, vainly attempted in the course of twenty centuries, has been successfully accomplished in the Pontine Marshes, where the vast stretch of uninhabited land is now reclaimed and its first city, Littoria, rose as if by magic, while the buildings of two other cities, Sabaudia and Pontinia are being erected.

**REMEMBER:**

Italian liners are among the most comfortable and economical. By following the Southern route they avoid the storms which are experienced on the Northern route, thus assuring the traveller the most desirable conditions. The few days spent on Italian ships will remain also as a happy memory of the traditional Italian hospitality.

**REMEMBER ALSO:**

Travelling on the Italian Railways is exceptionally cheap. Railway fares are very low and many reductions are continually being made. Return tickets with a rebate of 50% are issued to foreigners entering Italy at any frontier station, sea or air port to any station in Italy. The validity of these tickets is 60 days which can be extended a further 30 days upon payment of a small percentage on the cost of the ticket.

It is also possible to enter Italy by one frontier station and to leave by another, thus offering the traveller an ample choice of itineraries. For parties of at least 25 persons travelling together the reduction is 70% instead of 50%.

Other important railway reductions ranging from 30% up to 70% are granted on numerous occasions for Rome, Venice, Florence, Milan, Genoa and many other localities, including seaside resorts, spas, etc.

Finally, a 70% reduction is granted to newly-married couples wishing to visit Rome on their honeymoon trip, with the possibility of including Venice in their itinerary.
DO YOU KNOW ITALY?