

# Italian is spoken as an official language in 6 countries and regions:

## Italy

Standard Italian is the official language of Italy, and is pretty much universally understood among its residents. Numerous regional dialects of Italian (some people refer to them as distinct languages) exist, such as the Neapolitan dialect, spoken in Southern Italy, around the city of Naples, or Piedmontese spoken in the Northwestern region of Italy.



## Switzerland

Italian is one of 4 official languages of Switzerland, along with German, French and Romansh, and is predominantly spoken in the Southern regions of the country. Here's a map of which languages are spoken where in Switzerland.



## San Marino

Italian is the official language of San Marino, a microstate completely surrounded by Italy, so it would make sense that Italian is the most widely spoken language in the nation.



## Vatican City

The Vatican City has two official languages, Italian and Latin. Latin, a dead language, would be impractical for daily usage, so the day-to-day language used in the smallest sovereign state in the world is Italian.



## Croatia, Istria County

Istria County is located at the extreme Northwestern region of Croatia, relatively close, but not bordering Italy. Istria was previously part of Italy, but was assigned as part of Yugoslavia following World War II. This led to what was known as the Istrian Exodus, where large amounts of ethnic Italians emigrated back to Italy. Today, ethnic Italians make up around 6% of the population of Istria.



## Slovene Istria

Located in the extreme Southwestern region of Slovenia, where both Italian and Slovene are the official languages.